

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Document

This document serves as a blueprint for the software architecture of the UNO-Flip. It outlines the fundamental design and structure of the system, enabling stakeholders to understand how the software components will interact and function as a cohesive whole. The document provides:

1. A clear breakdown of system modules.
2. Definitions of relationships between components and their responsibilities.
3. Guidance for developers, testers, and maintainers during the software lifecycle.

The target audience for this document includes:

1. Developers - To understand module responsibilities, interfaces, and dependencies for implementation.
2. Test Engineers - To design test cases aligned with module functionality and interaction.
3. Stakeholders - To gain an overview of how the system will meet their business and functional needs.
4. System Maintainers - To identify areas for extension or modification during future maintenance phases.

- Scope of the software architecture

- Relationship to related documents (e.g., SRS, design documents)

2. Software Architecture Overview

High-level architecture description

The UNO Flip Online Multiplayer Game is a real-time, cross-platform game designed for web platforms. The system adopts a client-server architecture, ensuring smooth real-time gameplay and state synchronization among multiple players. It supports global matchmaking as well as private lobbies for 2 to 4 players.

Frontend:

Provides a responsive user interface for players to interact with the game. It includes features like card selection, flipping, chat functionality, and real-time status updates.

Developed using Unity Hub for web platforms.

Database:

Stores user profiles, game history, and leaderboard data.

MongoDB is used for flexible and fast document-based data storage.

Backend:

Handles game logic, player matchmaking, room management, and real-time updates.

Built with Node.js and Express for scalable and efficient game state management.

Cloud Hosting:

The application is deployed on cloud platforms like AWS or Firebase for reliability, scalability, and low latency.

Decomposition of the system into modules

1. Game Logic Module

- **Responsibilities:**

Implements the core gameplay mechanics of **UNO Flip**, including:

Managing card rules (e.g., matching colors and numbers, flipping cards).

Turn management for players.

Validating player actions (e.g., whether a move is legal).

Handling special cards like Reverse, Skip, and Draw cards.

Maintains the state of the game, including the deck, discard pile, and each player's hand.

- **Implementation in Unity:**

Unity scripts (written in C#) will handle all game mechanics and rules.

Example classes:

CardManager: Handles the creation and flipping of cards.

GameStateManager: Tracks the current state of the game.

TurnManager: Manages the turn order and player actions.

2. Multiplayer Module

- **Responsibilities:**

Enables real-time multiplayer functionality for online gameplay.

Handles:

Player matchmaking.

Synchronization of game states across clients.

Network communication for player actions, such as playing a card or flipping the deck.

Ensures players remain synchronized even if one experiences network latency.

- **Implementation in Unity:**

Use Unity's **Netcode for GameObjects (NGO)** or third-party solutions like **Photon Unity Networking (PUN)** for real-time multiplayer support.

Example components:

LobbyManager: Manages matchmaking and room creation.

NetworkManager: Synchronizes game states between the server and clients.

PlayerSync: Ensures each player's actions are reflected across all devices.

3. UI Module

Responsibilities:

Provides a user-friendly interface for players to interact with the game.

Includes:

Displaying player hands, deck, and discard pile.

Real-time updates for turn indicators and game status.

In-game chat functionality for player communication.

Ensures responsive design and intuitive navigation.

Implementation in Unity:

Unity's **UI Toolkit** or **Canvas** system for designing the interface.

Example UI elements:

HandDisplay: Shows the player's cards in hand.

GameHUD: Displays turn indicators, chat box, and player scores.

MainMenu: Allows players to start a new game or join an existing match.

4. Asset Management Module

- **Responsibilities:**

Manages all visual and audio assets used in the game.

Includes:

2D/3D models for cards and other game objects.

Animations for flipping cards and other visual effects.

Background music and sound effects (e.g., shuffling, flipping, and playing cards).

- **Implementation in Unity:**

Organize assets within Unity's **Asset Management System**.

Use Unity's **Animator Controller** for animations.

Example assets:

Card Sprites: Represents the front and back sides of UNO Flip cards.

Audio Clips: Sounds for card shuffling, game notifications, etc.

Backgrounds: Themed environments for the game board.

5. Backend/Server Module

- **Responsibilities:**

Manages persistent data and ensures smooth communication between clients in a multiplayer environment.

Handles:

Saving player profiles, game history, and leaderboard data.

Real-time data updates for multiplayer games.

Stores data for reconnecting players after disconnection.

- **Implementation:**

Use a lightweight backend solution like **Firebase Realtime Database** or a custom Unity server with **Unity Multiplayer Services**.

Example components:

DatabaseManager: Stores player profiles and game records.

SessionManager: Tracks active game sessions and players.

LeaderboardManager: Updates and retrieves player rankings.

6. AI Module (Optional)

- **Responsibilities:**

Provides AI-controlled opponents for single-player or mixed multiplayer modes.

Ensures AI players can:

Make valid moves.

Simulate strategic behavior based on game context.

- **Implementation in Unity:**

Unity scripts for AI decision-making, using a state machine or behavior tree.

Example classes:

AIPlayer: Controls the AI's logic for playing cards.

AIStrategy: Implements varying difficulty levels for AI players.

Application of the Single-Responsibility Principle

The system adheres to the Single-Responsibility Principle by ensuring each module focuses on a distinct area of functionality:

1. **Game Logic Module:** Handles gameplay mechanics independently from other aspects.
2. **Multiplayer Module:** Focuses solely on enabling real-time interaction between players.
3. **UI Module:** Manages the display and interaction, without interfering with game logic or networking.
4. **Asset Management Module:** Handles visual and audio resources without impacting game logic or UI.
5. **Backend/Server Module:** Manages data storage and communication independently from other modules.
6. **AI Module:** Handles AI logic, separate from real-time multiplayer and game mechanics.

3. Module Design

3.1 Module Breakdown

1. Game Logic Module

- **Description:**
 - Handles all core game mechanics, including card rules, turn management, and game state updates.
- **State Variables:**
 - `currentPlayer`: Tracks the player whose turn it is.
 - `deck`: Represents the stack of remaining cards in the game.
 - `discardPile`: Stores played cards.
 - `playerHands`: Stores each player's cards.
- **Environment Variables:**
 - `maxPlayers`: Maximum number of players allowed in a game.
 - `flipEnabled`: Boolean to toggle the flip functionality.
- **Exported Functions:**
 - `validateMove(playerId, card)`: Checks if a move is valid.
 - `endTurn(playerId)`: Ends the current player's turn and starts the next.
 - `shuffleDeck()`: Randomizes the card deck.
 - `drawCard(playerId)`: Adds a card to the specified player's hand.

2. Multiplayer Module

- **Description:**
 - Ensures real-time communication between players and manages game synchronization.
- **State Variables:**
 - `activeGames`: Tracks all ongoing game sessions.
 - `connectedPlayers`: List of currently connected players.
- **Environment Variables:**
 - `serverIP`: IP address of the game server.
 - `timeoutLimit`: Time limit for a player to respond during their turn.
- **Exported Functions:**
 - `createGameRoom(playerId, roomSettings)`: Creates a new game room.
 - `joinGameRoom(playerId, roomId)`: Adds a player to an existing room.
 - `broadcastUpdate(gameId, update)`: Sends game state updates to all players in a room.

3. UI Module

- **Description:**
 - Manages the user interface, ensuring players can interact with the game effectively.
 - **State Variables:**
 - `displayedCards`: Tracks the cards currently visible to the player.
 - `turnIndicator`: Highlights the current player's turn.
 - **Environment Variables:**
 - `theme`: Current visual theme of the game (e.g., light/dark mode).
 - `screenSize`: Resolution of the player's device.
 - **Exported Functions:**
 - `updateCardDisplay(playerId, cards)`: Updates the player's visible hand.
 - `showTurnIndicator(playerId)`: Highlights the active player.
 - `displayMessage(message)`: Shows notifications or chat messages.
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4. Asset Management Module

- **Description:**
 - Handles all visual and audio assets, ensuring smooth integration into the game.
- **State Variables:**
 - `cardSprites`: Stores front and back images for each card type.
 - `soundEffects`: Stores audio clips for actions like card flips or notifications.
- **Environment Variables:**

- `assetPath`: Directory where all assets are stored.
 - **Exported Functions:**
 - `loadAsset(assetName)`: Fetches the required asset for use.
 - `playSound(effectName)`: Plays a specified sound effect.
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5. Backend/Server Module

- **Description:**
 - Manages data storage, including player profiles and game history.
- **State Variables:**
 - `userProfiles`: Stores player information, including win/loss statistics.
 - `leaderboard`: Tracks global rankings.
- **Environment Variables:**
 - `databaseURI`: URI for connecting to the database.
- **Exported Functions:**
 - `saveGameResult(gameData)`: Stores the results of a completed game.
 - `fetchLeaderboard()`: Retrieves the current leaderboard.

3.2 Module Relationships

Dependencies and Interactions:

- The **Game Logic Module** depends on the **Multiplayer Module** to broadcast game state changes to all players.
- The **UI Module** communicates with the **Game Logic Module** to fetch and display the current game state.
- The **Asset Management Module** provides resources (e.g., card sprites, sounds) to the **UI Module**.
- The **Multiplayer Module** relies on the **Backend Module** to authenticate players and save game results.

Mapping to SRS Requirements:

- **Requirement 1:** Real-time multiplayer functionality → Handled by the **Multiplayer Module**.
 - **Requirement 2:** Accurate gameplay mechanics → Implemented in the **Game Logic Module**.
 - **Requirement 3:** User-friendly interface → Fulfilled by the **UI Module**.
 - **Requirement 4:** Player profiles and leaderboard → Managed by the **Backend Module**.
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3.3 Likely and Unlikely Changes

Anticipated Changes:

1. **Game Logic Module:**
 - Adding new game modes (e.g., timed rounds, tournament play).
 - Modifying card rules (e.g., introducing custom cards or rules).
2. **UI Module:**
 - Redesigning the interface for better accessibility or cross-platform compatibility.
 - Adding support for additional languages.
3. **Multiplayer Module:**
 - Supporting larger game rooms with more than 8 players.
 - Enhancing matchmaking algorithms.

Stable Areas:

1. **Game Logic Module:**
 - Core mechanics like card matching and turn management are unlikely to change.
2. **Backend Module:**
 - Data storage structure for player profiles and game history is stable.
3. **Asset Management Module:**
 - Asset formats (e.g., sprite and sound formats) are not expected to evolve.

3.4 Secrets

1. **Game Logic Module:**
 - The randomization algorithm used for shuffling the deck is encapsulated to prevent predictable outcomes.
 - The logic for validating player moves is hidden to ensure game fairness.
2. **Multiplayer Module:**
 - Network synchronization algorithms and latency compensation methods are kept internal to prevent exploitation.
3. **Backend Module:**
 - Database encryption and authentication mechanisms are encapsulated for security purposes.
4. **Asset Management Module:**
 - Asset compression techniques and preloading mechanisms are hidden to optimize performance.
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4. Architectural Diagrams

4.1 UML Package Diagrams

- **Purpose:** Illustrates the modular structure of the system, showing the relationships and dependencies between different modules.
- **Diagram Elements:**

- **Packages:** Represent major system modules such as Game Logic, UI, Multiplayer, Asset Management, and Backend.
- **Dependencies:** Show interactions between modules, such as:
 - Game Logic depends on Multiplayer for real-time updates.
 - UI depends on Game Logic to display game state.
- Example Structure:
 - UI → Game Logic → Multiplayer → Backend → Database.

4.2 UML Class Diagrams

- **Purpose:** Defines the structure of key classes within each module and their relationships.
- **Key Classes:**
 - **Game Logic Module:**
 - Card: Represents a single card with properties (color, type, flip side).
 - Deck: Manages the shuffling, drawing, and discard pile.
 - GameStateManager: Tracks the overall game state (e.g., current turn, active players).
 - **Multiplayer Module:**
 - PlayerConnection: Represents a player's network connection.
 - RoomManager: Manages player rooms and game sessions.
 - **UI Module:**
 - GameBoard: Handles the visual representation of the game.
 - PlayerHUD: Displays player-specific information (e.g., cards, turn indicator).

4.3 State Machine Diagrams

- **Purpose:** Represents the lifecycle of critical components, such as game states or player interactions.
- **Example:**
 - **Game State Machine:**
 - States: Waiting for Players → Game In Progress → Game Paused → Game Over.
 - Transitions:
 - Waiting for Players → Game In Progress: Triggered when the required number of players join.
 - Game In Progress → Game Over: Triggered when a player wins or the deck is exhausted.