Middleware Architectures 1

Lecture 1: Information System Architectures

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Overview

- Architecture Overview
- Data, Functions and Processes
- Software Architecture

Global Architecture

- A **structure** and a **behavior** of system's parts
- Complexity views on the global architecture
 - basic architectural views (also called dimensions): enterprise, data, functional, process, software, hardware.
- Development
 - basic **methodology** and **actors**:
 - ~ analysis, design, implementation, testing, maintenance
 - ~ end-user, architect, developer, administrator
 - basic architectural development levels:
 - ~ conceptual, logical, physical.
- Global architecture and cloud computing
 - data, functions, processes are application (domain) specific
 - software architecture defines a software platform
 - hardware architecture defines an **infrastructure**

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Data Functions Processes Software Architecture Hardware Architecture Lecture 1: Information System Architectures, CTU Winter Semester 2021/2022, @TomasVitvar - 4-

Enterprise Architecture Data Functions Processes Software Architecture Hardware Architecture

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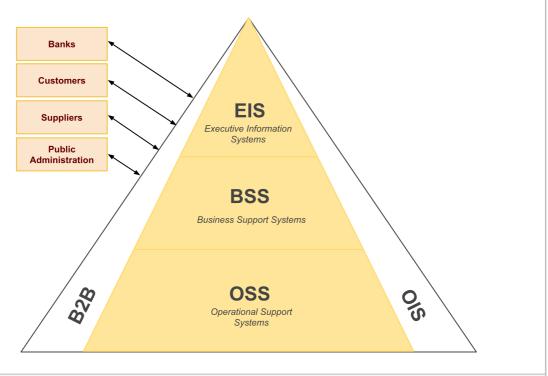
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Enterprise Architecture Levels

- Defines a structure of an enterprise system
 - Abstracts from data, functions, processes, software, hardware
 - divides enterprise system into functional blocks applications
 - \rightarrow Order Management System (OMS)
 - → Customer Relationship System (CRM)
 - → Billing and Revenue Management (BRM)
 - applications correspond to domains such as sales, finance, procurement, production, etc.
- Enterprise architecture levels
 - Operational Support Systems (OSS)
 - Business Support System (BSS)
 - Executive Information Systems (EIS)
 - Office Information Systems (OIS)
 - Integration
 - \rightarrow Business-to-Business (B2B)
 - \rightarrow Enterprise Application Integration (EAI)

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Enterprise Architecture Representation



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Organization Types

- Customer
 - user needs: support for business processes
 - defines business requirements
 - roles: enterprise architect, developers, admins, users
- Supplier (enterprise system/application provider)
 - solutions and customization according to requirements
 - roles: technical and solution architects, developers, admins
- Vendor (technology provider)
 - product development according to market needs
 - roles: product managers, developers, reference users

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Architect Roles

- Technical Architect
 - Technical architecture design
 - technology configurations, performance
- Solution Architect
 - Requirements gathering, analysis
 - Solution design (data, functions, process)
- Enterprise Architect
 - High-level enterprise architecture design
 - \rightarrow Applications, processes, data models
 - Should be aligned with industry standards
 - → APQC American Productivity & Quality Center (Process Classification Framework)
 - → TM Forum eTOM Enhanced Telekom Operations Map (Business Process Framework)

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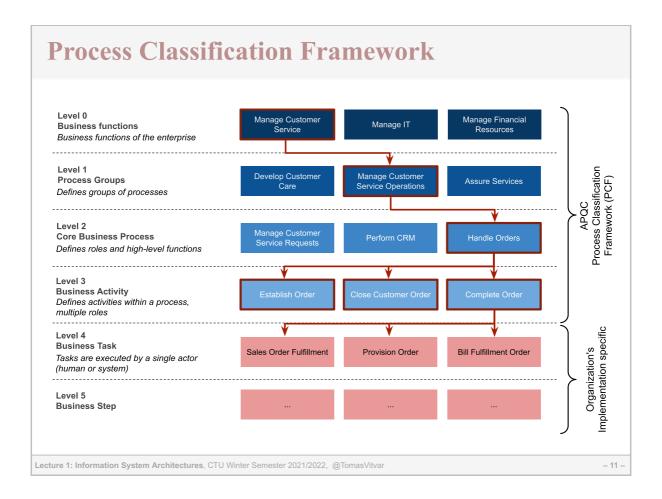
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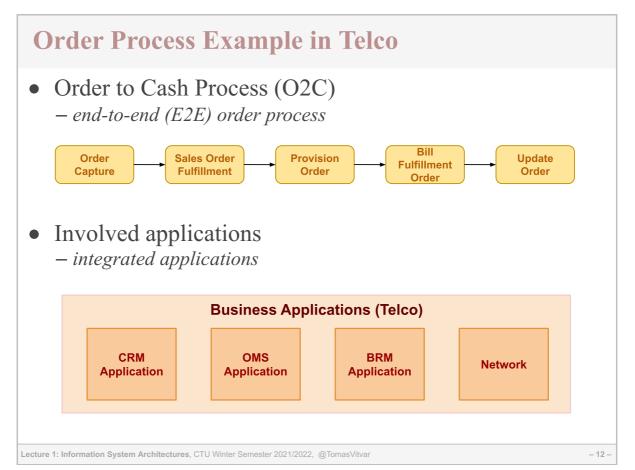
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Syntax and Domain Semantics

Syntax

- Data format, representation, serialization
- Various languages at various architectural levels:
 XML, JSON, Class/object models in a specific programming language, SQL, DB native structures, ...
- They have formal grammars, can be checked for the correct syntax

Domain semantics

- Meaning of terms in a domain they are being used
- We understand meaning of terms:
 - \rightarrow Through syntax by using the natural language
 - → Through some **agreement** among users of the terms
- Every applications can use different semantics
 - \rightarrow Need to mediate data from one application to another

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Simplified Order Type Example



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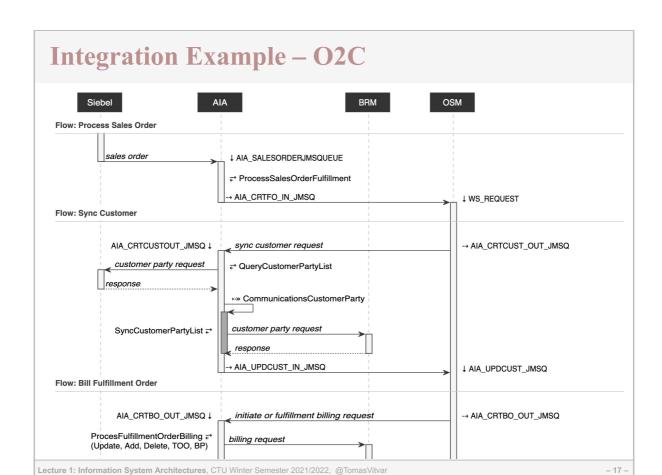
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Integrating Applications

- Intra-Enterprise Integration
 - Applications exist in a specific area
 - Functions and data often overlap across areas
 - There is a need to integrate applications within enterprise:
 - → Applications need to share the same data that are often in different formats.
 - → Applications need to communicate a result of one process may trigger another one.
- Inter-Enterprise Integration
 - Also called Business-to-Business Integration (B2B)
 - Automation support for communication and collaboration among enterprises
 - For example, B2B automates customers' orders processing, tracking orders, etc.

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Integration Issues

• Key to integration = **interface**

- standards data, functions, processes, technical aspects
 - → enterprise standards, committee standards
 - → unified environment from a single vendor
- mediators
 - → where standard do not work out

Data

- Message exchange formats, data representation
 - \rightarrow often standardized
- Semantics of data
 - → also standardized, more difficult

Functions and processes

- how apps' functionalities should be consumed and orchestrated, protocols, naming issues
- A service concept

Overview

- Architecture Overview
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- Software Architecture
 - Types, Separation of Concerns, Interface
 - Client/Server Architectures

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Software Architecture Types

- Centralized Client/Server (C/S)
 - Central server, a bunch of clients
 - monolithic, two-, three-, multi-tier architectures
 - Single point of failure!
 - \rightarrow when a server fails the whole system fails
 - → need for a scalable and **highly reliable** server-side solutions
 - Enterprise systems (mostly) use centralized solutions
 - → But, enhanced with peer-to-peer principles
- Decentralized Peer-to-Peer (P2P)
 - Reliability
 - → when a node fails, other nodes take up its function
 - Scalability
 - → multiple nodes can share the load
 - → such as messaging systems in enterprise systems

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Separation of Concerns

Separation of Concerns

- also called Separation of Layers
- Concern any piece of interest (part) in the application
 - → concerns should overlap in functionality as little as possible
- Basic application concerns: data manipulation, data integrity, application logic, user-interactions
- Software architecture separates concerns into layers
 - \rightarrow presentation, application, data

• Interface

- ~ agreement on "how layers should communicate"
- most important artifact in Separation of Concerns
- If an interface is in place, application development and innovation can happen **independently** at each layer

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Interface

Definition

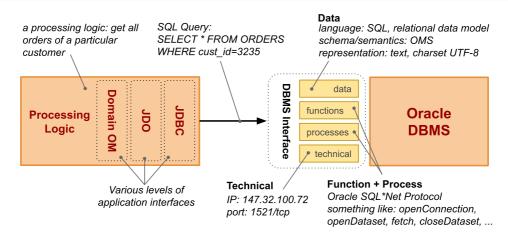
- Agreement (contract) between two or more layers during communication
- May be achieved by
 - Through standards (accepted or enforced),
 - Through a social agreement during design
 - A dominant position of a technology on the market

• Interface includes subsets of domain architectures

- Subsets that are subject to communication between layers
- data defines communication language (syntax, semantics),
- functions defines entry points (operations),
- processes defines valid states and transitions between them
- technical details protocols, ports, IP addresses, etc.

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Complex Interfaces



- More levels of interfaces
 - 1. DBMS native interface
 - 2. JDBC universal connectors for various DBMS systems
 - 3. JDO mapping of Java classes to data objects
 - 4. Domain Object Model (OM) − app-specific (~API, SDK) − try to be as universal as possible; cover many technologies

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Monolithic Architecture



All layers on a single machine

- usually non-portable apps; specific OS
- first types of computer systems, typical for 90-ties
- single-user only; standalone apps, minimal integration
- technologies: third-gen programming languages, local storage systems

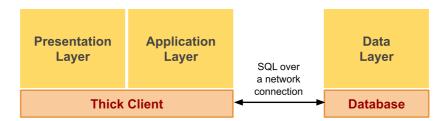
Drawbacks

- hard to maintain (updates, distribution of new versions)
- data security issues
- performance and scalability issues

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Two-tier Client/Server Architecture



Presentation and app layers separated with data

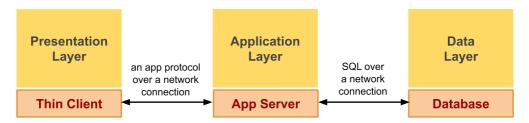
- Thick client desktop application, OS-dependent
- Data on a separate server (DBMS)
- Multi-user system, all sharing a database
- Storage system of high performance, transactions support
- SQL technology; native OS desktop application

Drawbacks

- Thick client hard to maintain (reinstallation with every update)
- No app logic sharing (only through copies)
- Data-oriented integration (integrity in the app logic!)

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Three-tier Client/Server Architecture



All layers on separated machines

- Thin client desktop application or interpreted code
- Multi-user system, all sharing app logic and a database
- App server of high performance, scalability

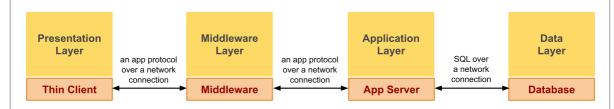
Drawbacks

- Spaghetti integration (see Lecture 0)
- Limited, single app server scalability

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Multi-tier Client/Server Architecture



Additional middleware layer

- provides value-added services for communications
- individual servers or a compact solution (e.g., Enterprise Service Bus)

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Types of Middleware

• Scalability

- They help to achieve high performance through better scalability
- Messaging Servers (message queues, publish/subscribe)
- Load Balancers
- Proxy servers, reverse proxy

Functional

- They help to achieve more flexible integration
- Process servers
- Repositories, registries of services/components
- Mediators data interoperability, process interoperability, technical interoperability (SOAP server)
- Monitors for analytics of apps usages

• Security

- Firewalls, Gateways, ...

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