

Curriculum for

Certified Professional for  
Software Architecture (CPSA)<sup>®</sup>  
*Advanced Level*

**Module  
DATA**

**Designing, building, and maintaining data-centric  
software architectures**

2024.1-RC2-EN-20240618



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## List of Learning Goals

- LG 1-1: Data engineering
- LG 1-2: Differentiation between operative and analytical data
- LG 1-3: Categories of data analysis
- LG 1-4: Challenges of analytical applications
- LG 1-5: Roles in data engineering
- LG 1-6: Monolithic and distributed data architectures
- LG 1-7: Lifecycle of analytical data
- LG 1-8: Distinction from other iSAQB modules
- LG 2-1: Overview architectural patterns
- LG 2-2: Architectural patterns for unifying analytical data
- LG 2-3: Architecture decisions based on architectural patterns
- LG 3-1: Types of data sources and source systems
- LG 3-2: Properties of data sources and source systems
- LG 3-3: Provisioning through application-specific APIs
- LG 3-4: Provisioning through database systems
- LG 3-5: Provisioning through file systems
- LG 3-6: Provisioning through object stores
- LG 3-7: Provisioning through Message Queues and Event-Streaming
- LG 4-1: What is Data Ingestion?
- LG 4-2: Identifying entities
- LG 4-3: Detecting changes
- LG 4-4: Connectors
- LG 4-5: Characteristics of Data Ingestion
- LG 4-6: Batch vs Stream Ingestion
- LG 4-7: Meta Data Ingestion
- LG 5-1: Storage systems
- LG 5-2: Database systems
- LG 5-2: Database systems for analytical applications
- LG 5-2: Concurrency Control
- LG 5-2: Versioning of data
- LG 5-6: Optimization and scaling
- LG 5-7: Data models for analytical data
- LG 5-8: Data Warehouse and Data Lake

- LG 6-1: What are data pipelines?
- LG 6-1: Analytical queries
- LG 6-1: Use Cases
- LG 6-2: Types of Data Pipelines
- LG 6-2: Query programming models
- LG 6-2: Representation of mass data
- LG 6-3: Quality criteria for data pipelines
- LG 6-3: Query processing & optimization
- LG 6-3: Modularization
- LG 6-4: Building Blocks of Data Pipelines
- LG 6-4: Data Analytics and Business Intelligence
- LG 6-5: Technologies and platforms for data pipelines
- LG 6-6: Operation of data pipelines
- LG 7-1: Differentiation between queries
- LG 7-2: Applications
- LG 7-3: Typical transformations
- LG 7-4: Staging Area
- LG 7-5: Robust transformations
- LG 7-6: Quality levels
- LG 7-7: Batch processing
- LG 7-8: Stream processing
- LG 8-5: Machine Learning
- LG 8-6: Reverse ETL
- LG 10-1: Why Data Mesh?
- LG 10-2: Domain Ownership
- LG 10-3: Data as a Product
- LG 10-4: Self-serve Data Platform
- LG 10-5: Federated Computational Governance
- LG 10-6: Top down vs. bottom up realization
- LG 12-1: Definition
- LG 12-2 - Privacy, Compliance, Data Security
- LG 12-3 - Data Quality
- LG 12-4 - Data Access and Privileges
- LG 12-5 - Data Stewardship und Ownership
- LG 12-6 - Data Contracts

- [LG 12-7 - Policies](#)
- [LG 12-8 - Metadata](#)
- [LG 12-8 - Operating](#)

## Introduction: General information about the iSAQB Advanced Level

### What is taught in an Advanced Level module?

- The iSAQB Advanced Level offers modular training in three areas of competence with flexibly designable training paths. It takes individual inclinations and priorities into account.
- The certification is done as an assignment. The assessment and oral exam is conducted by experts appointed by the iSAQB.

### What can Advanced Level (CPSA-A) graduates do?

CPSA-A graduates can:

- Independently and methodically design medium to large IT systems
- In IT systems of medium to high criticality, assume technical and content-related responsibility
- Conceptualize, design, and document actions to achieve quality requirements and support development teams in the implementation of these actions
- Control and execute architecture-relevant communication in medium to large development teams

### Requirements for CPSA-A certification

- Successful training and certification as a Certified Professional for Software Architecture, Foundation Level® (CPSA-F)
- At least three years of full-time professional experience in the IT sector; collaboration on the design and development of at least two different IT systems
  - Exceptions are allowed on application (e.g., collaboration on open source projects)
- Training and further education within the scope of iSAQB Advanced Level training courses with a minimum of 70 credit points from at least three different areas of competence
- Successful completion of the CPSA-A certification exam





## Essentials

### What does the module “DATA” convey?

The module presents DATA to the participants ... At the end of the module, the participants know ... and are able to ...

### Curriculum Structure and Recommended Durations

Content	Recommended minimum duration (minutes)
1. Motivation and Overview	90
2. Reference architectures for analytical systems	210
3. Data Sources	60
4. Ingestion	90
5. Storage	90
6. Queries	60
7. Transformation	90
8. Usage and Analysis	60
9. Data Pipelines	90
10. Data Mesh	120
11. Data Governance	120
Total	1080 (16h)

## Duration, Teaching Method and Further Details

The times stated below are recommendations. The duration of a training course on the DATA module should be at least 3 days, but may be longer. Providers may differ in terms of duration, teaching method, type and structure of the exercises, and the detailed course structure. In particular, the curriculum provides no specifications on the nature of the examples and exercises.

Licensed training courses for the DATA module contribute the following credit points towards admission to the final Advanced Level certification exam:

Methodical Competence:	20 Points
Technical Competence:	10 Points
Communicative Competence:	0 Points

## Prerequisites

Participants **should** have the following prerequisite knowledge:

- Prerequisite 1
- Prerequisite 2, etc.

Knowledge in the following areas may be **helpful** for understanding some concepts:

- Area 1:
  - Knowledge 1
  - Experience 2
  - Knowledge 3
  - Experience 4
  - Understanding 5

## Structure of the Curriculum

The individual sections of the curriculum are described according to the following structure:

- **Terms/principles:** Essential core terms of this topic.
- **Teaching/practice time:** Defines the minimum amount of teaching and practice time that must be spent on this topic or its practice in an accredited training course.
- **Learning goals:** Describes the content to be conveyed including its core terms and principles.

This section therefore also outlines the skills to be acquired in corresponding training courses.

## Supplementary Information, Terms, Translations

To the extent necessary for understanding the curriculum, we have added definitions of technical terms to the [iSAQB glossary](#) and complemented them by references to (translated) literature.

# 1. Motivation and overview

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

## 1.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

## 1.2. Learning Goals

### LG 1-1: Data engineering

tbd.

### LG 1-2: Differentiation between operative and analytical data

tbd.

### LG 1-3: Categories of data analysis

tbd.

### LG 1-4: Challenges of analytical applications

tbd.

### LG 1-5: Roles in data engineering

tbd.

### LG 1-6: Monolithic and distributed data architectures

tbd.

### LG 1-7: Lifecycle of analytical data

tbd.

### LG 1-8: Distinction from other iSAQB modules

tbd.

## 1.3. References

[[E. F. Codd 1990](#)], [[W. H. Inmon 2005](#)], [[R. Kimball 2011](#)]

## 2. Reference architectures for analytical application systems

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 2.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 2.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 2-1: Overview architectural patterns

tbd.

#### LG 2-2: Architectural patterns for for unifying analytical data

tbd.

#### LG 2-3: Architecture decisions based on architectural patterns

tbd.

### 2.3. References

[J. Reis 2022], [M. Bornstein 2020], [W. H. Inmon 2005], [R. Kimball 2011], [D. Linstedt 2015], [C. Giebler et al. 2021], [P. Pääkkönen 2015]

### 3. Data Sources

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

#### 3.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

#### 3.2. Learning Goals

##### LG 3-1: Types of data sources and source systems

tbd.

##### LG 3-2: Properties of data sources and source systems

tbd.

##### LG 3-3: Provisioning through application-specific APIs

tbd.

##### LG 3-4: Provisioning through database systems

tbd.

##### LG 3-5: Provisioning through file systems

tbd.

##### LG 3-6: Provisioning through object stores

tbd.

##### LG 3-7: Provisioning through Message Queues and Event-Streaming

tbd.

#### 3.3. References

[\[R. Castagna 2022\]](#)

## 4. Ingestion und Transport

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 4.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 4.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 4-1: What is Data Ingestion?

tbd.

#### LG 4-2: Identifying entities

tbd.

#### LG 4-3: Detecting changes

tbd.

#### LG 4-4: Connectors

tbd.

#### LG 4-5: Characteristics of Data Ingestion

tbd.

#### LG 4-6: Batch vs Stream Ingestion

tbd.

#### LG 4-7: Meta Data Ingestion

tbd.

### 4.3. References

[\[J. Reis 2022\]](#)

## 5. Storage

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 5.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 5.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 5-1: Storage systems

tbd.

#### LG 5-2: Database systems

tbd.

#### LG 5-2: Database systems for analytical applications

tbd.

#### LG 5-2: Concurrency Control

tbd.

#### LG 5-2: Versioning of data

tbd.

#### LG 5-6: Optimization and scaling

tbd.

#### LG 5-7: Data models for analytical data

tbd.

#### LG 5-8: Data Warehouse and Data Lake

tbd.

### 5.3. References

[\[starke\]](#)

## 6. Query und Processing

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 6.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 6.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 6-1: Analytical queries

tbd.

#### LG 6-2: Query programming models

tbd.

#### LG 6-3: Query processing & optimization

tbd.

### 6.3. References

[\[starke\]](#)



## 7. Transformation

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 7.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 7.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 7-1: Differentiation between queries

tbd.

#### LG 7-2: Applications

tbd.

#### LG 7-3: Typical transformations

tbd.

#### LG 7-4: Staging Area

tbd.

#### LG 7-5: Robust transformations

tbd.

#### LG 7-6: Quality levels

tbd.

#### LG 7-7: Batch processing

tbd.

#### LG 7-8: Stream processing

tbd.

### 7.3. References

[\[starke\]](#)

## 8. Serving Data

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 8.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 8.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 6-1: Use Cases

tbd.

#### LG 6-2: Representation of mass data

tbd.

#### LG 6-3: Modularization

tbd.

#### LG 6-4: Data Analytics and Business Intelligence

tbd.

#### LG 8-5: Machine Learning

tbd.

#### LG 8-6: Reverse ETL

tbd.

## 9. Data Pipelines

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
-------------------	------------------------

### 9.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 9.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 6-1: What are data pipelines?

tbd.

#### LG 6-2: Types of Data Pipelines

tbd.

#### LG 6-3: Quality criteria for data pipelines

tbd.

#### LG 6-4: Building Blocks of Data Pipelines

tbd.

#### LG 6-5: Technologies and platforms for data pipelines

tbd.

#### LG 6-6: Operation of data pipelines

tbd.

### 9.3. References

[\[H. Varshney 2023\]](#), [\[E. Levy 2021\]](#), [\[B. Singhal 2022\]](#)

## 10. Data Mesh

Duration: XXX min	Practice time: XXX min
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### 10.1. Terms and Principles

Term 1, Term 2, Term 3

### 10.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 10-1: Why Data Mesh?

tbd.

#### LG 10-2: Domain Ownership

tbd.

#### LG 10-3: Data as a Product

tbd.

#### LG 10-4: Self-serve Data Platform

tbd.

#### LG 10-5: Federated Computational Governance

tbd.

#### LG 10-6: Top down vs. bottom up realization

tbd.

### 10.3. References

[\[J. Christ et al. 2018\]](#), [\[J. Majchrzak 2022\]](#), [\[Z. Dehghani 2023\]](#)

## 11. Cross Cutting Concerns

Duration: 120 min	Practice time: 20 min
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### 11.1. Terms and Principles

Data Management, Data Governance, Data Contracts, Data Ownership, Data Quality, Data Security, Anonymization, Pseudonymization, Personalization, Metadata, Responsibility, DataOps

### 11.2. Learning Goals

#### LG 12-1: Definition

tbd.

#### LG 12-2 - Privacy, Compliance, Data Security

tbd.

#### LG 12-3 - Data Quality

tbd.

#### LG 12-4 - Data Access and Privileges

#### LG 12-5 - Data Stewardship und Ownership

tbd.

#### LG 12-6 - Data Contracts

tbd.

#### LG 12-7 - Policies

tbd.

#### LG 12-8 - Metadata

tbd.

#### LG 12-8 - Operating

tbd.

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[\[J. Reis 2022\]](#)

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