C4 Model

2021-08 @Guzhongren

Game Time

Please introduce us your former project in 5 mins?

Architecture Is In Our Heads

Why
When you try to share a system architecture, what will you do?

- Mess of boxes and lines

- Mixed abstractions

- Ambiguous Naming

- Unlabelled relationships

- Inconsistent notation

- Missing technology choices

"Good software architecture diagrams help to align everybody's understanding"

– Someone

What
C4 Model

- System **C**ontext
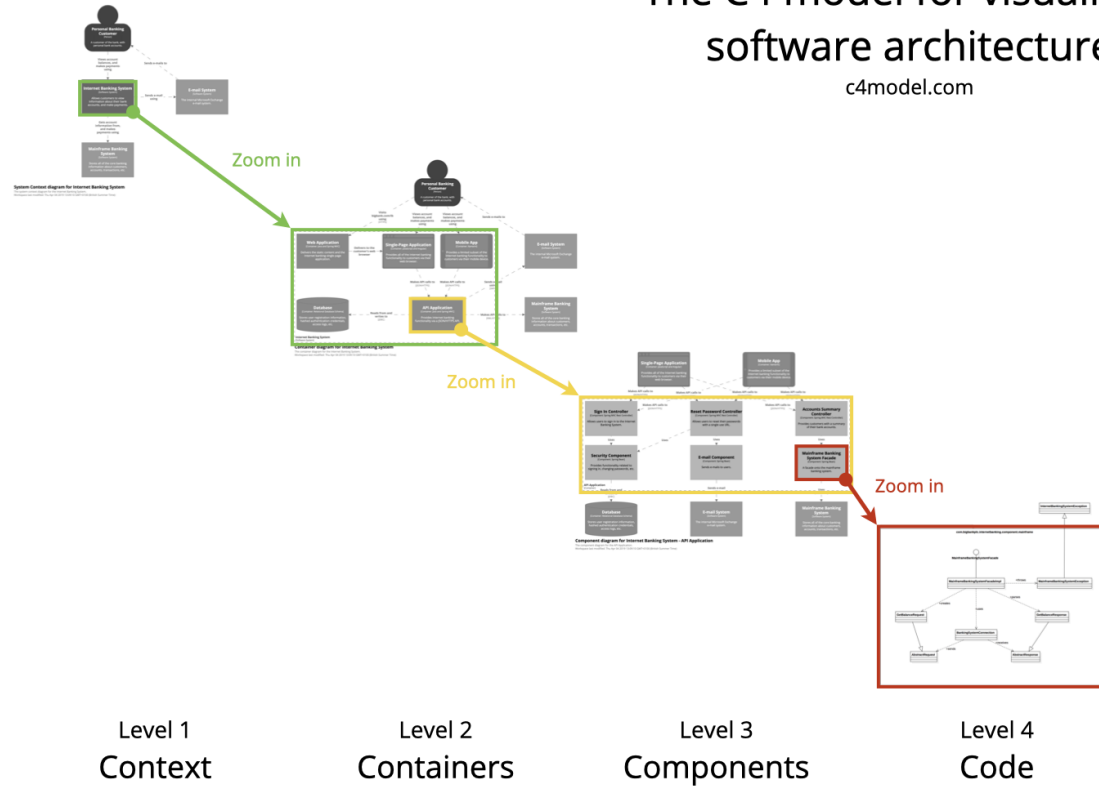
- **C**ontainer

- **C**omponent

- **C**ode

Abstraction-First

Different levels of detail, telling different stories to different types of audience

The C4 model for visualising software architecture

c4model.com
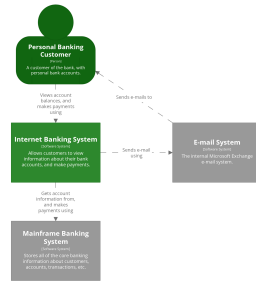
Zoom in

Zoom in

Zoom in

Level 1
Context

Level 2
Containers

Level 3
Components

Level 4
Code

How

Level 1: A System Context diagram [low-level details]

Provide a starting point
software system in scop
around it.

Intended audience:

Everybody, both techni
people, inside and outs
development team.

[System Context] Internet Banking System
The system context diagram for the Internet Banking System - diagram created with Structurizr
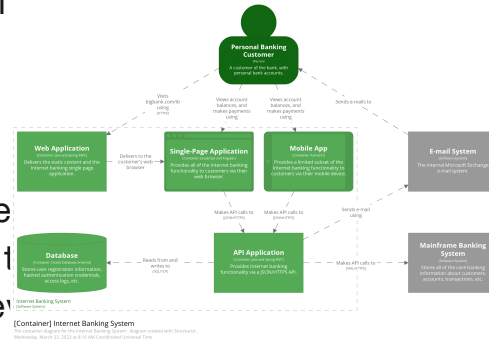Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 8:10 AM Coordinated Universal Time

How
Level 2: A Container diagram

Zoom into the software system in scope,
showing the hight-level technical building
blocks.

Intended audience:

Technical people inside
software development t
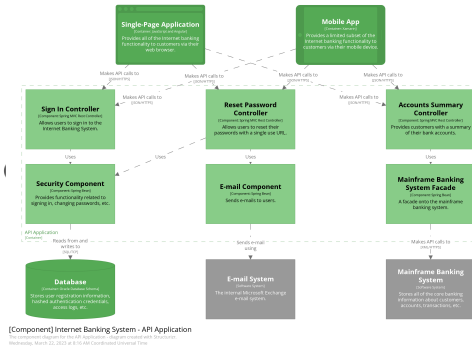software architects, dev
operations/support staff.

How
Level 3: A Component diagram

Zoom into an individual container, showing the
components inside it.

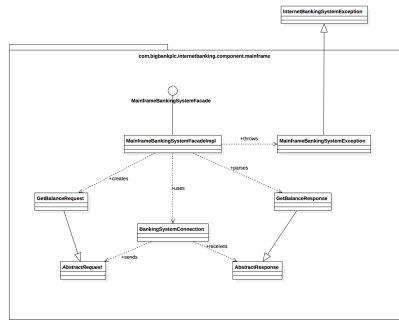**Intended audience**:

Software architects and c

How
Level 4: A Code diagram

Can be used to zoom into an individual
component, showing how that component is
implemented.

Intended audience:

Software architects and

When
When to use C4 Model

- Up-front design in inception

- Retro/introduce existing project

- Onboarding new staff

Practice

Please introduce us your former project in 5 mins?

Q & A

Thank you!