### **Welcome to the Visio 3D Architecture Template Version 1**

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Provide feedback to CnESymbols@microsoft.com

**Video Instructions** for using this template are at https://aka.ms/3DBlueprintTemplateVideo.

Unless you are Visio guru, it's likely to save you a huge amount of time in the long run.

You should also **download the Cloud and Enterprise Symbols** at http://aka.ms/CnESymbols.

**Additional symbols** from Office are available at http://aka.ms/OfficeSymbols, though they may need resizing for use with this template.

**Non-Microsoft architectures -** To publicly distribute your blueprint, you must have at least one Microsoft technology on the sheet. That's not required for only internal use in your organization. That said, there is no reason you can't use other symbols (like those from AWS) if you have a mixed architecture and want to represent those systems on a diagram. We encourage that usage.

**Export PDF Bug** - Visio 2013 has a bug in it that puts out low quality PDFs with the 3D rotated objects if you use Save As. As a workaround you can print to a 3rd party PDF printer driver, which gives you better results. You can also save out a PNG or take a screen shot on a large monitor.

# Advanced Notes Want to add your own 3d shapes?

If you need new shapes,

- 1) Draw them yourself
- 2) send a request to CnESymbols@microsoft.com

If you create them yourself, feel free to send them and we can include them in a community template with your name attached if you want. In doing so, you would give us permission to freely distribute them with the template. Send .AI, .SVG or Visio formats. Must be vector formats such as .VSD, VSDX, .AI, .SVG. Do not send PNG, GIF, JPG or other raster formats as they will not scale well.

Any vector program via SVG - Visio can open SVG files. so you can create your own shapes, icons and symbols in any vector graphics program that can save SVG. Then add connection points of the "Inward & Outward" type so they can connect to the grid and accept line connections. Use previous shapes as guides. It's a good idea to ungroup and regroup shapes to allow easy layer selection and thus coloring in Visio. If the perspective if slightly off after import, you can correct it by playing with the 3d effects in Visio.

**Usability** - If you understand Visio Shapesheets, you can **lock parts of your shapes** so they cannot be changed and make it easier to change glow colors using the Line or Fill buttons in Visio.

**Line width and text does not scale** when you shrink or expand an object in Visio. As such, you may want to create what you want in another vector program and then import it into Visio so it scales properly.

**If you want a training video created** showing you how to create your own shapes, send that feedback to CnESymbols@microsoft.com to let us know.

## Changes log Release 1.0 August 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

- Shapes have protection to make sure they are colored correctly when you use Fill or Line color. Coloring makes sense now, vs. getting a blob of something. The gray parts do not change color.
- Grid is now a separate layer and NOT colored. The color is behind in a separate square. This way you can change the background color very easy when desired.
- Black rectangle on side separated from background grid so some elements like layers can go under it.
- Added first text block on each page black section.
- Put a building on each template. You can delete it off if you don't need it.
- Custom dot terminators make dot overrides unnecessary
- Advanced template ships with kit for those who want to play with the underlying shapes

### Beta 2 April 2015

- Custom Arrow line ends make arrow overrides unnecessary
- Addition of connection points to cubes and servers to attach symbols easily.
- Symbol formatters and skewed text 3d effects changed and made consistent

### **Beta 1 Feb 2015**

First release









