

# 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

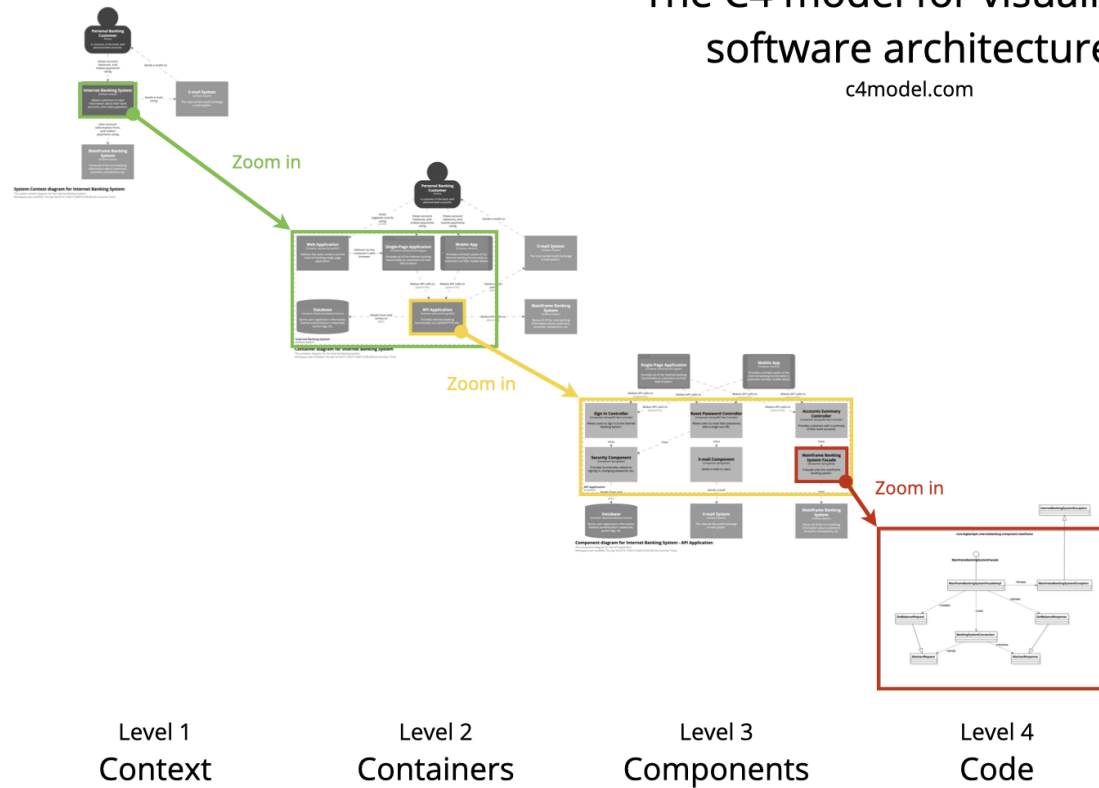
- System Context
- Container
- Component
- Code

## Abstraction-First

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

# The C4 model for visualising software architecture

c4model.com



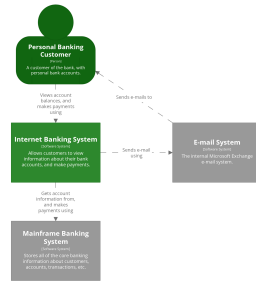
# How

## 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



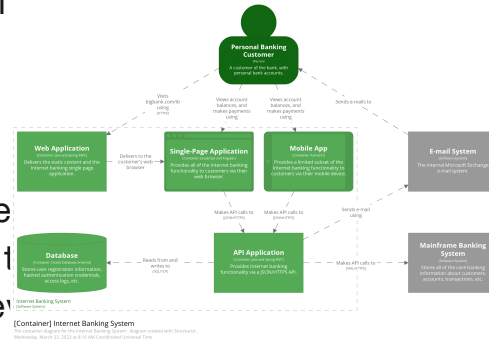
# How

## 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.



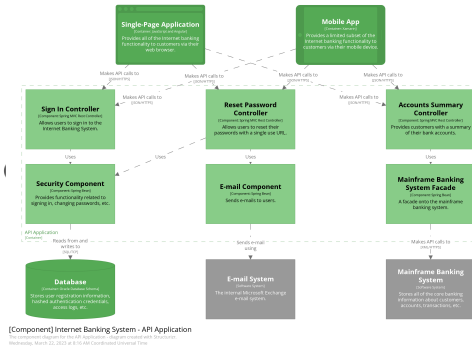
# How

## Level 3: A Component diagram

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

Intended audience:

Software architects and



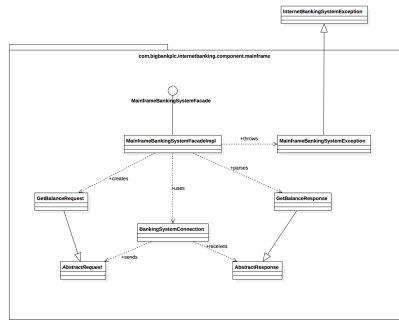
# How

## 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

Please introduce us your former project in 5 mins?

**Q & A**

**Thank you!**