1 tier,2 tier,3 tier and N tier architecture.

Software architecturerefers to the fundamental structures of software system and the discipline of creating such structures and systems. Each structure comprises software elements, relations among them, and properties of both elements and relations. The architecture of a software system is a metaphor, analogous to the architecture of a building. It functions as a blueprint for the system and the developing project, laying out the tasks necessary to be executed by the design teams.Software architecture consists of one tier, two tier, three tier and N tier architecture.A tier can also be referred to as a layer.There are three layers involved namely Presentation Layer, Buisness Layer and Data Layer.

**Presentation Layer**-Topmost layer of an application, also known as client layer.This layer passes the information given by user to the Buisness Layer.Example-Login page of Gmail.

**Buisness Layer**-Also known as Application Layer.This layer interacts with the database layer and sends information to the Presentation Layer.

**Data Layer**-The data is stored in this layer.Application layer communicates with this layer to retrieve the data.

**1 tier Architecture**-One tier architecture has all the layers such as Presentation, Business, Data Access layers in a single software package. Applications which handles all the three tiers such as MP3 player, MS Office are come under one tier application. The data is stored in the local system or a shared drive.

**2 tier Architecture**-The Two-tier architecture is divided into two parts:

1. Client Application (Client Tier)  
2. Database (Data Tier)

Client system handles both Presentation and Application layers and Server system handles Database layer. It is also known as client server application. The communication takes place between the Client and the Server. Client system sends the request to the Server system and the Server system processes the request and sends back the data to the Client System.

**3 tier Architecture-**The Three-tier architecture is divided into three parts:

1. Presentation layer (Client Tier)  
2. Application layer (Business Tier)  
2. Database layer (Data Tier)

Client system handles Presentation layer, Application server handles Application layer and Server system handles Database layer.

**N tier Architecture-**Another layer is N-Tier application. N-Tier application i.e. Distributed application. It is similar to three tier architecture but number of application servers are increased and represented in individual tiers in order to distributed the business logic so that the logic will be distributed.