

The *layered* architecture, also known as the *n-tiered* architecture style, is one of the most common architecture styles. This style of architecture is the de facto standard for most applications, primarily because of its simplicity, familiarity, and low cost.

Overall cost and simplicity are the primary strengths of the layered architecture style. Being monolithic in nature, layered architectures don't have the complexities associated with distributed architecture styles, are simple and easy to understand, and are relatively low cost to build and maintain. However, as a cautionary note, these ratings start to quickly diminish as monolithic layered architectures get bigger and consequently more complex.

Architecture characteristic	Star rating
Partitioning type	Technical
Number of quanta	1
Deployability	★
Elasticity	★
Evolutionary	★
Fault tolerance	★
Modularity	★
Overall cost	★★★★★
Performance	★★
Reliability	★★★
Scalability	★
Simplicity	★★★★★
Testability	★★