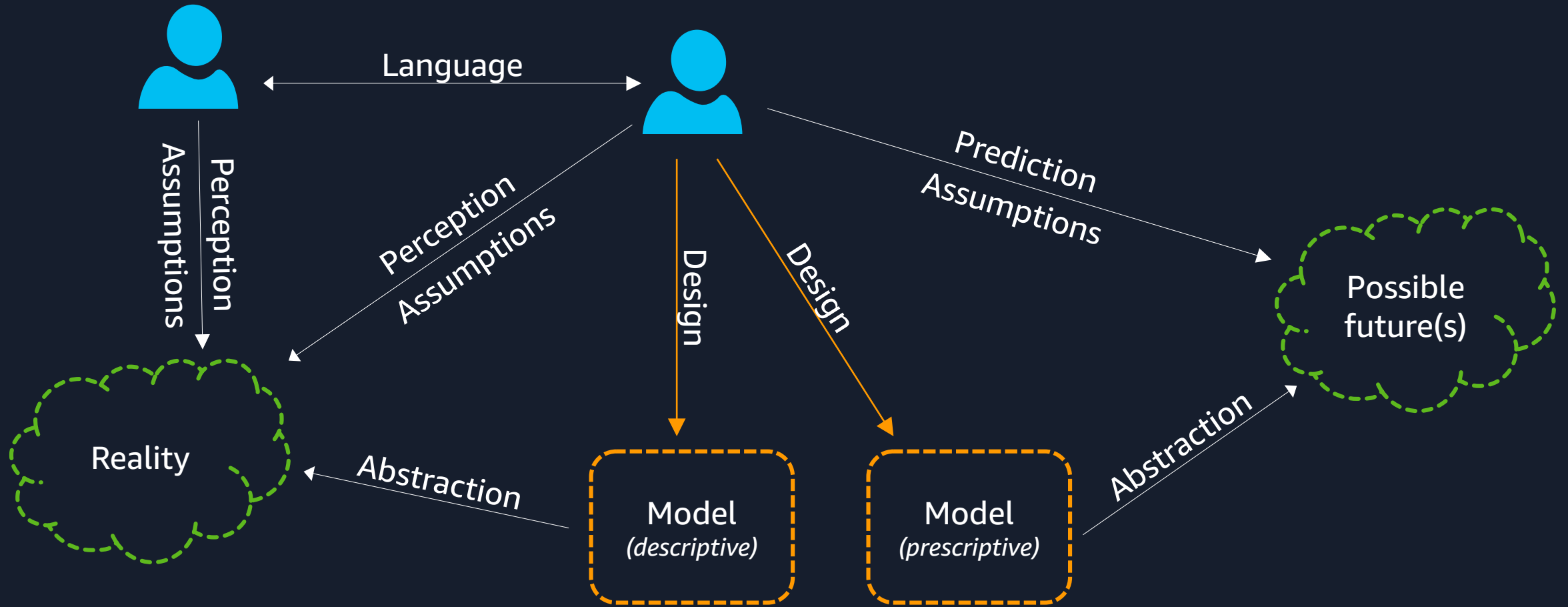aws

What is Architecture?

Alexander Günsche

Senior Solutions Architect
lxg@amazon.com
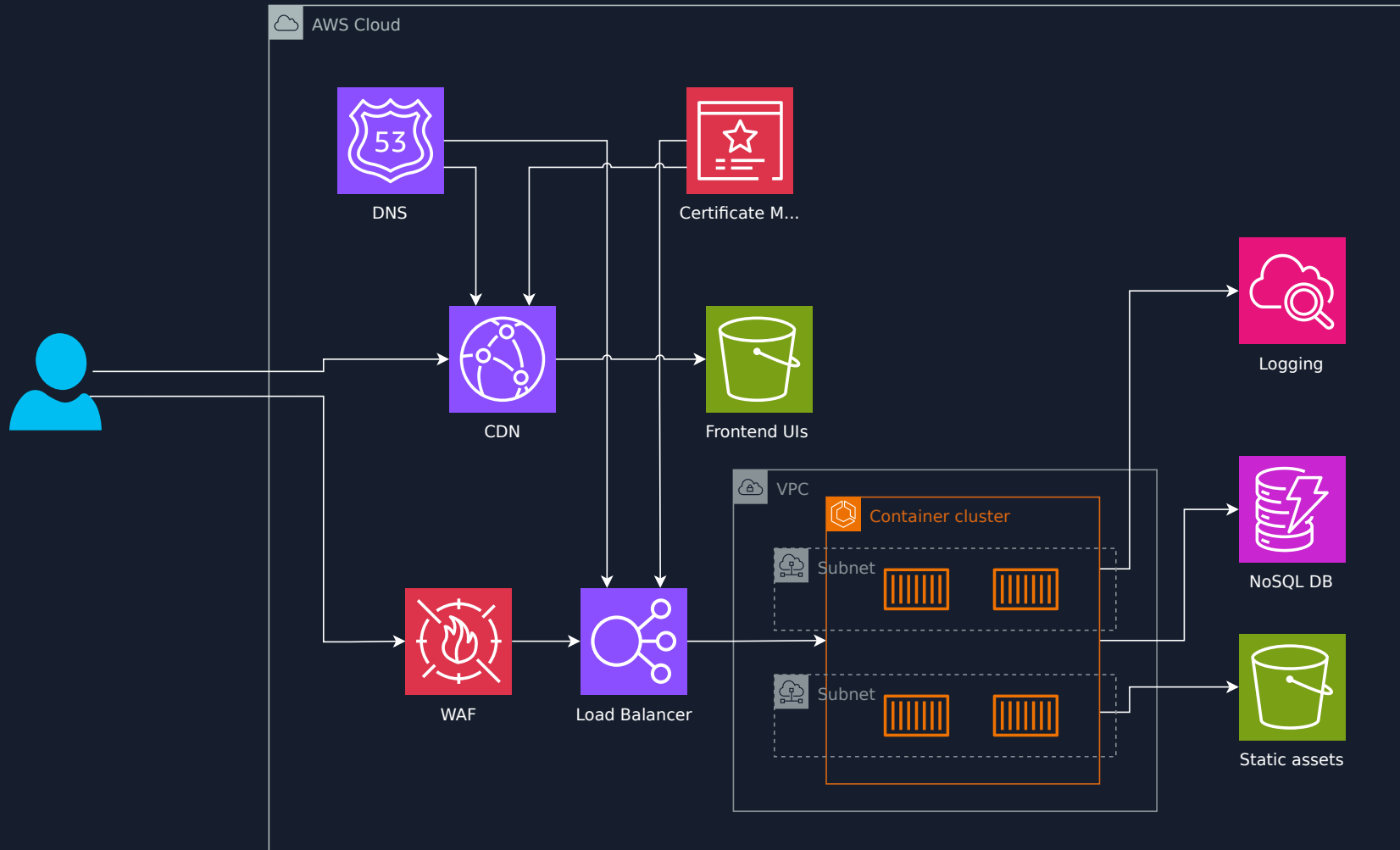
Perceptions of Reality

What is Architecture?

Architecture [1]: The actual properties of a software or IT system.

Architecture [2]: The act of modelling [1].

Architecture [3]: The result of [2].

Architecture [4]: A technological paradigm that prescribes patterns for [1].
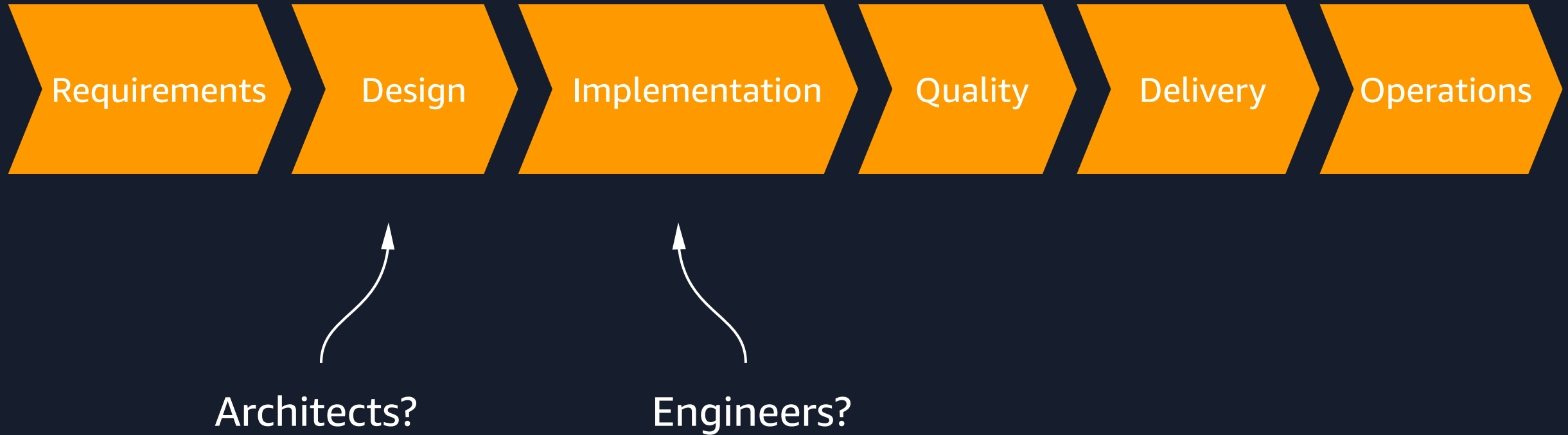
Is This "Architecture"?

Context?

Decisions?

NFRs?

What is Architecture?

"The things that are important and hard to change."

— Martin Fowler

Who Does What?

Requirements → Design → Implementation → Quality → Delivery → Operations
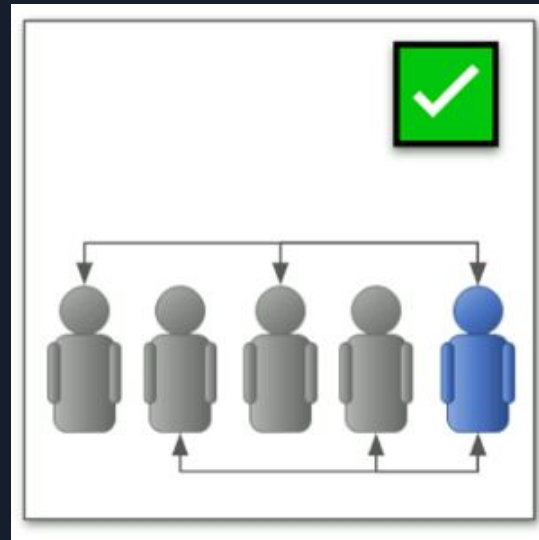
Architects?

Engineers?

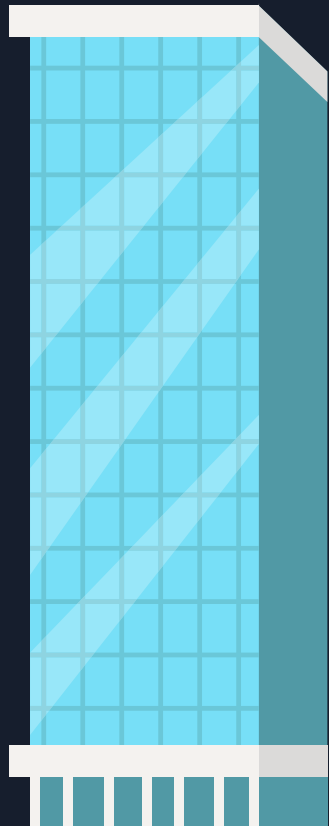Every good architect is an engineer.

Every good engineer is an architect.

Engineers and Architects

"Would you like architects with your architecture?" (G. Hohpe)

The Elevator Architect

Executives ("Penthouse")

Lines of business,
organisational functions

Developers ("Engine room")

Architects must "ride the elevator".

This means, they must understand the concerns of the leadership, different business units, and engineers. They need communicate with them in their languages and be able to effectively translate between them.

Software Architecture

ACTIVITIES	ARTIFACTS	SKILLS	GOALS
Communication Modelling Coding	Narratives Decision records Diagrams Code	Deal with complexity and ambiguity Communication and translation Analytical and long-term thinking	Guidance Alignment Enablement

Recommended Reading