

□ Code Sandbox Online Coding Platform - Frontend System Design

A comprehensive frontend system design for building an online IDE platform like CodeSandbox with real-time collaboration, code execution, and deployment capabilities.

□ Table of Contents

1. □ Overview
 2. □ Functional Requirements
 3. □ Non-Functional Requirements
 4. □ Core Features
 5. □ High-Level Architecture
 6. □ Technology Stack
 7. □ Data Management & Storage
 8. □ Real-Time Features
 9. □ Security Architecture
 10. □ Component Architecture
 11. □ Performance Optimizations
 12. □ Code Execution & Preview
 13. □ UI/UX Considerations
 14. □ Monitoring & Analytics
 15. □ Deployment Strategy
 16. □ Future Enhancements
 17. □ Key Takeaways
-

□ Overview

□ Back to Top

CodeSandbox is an online IDE that enables developers to create, edit, and share web applications directly in the browser. The platform provides instant feedback through real-time previews, supports multiple programming languages, and facilitates collaborative coding experiences.

Key Characteristics

- **Instant Development Environment:** Zero-setup coding environment
- **Real-Time Collaboration:** Live coding sessions with multiple developers
- **Immediate Feedback:** Instant preview updates without server round-trips

- **Template Ecosystem:** Pre-configured templates for various frameworks
 - **Seamless Deployment:** One-click deployment to various platforms
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□ **Functional Requirements**

□ [Back to Top](#)

Core Functionality

1. Template Management

- Pre-built templates for JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Vue, Angular
- Custom template creation and sharing
- Template marketplace and community contributions

2. Code Editor Features

- Syntax highlighting for multiple languages
- Code autocompletion and IntelliSense
- Error detection and inline diagnostics
- Code formatting and linting

3. File Management

- File explorer with create, rename, delete operations
- Folder organization and nested structures
- File search and navigation
- Drag-and-drop file operations

4. Real-Time Preview

- Live code execution and preview updates
- Hot module replacement (HMR)
- Multi-device preview simulation
- Console output and error display

5. Version Control Integration

- GitHub repository import/export
- Git operations (commit, push, pull)
- Branch management
- Merge conflict resolution

6. Collaboration Features

- Real-time collaborative editing
- Live cursors and selections
- Voice/video chat integration
- Shared workspace sessions

7. Deployment Integration

- Direct deployment to Vercel, Netlify
- Custom domain configuration
- Environment variable management
- Build process monitoring

User Management

- **Authentication:** Google, GitHub, email login
 - **Workspace Management:** Personal and team sandboxes
 - **Sharing & Permissions:** Public/private sandbox controls
 - **Profile Management:** User preferences and settings
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❑ Non-Functional Requirements

❑ [Back to Top](#)

Performance Requirements

- **Low Latency:** <100ms response time for code changes
- **Real-Time Updates:** <50ms for collaborative editing
- **Fast Boot Time:** <3 seconds for new sandbox initialization
- **Smooth Scrolling:** 60fps rendering in editor and preview

Scalability Requirements

- **Concurrent Users:** Support 100K+ simultaneous users
- **Sandbox Capacity:** Handle 1M+ active sandboxes
- **File Operations:** Process 10K+ file operations per second
- **Build Performance:** Complete builds in <10 seconds

Reliability Requirements

- **Uptime:** 99.9% availability
- **Data Persistence:** Auto-save every 5 seconds
- **Crash Recovery:** Automatic state restoration
- **Cross-Tab Sync:** Consistent state across browser tabs

Security Requirements

- **Code Isolation:** Sandboxed execution environment
- **XSS Prevention:** Secure iframe implementation
- **Data Protection:** Encrypted data transmission
- **Access Control:** Role-based permissions

Usability Requirements

- **Cross-Platform:** Desktop and mobile compatibility
- **Responsive Design:** Adaptive UI for different screen sizes

- **Customization:** Themes, layouts, and preferences
 - **Accessibility:** WCAG 2.1 AA compliance
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□ Core Features

□ [Back to Top](#)

Essential Features (MVP)

1. **Online Code Editor** with Monaco Editor integration
2. **File Explorer** with CRUD operations
3. **Real-Time Preview** pane with iframe isolation
4. **Template Library** with popular frameworks
5. **Basic Authentication** and workspace management

Advanced Features

1. **Terminal Integration** with shell access
2. **Package Manager** integration (npm, yarn)
3. **Extension System** for IDE customization
4. **Advanced Debugging** tools and DevTools integration
5. **AI-Powered Assistance** for code completion

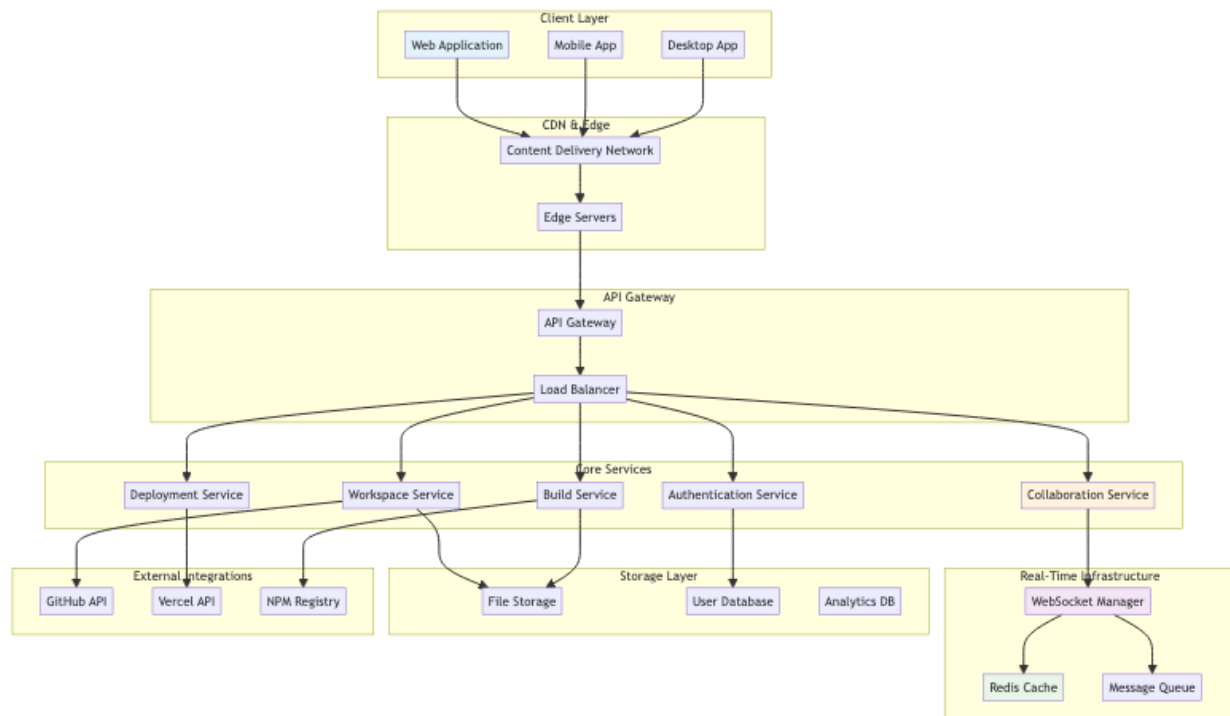
Collaboration Features

1. **Live Collaborative Editing** with operational transforms
 2. **Real-Time Chat** and communication tools
 3. **Screen Sharing** for pair programming
 4. **Workspace Permissions** and team management
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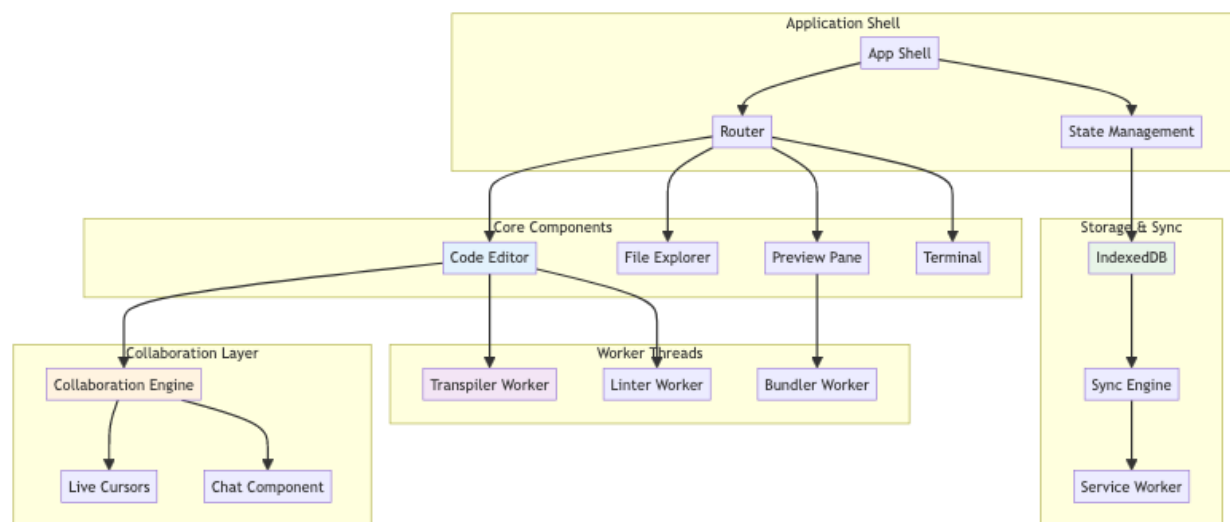
□ High-Level Architecture

□ [Back to Top](#)

System Architecture Overview



Frontend Architecture



❑ Technology Stack

❑ [Back to Top](#)

Frontend Technologies

Core Framework

- **React 18+**: Component-based architecture with concurrent features
- **TypeScript**: Type-safe development with enhanced IntelliSense
- **Next.js**: SSR/SSG framework for optimal performance

Code Editor

- **Monaco Editor**: VS Code's editor engine for rich editing experience
- **CodeMirror**: Alternative lightweight editor for specific use cases
- **Prettier**: Code formatting integration
- **ESLint**: Real-time linting and error detection

State Management

- **Zustand**: Lightweight state management for local state
- **React Query**: Server state management with caching
- **Jotai**: Atomic state management for collaborative features

Real-Time Communication

- **Socket.io**: WebSocket communication for collaboration
- **Y.js**: Conflict-free replicated data types (CRDTs)
- **WebRTC**: Peer-to-peer communication for voice/video

Build Tools

- **Vite**: Fast build tool with HMR
- **esbuild**: Ultra-fast JavaScript bundler
- **Babel**: JavaScript transpilation
- **PostCSS**: CSS processing and optimization

Backend Technologies

Runtime Environment

- **Node.js**: JavaScript runtime for backend services
- **Docker**: Containerization for sandbox isolation
- **Kubernetes**: Container orchestration and scaling

Databases

- **PostgreSQL**: User data and workspace metadata
- **MongoDB**: File content and version storage

- **Redis**: Caching and session management
- **Elasticsearch**: Code search and indexing

Message Queue

- **Apache Kafka**: Event streaming for real-time updates
 - **Redis Pub/Sub**: Lightweight messaging for collaboration
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❑ Data Management & Storage

❑ Back to Top

Client-Side Storage

IndexedDB Schema

```
// File System Store
{
  id: "file_uuid",
  path: "/src/components/App.tsx",
  content: "file_content",
  type: "file",
  language: "typescript",
  lastModified: "2024-01-01T10:00:00Z",
  size: 1024
}

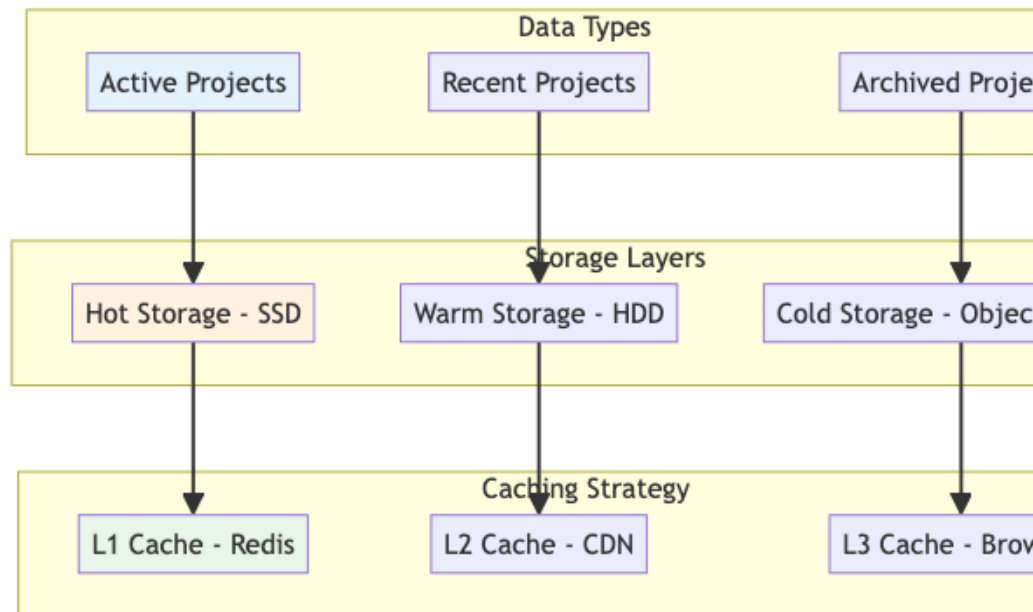
// Project Store
{
  id: "project_uuid",
  name: "My React App",
  template: "react-typescript",
  dependencies: {...},
  settings: {...},
  lastAccessed: "2024-01-01T10:00:00Z"
}

// Collaboration Store
{
  sessionId: "session_uuid",
  users: [...],
  operations: [...],
  version: 42
}
```

Service Worker Caching

- **Static Assets:** Templates, dependencies, runtime files
- **Dynamic Content:** User code, compiled outputs
- **API Responses:** User data, project metadata

Server-Side Storage



File Storage Architecture

Data Synchronization

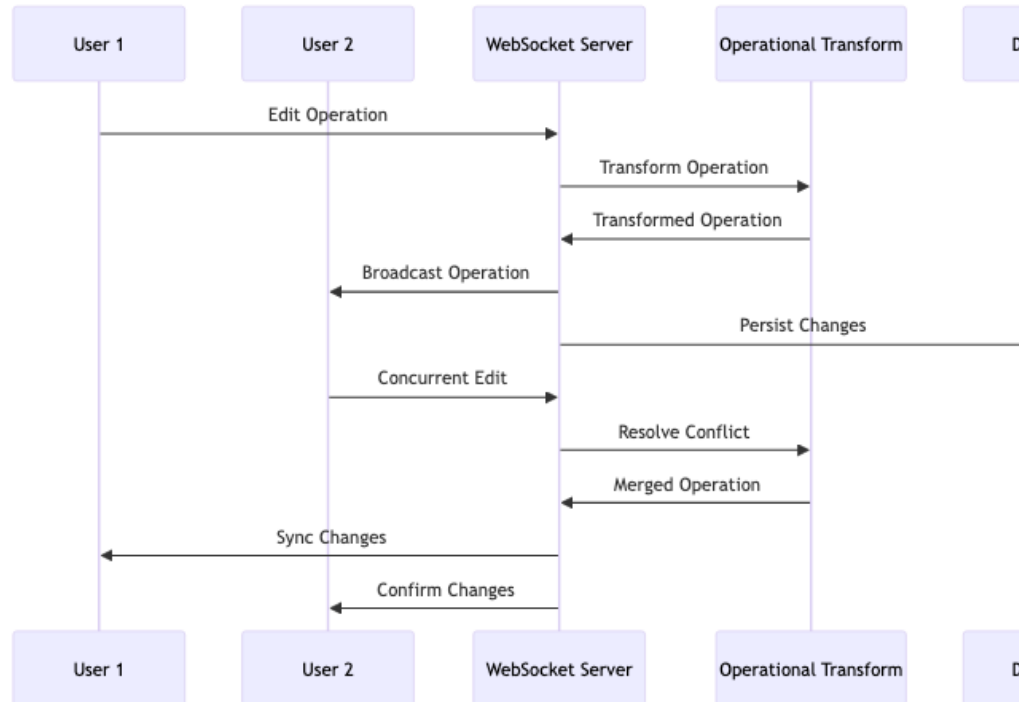
Conflict Resolution Strategy

- **Operational Transform:** Real-time collaborative editing
- **Last-Write-Wins:** Simple conflict resolution for metadata
- **Three-Way Merge:** Git-style merge for version control
- **User Intervention:** Manual resolution for complex conflicts

❑ Real-Time Features

❑ [Back to Top](#)

Collaborative Editing



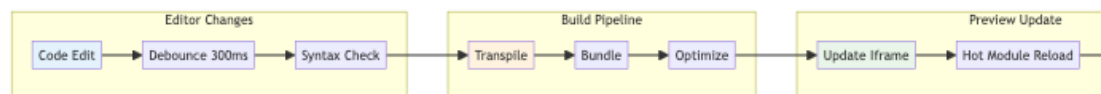
Real-Time Architecture

Operational Transform Implementation

- **Character-Level Operations:** Insert, delete, retain operations
- **Intention Preservation:** Maintain user's intended changes
- **Convergence Guarantee:** All clients reach the same final state
- **Causality Preservation:** Maintain operation ordering

Live Preview System

Preview Update Flow



WebSocket Communication

Message Types

```
// Real-time editing
{
  type: 'operation',
  operation: {
    type: 'insert',
    position: 100,
```

```
        content: 'Hello',
        userId: 'user_123'
    }
}

// Cursor tracking
{
    type: 'cursor',
    position: { line: 10, column: 5 },
    selection: { start: 100, end: 110 },
    userId: 'user_123'
}

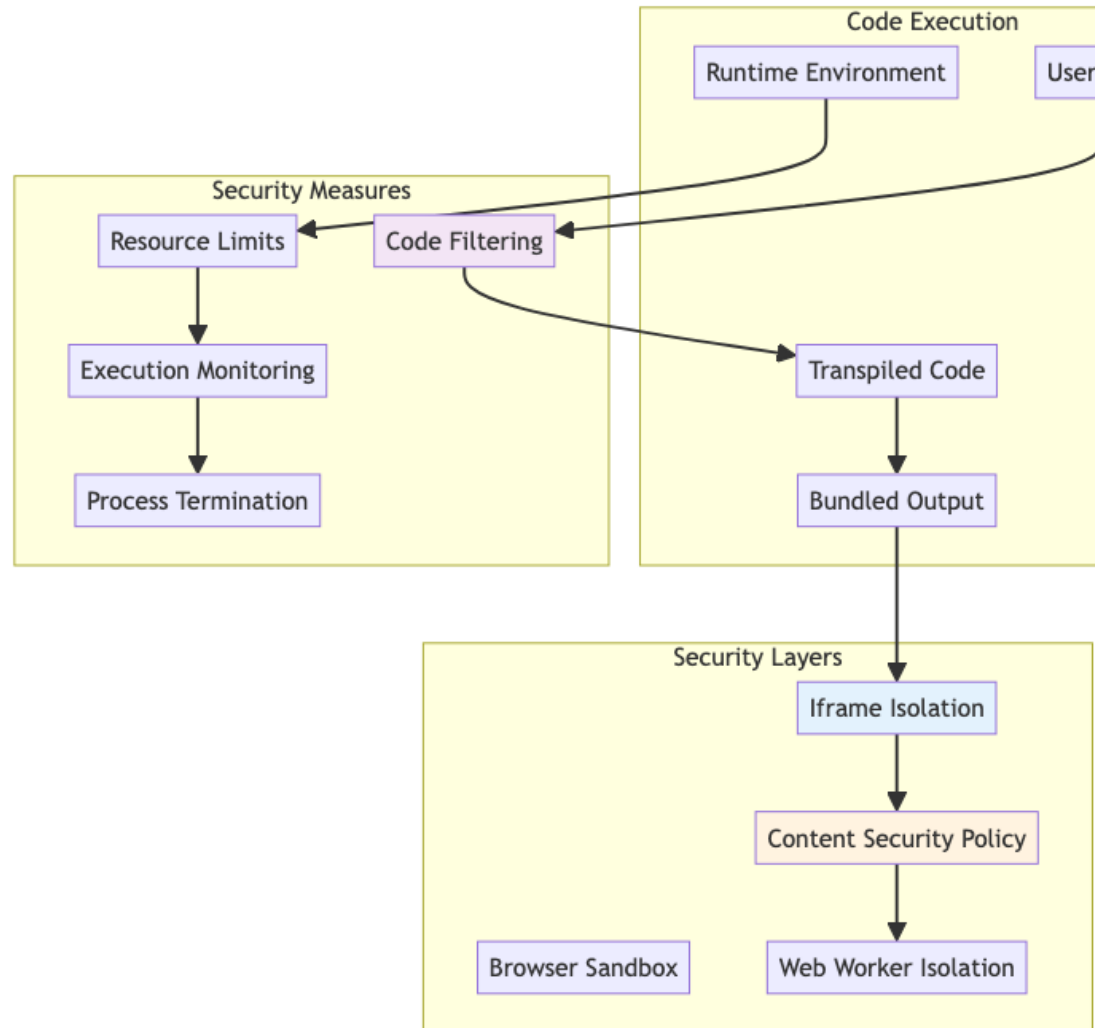
// Chat messages
{
    type: 'chat',
    message: 'Great idea!',
    userId: 'user_123',
    timestamp: '2024-01-01T10:00:00Z'
}

// Presence updates
{
    type: 'presence',
    status: 'active',
    userId: 'user_123'
}
```

❑ Security Architecture

❑ [Back to Top](#)

Code Execution Security



Sandboxing Strategy

Security Policies

- **Content Security Policy:** Strict CSP headers for iframe content
- **Iframe Sandboxing:** Isolated execution environment
- **Resource Limits:** CPU, memory, and network throttling
- **Code Filtering:** Remove dangerous APIs and functions

Authentication & Authorization

JWT Token Strategy

- **Access Tokens:** Short-lived (15 minutes) for API access
- **Refresh Tokens:** Long-lived (30 days) for token renewal
- **Session Tokens:** WebSocket authentication
- **API Keys:** Third-party service integration

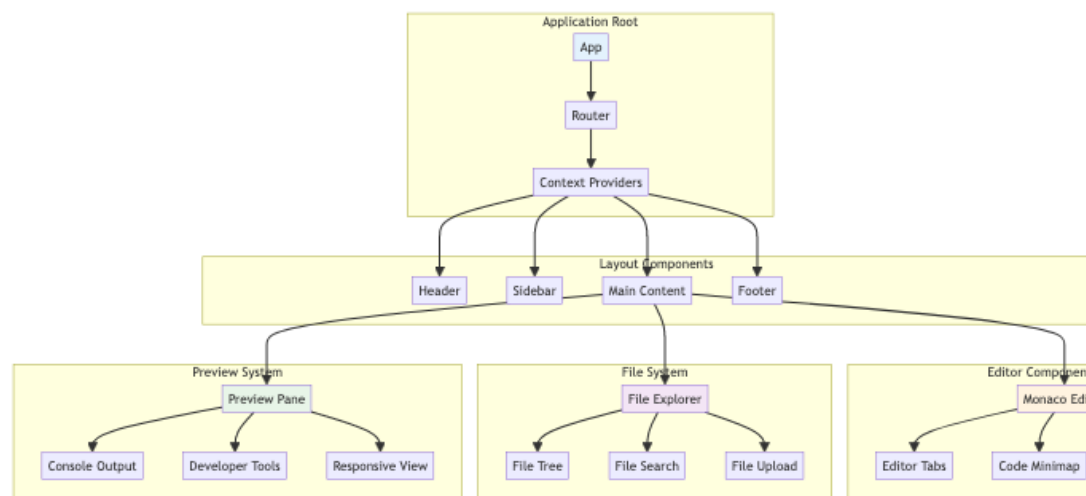
Permission System

```
// Role-based permissions
{
  user: {
    read: ['own_projects'],
    write: ['own_projects'],
    delete: ['own_projects']
  },
  collaborator: {
    read: ['shared_projects'],
    write: ['shared_projects'],
    delete: []
  },
  admin: {
    read: ['all_projects'],
    write: ['all_projects'],
    delete: ['all_projects']
  }
}
```

❑ Component Architecture

❑ [Back to Top](#)

Main Application Structure



Component Hierarchy

State Management Architecture

Global State Structure

```
// Application state
{
  user: {
    id: 'user_123',
    name: 'John Doe',
    email: 'john@example.com',
    preferences: {
      theme: 'dark',
      fontSize: 14,
      tabSize: 2
    }
  },

  workspace: {
    id: 'workspace_456',
    name: 'My React App',
    files: new Map(),
    activeFile: '/src/App.tsx',
    openTabs: ['/src/App.tsx', '/src/index.ts']
  },

  collaboration: {
    sessionId: 'session_789',
    users: new Map(),
    cursors: new Map(),
    operations: []
  },

  preview: {
    url: 'https://preview.codesandbox.io/...',
    status: 'ready',
    console: [],
    errors: []
  }
}
```

Custom Hooks

Editor Hooks

```
// useCodeEditor hook
const useCodeEditor = (initialValue, language) => {
```

```

const [value, setValue] = useState(initialValue);
const [editor, setEditor] = useState(null);

const handleChange = useCallback((newValue) => {
  setValue(newValue);
  // Sync with collaboration engine
  // Update preview if needed
}, []);

return { value, editor, handleChange, setEditor };
};

// useFileSystem hook
const useFileSystem = () => {
  const [files, setFiles] = useState(new Map());

  const createFile = useCallback((path, content) => {
    // Create file logic
  }, []);

  const deleteFile = useCallback((path) => {
    // Delete file logic
  }, []);

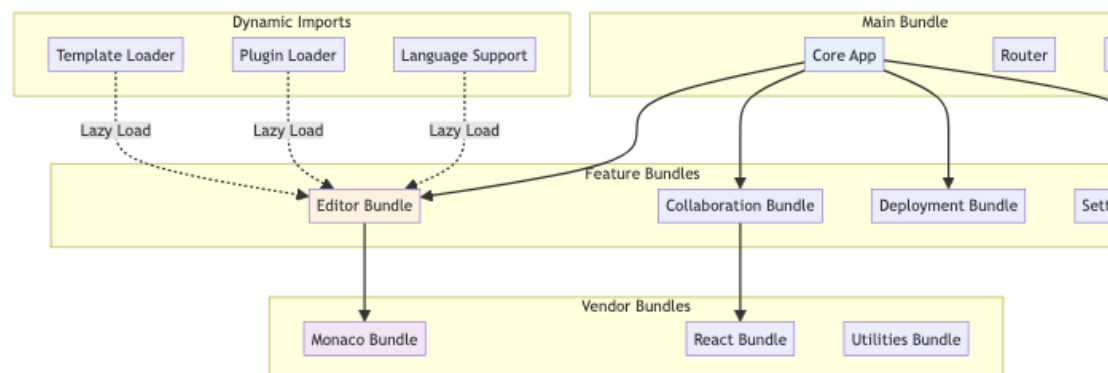
  return { files, createFile, deleteFile };
};

```

❑ Performance Optimizations

❑ [Back to Top](#)

Code Splitting Strategy



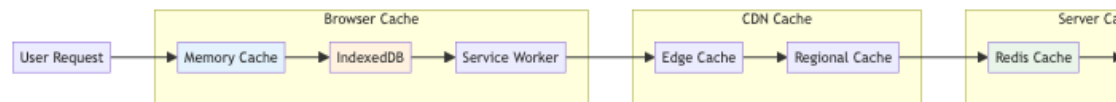
Bundle Optimization

Virtual Scrolling

Large File Handling

- **Viewport Rendering:** Only render visible lines
- **Buffer Management:** Pre-render adjacent content
- **Memory Optimization:** Recycle DOM elements
- **Smooth Scrolling:** Hardware-accelerated scrolling

Caching Strategies



Multi-Level Caching

Web Workers

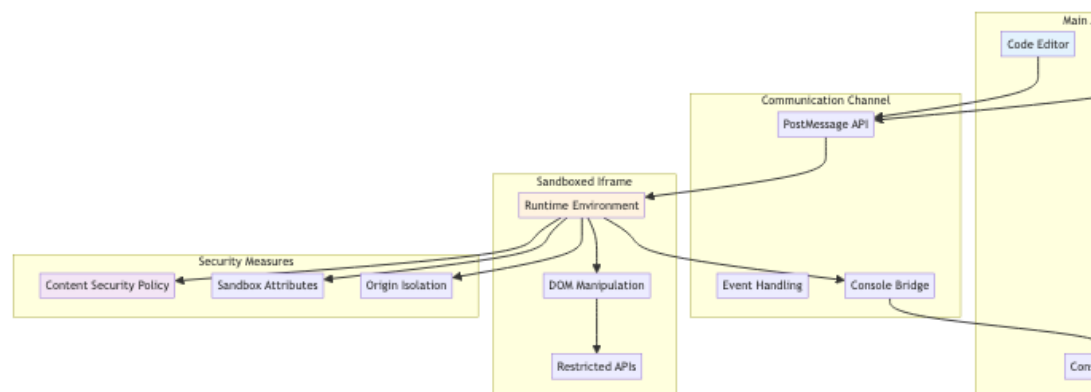
Background Processing

- **Transpilation:** TypeScript to JavaScript conversion
- **Bundling:** Module bundling and optimization
- **Linting:** Code analysis and error detection
- **Search Indexing:** File content indexing for search

❑ Code Execution & Preview

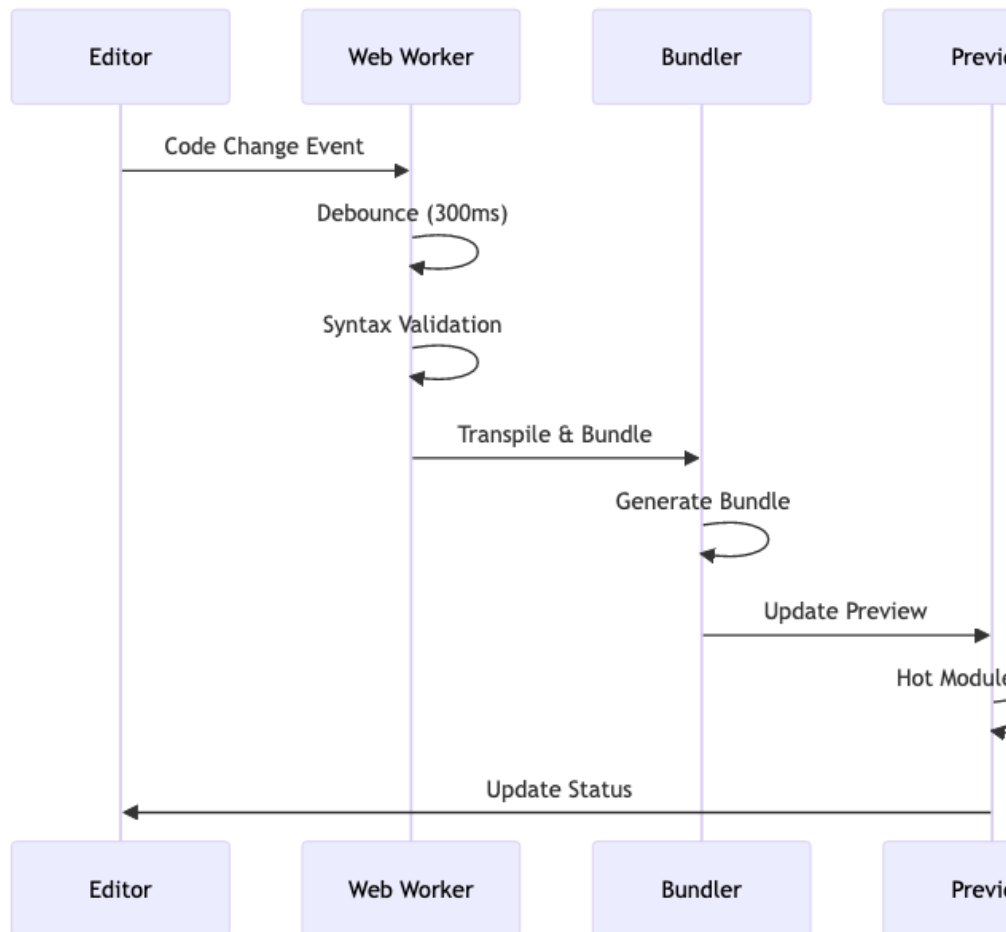
❑ Back to Top

Sandboxed Execution



IFrame Security Model

Build Pipeline



Real-Time Compilation

Console Integration

Custom Console Implementation

- **Console Override:** Intercept console.log, error, warn
- **Stack Trace Mapping:** Source map integration
- **Rich Formatting:** Object inspection and formatting
- **History Management:** Console command history

❑ UI/UX Considerations

- ❑ Back to Top

Responsive Design

Breakpoint Strategy

```
const breakpoints = {  
  mobile: '320px - 768px',    // Single panel view  
  tablet: '768px - 1024px',   // Two panel view  
  desktop: '1024px - 1440px', // Three panel view  
  ultrawide: '1440px+'       // Four panel view  
};
```

Adaptive Layout

- **Mobile:** Stack panels vertically, swipe navigation
- **Tablet:** Side-by-side editor and preview
- **Desktop:** Three-panel layout with file explorer
- **Ultrawide:** Four-panel with additional tools

Theme System

CSS Custom Properties

```
:root {  
  /* Light theme */  
  --bg-primary: #ffffff;  
  --bg-secondary: #f5f5f5;  
  --text-primary: #333333;  
  --accent-color: #007acc;  
}  
  
[data-theme="dark"] {  
  /* Dark theme */  
  --bg-primary: #1e1e1e;  
  --bg-secondary: #252526;  
  --text-primary: #d4d4d4;  
  --accent-color: #569cd6;  
}
```

Accessibility Features

WCAG 2.1 Compliance

- **Keyboard Navigation:** Full keyboard accessibility
- **Screen Reader Support:** ARIA labels and descriptions
- **High Contrast:** Color contrast ratios > 4.5:1
- **Focus Management:** Visible focus indicators

□ Monitoring & Analytics

□ Back to Top

Performance Monitoring

Core Web Vitals

- **First Contentful Paint (FCP):** < 1.8 seconds
- **Largest Contentful Paint (LCP):** < 2.5 seconds
- **First Input Delay (FID):** < 100 milliseconds
- **Cumulative Layout Shift (CLS):** < 0.1

User Analytics

Key Metrics

```
// User engagement metrics
{
  sessionDuration: number,
  filesCreated: number,
  linesOfCode: number,
  collaborativeSessions: number,
  deploymentsTriggered: number,
  templatesUsed: string[],
  featuresUsed: string[]
}

// Performance metrics
{
  editorLoadTime: number,
  previewUpdateTime: number,
  buildTime: number,
  errorRate: number,
  crashRate: number
}
```

Error Tracking

Error Monitoring Strategy

- **JavaScript Errors:** Unhandled exceptions and promise rejections
- **Build Errors:** Compilation and bundling failures
- **Network Errors:** API failures and WebSocket disconnections

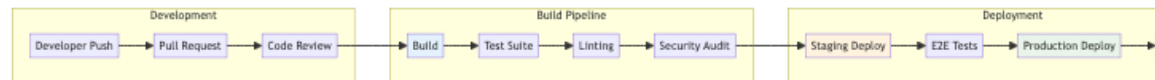
- **Performance Issues:** Memory leaks and CPU spikes
-

❑ Deployment Strategy

❑ [Back to Top](#)

CI/CD Pipeline

Deployment Flow



Progressive Deployment

Feature Rollout Strategy

- **Feature Flags:** Gradual feature rollout
- **A/B Testing:** Compare feature variants
- **Canary Releases:** Limited user exposure
- **Blue-Green Deployment:** Zero-downtime updates

CDN Strategy

Global Content Distribution

- **Static Assets:** JavaScript, CSS, images via CDN
 - **Template Files:** Pre-built templates and boilerplates
 - **Library Caching:** Popular npm packages
 - **Edge Computing:** Preview generation at edge locations
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❑ Future Enhancements

❑ [Back to Top](#)

AI Integration

Intelligent Features

- **Code Completion:** AI-powered autocompletion
- **Bug Detection:** Automated bug identification
- **Code Review:** AI-assisted code review
- **Documentation:** Auto-generated documentation

Advanced Collaboration

Enhanced Features

- **Voice Commands:** Voice-controlled coding
- **Gesture Control:** Touch and gesture navigation
- **AR/VR Support:** Immersive coding experiences
- **Brain-Computer Interface:** Direct neural input

Platform Extensions

Ecosystem Growth

- **Mobile Development:** React Native, Flutter support
- **Desktop Applications:** Electron app development
- **Game Development:** Unity, Unreal Engine integration
- **Blockchain:** Smart contract development

Performance Innovations

Next-Generation Optimizations

- **WebAssembly:** High-performance code execution
 - **Edge Computing:** Distributed code compilation
 - **Quantum Computing:** Quantum algorithm simulation
 - **Neural Networks:** Hardware-accelerated ML
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□ Key Takeaways

□ [Back to Top](#)

Technical Insights

Architecture Decisions

1. **Monaco Editor:** Leveraging VS Code's proven editor technology
2. **Web Workers:** Offloading heavy computations from main thread
3. **IndexedDB:** Persistent local storage for offline capability
4. **Iframe Sandboxing:** Secure code execution environment
5. **Operational Transform:** Conflict-free collaborative editing

Performance Strategies

1. **Code Splitting:** Lazy loading of features and templates
2. **Virtual Scrolling:** Efficient rendering of large files

3. **Service Workers:** Offline functionality and caching
4. **CDN Distribution:** Global content delivery optimization
5. **Real-Time Optimization:** Sub-100ms response times

Security Considerations

1. **Content Security Policy:** Strict CSP for iframe content
2. **Resource Limiting:** CPU and memory usage controls
3. **Code Filtering:** Removal of dangerous APIs
4. **Origin Isolation:** Separate origins for user code
5. **Encrypted Communication:** End-to-end encryption for collaboration

Development Best Practices

Code Quality

- **TypeScript:** Type safety and enhanced developer experience
- **Testing Strategy:** Unit, integration, and E2E testing
- **Code Reviews:** Automated and manual review processes
- **Documentation:** Comprehensive API and component documentation
- **Accessibility:** WCAG 2.1 AA compliance throughout

Scalability Patterns

- **Microservices:** Modular service architecture
- **Horizontal Scaling:** Auto-scaling based on demand
- **Caching Layers:** Multi-level caching strategy
- **Database Optimization:** Efficient data storage and retrieval
- **Real-Time Infrastructure:** WebSocket scaling and load balancing

Business Impact

User Experience

- **Zero Setup Time:** Instant development environment
- **Collaborative Features:** Seamless team collaboration
- **Template Ecosystem:** Rapid project initialization
- **Deployment Integration:** One-click production deployment
- **Cross-Platform Access:** Consistent experience across devices

Technical Benefits

- **Reduced Infrastructure:** No local development setup
- **Version Control:** Automatic project versioning
- **Security:** Isolated execution environment
- **Performance:** Optimized build and preview pipeline

- **Extensibility:** Plugin system for customization

TypeScript Interfaces & Component Props

□ [Back to Top](#)

Core Data Interfaces

```
interface Sandbox {
  id: string;
  name: string;
  description?: string;
  owner: User;
  collaborators: Collaborator[];
  template: SandboxTemplate;
  files: FileTree;
  dependencies: PackageDependency[];
  configuration: SandboxConfig;
  isPublic: boolean;
  createdAt: Date;
  updatedAt: Date;
  forkCount: number;
  viewCount: number;
}

interface FileNode {
  id: string;
  name: string;
  path: string;
  type: 'file' | 'directory';
  content?: string;
  children?: FileNode[];
  isOpen?: boolean;
  isModified: boolean;
  language: string;
  size: number;
  lastModified: Date;
}

interface CodeExecution {
  id: string;
  sandboxId: string;
  status: 'idle' | 'building' | 'running' | 'error' | 'stopped';
}
```

```

    buildOutput: BuildLog[];
    runtimeLogs: RuntimeLog[];
    preview: PreviewInfo;
    hotReload: boolean;
    bundleSize: number;
    buildTime: number;
}

interface Collaborator {
    userId: string;
    role: 'owner' | 'editor' | 'viewer';
    permissions: CollaboratorPermissions;
    cursor: EditorCursor;
    selection: EditorSelection;
    isActive: boolean;
    joinedAt: Date;
    color: string;
}

interface SandboxTemplate {
    id: string;
    name: string;
    description: string;
    tags: string[];
    framework: string;
    language: string;
    defaultFiles: FileTemplate[];
    dependencies: PackageDependency[];
    buildConfig: BuildConfiguration;
    previewConfig: PreviewConfiguration;
}

interface ContainerEnvironment {
    id: string;
    sandboxId: string;
    status: 'starting' | 'ready' | 'stopping' | 'stopped';
    resources: ResourceUsage;
    network: NetworkConfig;
    filesystem: FileSystemConfig;
    processes: ProcessInfo[];
    logs: ContainerLog[];
}

```

Component Props Interfaces

```

interface CodeEditorProps {
  files: FileNode[];
  activeFileId: string;
  onFileChange: (fileId: string, content: string) => void;
  onFileSelect: (fileId: string) => void;
  onFileCreate: (path: string, type: 'file' | 'directory') => void;
  onFileDelete: (fileId: string) => void;
  theme: 'light' | 'dark' | 'auto';
  fontSize?: number;
  enableVim?: boolean;
  enableEmmet?: boolean;
}

interface FileExplorerProps {
  fileTree: FileNode[];
  selectedFileId?: string;
  onFileSelect: (fileId: string) => void;
  onFileCreate: (parentId: string, name: string, type: 'file' | 'directory') => void;
  onFileRename: (fileId: string, newName: string) => void;
  onFileDelete: (fileId: string) => void;
  onFileDrop: (sourceId: string, targetId: string) => void;
  showHiddenFiles?: boolean;
}

interface PreviewWindowProps {
  sandboxId: string;
  previewUrl: string;
  onRefresh: () => void;
  onAddressChange: (url: string) => void;
  onConsoleToggle: () => void;
  showDevTools?: boolean;
  responsive?: boolean;
  device?: DeviceType;
}

interface CollaborationPanelProps {
  collaborators: Collaborator[];
  currentUser: User;
  onInvite: (email: string, role: string) => void;
  onRoleChange: (userId: string, role: string) => void;
  onRemove: (userId: string) => void;
  showCursors?: boolean;
  showPresence?: boolean;
}

```



```

interface TerminalProps {
  sandboxId: string;
  onCommand: (command: string) => void;
  onClear: () => void;
  history: TerminalOutput[];
  isConnected: boolean;
  workingDirectory: string;
  environment: Record<string, string>;
}

interface PackageManagerProps {
  dependencies: PackageDependency[];
  onInstall: (packageName: string, version?: string) => void;
  onUninstall: (packageName: string) => void;
  onUpdate: (packageName: string, version: string) => void;
  onSearch: (query: string) => Promise<PackageSearchResult[]>;
  showDevDependencies?: boolean;
}

```

API Reference

□ [Back to Top](#)

Sandbox Management

- GET /api/sandboxes - Get user's sandboxes with filtering and pagination
- POST /api/sandboxes - Create new sandbox from template or fork existing
- GET /api/sandboxes/:id - Get sandbox details with files and configuration
- PUT /api/sandboxes/:id - Update sandbox metadata, settings, or privacy
- DELETE /api/sandboxes/:id - Delete sandbox and all associated data

File Operations

- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/files - Get complete file tree with content
- PUT /api/sandboxes/:id/files/* - Update file content with version tracking
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/files - Create new file or directory
- DELETE /api/sandboxes/:id/files/* - Delete file or directory recursively
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/files/upload - Upload files with drag-and-drop support

Code Execution & Build

- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/build - Trigger build process with bundling
- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/preview - Get preview URL and deployment status

- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/run - Execute code in container environment
- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/logs - Get build and runtime logs with streaming
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/restart - Restart sandbox container and clear cache

Real-time Collaboration

- WS /api/sandboxes/:id/collaborate - WebSocket for real-time editing
- WS FILE_CHANGE - Broadcast file modifications to collaborators
- WS CURSOR_MOVE - Share cursor position and selection updates
- WS USER_JOIN - Notify when collaborator joins or leaves
- WS TERMINAL_OUTPUT - Share terminal session with collaborators

Package Management

- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/dependencies - Get installed packages and versions
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/dependencies - Install npm package with version resolution
- DELETE /api/sandboxes/:id/dependencies/:package - Uninstall package and update
- PUT /api/sandboxes/:id/dependencies/:package - Update package to specific version
- GET /api/packages/search - Search npm registry with autocomplete

Templates & Forking

- GET /api/templates - Browse available sandbox templates by framework
- POST /api/templates - Create template from existing sandbox
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/fork - Fork sandbox with customizations
- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/forks - Get list of sandbox forks
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/deploy - Deploy sandbox to hosting platform

Collaboration & Sharing

- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/collaborators - Invite collaborator with role
- PUT /api/sandboxes/:id/collaborators/:userId - Update collaborator permissions
- DELETE /api/sandboxes/:id/collaborators/:userId - Remove collaborator access
- POST /api/sandboxes/:id/share - Generate shareable link with permissions
- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/activity - Get collaboration activity feed

Container Management

- GET /api/containers/:id/status - Get container resource usage and health
- POST /api/containers/:id/restart - Restart container environment

- GET /api/containers/:id/logs - Get container system logs
- PUT /api/containers/:id/resources - Update container resource limits
- POST /api/containers/:id/terminal - Create new terminal session

Analytics & Insights

- GET /api/sandboxes/:id/analytics - Get sandbox usage and performance metrics
- POST /api/analytics/track - Track user interactions and feature usage
- GET /api/analytics/performance - Get build time and execution performance
- GET /api/analytics/popular - Get trending sandboxes and templates
- POST /api/feedback - Submit user feedback and feature requests

This comprehensive system design provides a robust foundation for building a modern online IDE platform like CodeSandbox, with emphasis on real-time collaboration, security, and performance optimization.