

**SE480 – Software Architecture I****Autumn 2020****Homework 2****Due Date: Thursday, October 8, 2019 5:30PM****100 points possible. Will be scaled to 10% of final grade.**

**Submit your answers to D2L by Thursday, October 8, 2019 5:30PM. Late homework will not be accepted.**

This assignment will test your ability to understand the role of the software architect and to argue the importance and role of software architecture in large-scale software systems.

Read the following article: Kruchten, Philippe. *What do software architects really do?*. Journal of Systems and Software, 81 (2008) 2413–2416. You can download it from here: [http://pkkruchten.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/kruchten\\_2008-journal-of-systems-and-software.pdf](http://pkkruchten.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/kruchten_2008-journal-of-systems-and-software.pdf)

Contemplate the arguments and ideas presented by Dr. Kruchten on the role of software architects, as well as what we've discussed in class. If you have any experience as an architect or working on a team of developers involved in software architecture, then you should also reflect upon your own personal experience.

Write a short essay (800–1,000 words) on the topic of “The Role of the Architect”. Based on the article, as well as what we've discussed in class and your own work/life experiences, summarize the role of the architect and its importance in software engineering.

Here are some questions you should consider while writing your essay:

- Do you agree with Dr. Kruchten's assessment of the role of the architect? If not, why not?
- Do you agree with the point of view presented in your textbook or by me? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, what separates a good architect from a bad architect?
- Do you believe that dedicated architects are necessary for the success of an organization?
- If you were the Head of Software Architecture at your organization, how would you measure and evaluate your architecture team's success?

However you choose to balance the content of your paper, it must include evidence that you have read and digested the article. Feel free to openly agree or disagree with Dr. Kruchten or me. The goal of this paper is ensure that you have developed and can persuasively articulate a point of view on the subject of what is the role of software architect and its importance.

There are no specific formatting guidelines. You may include diagrams and pictures to support your essay; however these do not count towards the 800–1000 words. Clearly – there will be many different points of view expressed by different people, so please make sure to support any claims you make. All essays should be structured to include an introduction and a summary, as well as the main body of the paper.