

This guide presents the general structure of the solution architect interviews conducted in Phase 2 of the research.

Estimated interview time: 60 minutes

Before the interview, the participant is asked to confirm their consent to recording the interview for research purposes.

Interview Structure

Part 1: Description of the case study (10-15 minutes)

- Explaining general concepts (sustainability concern, dimension, impact level, etc.)
- Providing a brief overview of the decision maps

During this part, the participant can ask clarifying questions at any moment.

Part 2: Detailed discussion on decision map (30-40 minutes)

In this part, we gather the participant's perspectives on different elements and relationships demonstrated in the decision maps. For each sustainability concern identified in the decision map, we define the concern and ask the following questions:

- Is this concern relevant to the solution under consideration? If yes, please explain how it's relevant.
- Is this concern marked with the appropriate sustainability dimension (technical/social/environmental/economic)? If not, which dimension should it be in?
- Is the impact on the concern positive, negative, or undecided? Please explain the rationale.
- Is the impact immediate, enabling, or systemic? Please explain the rationale.
- Was this sustainability concern taken into account while making the architecture design decision?

Part 3: Weighting sustainability concerns (10-15 minutes)

After going through the decision maps, we set weights for the sustainability concerns together with the participant. In this process, we ask the following questions for each concern.

- How much more important was this particular concern compared to the others at the time of making the design decision?
- Considering its importance, what relative weight would you assign to this concern?
- Does this weight apply only to the solution context or does it resonate with the larger company scope as well?
- Under which circumstances, can this weight change in the future?

The interview ends with some general remarks regarding the future of the research from the interviewer as well as the participant.