**Logical vs. Physical Design Explanation**

**E.g. 3-tier Architecture**

Logical Diagram

Logical diagram is a generic abstraction of the architecture pattern.

Database Layer

Business Logic Layer

Presentation Layer

Physical Diagram

Following diagram is an elaboration of the physical design of a web based application which conforms to the 3-tier architecture (in the book they have given a specific name called 3-tier web based architecture).

Physical diagram elaborates more on the logical design, how actually each of these layers implemented in a project. There is no one solution for this, you can elaborate the way you like depending on how your project structure is, how you plan to interact with each of these layers and how much details you want to explain. You can even add actual physical locations into this diagram. For example, group application server and database into one box if those two are physically located in one machine. Also if you want, you can draw boxes to show the separation between presentation layer, business logic layer and database layer. If your data is stored across multiple databases (e.g. clustering) in multiple servers you can show it by further elaborating the database component. It is up to you to decide how much detail you want to show case in a physical diagram.

Database

Application Server

Web Browser

Web Server

Business Logic Module 1 (E.g. Login)

Business Logic Module 2 (E.g. Transactions)

HTML Views