

Design Review Checklist

1. Are the following attributes well-defined for each design entity?
 - a. **Identification** (unique name)
 - b. **Type** (describing what kind of design entity it is)
 - c. **Purpose** (**describing** why it was introduced, in terms of the requirements)
 - d. **Function** (summarizing what the component does)
 - e. **Dependencies** (possibly 'none'; describing the *requires* or *uses* relationship)
 - f. **Interface** (*provided* by the design entity)
 - g. **Processing** (including autonomous activities)
 - h. **Data** (information 'hidden' inside)
2. Is the relationship to the **requirements** clearly motivated? Is it clear why the proposed architecture realizes the requirements?
3. Is the software architecture as **simple** as possible (but no simpler)?
 - o No more than 7 loosely-coupled coherent high-level components.
 - o Lower-level components possibly clustered into high-level components (hierarchy).
 - o Using standard(ized) components.
 - o Is deviation from intuitively obvious solution motivated?
4. Is the **architecture** **complete**?
 - o Are all requirements covered?
 - o Trace some critical **requirements** through the architecture (e.g. via use cases).
5. Are the component descriptions sufficiently **precise**?
 - o Do they allow independent construction?
 - o Are **interfaces** and **external functionality** of the high-level components described in sufficient detail?
 - o Interface details:
 - Routine kind, name, parameters and their types, return type, pre- and post-condition, usage protocol with respect to other routines.
 - File name, format, permissions.
 - Socket number and protocol.
 - Shared variables, synchronization primitives (locks).
 - o Have features of the target programming language been used where appropriate?
 - o Have implementation details been avoided? (*No* details of internal classes.)
6. Are the **relationships** between the components explicitly documented?
 - o Preferably use a diagram
7. Is the proposed solution **achievable**?
 - o Can the components be implemented or bought, and then integrated together.
 - o Possibly introduce a second layer of decomposition to get a better grip on achievability.
8. Are all *relevant* **architectural views** documented?

- **Logical** (Structural) view (class diagram per component expresses functionality).
 - **Process** view (how control threads are set up, interact, evolve, and die).
 - **Physical** view (deployment diagram relates components to equipment).
 - **Development** view (how code is organized in files).
9. Are **cross-cutting issues** clearly and generally resolved?
- Exception handling.
 - Initialization and reset.
 - Memory management.
 - Security.
 - Internationalization.
 - Built-in help.
 - Built-in test **facilities**.
10. Is all **formalized material** and **diagrammatic material** accompanied by sufficient explanatory text in natural language?
11. Are **design decisions** documented explicitly and motivated?
- Restrictions on developer freedom with respect to the requirements.
12. Has an evaluation of the software architecture been documented?
- Have alternative architectures been considered?
 - Have non-functional requirements also been considered?
 - *Negative indicators:*
 - High **complexity**: a component has a complex interface or functionality.
 - Low **cohesion**: a component contains unrelated functionality.
 - High **coupling**: two or more **components** have many (mutual) connections.
 - High **fan-in**: a component is needed by many other components.
 - High **fan-out**: a component depends on many other components.
13. Is the **flexibility** of the architecture demonstrated?
- How can it cope with likely changes in the requirements?
 - Have the most relevant change scenarios been documented?