

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

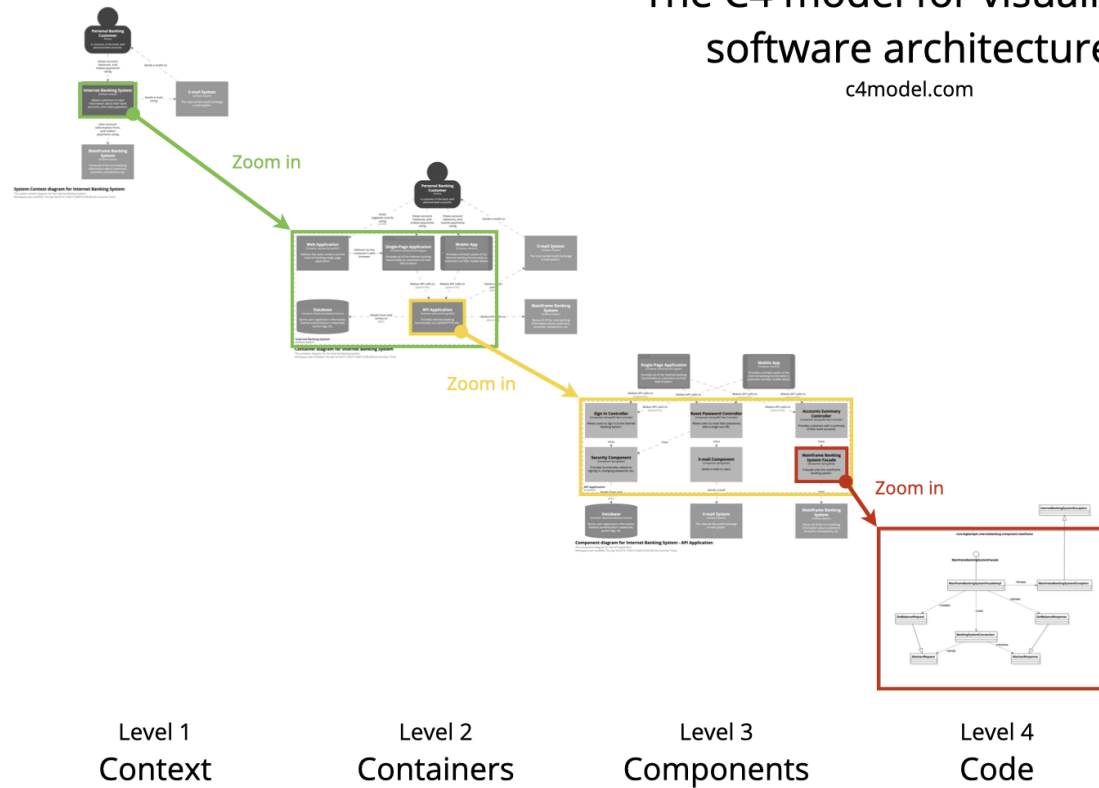
- System Context
- Container
- Component
- Code

Abstraction-First

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

The C4 model for visualising software architecture

c4model.com



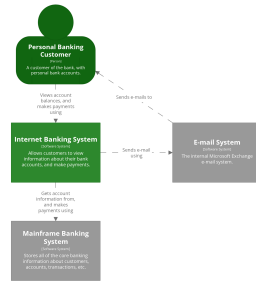
How

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

Provide a starting point software system in scope around it.

Intended audience:

Everybody, both technical people, inside and outside development team.



System Context: Internet Banking System
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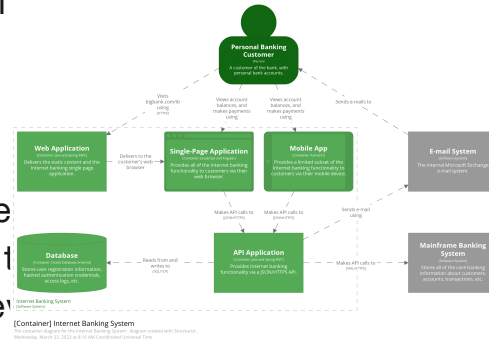
How

Level 2: A Container diagram

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

Intended audience:

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



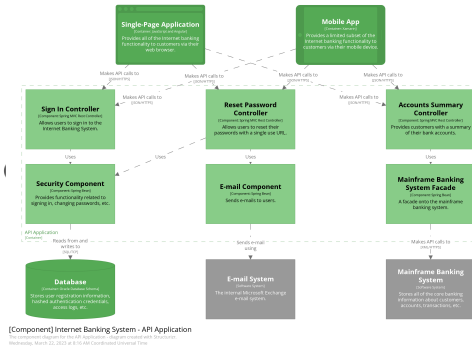
How

Level 3: A Component diagram

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

Intended audience:

Software architects and



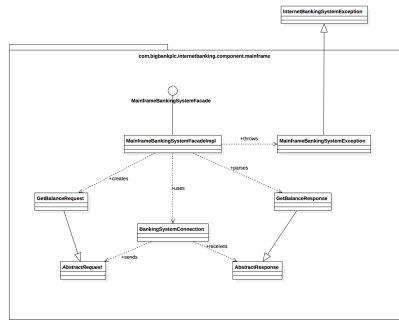
How

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

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Q & A

Thank you!