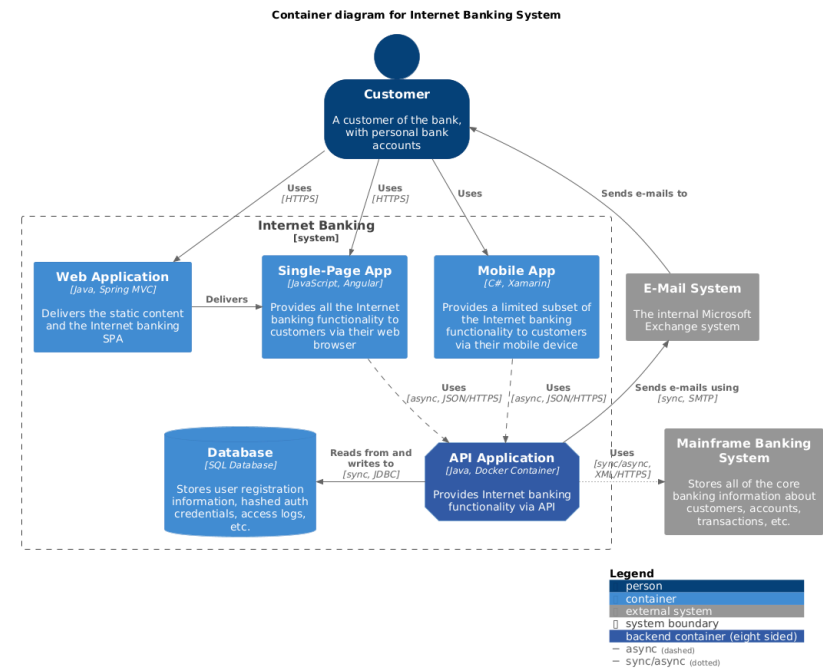


release v2.11.0 license MIT new unreleased changes 16 last commit yesterday Percy Tests passing

C4-PlantUML






drawn with PlantUML v. 1.2025.3beta6 and C4-PlantUML v. 2.12.0beta1

C4-PlantUML combines the benefits of [PlantUML](#) and the [C4 model](#) for providing a simple way of describing and communicating software architectures – especially during up-front design sessions – with an intuitive language using open source and platform independent tools.

C4-PlantUML includes macros, stereotypes, and other goodies (like VSCode Snippets) for creating C4 diagrams with PlantUML.

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Important

PlantUML v2.12.0: Layout could be changed based on bugfix.

If `LAYOUT_LANDSCAPE()` is combined with `LAY_*()` calls then the elements are correct positioned based on the new implementation. The old implementation swapped up <-> left and down <-> right (details see [issue 376](#)). The old behavior can be re-activated with

`!NO_LAY_ROTATE=1` . Details see [Compatibility mode](#) `NO_LAY_ROTATE=1` .

Getting Started

Including the C4-PlantUML library

At the top of your C4 PlantUML `.puml` file, you need to include the `C4_Context.puml` , `C4_Container.puml` or `C4_Component.puml` file found in the `root` of this repo.

To be independent of any Internet connectivity, you can download the files found in the `root` and make use of them by supplying the command line argument `-DRELATIVE_INCLUDE=."` to PlantUML:

```
java -jar plantuml.jar -DRELATIVE_INCLUDE="." ...
```

For Visual Studio Code, add the following to your settings.json:

```
"plantuml.jarArgs": [
  "-DRELATIVE_INCLUDE=."
]
```

If you want to use the always up-to-date version of the C4-PlantUML library in this repo (which obviously requires an Internet connection every time you render a document), use the following:

```
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml
```

If you don't need the up-to-date version, PlantUML includes the last released `c4_...` files as [standard library C4](#) (no additional files or Internet is required). You can use it with following:

```
!include <C4/C4_Container>
```

Now let's create a C4 Container diagram

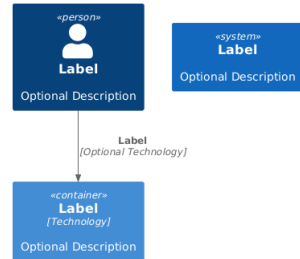
(If you don't want run PlantUML locally you can use e.g. the [PlantUML Web Server](#) too.)

After you have included `C4_Container.puml` you can use the defined macro definitions for the C4 elements: `Person`, `Person_Ext`, `System`, `System_Ext`, `Container`, `Relationship`, `Boundary`, and `System_Boundary`

```
@startuml C4_Elements
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

Person(personAlias, "Label", "Optional Description")
Container(containerAlias, "Label", "Technology", "Optional Description")
System(systemAlias, "Label", "Optional Description")

Rel(personAlias, containerAlias, "Label", "Optional Technology")
@enduml
```



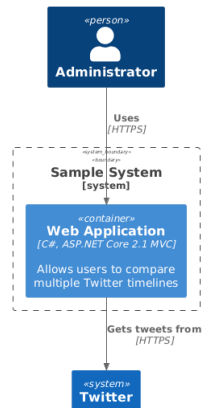
In addition to this, it is also possible to define a system or component boundary.

Take a look at the following sample of a C4 Container Diagram:

```
@startuml Basic Sample
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

Person(admin, "Administrator")
System_Boundary(c1, "Sample System") {
    Container(web_app, "Web Application", "C#, ASP.NET Core 2.1 MVC", "Allows users to compare multiple Twitter timelines")
}
System(twitter, "Twitter")

Rel(admin, web_app, "Uses", "HTTPS")
Rel(web_app, twitter, "Gets tweets from", "HTTPS")
@enduml
```



Entities can also be decorated with icons/sprites using the `$sprite` parameter, for example:

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

!define DEVICONS https://raw.githubusercontent.com/tupadr3/plantuml-icon-font-sprites/master/devicons
!define FONTAWESOME https://raw.githubusercontent.com/tupadr3/plantuml-icon-font-sprites/master/font-awesome-5
!include DEVICONS/angular.puml
!include DEVICONS/java.puml
!include DEVICONS/mysql_server.puml
!include FONTAWESOME/users.puml
```

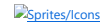
```

LAYOUT_WITH_LEGEND()

Person(user, "Customer", "People that need products", $sprite="users")
Container(spa, "SPA", "angular", "The main interface that the customer interacts with", $sprite="angular")
Container(api, "API", "java", "Handles all business logic", $sprite="java")
ContainerDb(db, "Database", "Microsoft SQL", "Holds product, order and invoice information", $sprite="mysql_server")

Rel(user, spa, "Uses", "https")
Rel(spa, api, "Uses", "https")
Rel_R(api, db, "Reads/Writes")
@enduml

```



Sprites/Icons

Similar to icons/sprites is it possible to add links to all elements and relationships:

```

@startuml Basic Sample
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

Person(admin, "Administrator", $sprite="person2", $link="https://github.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/blob/master/LayoutOption
System_Boundary(c1, "Sample System", $link="https://github.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML") {
    Container(web_app, "Web Application", "C#, ASP.NET Core 2.1 MVC", $descr="Allows users to compare multiple Twitter timeline:
}
System(twitter, "Twitter", $link="https://github.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML")

Rel(admin, web_app, "Uses", "HTTPS", $link="https://plantuml.com/link")
Rel(web_app, twitter, "Gets tweets from", "HTTPS", $link="https://plantuml.com/link")
@enduml

```

png itself supports no links, therefore the following image is generated as svg image. Github does not support svg links in README.md. If you click on the image a new window is opened and there you can use the links.



Click on the image that the links are working

Elements and relationships can be decorated with tags and explained via a calculated legend, for example:

```

@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

AddElementTag("v1.0", $borderColor="#d73027")
AddElementTag("v1.1", $fontColor="#d73027")
AddElementTag("backup", $fontColor="orange")

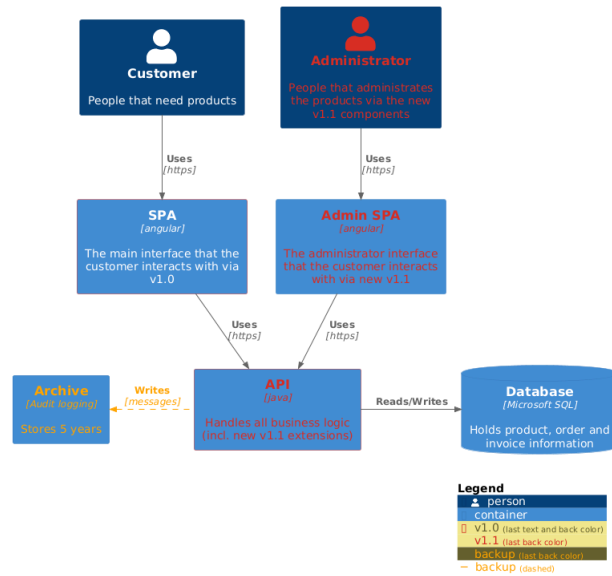
AddRelTag("backup", $textColor="orange", $lineColor="orange", $lineStyle = DashedLine())

Person(user, "Customer", "People that need products")
Person(admin, "Administrator", "People that administrates the products via the new v1.1 components", $tags="v1.1")
Container(spa, "SPA", "angular", "The main interface that the customer interacts with via v1.0", $tags="v1.0")
Container(spaAdmin, "Admin SPA", "angular", "The administrator interface that the customer interacts with via new v1.1", $tags='
Container(api, "API", "java", "Handles all business logic (incl. new v1.1 extensions)", $tags="v1.0+v1.1")
ContainerDb(db, "Database", "Microsoft SQL", "Holds product, order and invoice information")
Container(archive, "Archive", "Audit logging", "Stores 5 years", $tags="backup")

Rel(user, spa, "Uses", "https")
Rel(spa, api, "Uses", "https")
Rel_R(api, db, "Reads/Writes")
Rel(admin, spaAdmin, "Uses", "https")
Rel(spaAdmin, api, "Uses", "https")
Rel_l(api, archive, "Writes", "messages", $tags="backup")

SHOW_LEGEND()
@enduml

```



Supported Diagram Types

- `arg`: argument required (e.g. `alias`)
- `?arg`: argument optional (e.g. `?tags`); an optional argument can be directly set via its keyword `$arg=...` (e.g. `$tags="specificTag"`) without the other optional arguments

System Context & System Landscape diagrams

- Import: `!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Context.puml`
- Macros:
 - `Person(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type)`
 - `Person_Ext(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type)`
 - `System(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type, ?baseShape)`
 - `SystemDb(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type)`
 - `SystemQueue(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type)`
 - `System_Ext(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type, ?baseShape)`
 - `SystemDb_Ext(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type)`
 - `SystemQueue_Ext(alias, label, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?type)`
 - `Boundary(alias, label, ?type, ?tags, ?link, ?descr)`
 - `Enterprise_Boundary(alias, label, ?tags, ?link, ?descr)`
 - `System_Boundary(alias, label, ?tags, ?link, ?descr)`
- Sprites:
 - `person`
 - `person2`
 - `robot`
 - `robot2`
- C4 Model extension: `Person()` and `System()` support `$type` argument too. Is uses the same notation as `$techn`, e.g. `$type="characteristic A"` is displayed as `[characteristic A]`

Container diagram

- Import: `!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml`
- Additional Macros (based on context diagram macros):
 - `Container(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?baseShape)`
 - `ContainerDb(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)`
 - `ContainerQueue(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)`

- Container_Ext(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?baseShape)
- ContainerDb_Ext(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)
- ContainerQueue_Ext(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)
- Container_Boundary(alias, label, ?tags, ?link, ?descr)

Component diagram

- Import: `!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Component.puml`
- Additional Macros (based on container diagram macros):
 - Component(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?baseShape)
 - ComponentDb(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)
 - ComponentQueue(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)
 - Component_Ext(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link, ?baseShape)
 - ComponentDb_Ext(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)
 - ComponentQueue_Ext(alias, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)

Dynamic diagram

- Import: `!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Dynamic.puml`
- Additional Macros (based on component diagram macros):
 - (lowercase) `increment($offset=1)` : increase current index (procedure which has no direct output)
 - (lowercase) `setIndex($new_index)` : set the new index (procedure which has no direct output)
 - `LastIndex()` : return the last used index (function which can be used as argument)

following 2 macros requires V1.2020.24Beta4 (can be already tested with <https://www.plantuml.com/plantuml/>)

- `Index($offset=1)` : returns current index and calculates next index (function which can be used as argument)
- `SetIndex($new_index)` : returns new set index and calculates next index (function which can be used as argument)

- All relationship macros are extended with `?index=` :

All `RelIndex...`() calls are obsolete and can be replaced with calls like `Rel($index=... ..)` or `Rel(... $index=)`. A full sample see [samples/C4_Dynamic Diagram Sample - message bus.puml](#)

Deployment diagram

- Import: `!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Deployment.puml`
- Additional Macros (based on container diagram macros):
 - Deployment_Node(alias, label, ?type, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)
 - Node(alias, label, ?type, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link) : short name of Deployment_Node()
 - Node_L(alias, label, ?type, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link) : left aligned Node()
 - Node_R(alias, label, ?type, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link) : right aligned Node()

(C4 styled) Sequence diagram

C4-PlantUML **does not offer** a full sequence diagram support, but existing elements and relationships can be reused as participants and calls in the corresponding styles.

!!! Contrary to all other diagrams, please define boundaries without `{` and `}` and mark a boundary end with `Boundary_End()` !!!

- Import: `!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Sequence.puml`
- Macros (based on **component** diagram macros):
 - Basically all element specific macros (Person, System, Container..) can be reused with following differences:
 - element descriptions are typically not displayed (can be activated via `SHOW_ELEMENT_DESCRIPTIONS()`)
 - **boundaries have to be defined without `{` and `}`** and instead of `}` the `Boundary_End()` macro has to be called
 - Additional (element specific) Macros:
 - `Boundary_End()`
 - Additional Layout Options:
 - `SHOW_ELEMENT_DESCRIPTIONS(?show)`
 - `SHOW_FOOT_BOXES(?show)`
 - `SHOW_INDEX(?show)`
 - Only following (extended) relationship specific macros is supported:
 - `Rel($from, $to, $label, $techn="", $descr="", $sprite="", $tags="", $link="", $index="", $rel="")`
`$index` enables the definition of active/next index with e.g. the related index macros below
`$rel` enables the definition of all PlantUML specific arrow types, details see e.g. [All arrow types](#) and [Slanted or odd arrows](#)
 - The index related macros (like the dynamic diagram)
 - `Index($offset=1)` : returns current index and calculates next index (function which can be used as argument)
 - `SetIndex($new_index)` : returns new set index and calculates next index (function which can be used as argument)
 - `LastIndex()` : return the last used index (function which can be used as argument)
 - (lowercase) `increment($offset=1)` : increase current index (procedure which has no direct output)

- (lowercase) `setIndex($new_index)` : set the new index (procedure which has no direct output)

• (Typically additional used) PlantUML statements:

- [Grouping message](#)
- [Divider or separator](#)
- [Reference](#)
- [Delay](#)

Samples

Take a look at each of the [C4 Model Diagram Samples](#).

Relationship Types

- `Rel(from, to, label, ?techn, ?descr, ?sprite, ?tags, ?link)`
- `BiRel` (bidirectional relationship)

You can force the direction of a relationship by using:

- `Rel_U`, `Rel_Up`
- `Rel_D`, `Rel_Down`
- `Rel_L`, `Rel_Left`
- `Rel_R`, `Rel_Right`

In following sample a person uses different systems, and a group of persons which have bidirectional relationships

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml
hide_stereotype()

Person(a, "A")
Person(b, "B")
Person(c, "C")
Person(d, "D")
Person(e, "E")

BiRel_U(a, b, "talk with")
BiRel_R(a, c, "talk with")
BiRel_D(a, d, "talk with")
BiRel_L(a, e, "talk with")

Person(x, "X")
System(s1, "S1")
System(s2, "S2")
System(s3, "S3")
System(s4, "S4")

Rel_U(x, s1, "uses")
Rel_R(x, s2, "uses")
Rel_D(x, s3, "uses")
Rel_L(x, s4, "uses")
@enduml
```

 [\(unidirectional\) relationship versus bidirectional relationship](#)

Layout (arrange) elements (without relationships)

In rare cases, you can force the layout of elements which have no relationships by using:

- `Lay_U(from, to)`, `Lay_Up(from, to)`
- `Lay_D(from, to)`, `Lay_Down(from, to)`
- `Lay_L(from, to)`, `Lay_Left(from, to)`
- `Lay_R(from, to)`, `Lay_Right(from, to)`

In following sample a person uses different systems, and a group of persons which have no relationships

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml
hide_stereotype()

Person(a, "A")
Person(b, "B")
Person(c, "C")
Person(d, "D")
Person(e, "E")

Lay_U(a, b)
Lay_R(a, c)
Lay_D(a, d)
Lay_L(a, e)

```

```

Person(x, "X")
System(s1, "S1")
System(s2, "S2")
System(s3, "S3")
System(s4, "S4")

Rel_U(x, s1, "uses")
Rel_R(x, s2, "uses")
Rel_D(x, s3, "uses")
Rel_L(x, s4, "uses")
@enduml

```

Relationship versus Layout

(In combination with [SHOW_FLOATING_LEGEND\(\)](#)) a greater distance between an element and the e.g. floating legend could be required that all e.g. corners of the drawing area can be reached.

- `Lay_Distance(from, to, ?distance)`: Sets the distance between `from` and `to` with down alignment (`Lay_Distance(from,to,0)` equals `Lay_D(from, to)`). The default alias of the floating legend is `LEGEND()`.

In following sample the floating legend should be in the left bottom corner of the drawing are. (The normal `SHOW_LEGEND()` call requires no extra `Lay_Distance()` call and the legend is automatically drawn below the diagram on the right side)

```

@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

!define DEVICONS https://raw.githubusercontent.com/tupadr3/plantuml-icon-font-sprites/master/devicons
!define FONTAWESOME https://raw.githubusercontent.com/tupadr3/plantuml-icon-font-sprites/master/font-awesome-5
!include DEVICONS/angular.puml
!include DEVICONS/java.puml
!include DEVICONS/mysql_server.puml
!include FONTAWESOME/users.puml

Person(user, "Customer", "People that need products", $sprite="users")
Container(spa, "SPA", "angular", "The main interface that the customer interacts with", $sprite="angular")
Container(api, "API", "java", "Handles all business logic", $sprite="java")
ContainerDb(db, "Database", "Microsoft SQL", "Holds product, order and invoice information", $sprite="mysql_server")

Rel(user, spa, "Uses")
Rel(spa, api, "Uses")
Rel_R(api, db, "Reads/Writes")

SHOW_FLOATING_LEGEND()
Lay_Distance(LEGEND(), db, 1)
@enduml

```

db below legend, 1 unit distance

Compatibility mode `NO_LAY_ROTATE=1`

Based on the bugfix of [issue 376](#) the layout of old diagrams could be changed if they contain a combination of `LAYOUT_LANDSCAPE()` and `Lay_*` commands like below.

```

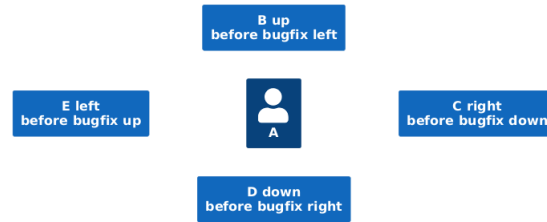
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml
LAYOUT_LANDSCAPE()

Person(a, "A")
System(sUp, "B up\nbefore bugfix left")
System(sRight, "C right\nbefore bugfix down")
System(sDown, "D down\nbefore bugfix right")
System(sLeft, "E left\nbefore bugfix up")

Lay_U(a, sUp)
Lay_R(a, sRight)
Lay_D(a, sDown)
Lay_L(a, sLeft)

HIDE_STEREOType()
@enduml

```

The new repositioning of the elements could damage old diagrams. Therefore a compatibility mode `NO_LAY_ROTATE` is introduced. This mode can be directly activated in the old diagrams with `!NO_LAY_ROTATE=1` or with the additional command line argument `-DNO_LAY_ROTATE=1` (like `java -jar plantuml.jar -DNO_LAY_ROTATE=1 ...`)

If this value is set then non of the `Lay_*` calls itself has to be updated like below.

```
@startuml
' the bugfix is deactivated with following statement
!NO_LAY_ROTATE = 1

!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml
LAYOUT_LANDSCAPE()

Person(a, "A")
System(sUp, "B up\nbefore bugfix left")
System(sRight, "C right\nbefore bugfix down")
System(sDown, "D down\nbefore bugfix right")
System(sLeft, "E left\nbefore bugfix up")

Lay_U(a, sUp)
Lay_R(a, sRight)
Lay_D(a, sDown)
Lay_L(a, sLeft)

HIDE_STEREOTYPE()
@enduml
```



Global Layout Options

C4-PlantUML also comes with some layout options to make it easy and reusable to create nice and useful diagrams:

- [LAYOUT_TOP_DOWN\(\)](#) or [LAYOUT_LEFT_RIGHT\(\)](#) or [LAYOUT_LANDSCAPE\(\)](#)
- [LAYOUT_WITH_LEGEND\(\)](#) or [SHOW_LEGEND\(?hideStereotype, ?details\)](#)
- [SHOW_FLOATING_LEGEND\(?alias, ?hideStereotype, ?details\)](#) and [LEGEND\(\)](#)
- [LAYOUT_AS_SKETCH\(\)](#) and [SET_SKETCH_STYLE\(?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?warningColor, ?fontName, ?footerWarning, ?footerText\)](#)
- [HIDE_STEREOTYPE\(\)](#)

C4-PlantUML also comes with some person sprite/portrait options:

- [HIDE_PERSON_SPRITE\(\)](#)
- [SHOW_PERSON_SPRITE\(?sprite\)](#)
- [SHOW_PERSON_PORTRAIT\(\)](#)
- [SHOW_PERSON_OUTLINE\(\)](#) (requires PlantUML version `>= 1.2021.4`)

Sprites and other images

C4-PlantUML offers predefined person and robot sprites which can be directly used:

- `person` , `person2`
- `robot` , `robot2`

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Component.puml

Person(pB, "Sam", $sprite="person2")
Person_Ext(pA, "Bob", $sprite="person")

System_Ext(robB, "Robot A", $sprite="robot2")
System_Ext(robA, "Robot B", $sprite="robot")

SHOW_LEGEND()
@enduml
```



Legend

	person
	external person
	external system

Additional `$sprite` (images) can be defined with following PlantUML supported options:

- included (standard library) sprites via their `{SpriteName}`; details see [sprites](#)
- images via `img:{File or Url}`
- OpenIconic via `&{OpenIconicName}`; details see [openiconic](#)

Size of the displayed images can be changed with `,scale={factor}`. Color of the displayed images can be changed with `,color={color}`.

(If sprites are defined via `$tags` then the calculated legend is updated too)

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

'stdlib users.puml defines sprite "users"
!include <office/users/users.puml>

AddRelTag("plantuml", $textColor="$ARROW_FONT_COLOR", $lineColor="$ARROW_COLOR", $sprite="img:https://plantuml.com/logo3.png(sc

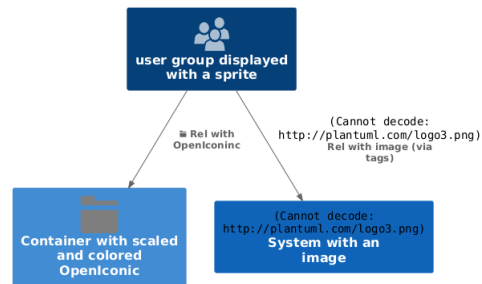
Person(user, "user group displayed with a sprite", $sprite="users")

Container(container, "Container with scaled and colored OpenIconic", $sprite="&folder,scale=5.0,color=gray")

System(system, "System with an image", $sprite="img:https://plantuml.com/logo3.png")

Rel(user, system, "Rel with image (via tags)", $tags="plantuml")
Rel(user, container, "Rel with OpenIconic", $sprite="&folder")

SHOW_LEGEND()
@enduml
```



Legend

- person
- system
- container
- (Cannot decode: http://plantuml.com/logo3.png) console triggered

Relationship specific sprites are typically smaller and therefore following options are possible:

- use smaller icons (like the \$triangle in the following sample)
- use an additional scale factor (direct as part of the argument, or via a variable)
- if sprite argument starts with & an OpenIconic name can be used too (details see <https://useiconic.com/open>)

```

@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Context.puml

Person(user, "User")
Person(user1, "User 1")
Person(user2, "User 2")
Person(user3, "User 3")

System(system, "System")

' normal sprites are too big
Rel_L(user, user2, "informs", "courier", "normal sprites are too big", $sprite="person2")

' scaled sprites are ok
Rel_R(user, user3, "informs", "courier", "scaled sprites are OK", $sprite="person2,scale=0.5")

' combine sprite and scale to a new sprite
!$combinedSprite="person2,scale=0.5"
Rel_R(user, user3, "informs", "courier", "combined sprites are OK", $sprite=$combinedSprite)

' special smaller sprites can be used
sprite $triangle {
0000000000
00000F0000
0000BF0000
0000BF0000
000F999F000
000F999F000
00F66666F00
00F66666F00
0F3333333F0
0F3333333F0
0FFFFFFF000
0000000000
}
Rel_R(user1, system, "orders", "http", "small sprites, like the small triangle", $sprite="$triangle")

' if sprite starts with &, sprite defines a OpenIconic, details see https://useiconic.com/open/
Rel_D(user, user1, "requests", "async message", "if sprite starts with &, it defines a OpenIconic like &envelope-closed", $sprite="&envelope-closed")
@enduml
  
```

- `AddPersonTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?type, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddExternalPersonTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?type, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddSystemTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?type, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddExternalSystemTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?type, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`

- `AddComponentTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?techn, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddExternalComponentTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?techn, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddContainerTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?techn, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddExternalContainerTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?techn, ?sprite, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)`
- `AddNodeTag(tagStereo, ?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?sprite, ?techn, ?legendText, ?legendSprite, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness)` (node specific: \$type reuses \$techn definition of \$tags)

Boundary specific tag definitions

Like the element specific tag definitions exist boundary specific calls with their default colors **and type**:

- `UpdateContainerBoundaryStyle(?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?type, ?legendText, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness, ?sprite, ?legendSprite)`
- `UpdateSystemBoundaryStyle(?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?type, ?legendText, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness, ?sprite, ?legendSprite)`
- `UpdateEnterpriseBoundaryStyle(?bgColor, ?fontColor, ?borderColor, ?shadowing, ?shape, ?type, ?legendText, ?borderStyle, ?borderThickness, ?sprite, ?legendSprite)`

Define a new legend title

All the above described `Update...(..., ?legendText, ...)` calls can define a new legend text. Only the legend title cannot be changed. Therefore, the following call is added to allow it to be changed as well:

- `UpdateLegendTitle(newTitle)`

Comments

- `SHOW_LEGEND()` supports the customized stereotypes
(`LAYOUT_WITH_LEGEND()` cannot be used, if the custom tags/stereotypes should be displayed in the legend).
- `SHOW_LEGEND()` has to be last line in diagram.
- Don't use space between `$tags` and `=` (PlantUML does not support it).
- Don't use `,` as part of the tag names (PlantUML does not support it in combination with keyword arguments).
- If 2 tags define the same skinparam, the first definition is used.
- If specific skinparams have to be merged (e.g. 2 tags change the font color) an additional combined tag has to be defined. Use `&` as part of combined tag names.
- Automatically merging colors of relationship tags is not supported in PlantUML before v.1.2022
If an older version is used and one tag modifies the line color and the other the text color, an additional combined tag has to be defined and used.

Sample with different tag combinations

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

UpdateElementStyle(person, $fontColor="green")
AddElementTag("v1.0", $fontColor="#d73827", $borderColor="#d73827")
AddElementTag("v1.1", $fontColor="#ffffbf", $borderColor="#ffffbf")
AddElementTag("v1.0&v1.1", $fontColor="#fdae61", $borderColor="#fdae61")
AddElementTag("fallback", $bgColor="#444444")

' If spaces are requested in the legend, legend text with space has to be defined (incl. all other additional details)
AddElementTag("microService", $shape=EightSidedShape(), $legendText="micro service (eight sided) (no text, no back color)")
' If no special tag names should be displayed in legend, no explicit legend text definition is required (all additional details)
AddElementTag("storage", $shape=RoundedBoxShape())

UpdateRelStyle(black, black)
AddRelTag("service1", $textColor="red")
AddRelTag("service2", $lineColor="red")
AddRelTag("service1&service2", $textColor="red", $lineColor="red")

Container(spa, "SPA", "angular", "The main interface that the customer interacts with via v1.0", $tags="v1.0")
Container(spaAdmin, "Admin SPA", "angular", "The administrator interface that the customer interacts with via new v1.1", $tags="v1.1")
Container(api, "API", "java", "Handles all business logic (incl. new v1.1 extensions)", $tags="v1.0&v1.1+v1.0+v1.1")
Container(spa2, "SPA2", "angular", "The main interface that the customer interacts with via v1.0", $tags="v1.0&fallback")
Container(spaAdmin2, "Admin SPA2", "angular", "The administrator interface that the customer interacts with via new v1.1", $tag="v1.1")

Container(services, "Services", "techn", $tags="microService")
Container(fileStorage, "File storage", "techn", $tags="storage")

Rel(spa, api, "Uses", "https")
Rel(spaAdmin, api, "Uses", "https")
Rel_l(spa, spa2, "Updates", "https")
```

```

Rel_R(spaAdmin, spaAdmin2, "Updates", "https")

Rel_D(api, services, "uses service1 via this call", $tags="service1")
Rel_D(api, services, "uses service2 via this call", $tags="service2")
Rel_D(services, fileStorage, "both services stores via this call", $tags="service1&service2+service1+service2")

SHOW_LEGEND(false)
@enduml

```



Sample with tag dependent sprites and custom legend text

```

@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

!define osaPuml https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Crashedmind/PlantUML-opensecurityarchitecture2-icons/master
!include osaPuml/Common.puml
!include osaPuml/User/all.puml

!include <office/Servers/database_server>
!include <office/Servers/file_server>
!include <office/Servers/application_server>
!include <office/Concepts/service_application>
!include <office/Concepts/firewall>

AddExternalPersonTag("anonymous_ext", $sprite="osa_user_black_hat", $legendText="anonymous user")
AddPersonTag("customer", $sprite="osa_user_large_group", $legendText="aggregated user")
AddPersonTag("admin", $sprite="osa_user_audit,color=red", $legendSprite="osa_user_audit,scale=0.25,color=red", $legendText="admin")

AddContainerTag("webApp", $sprite="application_server", $legendText="web app container")
AddContainerTag("db", $sprite="database_server", $legendText="database container")
AddContainerTag("files", $sprite="file_server", $legendText="file server container")
AddContainerTag("conApp", $sprite="service_application", $legendText="console app container")

AddRelTag("firewall", $textColor="$ARROW_FONT_COLOR", $lineColor="$ARROW_COLOR", $sprite="firewall,scale=0.3,color=red", $legendText="firewall")

Person_Ext(anonymous_user, "Bob", $tags="anonymous_ext")
Person(aggregated_user, "Sam, Ivone", $tags="customer")
Person(administration_user, "Bernd", $tags="admin")

System_Boundary(c1, "techtribes.js"){
    Container(web_app, "Web Application", "Java, Spring MVC, Tomcat 7.x", $tags="webApp")
    ContainerDb(rel_db, "Relational Database", "MySQL 5.5.x", $tags="db")
    Container(filesystem, "File System", "FAT32", $tags="files")
    ContainerDb(nosql, "NoSQL Data Store", "MongoDB 2.2.x", $tags="db")
    Container(updater, "Updater", "Java 7 Console App", $tags="conApp")
}

Rel(anonymous_user, web_app, "Uses", "HTTPS", $tags="firewall")
Rel(aggregated_user, web_app, "Uses", "HTTPS", $tags="firewall")
Rel(administration_user, web_app, "Uses", "HTTPS", $tags="firewall")

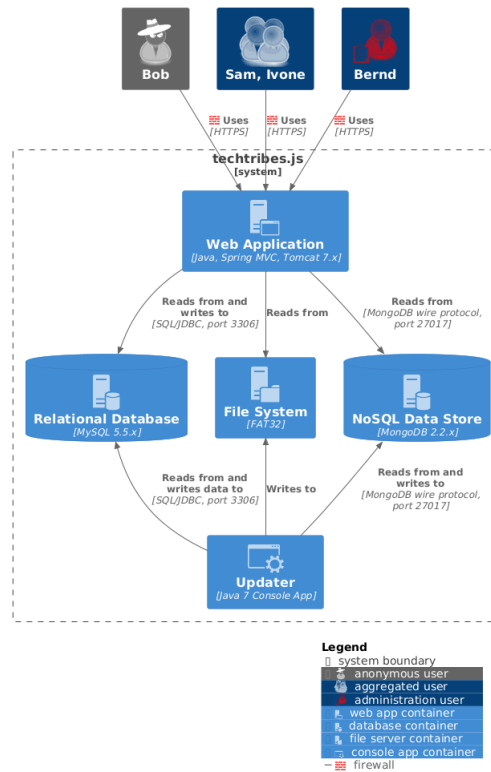
Rel(web_app, rel_db, "Reads from and writes to", "SQL/JDBC, port 3306")
Rel(web_app, filesystem, "Reads from")
Rel(web_app, nosql, "Reads from", "MongoDB wire protocol, port 27017")

Rel_U(updater, rel_db, "Reads from and writes data to", "SQL/JDBC, port 3306")
Rel_U(updater, filesystem, "Writes to")
Rel_U(updater, nosql, "Reads from and writes to", "MongoDB wire protocol, port 27017")

Lay_R(rel_db, filesystem)

SHOW_LEGEND()
@enduml

```



Sample with different boundary tag combinations

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Component.puml

' Update the generic boundary style and the "system", "enterprise", "container" boundaries styles too
UpdateBoundaryStyle($bgColor="gold", $fontColor="brown", $borderColor="brown")
' (Re-)Updates the system boundary styles; re-set $bgColor avoids '(no back color)' in legend too
UpdateSystemBoundaryStyle($bgColor="gold", $fontColor="white", $borderColor="white")

Boundary(b, "A Boundary") {
}

Container_Boundary(cb, "A Container Boundary") {
}

System_Boundary(sb, "A System Boundary") {
}

' defines a new border style incl. new border type
AddBoundaryTag("repository", $bgColor="green", $fontColor="white", $borderColor="white", $shadowing="true", $shape = RoundedRectangle)

Boundary(c4Repository, "plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML", $tags="repository") {
  Component(readMe, "README.md", "Markdown")
}

' boundary tags are internally extended with '_boundary' that it uses a different name space
' this enables different element and boundary styles for the same tag name
AddBoundaryTag("v1", $bgColor="lightgreen", $fontColor="green", $borderColor="green")
AddElementTag("v1", $bgColor="lightred", $fontColor="red", $borderColor="red")

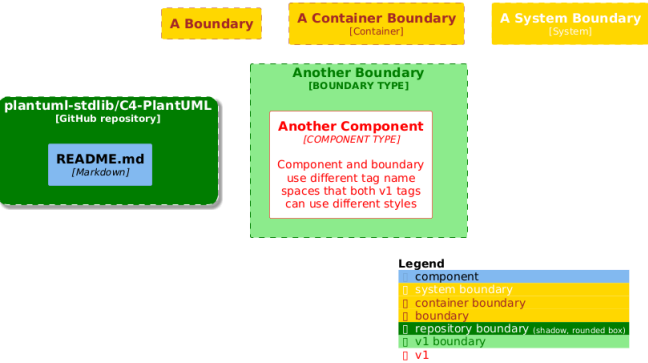
Boundary(anotherBoundary, "Another Boundary", $type="BOUNDARY TYPE", $tags="v1") {
  Component(anotherComponent, "Another Component", $techn="COMPONENT TYPE", $tags="v1", $descr="Component and boundary use diffi
}

Lay_R(b, cb)
Lay_R(cb, sb)
```

```
Lay_D(b, c4Respository)

Lay_R(c4Respository, anotherBoundary)

SHOW_LEGEND()
@enduml
```



Custom schema definitions (via UpdateElementStyle())

Via UpdateElementStyle() calls, it is possible to change the default colors, sprites, legend text, tags, ... It automatically updates the legend too. If the corresponding section is stored in a separate file then it can be reused as default of all diagrams.

```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Context.puml

' <<<< this section could be stored in a separate file and reused in all other diagrams too
' it defines new default colors, different default sprites and legend
!$COLOR_A_5 = "#7f3b08"
!$COLOR_A_4 = "#b35806"
!$COLOR_A_3 = "#e08214"
!$COLOR_A_2 = "#fdb863"
!$COLOR_A_1 = "#fee0b6"
!$COLOR_NEUTRAL = "#f7f7f7"
!$COLOR_B_1 = "#d8daeb"
!$COLOR_B_2 = "#b2abd2"
!$COLOR_B_3 = "#8073ac"
!$COLOR_B_4 = "#542788"
!$COLOR_B_5 = "#2d004b"
!$COLOR_REL_LINE = "#8073ac"
!$COLOR_REL_TEXT = "#8073ac"

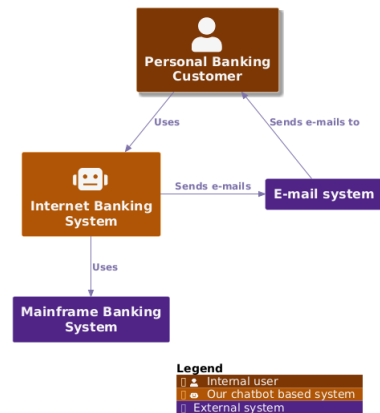
UpdateElementStyle("person", $bgColor=$COLOR_A_5, $fontColor=$COLOR_NEUTRAL, $borderColor=$COLOR_A_1, $shadowing="true", $legend
UpdateElementStyle("external_person", $bgColor=$COLOR_B_5, $fontColor=$COLOR_NEUTRAL, $borderColor=$COLOR_B_1, $legendText="Ext
UpdateElementStyle("system", $bgColor=$COLOR_A_4, $fontColor=$COLOR_NEUTRAL, $borderColor=$COLOR_A_2, $sprite="robot", $legendT
UpdateElementStyle("external_system", $bgColor=$COLOR_B_4, $fontColor=$COLOR_NEUTRAL, $borderColor=$COLOR_B_2, $legendText="Ext
UpdateRelStyle($lineColor=$COLOR_REL_LINE, $textColor=$COLOR_REL_TEXT)
' >>>> end of section

Person(customer, "Personal Banking Customer")
System(banking_system, "Internet Banking System")

System_Ext(mail_system, "E-mail system")
System_Ext(mainframe, "Mainframe Banking System")

Rel(customer, banking_system, "Uses")
Rel_Back(customer, mail_system, "Sends e-mails to")
Rel_Neighbor(banking_system, mail_system, "Sends e-mails")
Rel(banking_system, mainframe, "Uses")

SHOW_LEGEND()
@enduml
```

Element and Relationship properties

A model can be extended with (a table of) properties that concrete deployments or more detailed concepts can be documented:

- `SetPropertyHeader(col1Name, ?col2Name, ?col3Name, ?col4Name)` The properties table can have up to 4 columns. The default header uses the column names "Name", "Description".
- `WithoutPropertyHeader()` If no header is used, then the second column is bold.
- `AddProperty(col1, ?col2, ?col3, ?col4)` (All columns of) a property which will be added to the next element.

Following sample uses all 3 different property definitions (and the aligned deployment node).

```

@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Deployment.puml

' default header Property, Value
AddProperty("Name", "Flash")
AddProperty("Organization", "Zootopia")
AddProperty("Tool", "Internet Explorer 7.0")
Person(personAlias, "Label", "Optional Description (with default property header)")

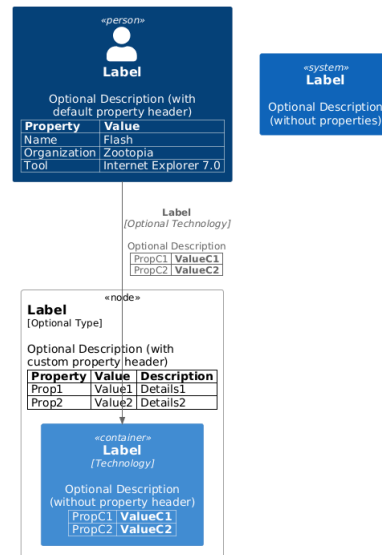
SetPropertyHeader("Property", "Value", "Description")
AddProperty("Prop1", "Value1", "Details1")
AddProperty("Prop2", "Value2", "Details2")
Deployment_Node_L(nodeAlias, "Label", "Optional Type", "Optional Description (with custom property header)") {

    WithoutPropertyHeader()
    AddProperty("PropC1", "ValueC1")
    AddProperty("PropC2", "ValueC2")
    Container(containerAlias, "Label", "Technology", "Optional Description (without property header)")
}

System(systemAlias, "Label", "Optional Description (without properties)")

' starting with v.2.5.0 relationships support properties too
WithoutPropertyHeader()
AddProperty("PropC1", "ValueC1")
AddProperty("PropC2", "ValueC2")
Rel(personAlias, containerAlias, "Label", "Optional Technology", "Optional Description")
@enduml

```



Version information

C4-PlantUML offers version information like PlantUML with its `%version()` call.

- `C4Version()` : Current C4-PlantUML version (e.g. `2.4.0beta1`).
- `C4VersionDetails()` : (Floating) version details with the current PlantUML and C4-PlantUML version. (It can be referenced via the alias `C4VersionDetailsArea`.)

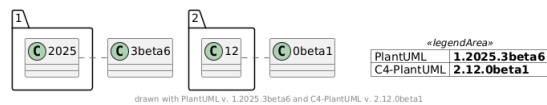
```
@startuml
!include https://raw.githubusercontent.com/plantuml-stdlib/C4-PlantUML/master/C4_Container.puml

' existing plantuml version as text
%version()

' new C4-Plantuml version as text
C4Version()

' new C4-Plantuml version details (incl. PlantUML version) as table
C4VersionDetails()

' version functions used in e.g. footer
footer drawn with PlantUML v. %version() and C4-PlantUML v. C4Version()
@enduml
```

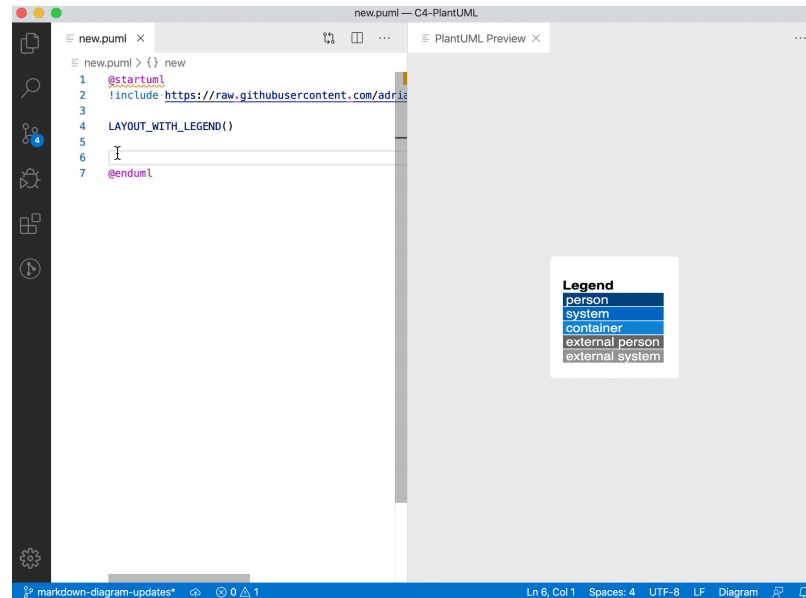


Snippets for Visual Studio Code

Because the PlantUML support inside of Visual Studio Code is excellent with the [PlantUML extension](#), you can also find VS Code snippets for C4-PlantUML at [vscode/C4.code-snippets](#).

Project level snippets are now supported in [VSCode 1.28](#). Just include the `C4.code-snippets` file in the `.vscode` folder of your project.

It is possible to save them directly inside VS Code: [Creating your own snippets](#).



Live Templates for IntelliJ

Prerequisites

Download and install [Graphviz](#) plus the [PlantUML Integration for IntelliJ](#).

OR

Install the [AsciiDoc plugin for IntelliJ](#) if you work with AsciiDoc files rather than `.puml` files.

Install

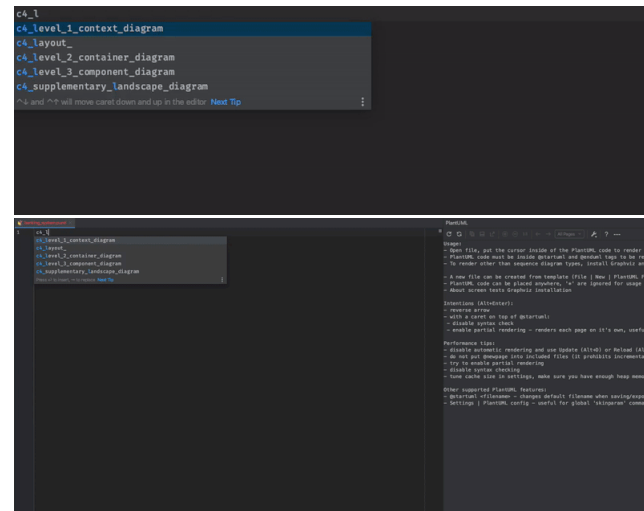
1. Download [IntelliJ live template](#).
2. Select `File | Manage IDE Settings | Import Settings` from the IntelliJ IDEA menu.
3. Specify the path to the downloaded ZIP file: `c4_live_template.zip`.
4. In the Import Settings dialog, select the Live templates checkbox and click OK.
5. Restart IntelliJ.

Alternatively

1. Download [IntelliJ live template](#) ZIP file.
2. Unzip it and copy its `c4.xml` to the `/template` directory in the [IntelliJ settings directory](#).
3. Restart IntelliJ.

Usage

- Create new PlantUML file (`.puml`).
- Type `c4_` for displaying artifacts templates for C4-PlantUML
- Live template create correct C4 model artifact with stubbed arguments.
 - E.g. alias, label, type, technology, description
- Replace stubbed arguments with desired values.



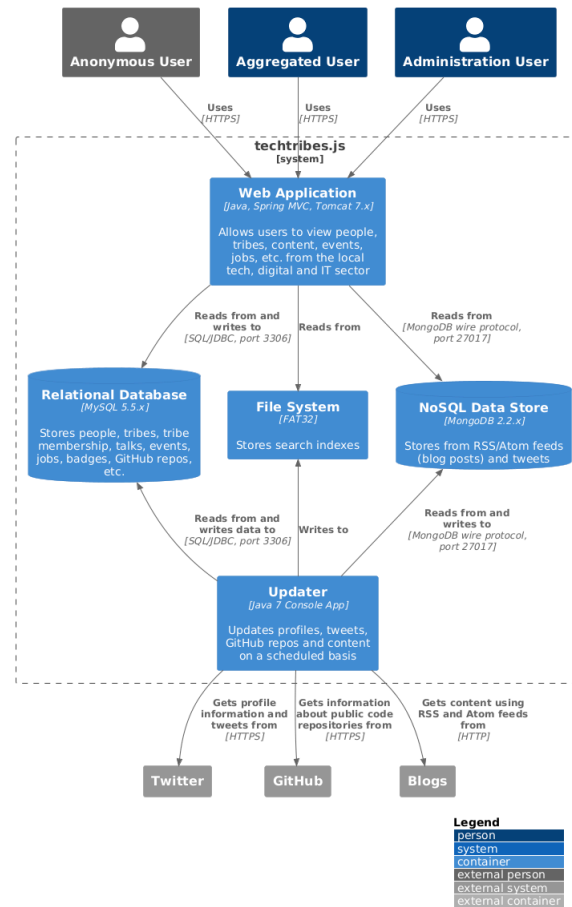
Advanced Samples

The following advanced samples are reproductions with C4-PlantUML from official [C4 model samples](#) created by [Simon Brown](#).

The core diagram samples from [c4model.com](#) are available [here](#).

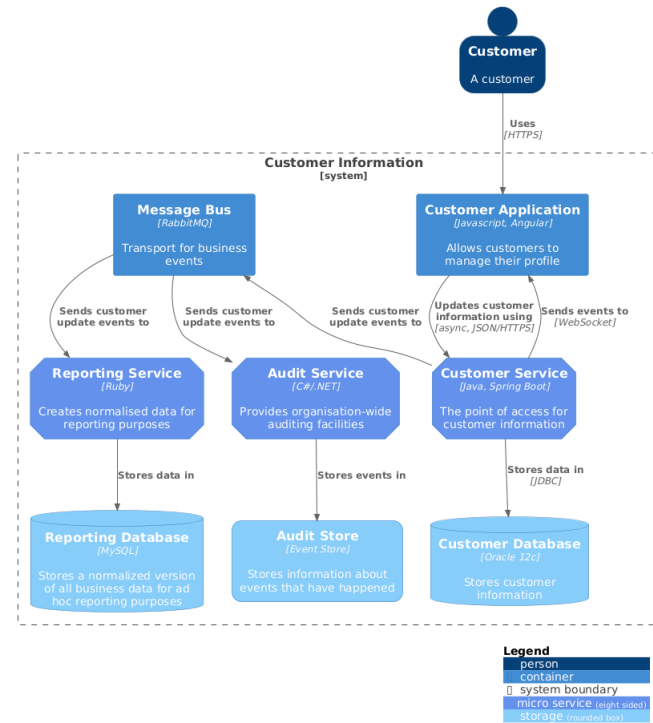
techtribes.js

Source: [C4 Container Diagram Sample - techtribesjs.puml](#)



Message Bus and Microservices

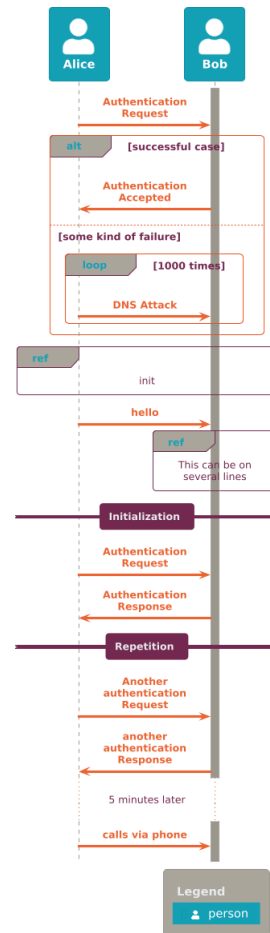
Source: [C4 Container Diagram Sample - message bus.puml](#)



(C4 styled) Sequence diagram sample

TODO: better sample is missing ...

Source: [C4_Sequence Diagram Sample - complex.puml](#)



Background

[PlantUML](#) is an open source project that allows you to create UML diagrams. Diagrams are defined using a simple and intuitive language. Images can be generated in PNG, in SVG or in LaTeX format.

PlantUML was created to allow the drawing of UML diagrams, using a simple and human readable text description. Because it does not prevent you from drawing inconsistent diagrams, it is a drawing tool and not a modeling tool. It is the most used text-based diagram drawing tool with [extensive support into wikis and forums, text editors and IDEs, use by different programming languages and documentation generators](#).

The [C4 model](#) for software architecture is an "abstraction-first" approach to diagramming, based upon abstractions that reflect how software architects and developers think about and build software. The small set of abstractions and diagram types makes the C4 model easy to learn and use. C4 stands for context, containers, components, and code — a set of hierarchical diagrams that you can use to describe your software architecture at different zoom levels, each useful for different audiences.

The C4 model was created as a way to help software development teams describe and communicate software architecture, both during up-front design sessions and when retrospectively documenting an existing codebase.

More information can be found here:

- [The C4 model for software architecture](#)
- [REAL WORLD PlantUML - Sample Gallery](#)
- [Visualising and documenting software architecture cheat sheets](#)
- [PlantUML and Structurizr - Create models not diagrams](#)

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