



The *Method-Framework* for Engineering System Architectures (MFESA)

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Tutorial Objectives

Introduce attendees to the Method Framework for Engineering System Architectures (MFESA):

- MFESA *Ontology* of reusable concepts and terminology
- MFESA *Metamodel* of reusable method components
- MFESA *Repository* of reusable method components
 - MFESA Architectural Work Units and Work Products
 - MFESA Architectural Workers
- MFESA *Metamethod* for generating appropriate project-specific system architecture engineering methods

Thereby improve system architecture engineering methods and associated processes (process improvement)



MFESA Project

Started January 2007

Collaborators:

- SEI Acquisition Support Program (ASP) – Don Firesmith (Lead), Peter Capell, Bud Hammons, and Tom Merendino
- MITRE – Dietrich Falkenthal (Bedford MA)
- USAF – DeWitt Latimer (USC Doctorial Student)

Work products:

- Reference Book (Auerbach 2008)
- Tutorials and Training Materials
- Articles
- Mapping to Source Documents
- Informational Website



Intended Tutorial Attendees

System and Subsystem Architects

Process Engineers

Requirements Engineers

Technical and Administrative Managers

Acquirers

Developers

Testers

Trainers and Educators

Standards Developers

Academic Researchers

Any other Stakeholders



Topics

Motivation ◀

MFESA Overview

MFESA Ontology of Concepts and Terminology

MFESA Metamodel of Reusable Method Components

MFESA Repository of Reusable Method Components

- Architectural Work Units and Work Products
- Architectural Workers

MFESA Metamethod

Conclusion



System Architecture – Old Definition

System Architecture

the major components of a system, their relationships, and how they collaborate to meet system requirements



System Architecture – MFESA Definition

System Architecture

all of the *most important, pervasive, top-level, strategic decisions, inventions, engineering tradeoffs, assumptions, and their associated rationales* concerning *how* the system will meet its derived and allocated requirements

Includes:

- All major logical and physical and static and dynamic structures
- Other architectural decisions, inventions, tradeoffs, assumptions, and rationales:
 - Approach to achieve quality requirements
 - Architectural styles, patterns, mechanisms
 - Approach to reuse (build/buy decisions)
- *Strategic* and *pervasive* design-level decisions
- *Strategic* and *pervasive* implementation-level decisions



Architecture vs. Design

Architecture	Design
<i>Pervasive (Multiple Components)</i>	<i>Local (Single Components)</i>
<i>Strategic Decisions and Inventions</i>	<i>Tactical Decisions and Inventions</i>
<i>Higher-Levels of System</i>	<i>Lower-Levels of System</i>
<i>Huge Impact on Quality, Cost, & Schedule</i>	<i>Small Impact on Quality, Cost, & Schedule</i>
<i>Drives Design and Integration Testing</i>	<i>Drives Implementation and Unit Testing</i>
<i>Driven by Requirements and Higher-Level Architecture</i>	<i>Driven by Requirements, Architecture, and Higher-Level Design</i>
<i>Mirrors Top-Level Development Team Organization (Conway's Law)</i>	<i>No Impact on Top-Level Development Team Organization</i>



System Architecture Engineering

System Architecture Engineering

the *subdiscipline of systems engineering* consisting of all *architectural work units* performed by *architectural workers* (architects, architecture teams, and their tools) to develop and maintain *architectural work products* (including system or subsystem architectures and their representations)



System Architecture is Critical

Supports achievement of critical architecturally significant requirements

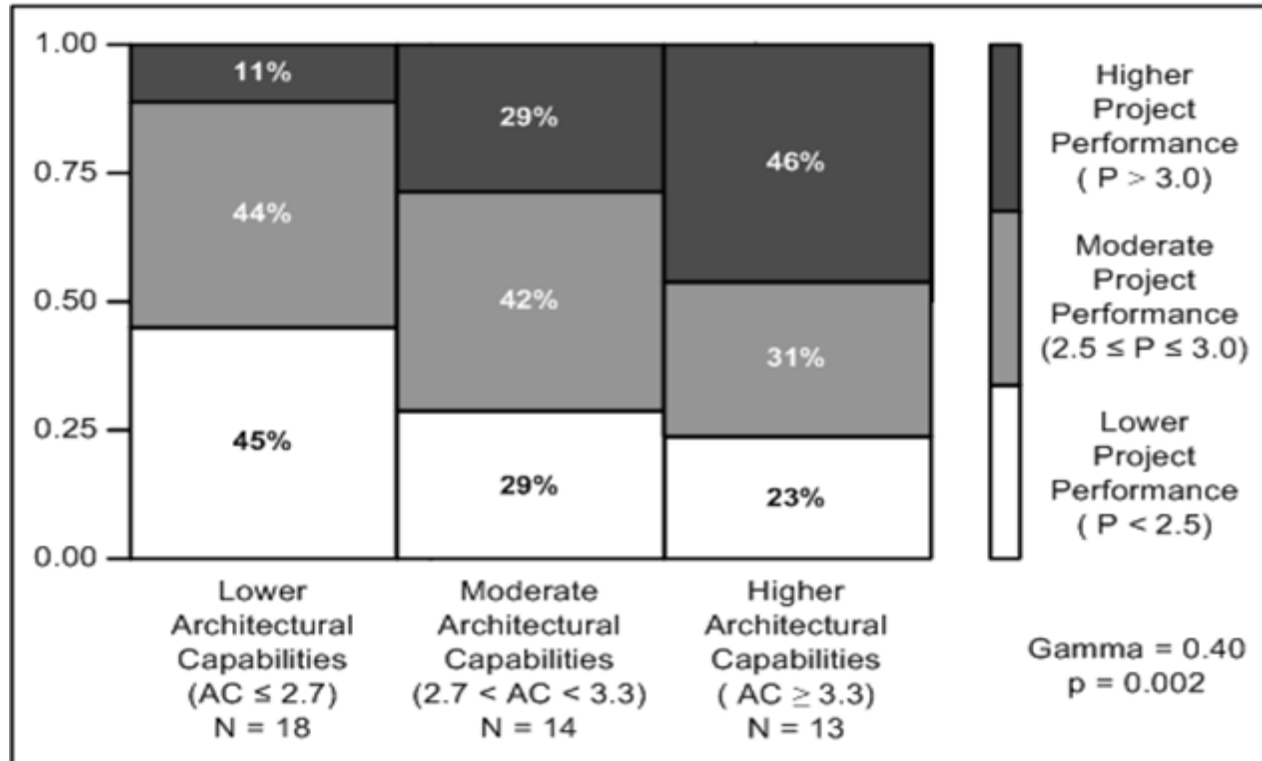
Greatly affects cost and schedule

Enables engineering of system quality characteristics and attributes

Drives all downstream activities



System Architecture Engineering is critical to Project Success



Joe Elm, Dennis R. Goldenson, Khaled El Emam, Nicole Donatelli, and Angelica Neisa, *A Survey of Systems Engineering Effectiveness – Initial Results*, CMU/SEI-2007-SR-014, Software Engineering Institute, November 2007, p. 222.



Limitations of Current Methods and Standards

Do not adequately address:

- The increasing size and complexity of many current systems
- All types of architectural components (e.g., software)
- All types of interfaces (interoperability and intraoperability)
- All potentially important system structures, views, models, and other architectural representations
- All life cycle phases (production, evolution, and maintenance of architectural integrity)
- System quality characteristics, attributes, and requirements
- Reuse and component-based development (CBD)
- Specialty engineering areas (such as safety and security)



More Limitations of Current Methods and Standards

Current methods:

- Overemphasize two structures.
- Are weak on structure, view, and model consistency.
- Confuse requirements engineering with architecture engineering.
- Tend to assume that *One Size Fits All*.
- Produce only a single architectural vision.
- Excessively emphasize architectural models over other architectural representations.



Architecture Engineering Challenges

How good is 'Good enough'?

We lack sufficient adequately trained and experienced architects.

- Many young architects must perform tasks for which many are under qualified.

Architects use multiple inconsistent architecture engineering methods.

Architecture engineering methods are incompletely documented.

Architects rely too much on architectural engineering tools.



Need for Method Engineering

Systems vary greatly in size, complexity, criticality, domain, technology, operational independence, technological diversity, requirements volatility, required quality characteristics and attributes, and volatility of technology and component parts.

Development organizations vary greatly in degrees of centralization, management culture, engineering culture, expertise, experience, and staff co-location.

Endeavors vary greatly in contracting, type, lifecycle scope, schedule, and funding.

Stakeholders vary in terms of type, numbers, authority, and accessibility.

Therefore, no *single* system architecture engineering method is sufficiently general and tailorable to meet the needs of all endeavors.



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MFESA Overview ◀

MFESA Ontology of Concepts and Terminology

MFESA Metamodel of Reusable Method Components

MFESA Repository of Reusable Method Components

- **Architectural Work Units and Work Products**
- **Architectural Workers**

MFESA Metamethod

Conclusion



Definition

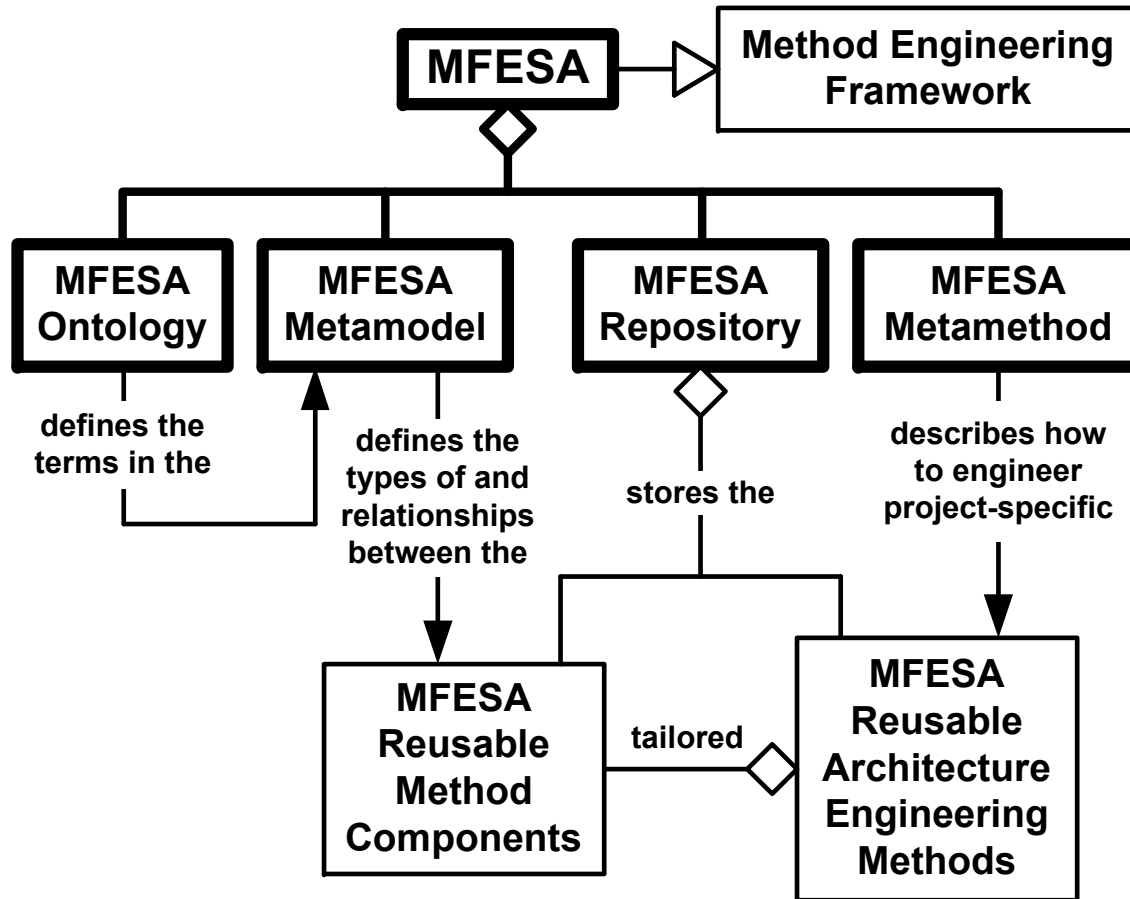
Method-Framework for Engineering System Architectures (MFESA)

a method framework for engineering appropriate situation-specific system architecture engineering (SAE) methods

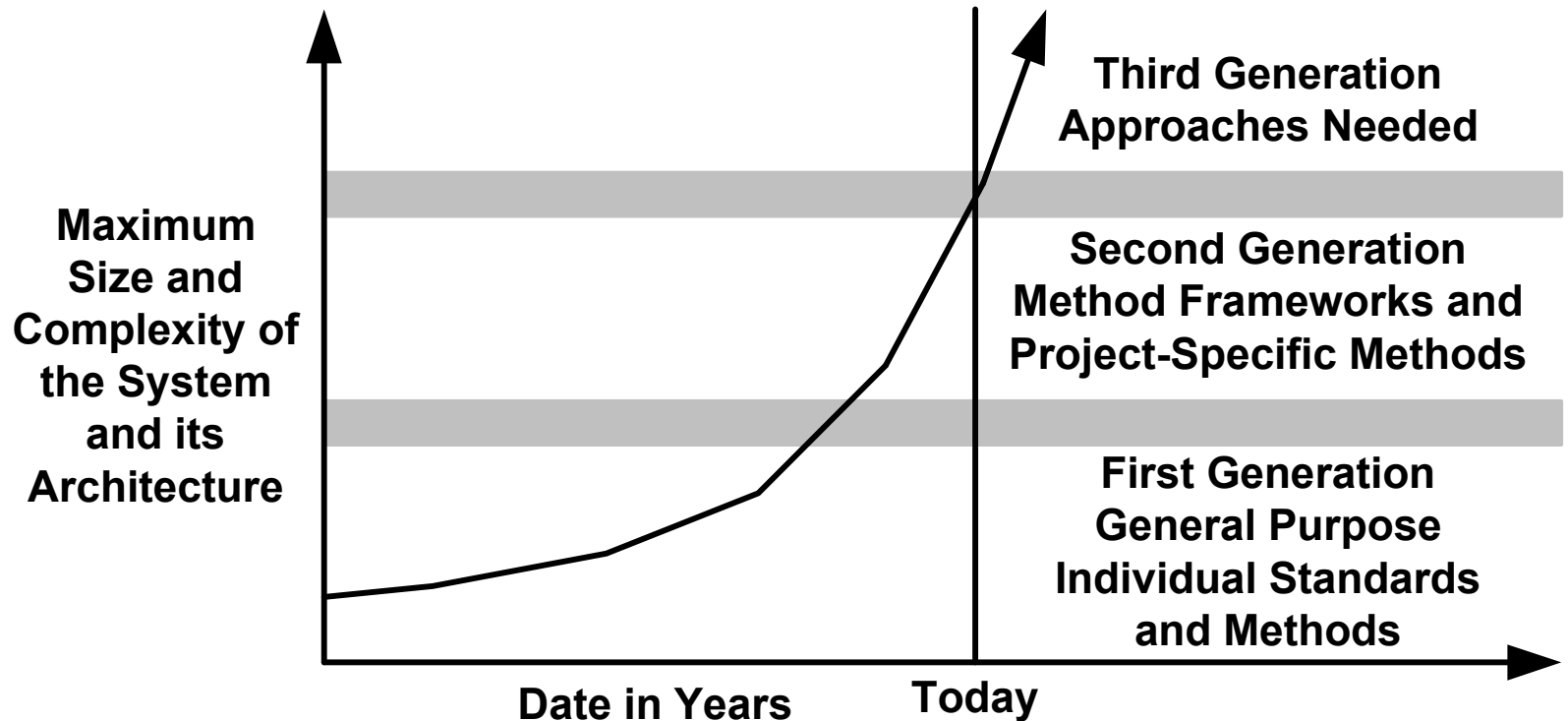
MFESA is not a single system architecture engineering method.



MFESA Components



MFESA Addresses Size and Complexity



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MFESA Ontology

More than merely a glossary

Information model of system architecture engineering

Defines foundational concepts and terminology

Defines relationships between concepts



MFESA Ontology of Concepts and Terminology

System

System Architecture

Architectural Structures

Architectural Styles, Patterns, and Mechanisms

Architectural Drivers and Concerns

Quality Model, Quality Requirements,

Architectural Representations

Architectural Models, Structures, Views, and Focus Areas

Architectural Quality Cases

Architectural Visions



System - Definition

System

a cohesive integrated set of system components (i.e., an aggregation structure) that collaborate to provide the behavior and characteristics needed to meet valid stakeholder needs and desires

Important Ideas:

- Modeled as hierarchical aggregate structure
- Integrated system components
- Components collaborate
- Emergent behavior and properties



System Component Types

Subsystems

Consumable materials (e.g., ammunition, fuel, lubricants, reagents, and solvents)

Data

Documentation (both separate physical and built-in electronic documentation)

Equipment (e.g., maintenance, support, and training equipment)

Facilities (e.g., maintenance, manufacturing, operations, support, training, and disposal facilities including their component property, buildings, and their furnishings)

Hardware

Manual procedures

Networks (for the flow of data, power, and material)

Organizations

Personnel

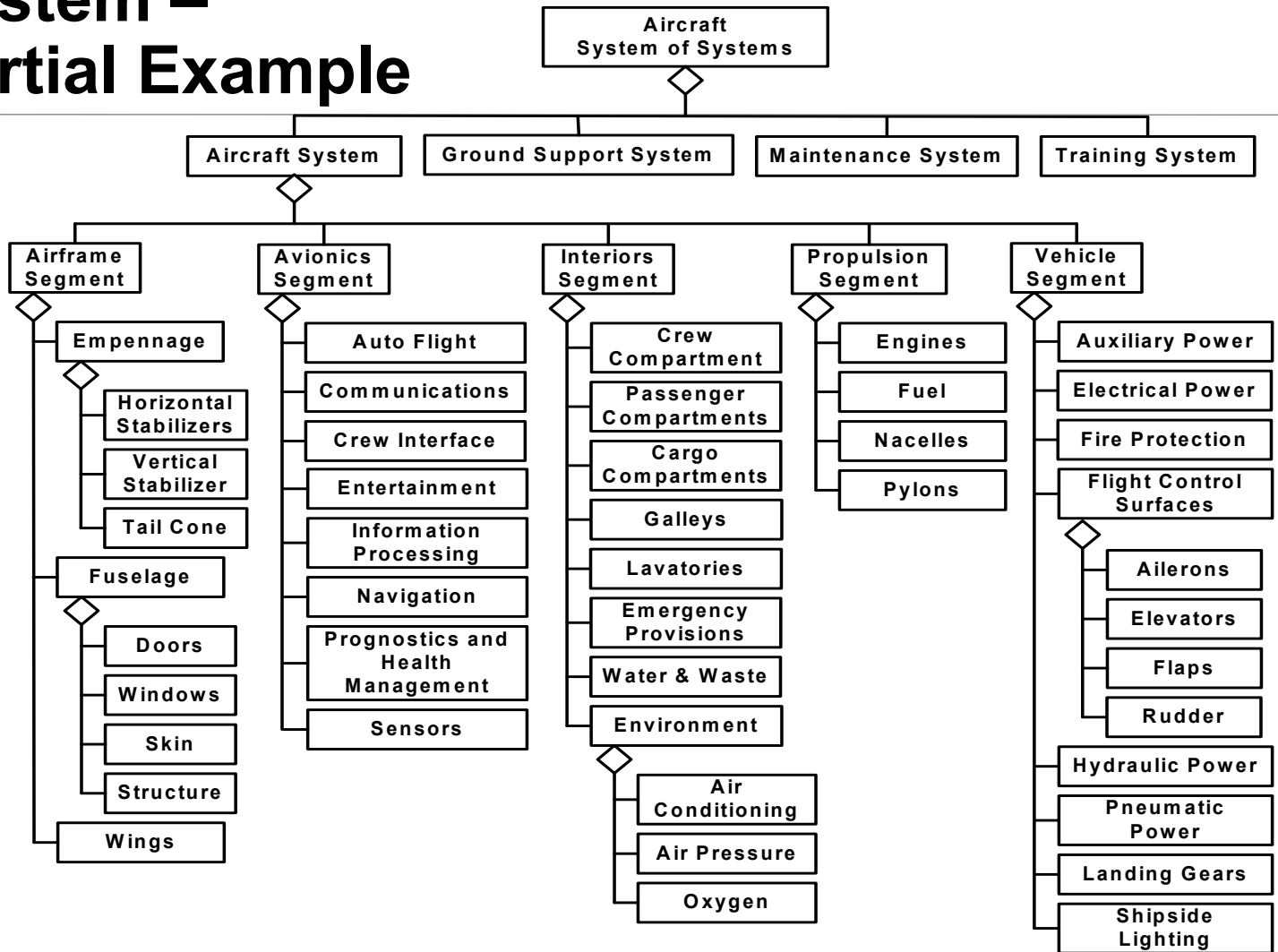
Physical interfaces

Software

Tools



System – Partial Example



Some System Characteristics

Multiple Components

Multiple Interactions between Components

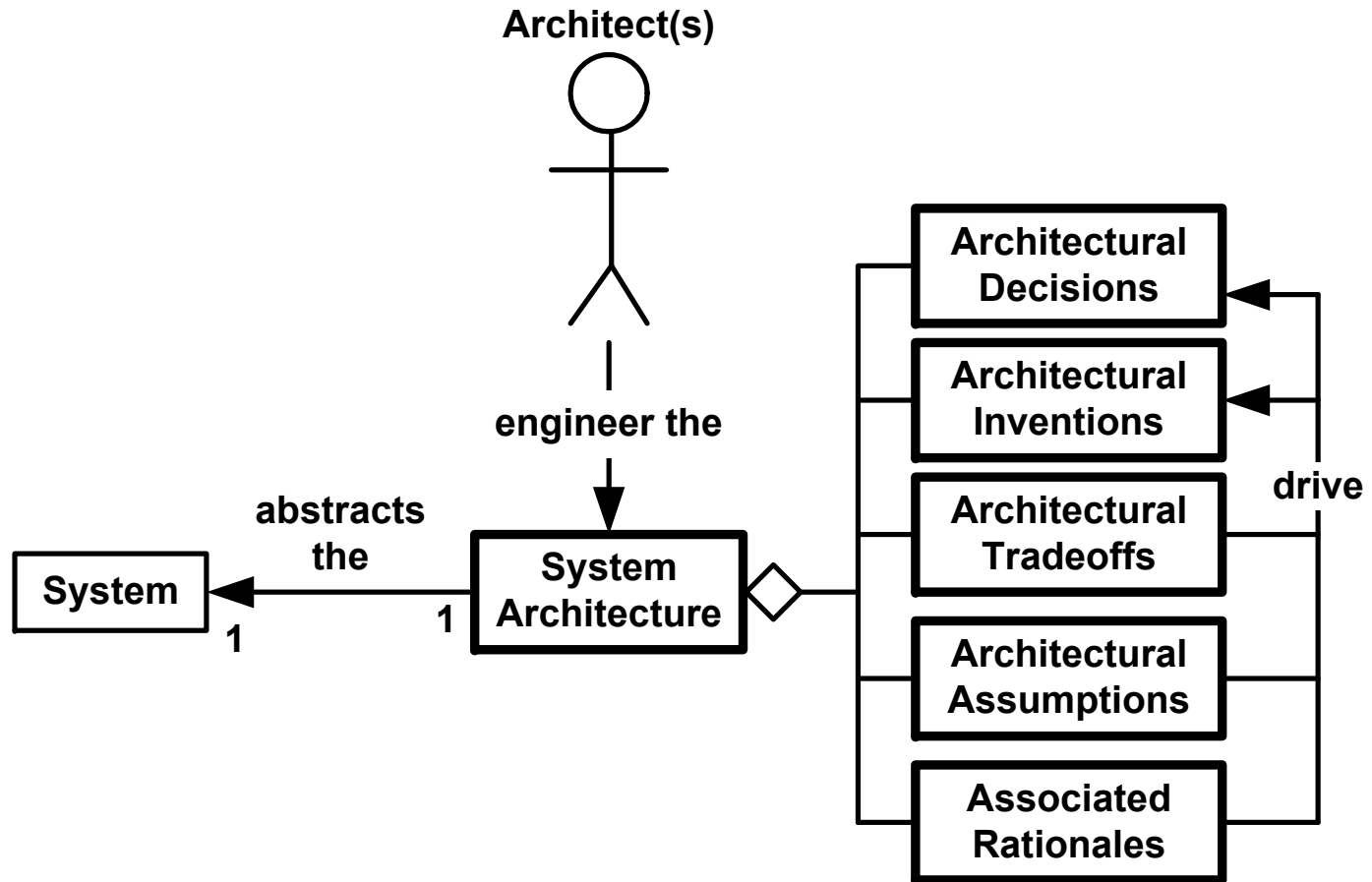
Multiple Structures (Logical and Physical, Static and Dynamic)

Multiple:

- Views and Viewpoints
- Models
- Focus Areas



System Architecture - Ontology



Architectural Structure, Element, and Component – Definitions

Architectural Structure

a cohesive set of architectural elements connected by associated relationships that captures a set of related architectural decisions, inventions, tradeoffs, assumptions, and rationales

Architectural Element

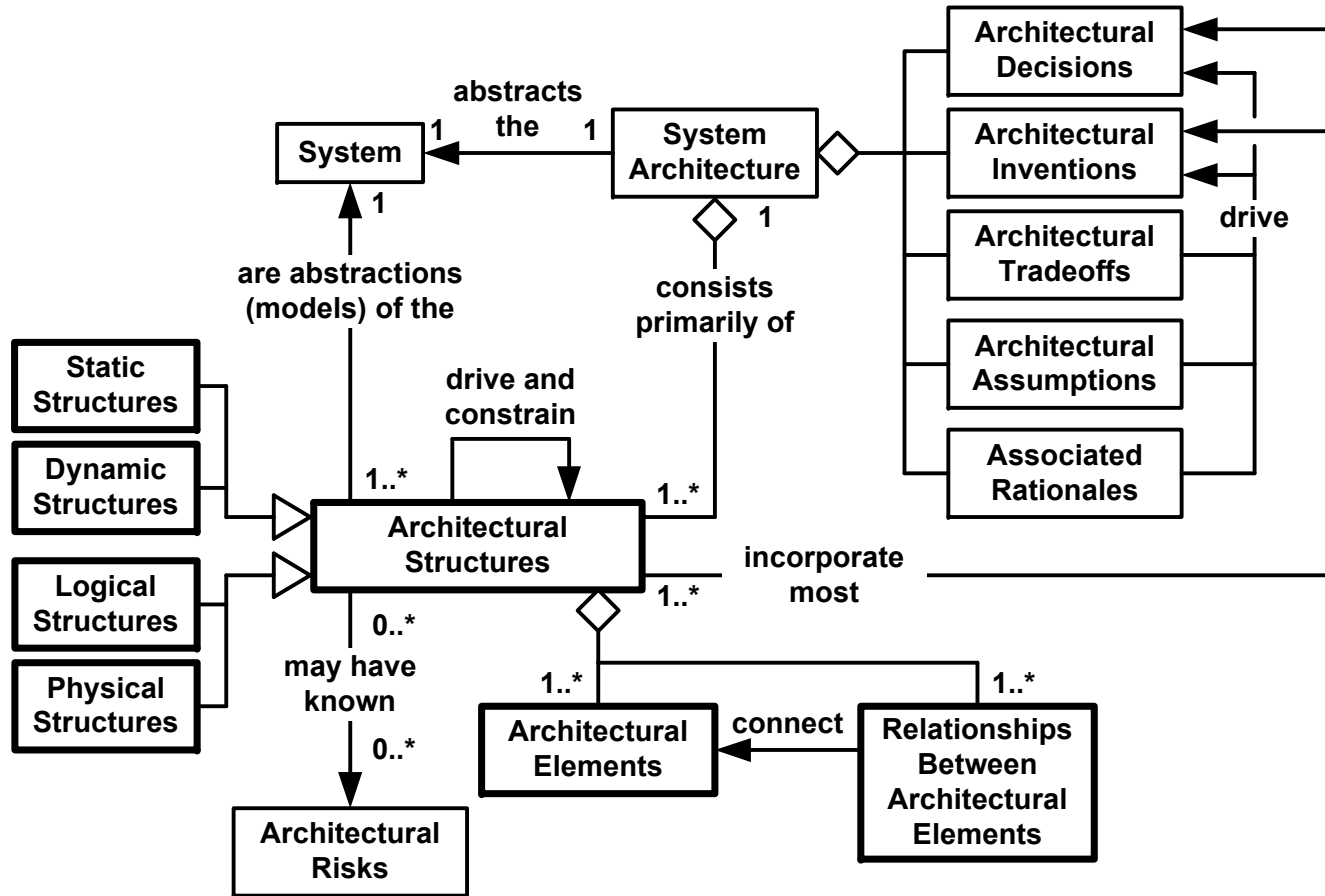
a part of an architectural structure

Architectural Component

a physical architectural element of a static physical aggregation structure



Architectural Structure - Ontology



Architectural Styles, Patterns, and Mechanisms - Definitions

Architectural Pattern

a well-documented reusable solution to a commonly occurring architectural problem within the context of a given set of existing architectural concerns, decisions, inventions, engineering trade-offs, and assumptions

Architectural Style

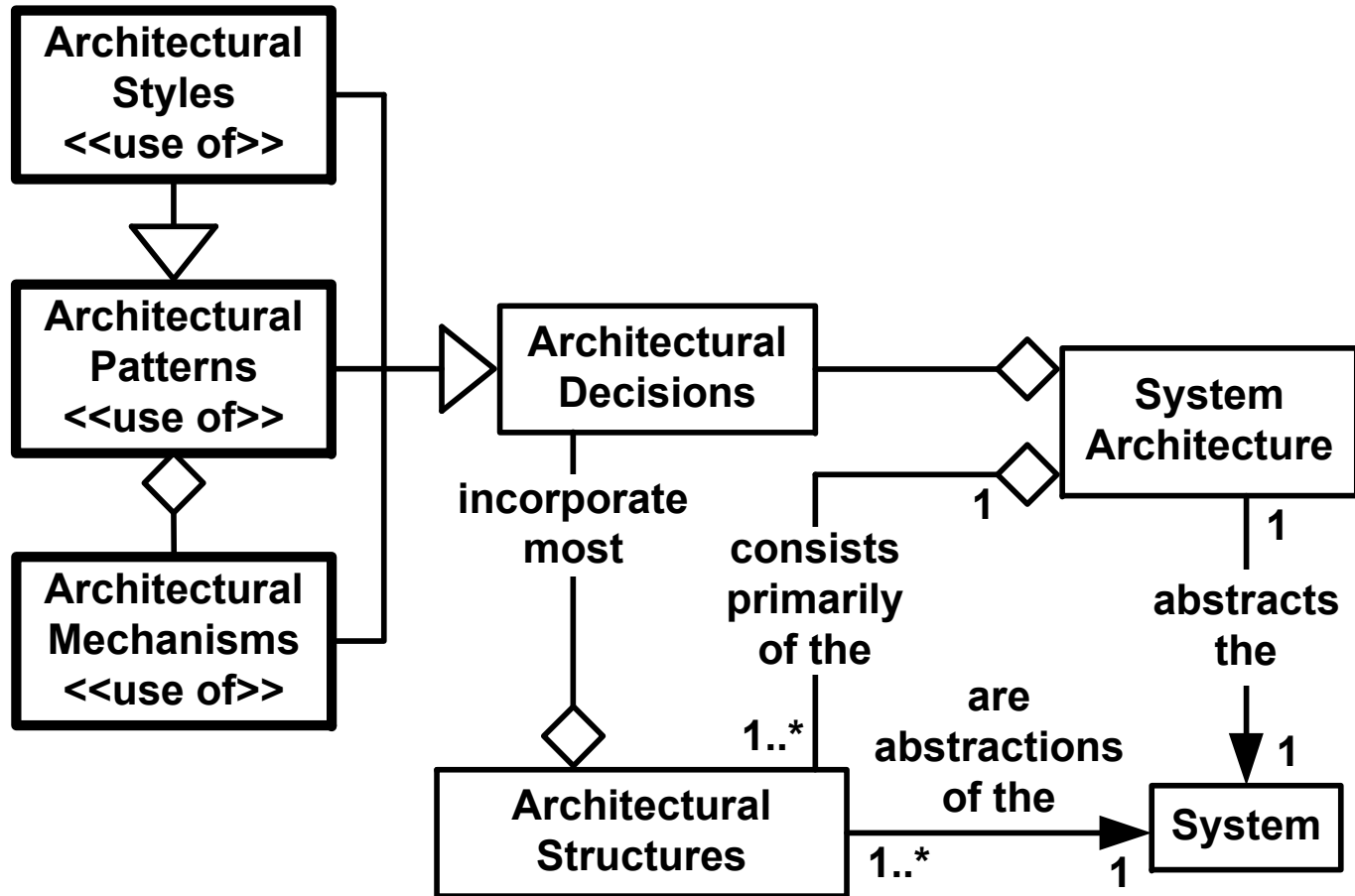
a top-level architectural pattern that provides an overall context in which lower-level architectural patterns exist

Architectural Mechanism

a major architectural decision or invention, often an element of an architectural pattern



Architectural Styles, Patterns, and Mechanisms - Ontology



Architectural Drivers and Concerns - Definitions

Architectural Driver

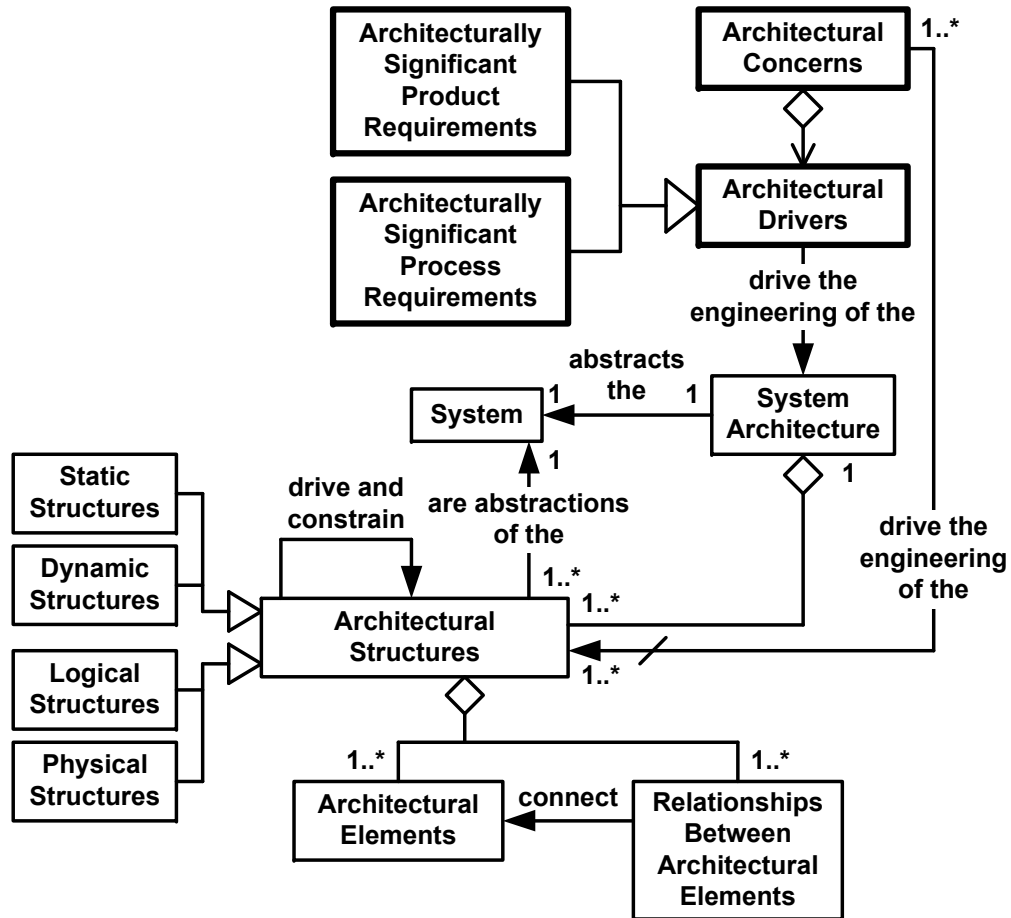
an architecturally significant product or process requirement that drives the engineering of the system architecture

Architectural Concern

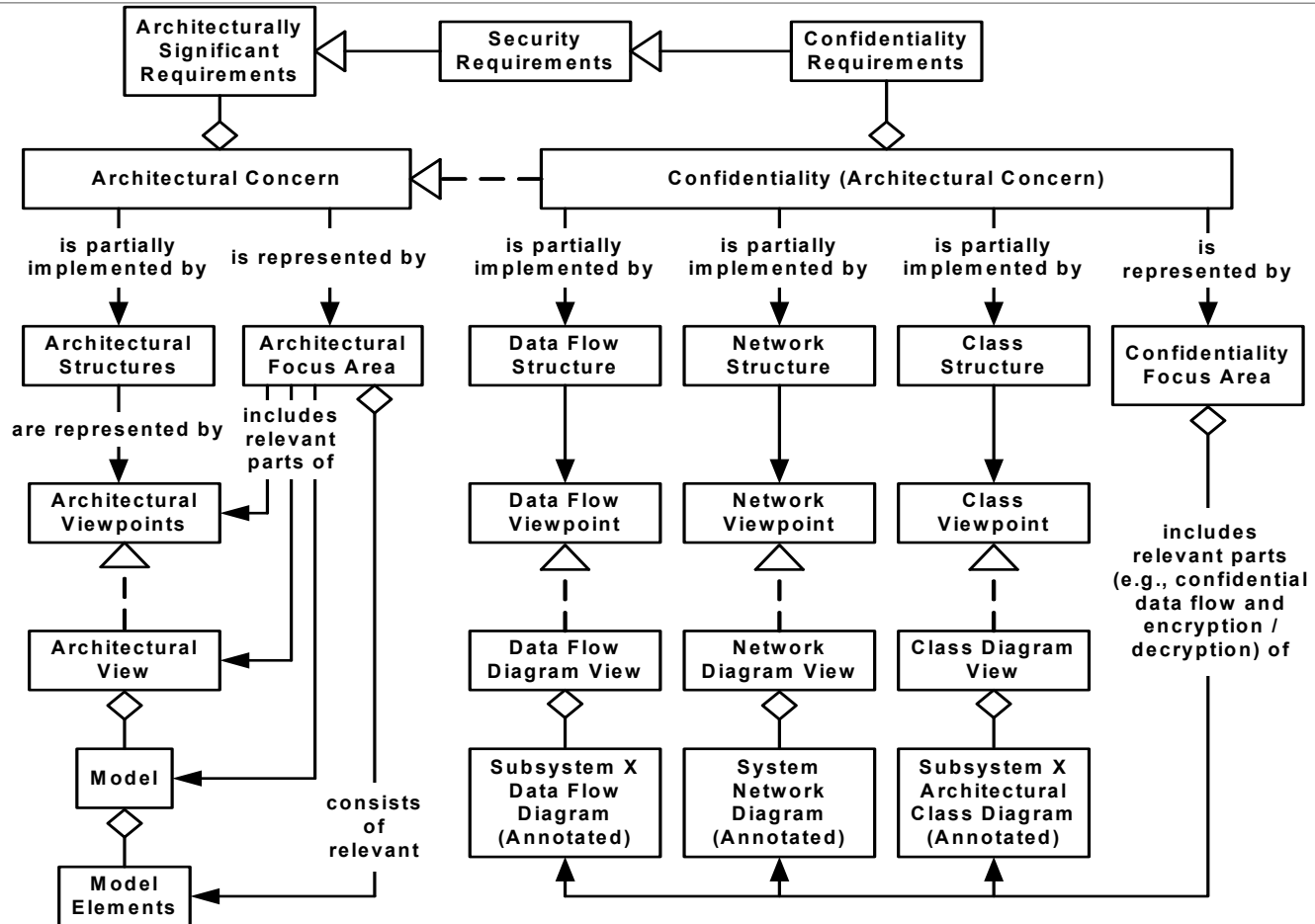
a *cohesive* collection of architectural drivers



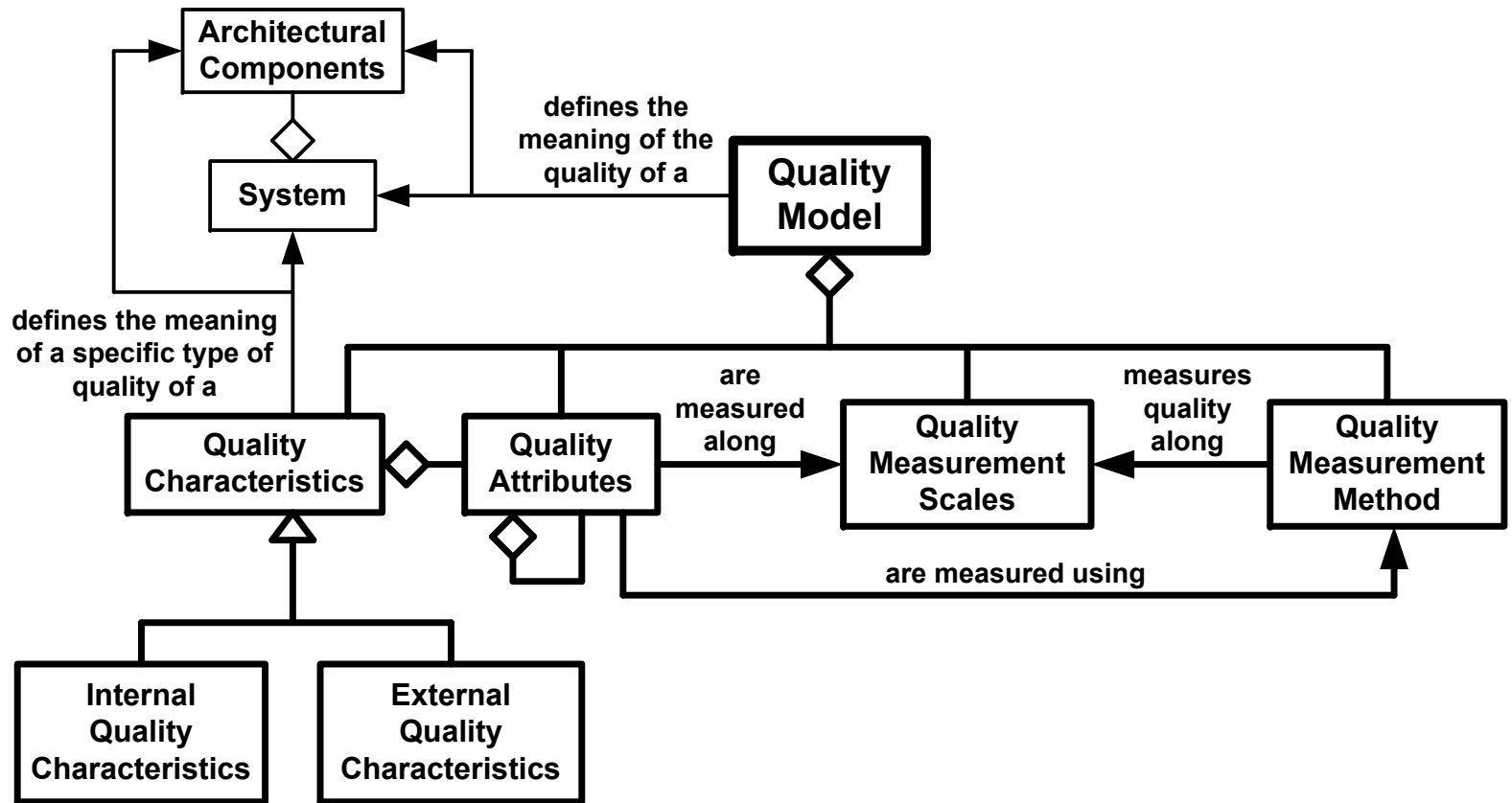
Architectural Drivers and Concerns - Ontology



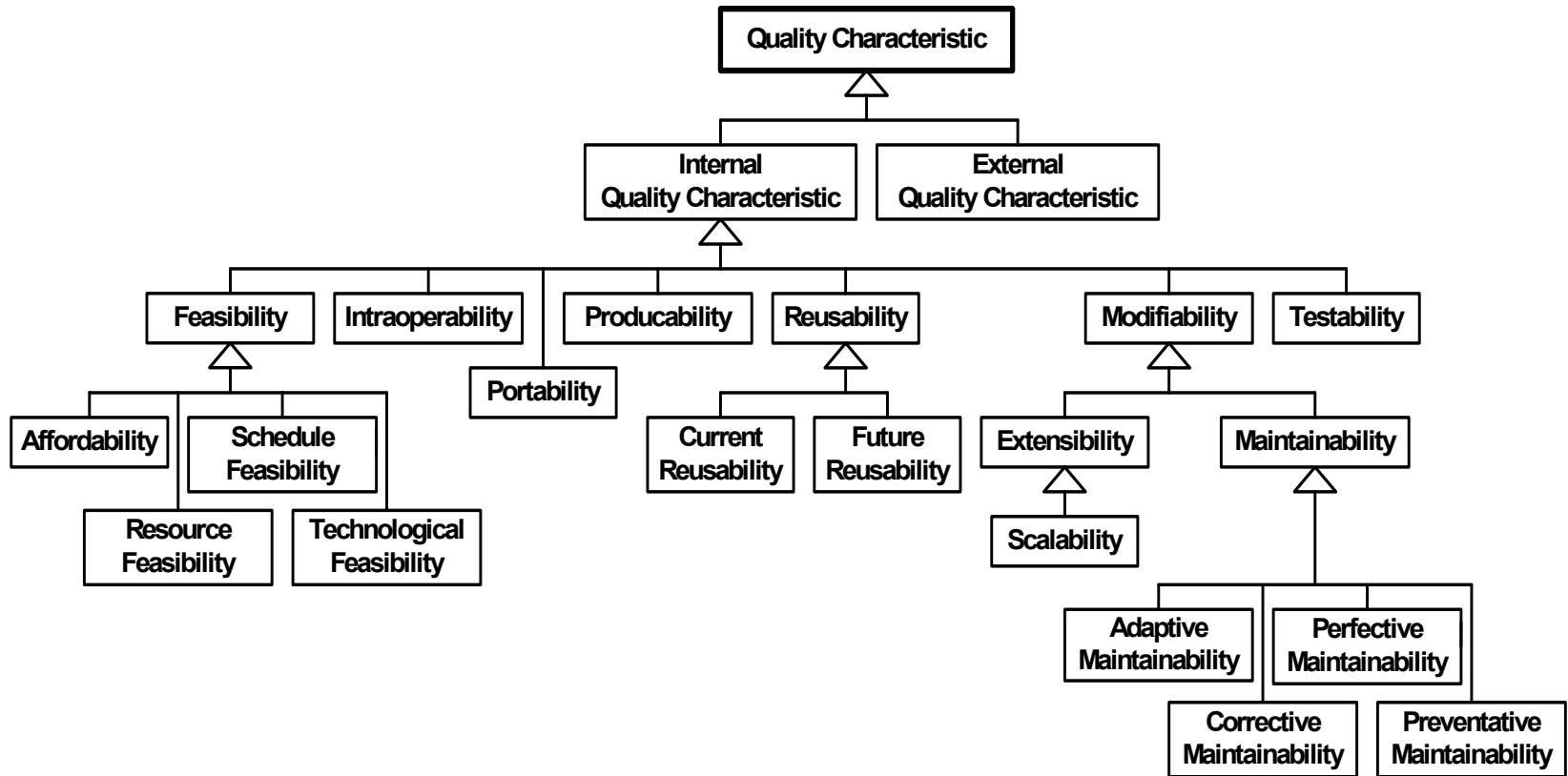
Architectural Concern – An Example



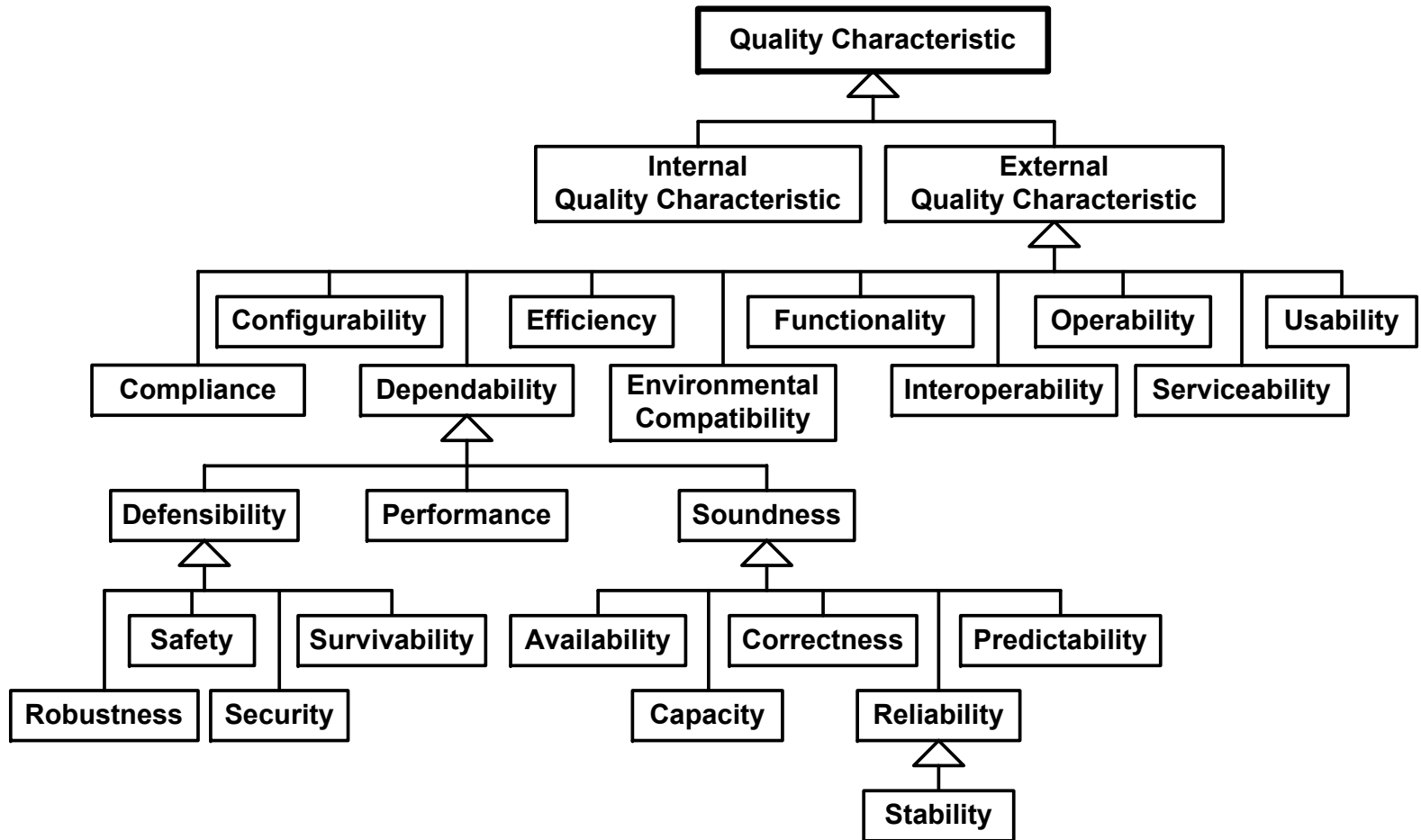
MFESA Quality Model



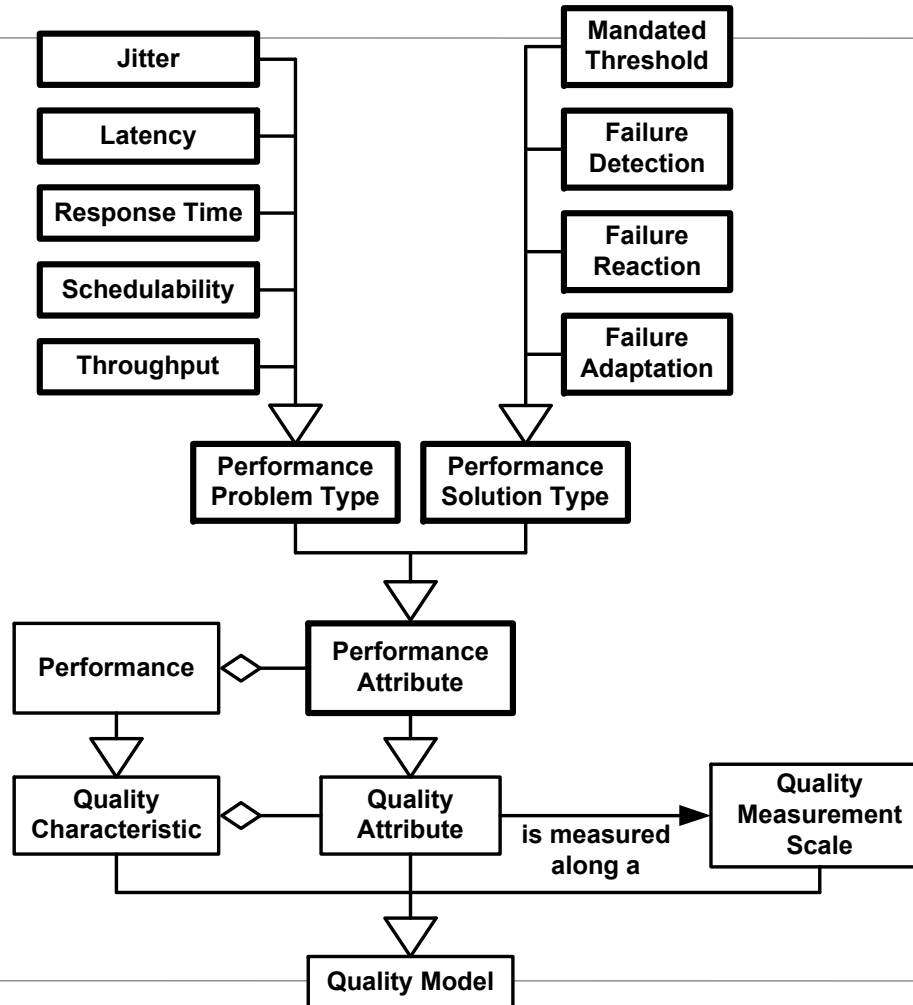
Internal Quality Characteristics



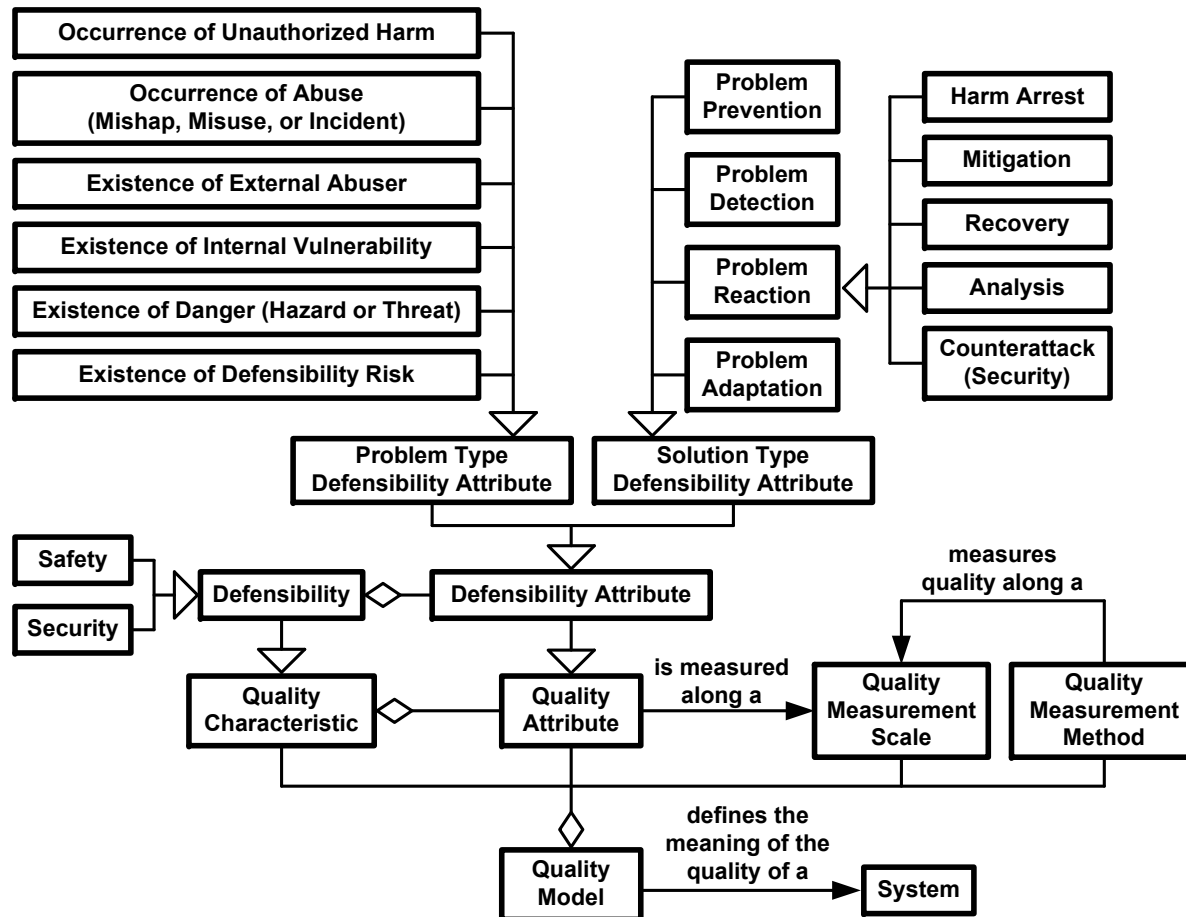
External Quality Characteristics



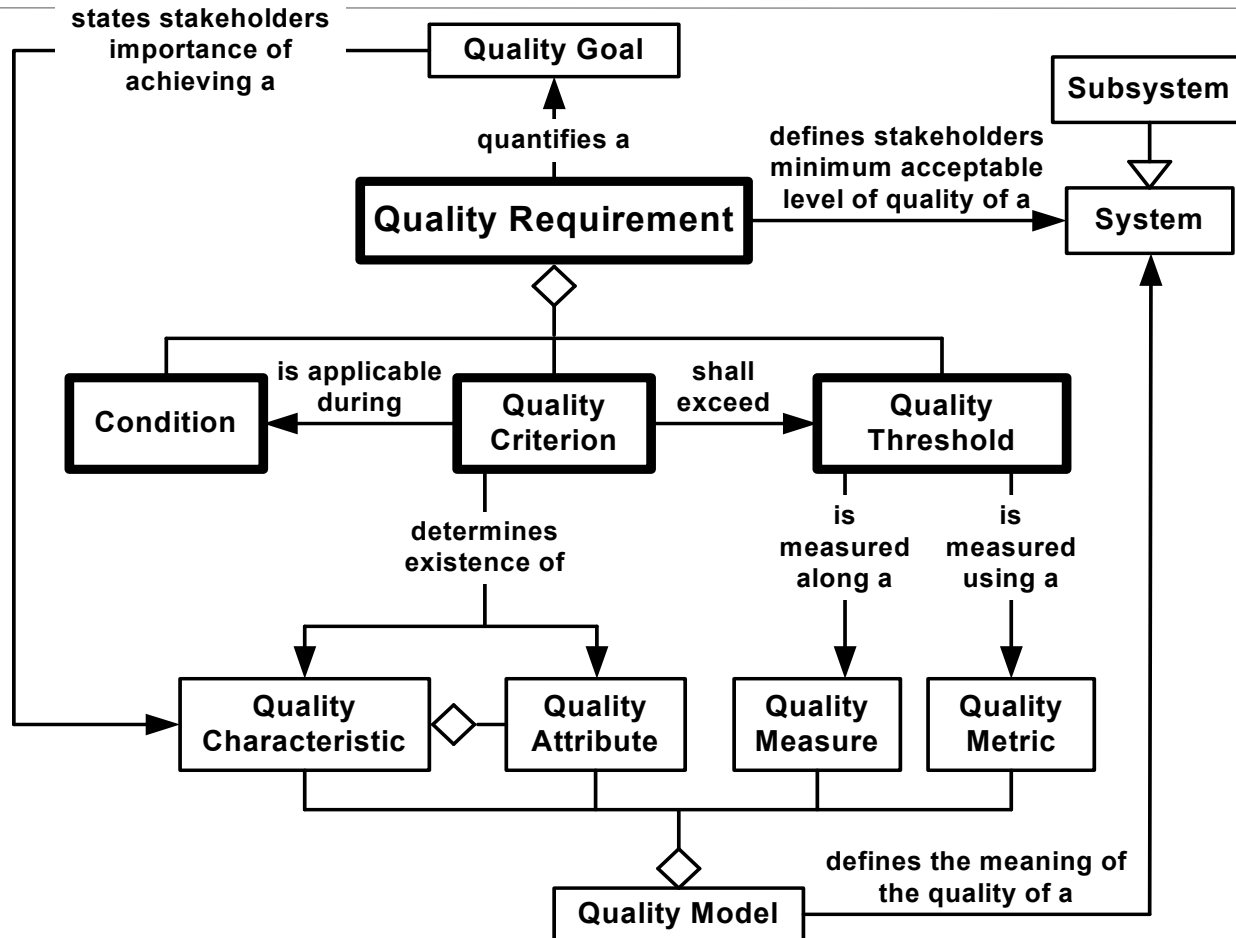
Example Characteristic and Attributes



Example Characteristic and Attributes



Quality Requirements



Architectural Representations - Definition

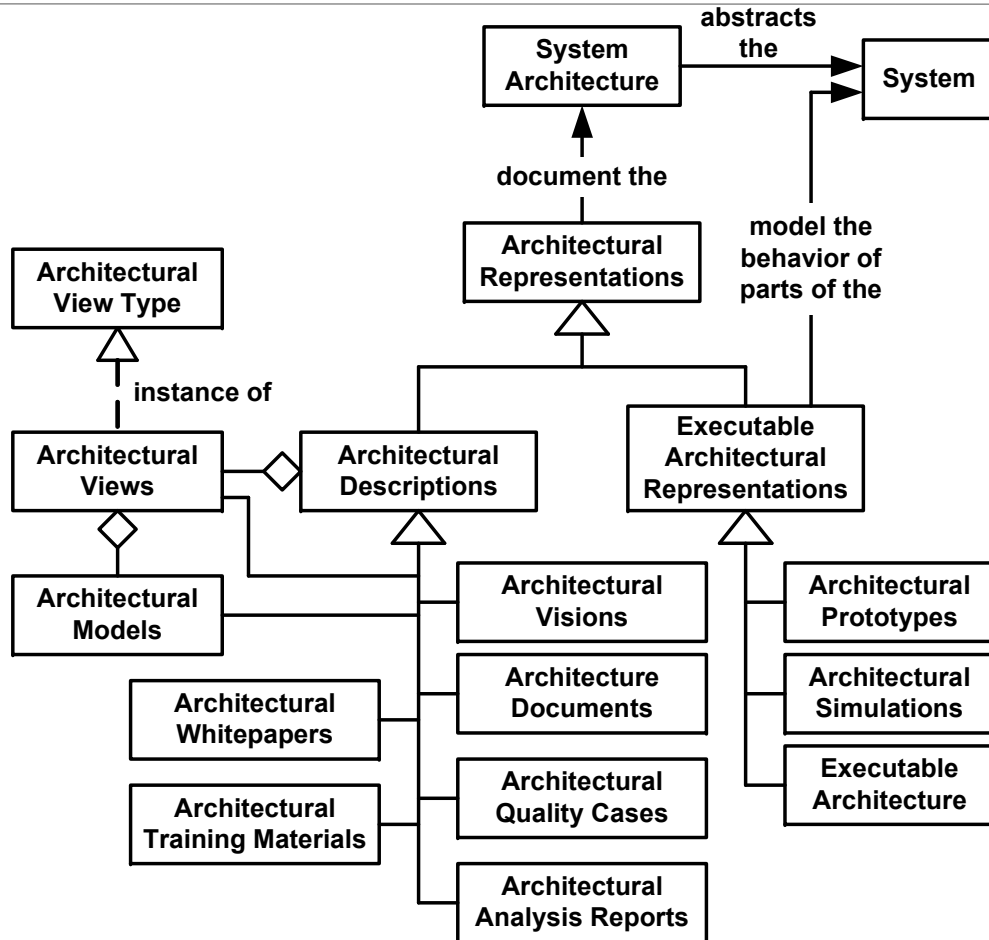
Architectural Representation

a cohesive collection of information that documents a system architecture

Not the same thing as the architecture



Architectural Representations - Ontology



Architectural Models, Views, and Focus Areas - Definitions

Architectural Model

an architectural representation that abstracts a single system structure in terms of the structure's architectural elements and the relationships between them

Architectural View

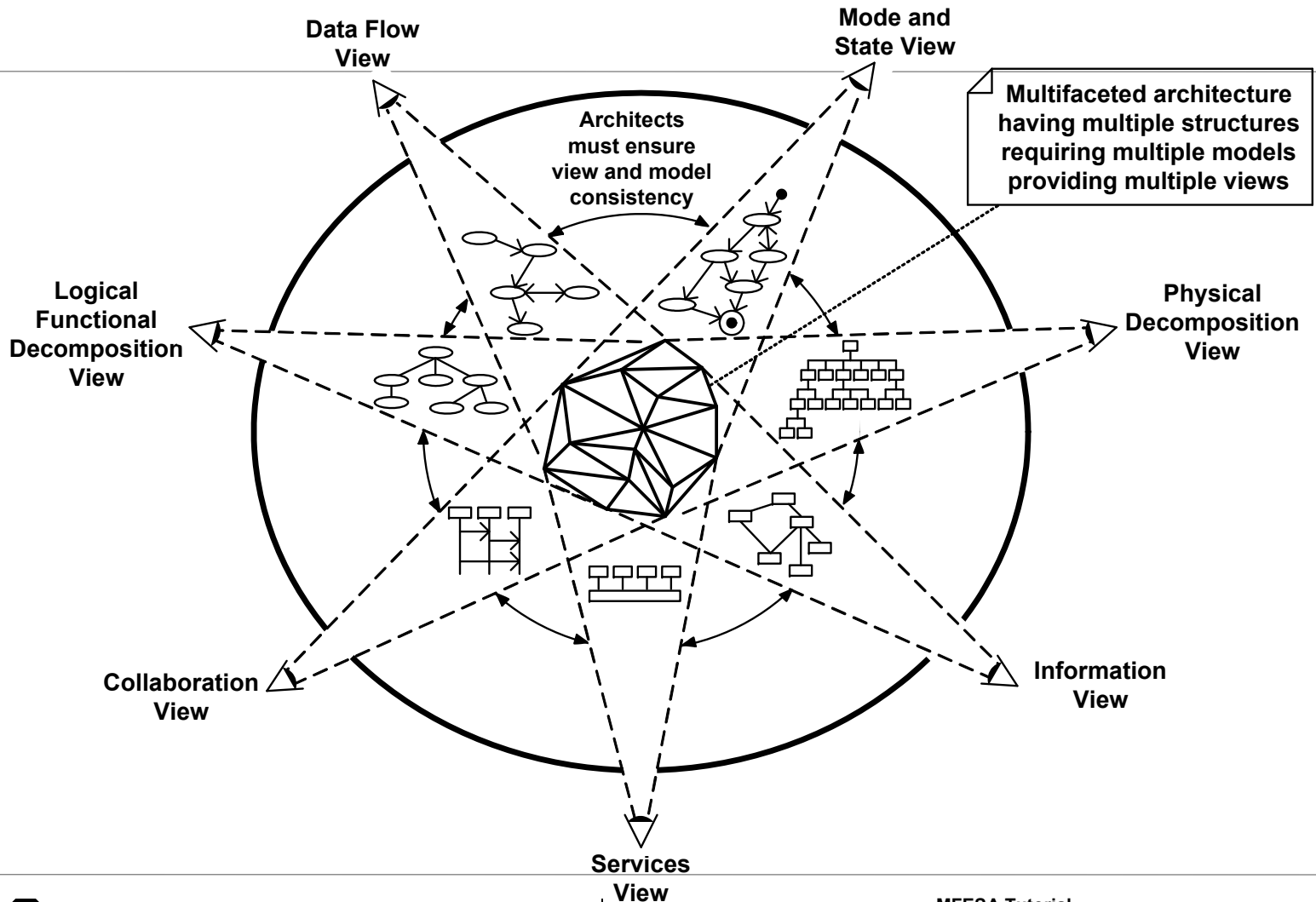
an architectural representation describing a single architectural structure of a system consisting of one or more related models of that structure

Architectural Focus Area

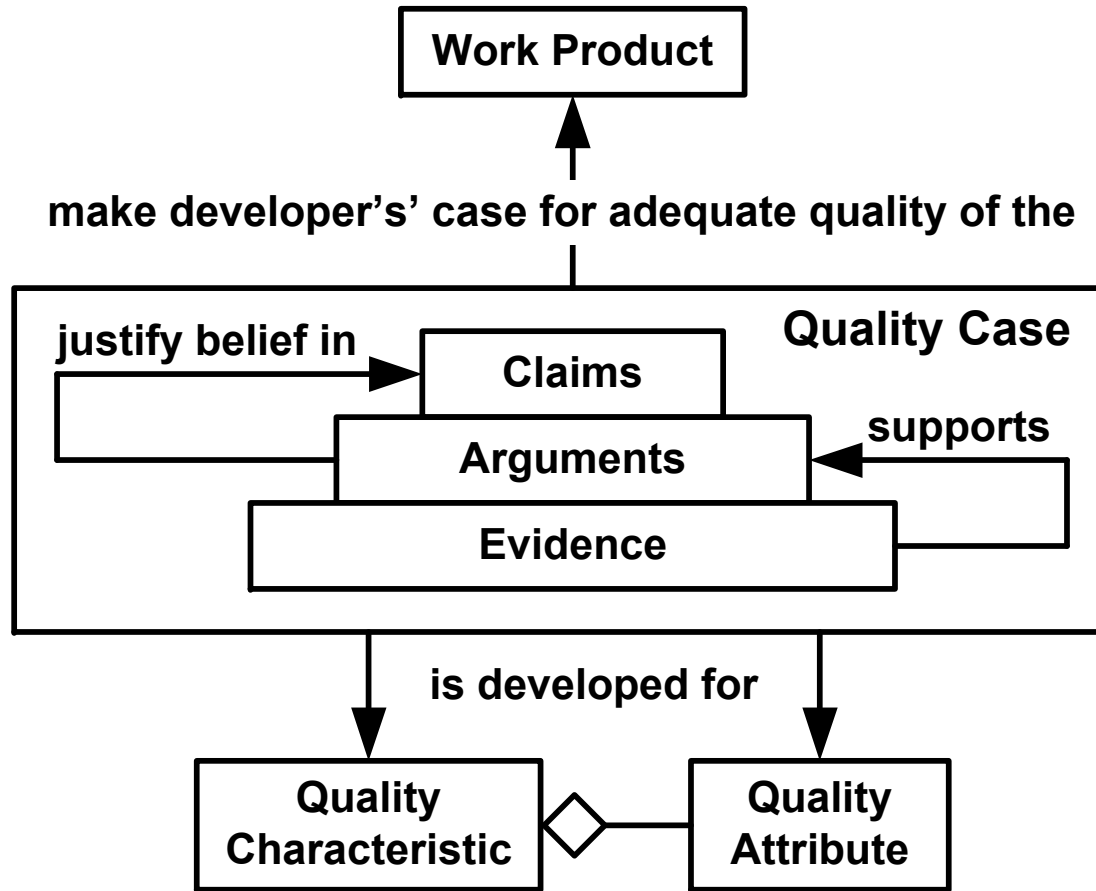
an architectural representation consisting of the cohesive set of all architectural decisions, decisions, and tradeoffs related to a specific architectural concern, regardless of the architectural view, model, or structure where they are documented or found



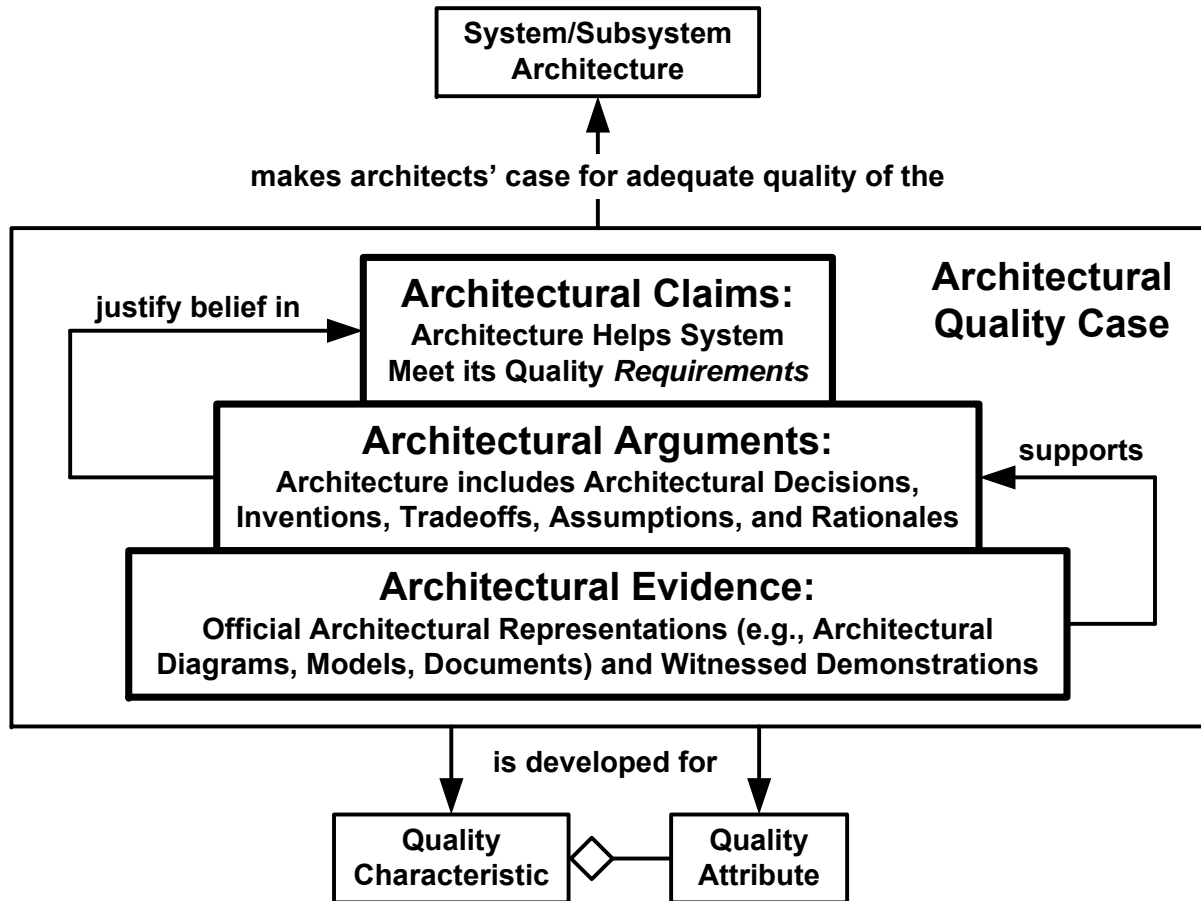
Architectural Views



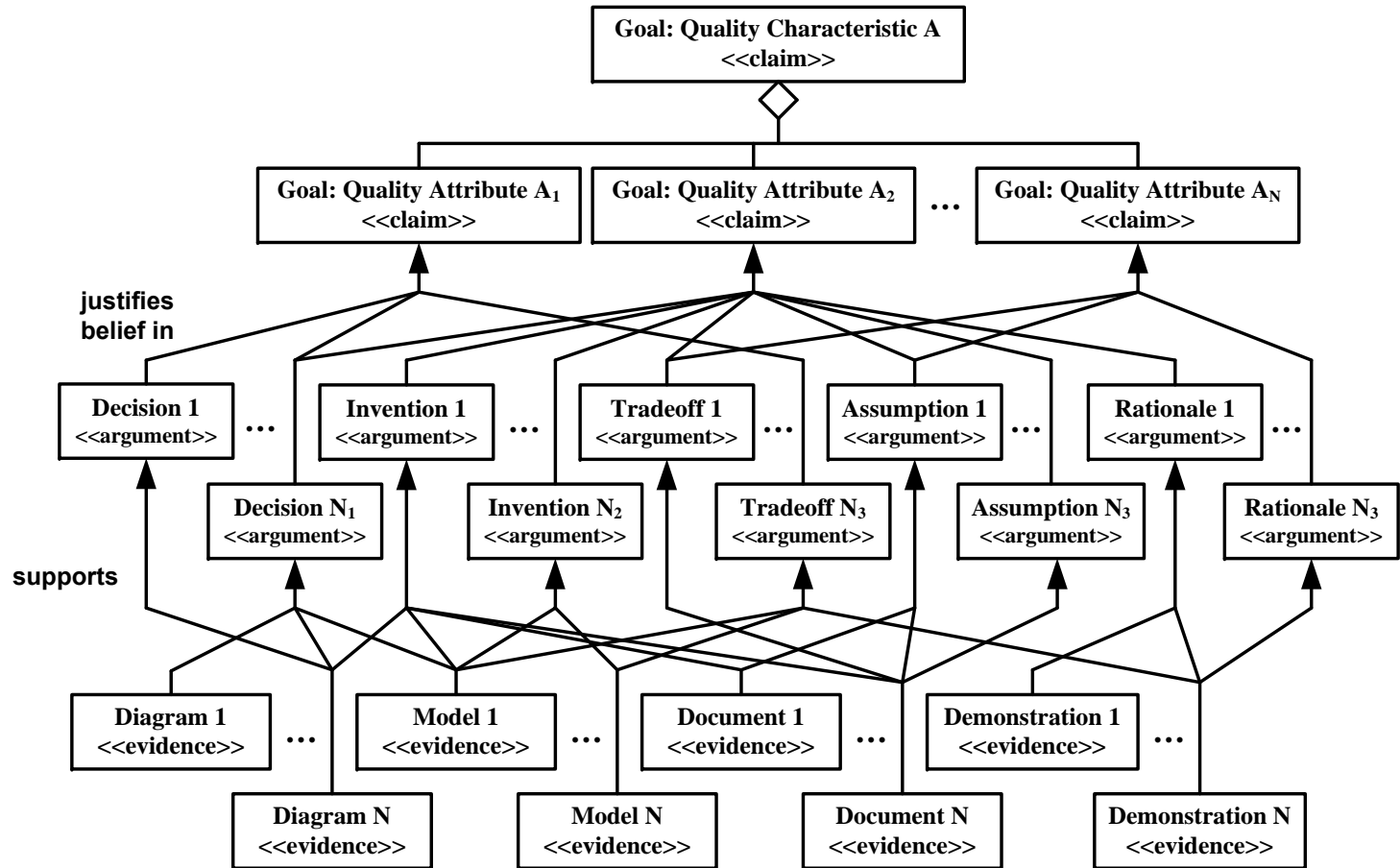
Quality Cases



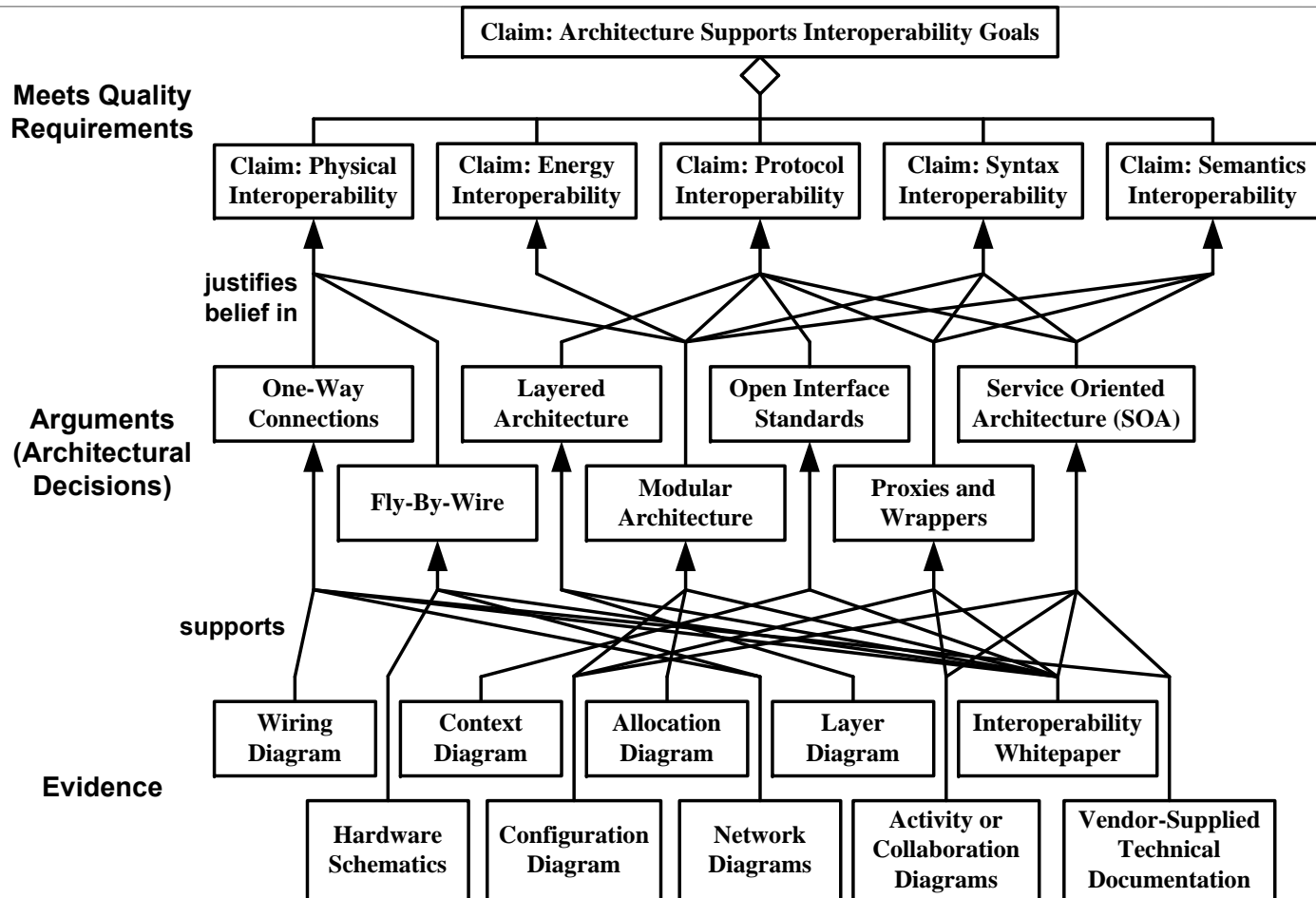
Architectural Quality Cases



Architectural Quality Case Diagram



Example Architectural Quality Case Diagram



Architecture Visions and Vision Components - Definitions

Architectural Vision

one of the more important actual or potential architectural decisions, inventions, or tradeoffs addressing one or more architectural concerns

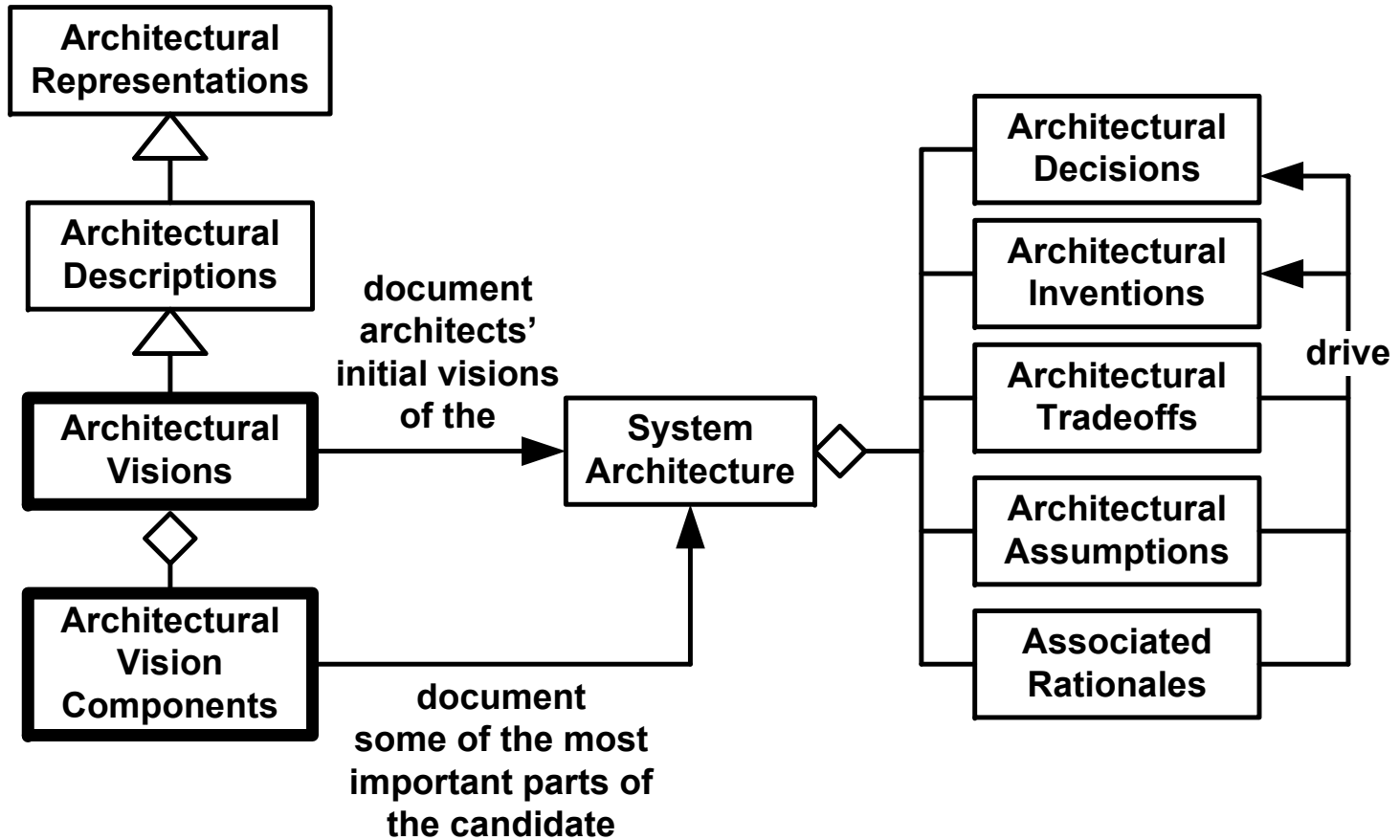
Architectural Vision Component

one of the more important actual or potential architectural decisions, inventions, or tradeoffs addressing one or more architectural concerns

Note that multiple candidate architectural visions are often created before one is selected and completed to produce the actual architecture



Architecture Visions and Vision Components - Ontology



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MFESA Metamethod

Conclusion



MFESA Metamodel

A Metamodel is a Model of a Model.

MFESA Metamodel defines three Foundational Types of Reusable Method Components.

Based on OPEN Process Framework Metamodel.

Simplification of ISO 24744 (2007-02-15) *Information Technology – Software Engineering – Metamodel for Development Methodologies*

Not based on OMG Metamodel.



System Architecture Engineering – Methods and Processes

System Architecture Engineering Method

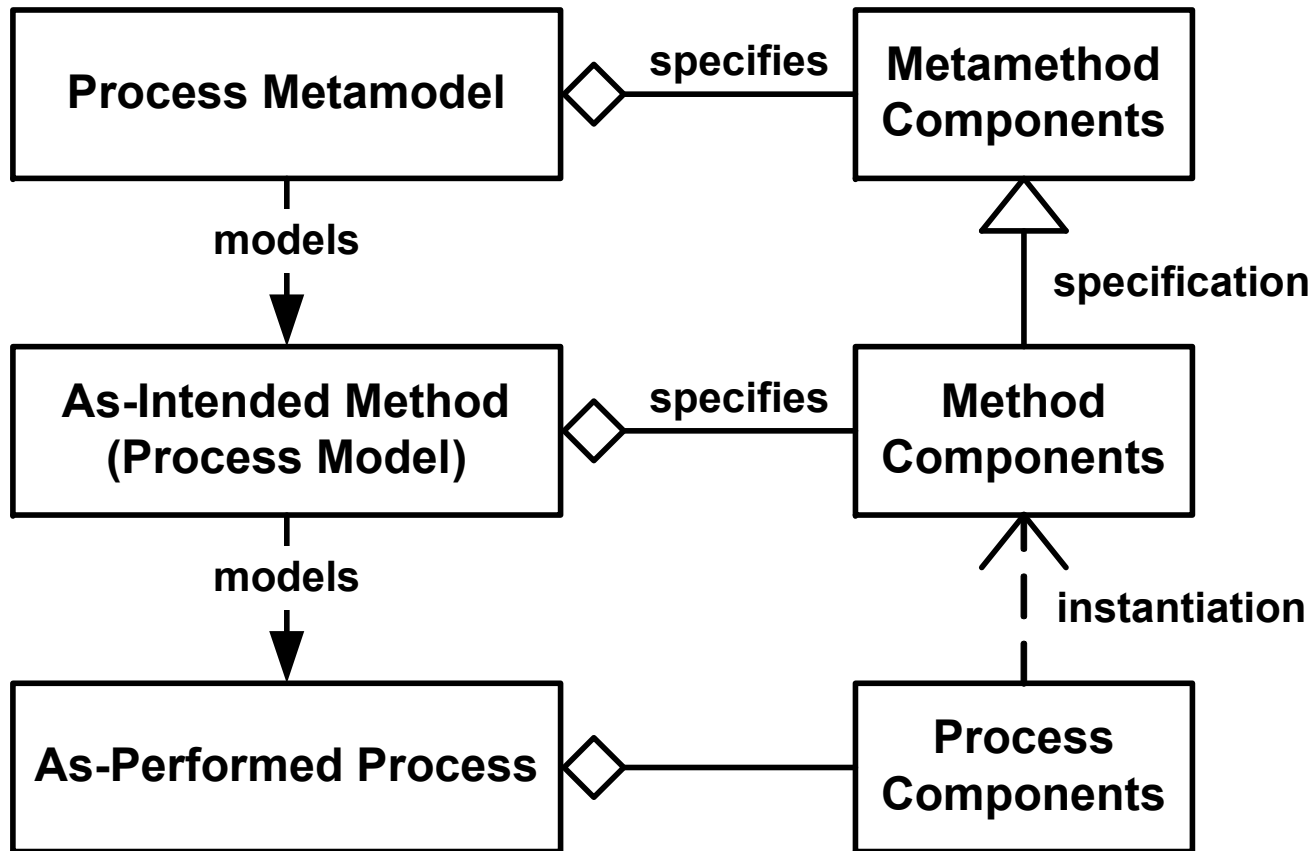
a systematic, documented, intended way that system architecture engineering *should* be performed

System Architecture Engineering Process

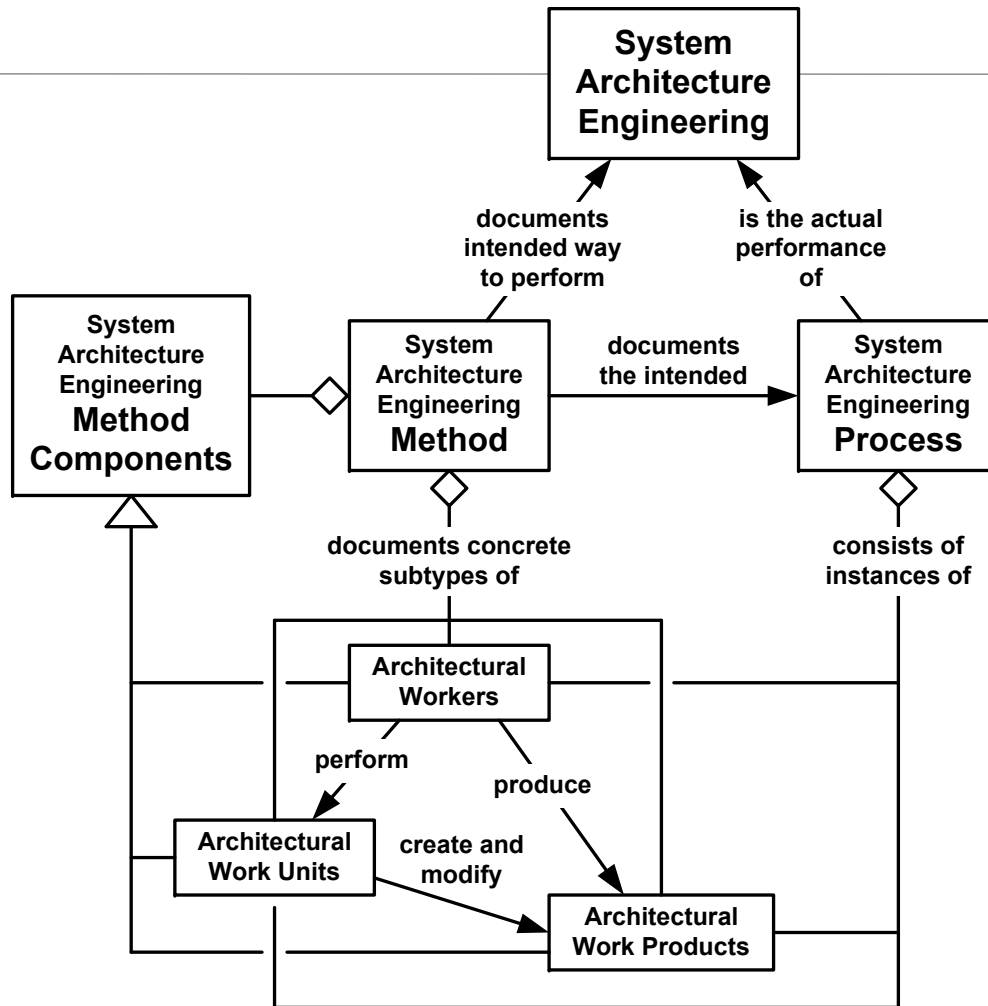
an *actual* way that system architecture engineering is performed in practice on an endeavor



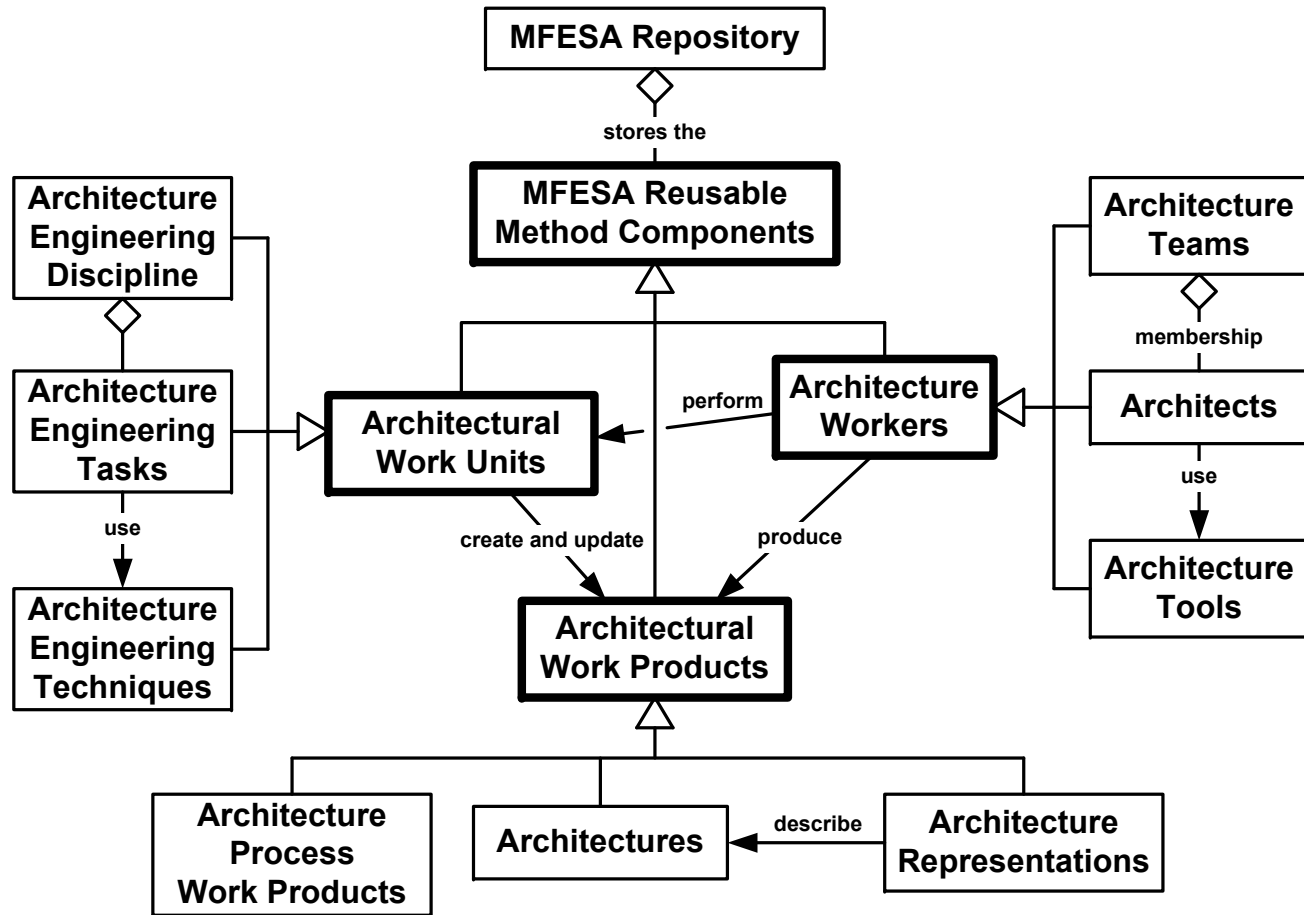
Method Engineering Models



Method vs. Process



MFESA Metamodel of Reusable Method Components



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MFESA Repository of Reusable Method Components ◀

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MFESA Metamethod

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MFESA Repository

Stores reusable system architecture engineering method components:

- Architecture Work Units
- Architecture Work Products
- Architecture Workers

Should provide easy access to method components:

- Identification and selection of relevant method components
- Tailoring of selected method components
- Configuration management of method components



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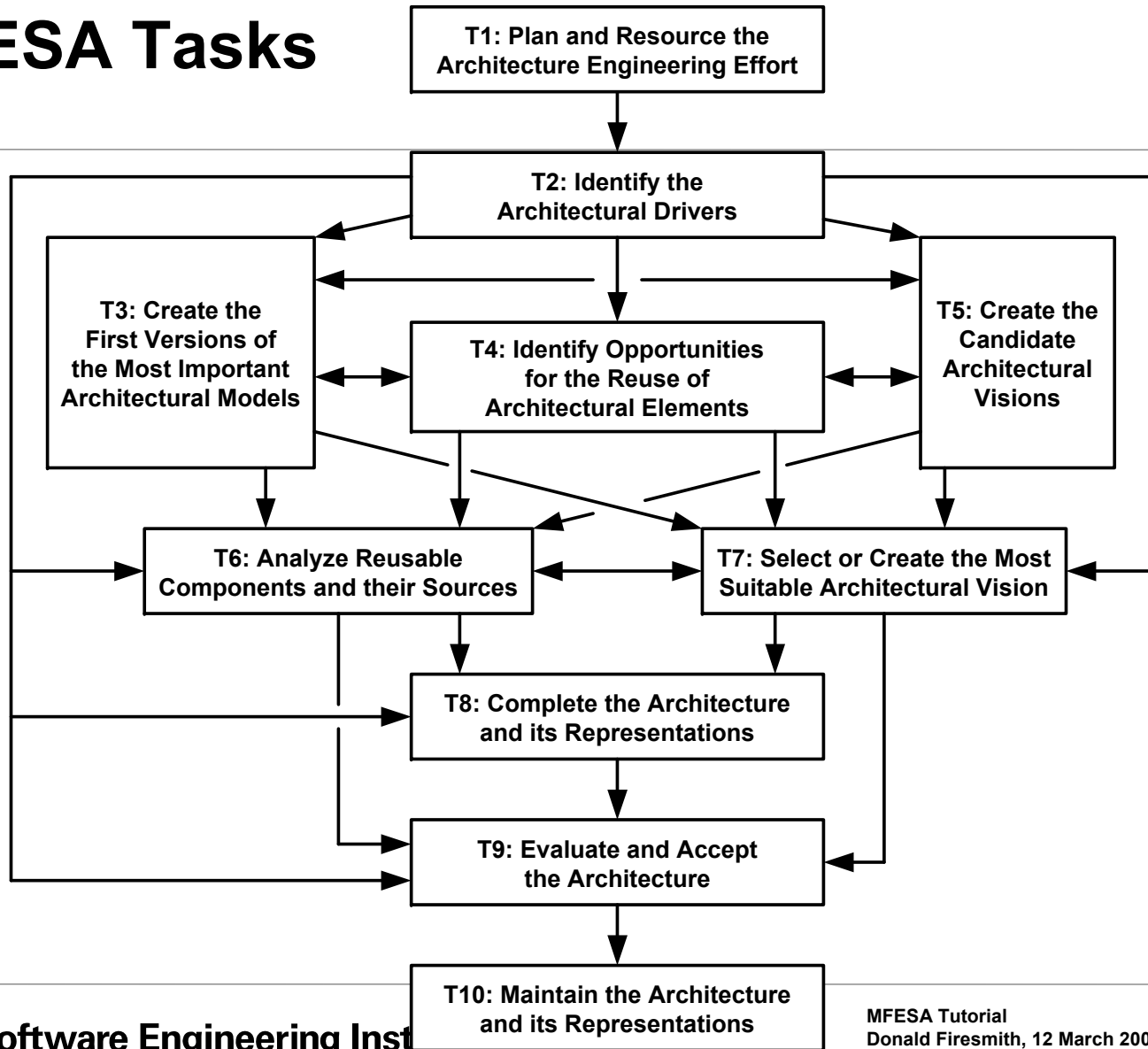
- **Architectural Work Units and Work Products** ◀
- Architectural Workers

MFESA Metamethod

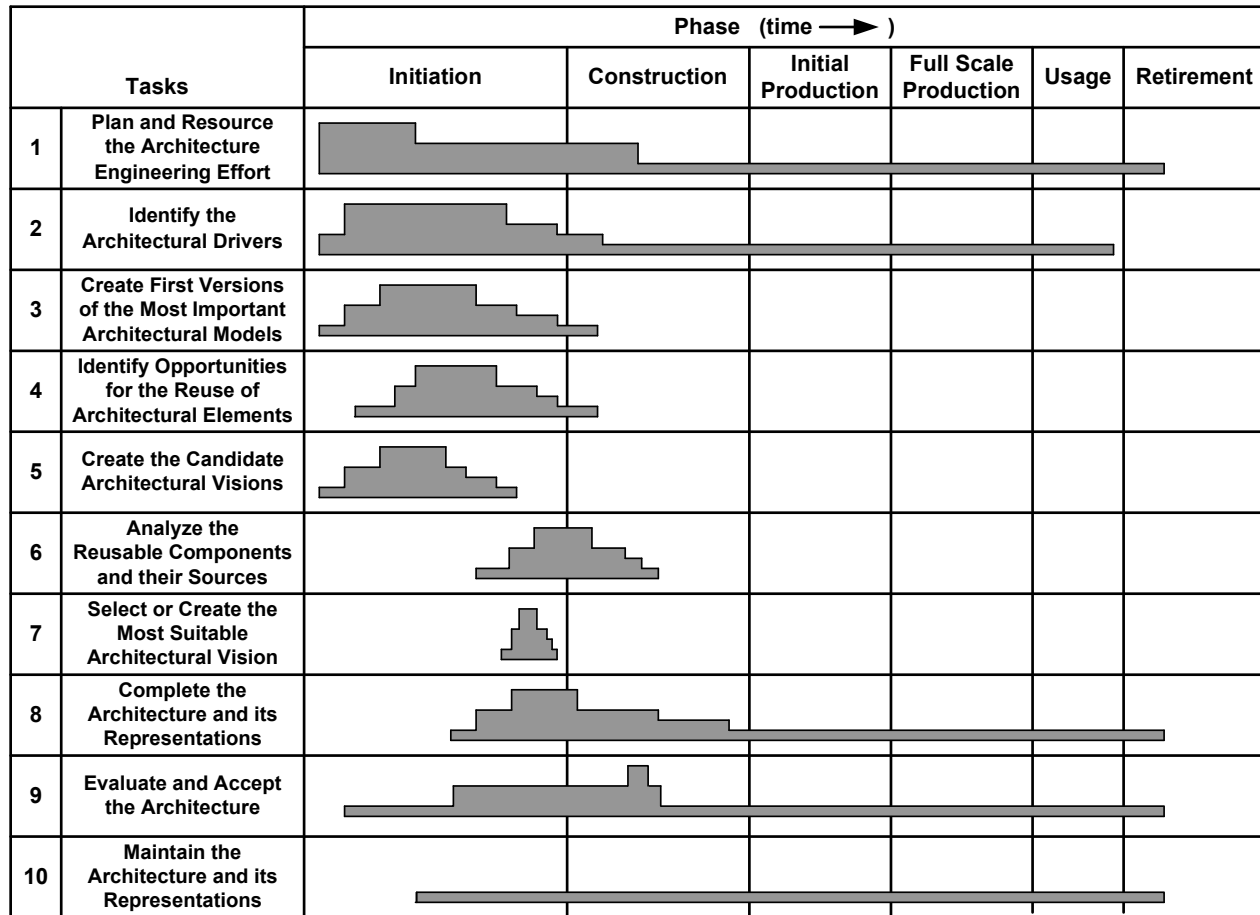
Conclusion



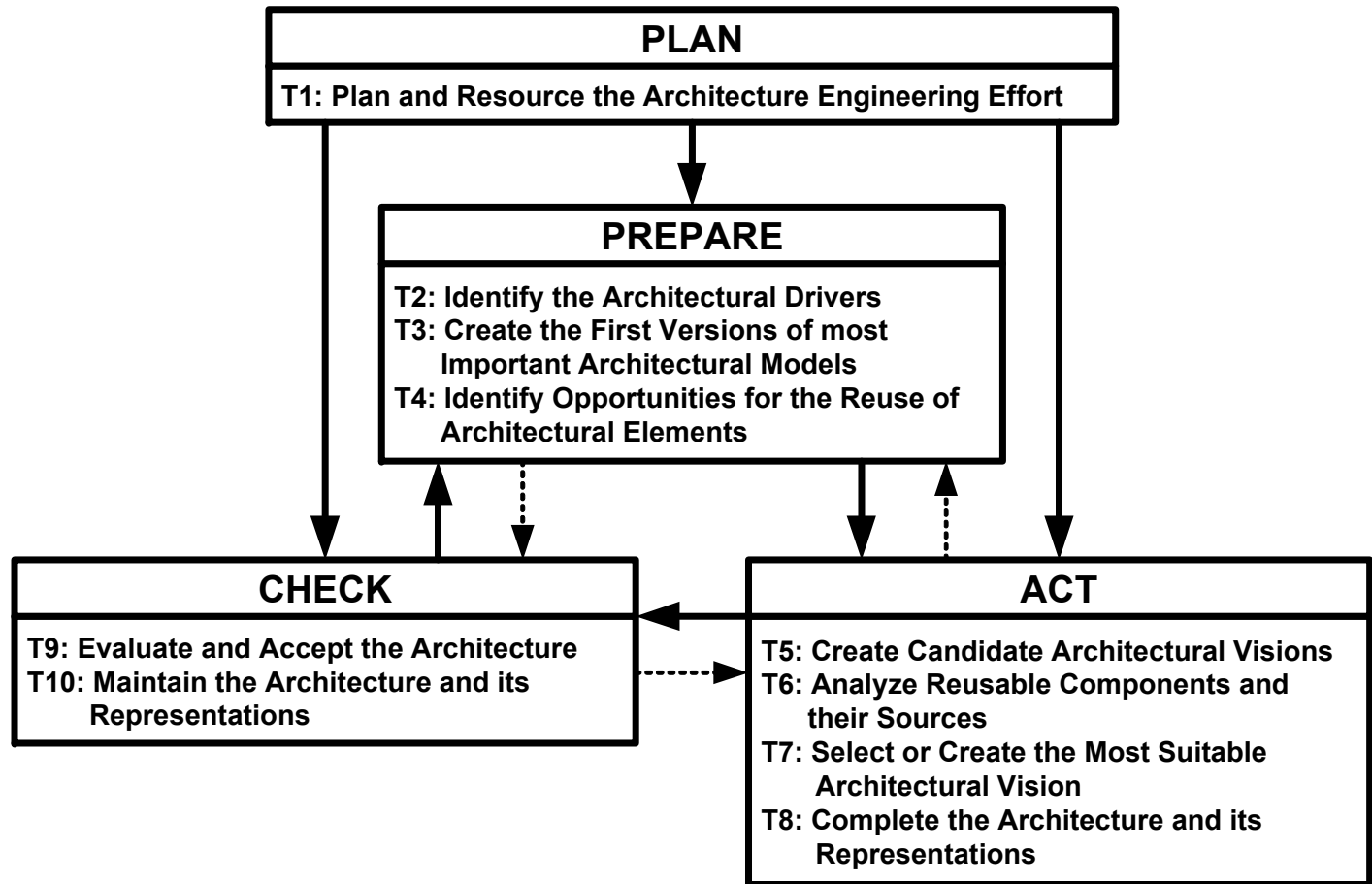
MFESA Tasks



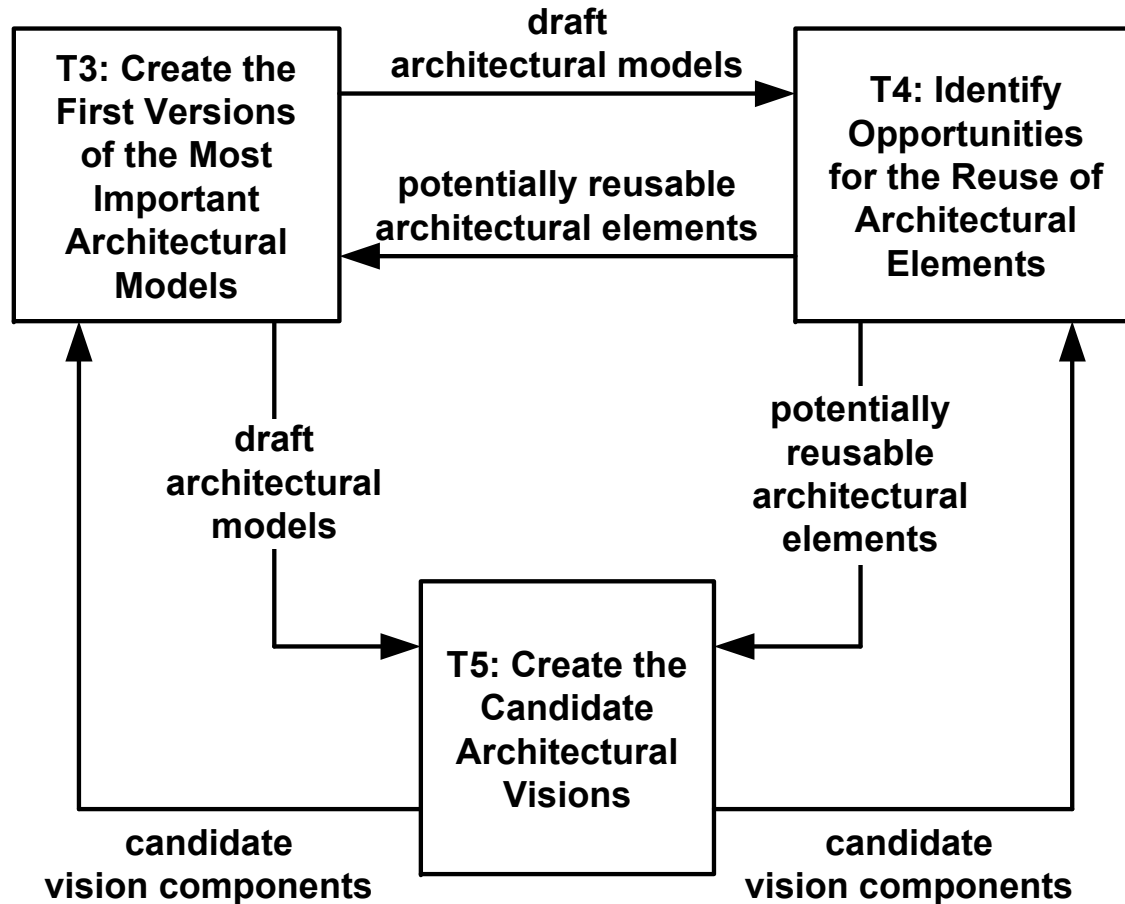
Effort by MFESA Task



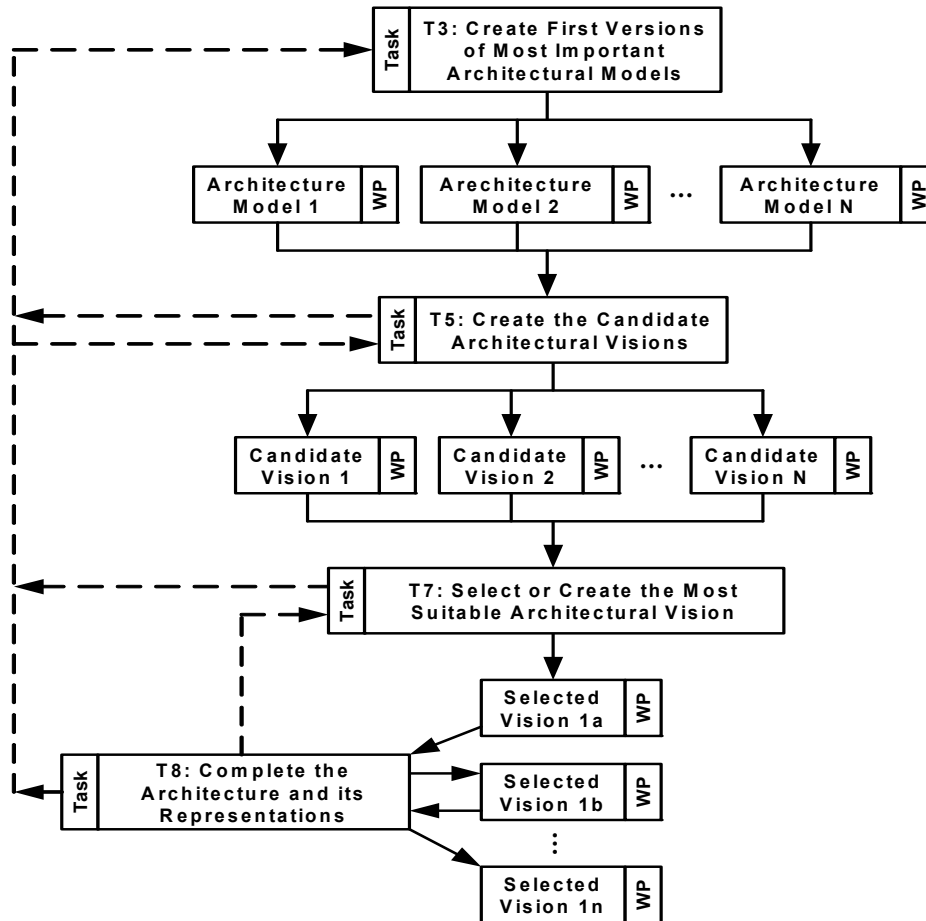
Plan, Prepare, Act, and Check



Concurrent MFESA Tasks



Architectural Visions - Flow



MFESA Task 1) Plan and Resource the Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort ◀

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 1) Plan and Resource the Architecture Engineering Effort

Goal:

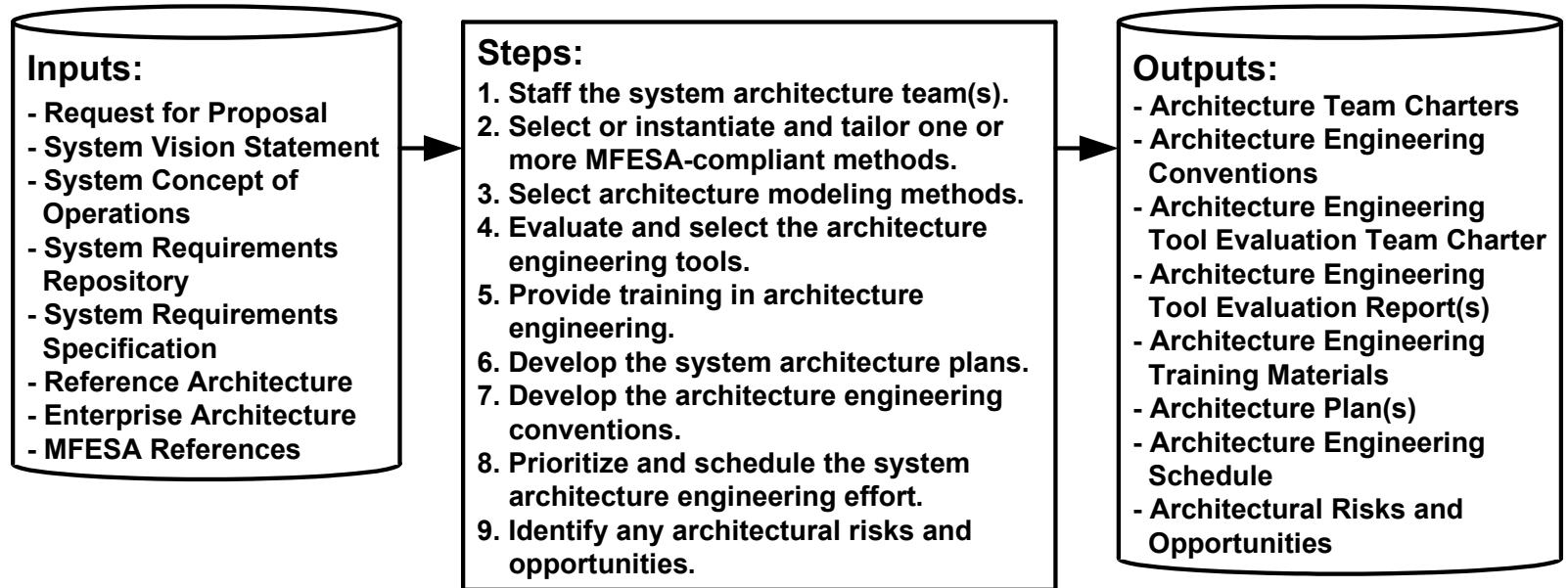
- Prepare the system engineering team to engineer the system architecture and its representations.

Objectives:

- Staff and train system architecture teams to engineer the system architecture.
- Develop and document the system architecture engineering method.
- Develop plans, standards, and procedures for engineering the system architecture.
- Prioritize and schedule the system architecture engineering effort.



MFESA Task 1) Plan and Resource the Architecture Engineering Effort



MFESA Task 1) Plan and Resource the Architecture Engineering Effort

Guidelines

- Properly staff the top-level architecture team(s).
- Properly plan the architecture engineering effort.
- Produce and maintain a proper and sufficient schedule.
- Reuse or create appropriate MFESA method(s).
- Select appropriate architecture modeling method(s).
- Select appropriate architecture engineering tools.
- Provide appropriate training.



MFESA Task 1) Plan and Resource the Architecture Engineering Effort

Pitfalls

- Architects produce incomplete architecture plans and conventions.
- Management provides inadequate resources.
- Management provides inadequate staff and stakeholder training.
- Architects lack authority.
- Architects instantiate the entire MFESA repository without tailoring.
- Tool vendors drive architecture engineering and modeling methods.
- Planning and resourcing are unsynchronized.
- Planning and resourcing are only done once up front.



MFESA Task 2)

Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers ◀

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MFESA Task 2)

Identify the Architectural Drivers

Goal:

- Identify the architecturally significant product and process requirements that drive the development of the system architecture.

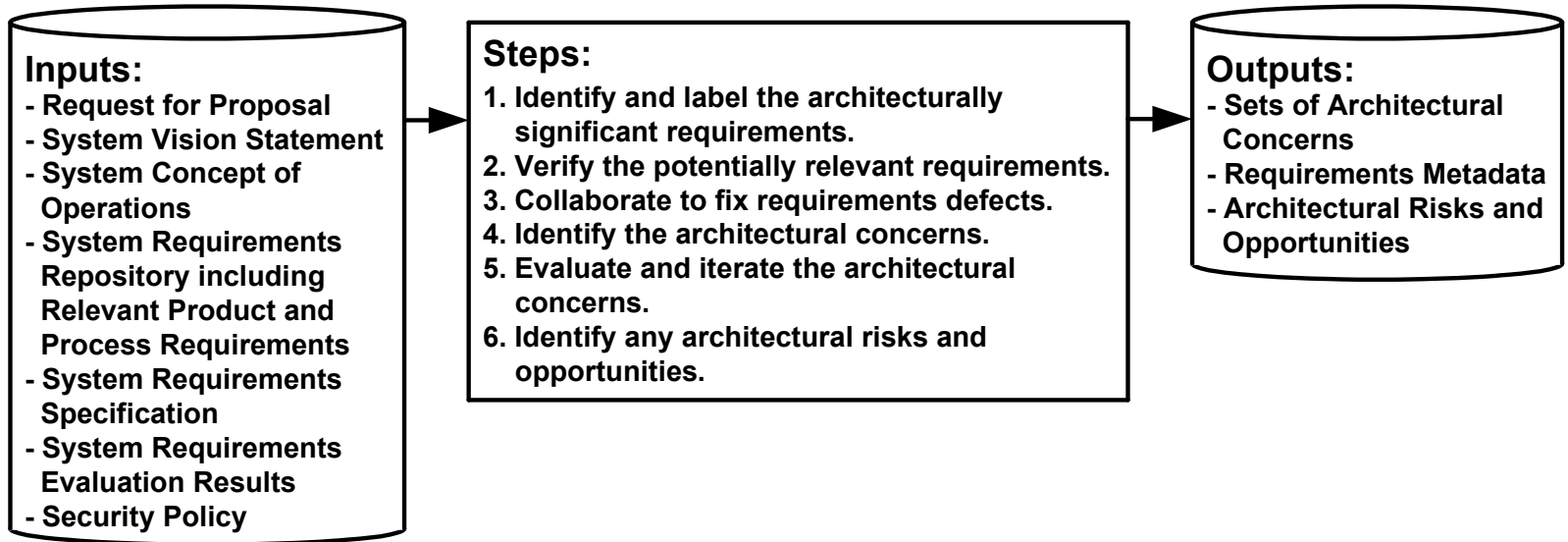
Objectives:

- Understand and verify the product and process requirements that have been allocated to the system or subsystem being architected.
- Categorize sets of related architecturally significant requirements into cohesive architectural concerns.
- Provide a set of architectural concerns to drive the:
 - Identification of potential opportunities for architectural reuse.
 - Analysis of potentially reusable components and their sources.
 - Creation of an initial set of draft architectural models.
 - Creation of a set of competing candidate architectural visions.
 - Selection of a single architectural vision judged most suitable.
 - Completion and maintenance of the resulting system architecture.
 - Evaluation and acceptance of the system architecture.



MFESA Task 2)

Identify the Architectural Drivers



MFESA Task 2)

Identify the Architectural Drivers

Guidelines

- Collaborate closely with the requirements team.
- Notify the requirements team(s) of relevant requirements defects.
- Consider the impact of the architecture on the requirements.
- Respect team boundaries and responsibilities.
- If necessary, clarify relevant requirements with the stakeholders.
- Concentrate on the architecturally significant requirements.
- Quality attributes can be architectural concerns too.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 2)

Identify the Architectural Drivers

Pitfalls

- All requirements are architecturally significant.
- Well-engineered architecturally significant requirements are lacking.
- Architects rely excessively on functional requirements.
- The architects ignore the architecturally significant functional and process requirements.
- Specialty engineering requirements are misplaced.
- Unnecessary constraints are imposed on the architecture.
- Architects engineer architecturally significant requirements.
- Requirements lack relevant metadata.
- Architects fail to clarify architectural drivers.



MFESA Task 3)

Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models ◀

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

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MFESA Task 3)

Create Initial Architectural Models

Goal:

- Create an initial set of partial draft architectural models of the system architecture.

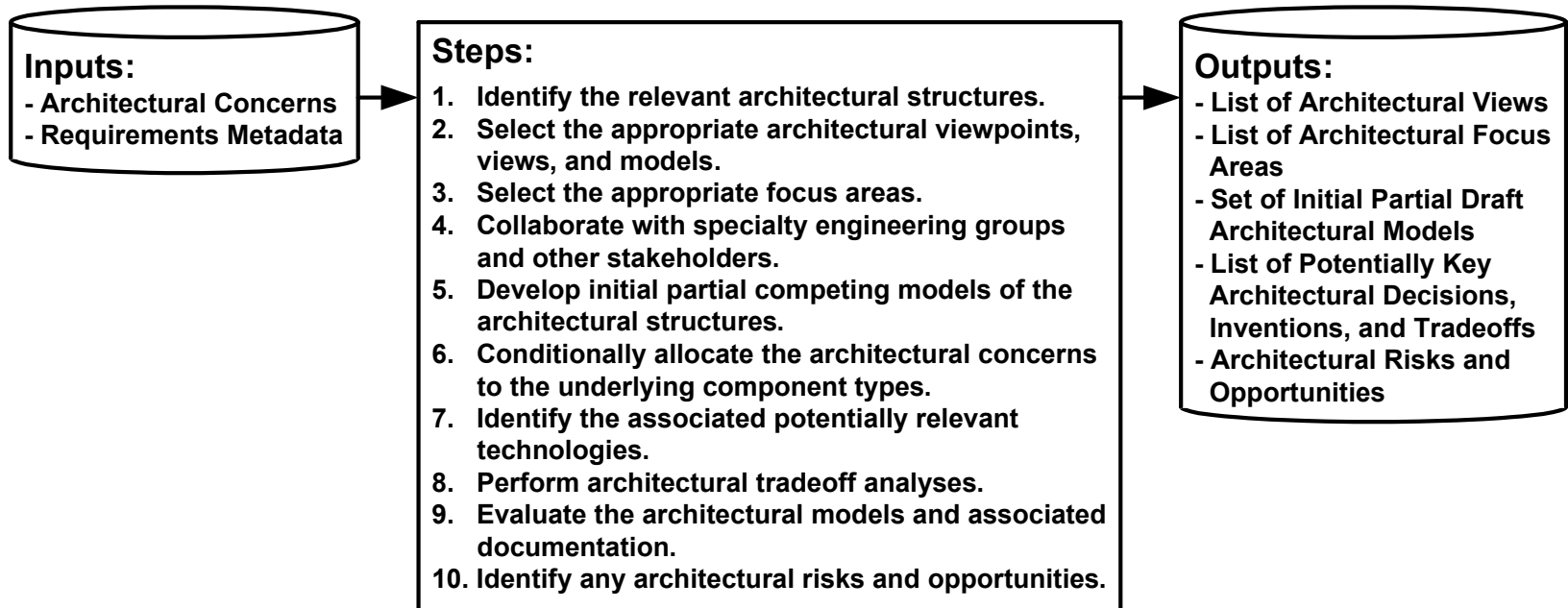
Objectives:

- Capture the most important candidate system architectural decisions.
- Provide the most important views and focus areas of the system architecture.
- Ensure that the candidate architectural decisions sufficiently support the relevant architectural concerns.
- Provide a foundation of architectural models from which to create a set of competing candidate architectural visions.



MFESA Task 3)

Create Initial Architectural Models



MFESA Task 3)

Create Initial Architectural Models

Guidelines

- Perform architectural trade-off analysis.
- Reuse architectural principles, heuristics, styles, patterns, vision components, and metaphors.
- Use iterative, incremental, and parallel development.
- Begin developing logical models before physical models and static models before dynamic models.
- Do not overemphasize the physical decomposition hierarchy.
- Use explicitly documented system partitioning criteria.
- Model concurrency.
- Consider the impact of hardware decisions on usability and software.
- Consider human limitations when allocating system functionality to manual procedures.
- Do not start from scratch.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 3)

Create Initial Architectural Models

Pitfalls

- The architects succumb to analysis paralysis.
- The architects engineer too few architectural models.
- The architects engineer inappropriate models and views.
- The architects construct views but no focus areas.
- Some stakeholders believe that the models are the architecture.
- Inconsistencies exist between models, views, and focus areas.
- The architects use inappropriate architectural patterns.
- System decomposition is performed by the acquisition organization.



MFESA Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements ◀

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Goal:

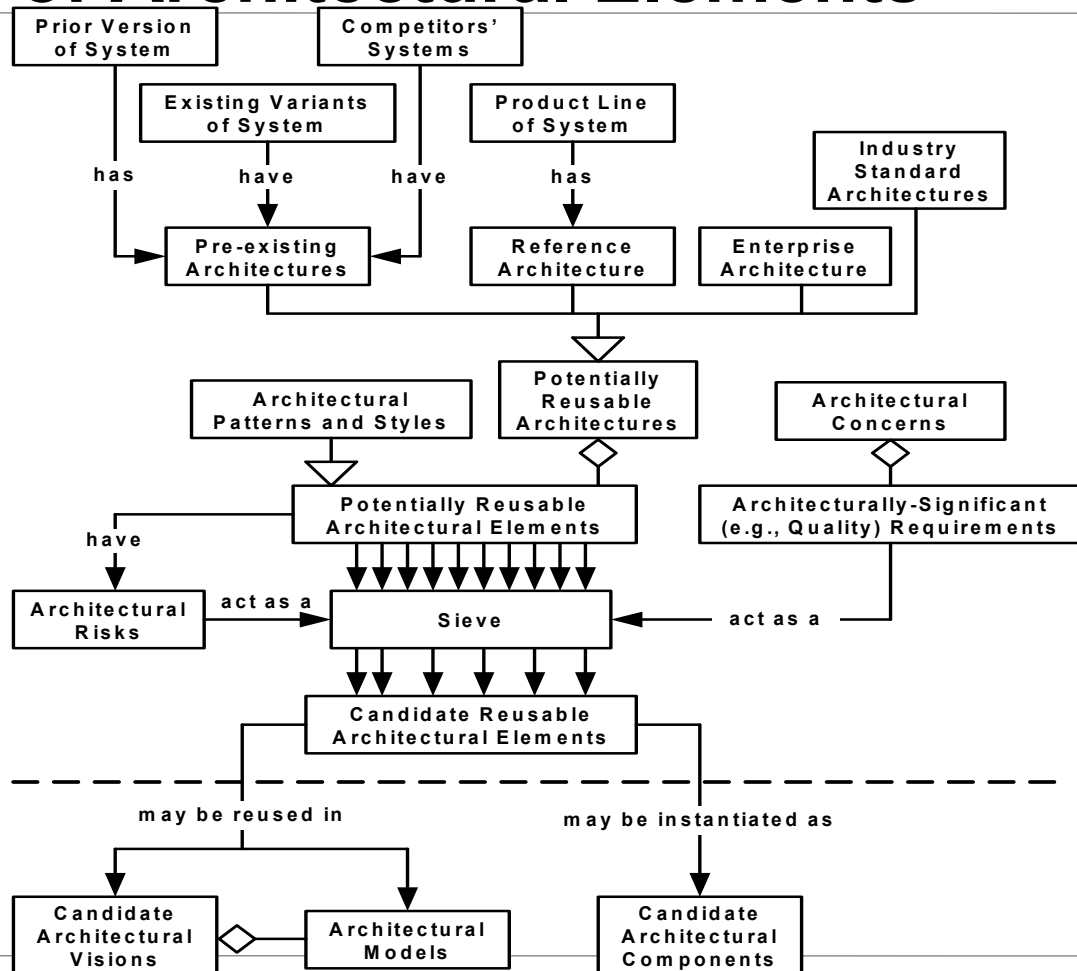
- Identify any opportunities to reuse existing architectural work products as part of the architecture of the target system or subsystem being developed. Any opportunities so identified become a collection of reusable architectural element candidates.

Objectives:

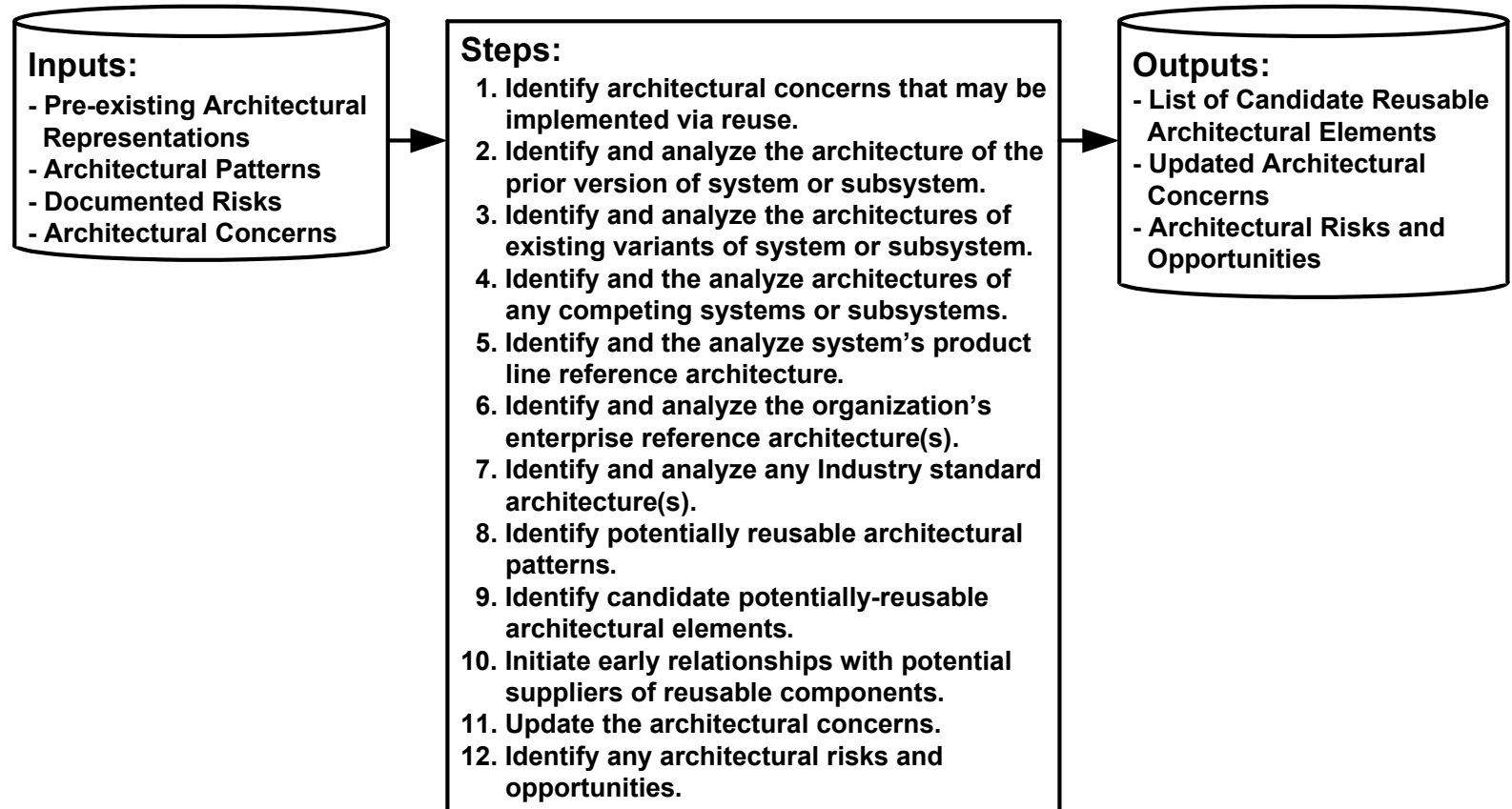
- Identify the architectural risks and opportunities for improving the architectures associated with the relevant legacy or existing system(s) should they be selected for reuse and incorporation within the target environment.
- Identify any additional architectural concerns due to the constraints associated with having legacy or existing architectures.
- Understand the relevant legacy or existing architectures sufficiently well to identify potentially reusable architectural elements.
- Provide a set of reusable architectural element candidates to influence (and possibly include in) a set of initial draft architectural models.



MFESA Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements



MFESA Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements



MFESA Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Guidelines

- Do not start from scratch.
- Do not be excessively constrained by the past.
- Conform to the enterprise architecture.
- Conform to the product line reference architecture.
- Consider system architecture patterns.
- Support modeling.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Pitfalls

- The architects start from scratch.
- The architects ignore past lessons learned.
- The architects over rely on previous architectures.
- The architects select specific OTS components too early.
- The architects assume reuse of architectural components that are not ready.
- The architects assume the reuse of immature technologies.
- Inadequate information exists to determine reusability.



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions ◀

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Goal:

- Create multiple candidate architectural visions of the system architecture.

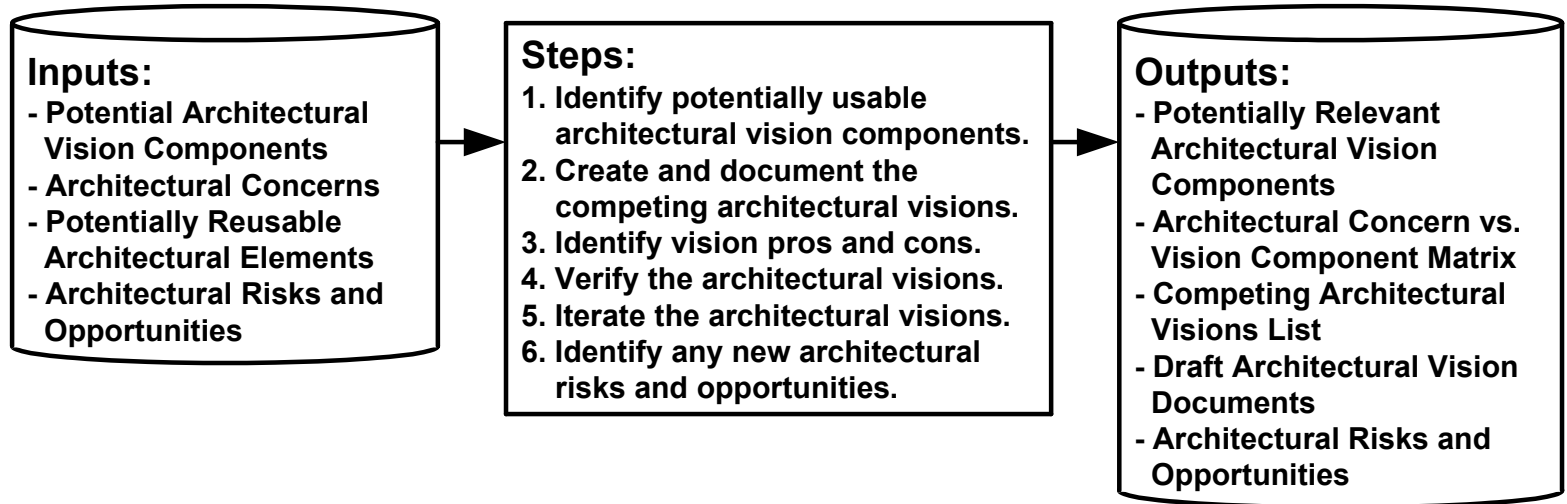
Objectives:

- Verify that the candidate subsystem architectural visions sufficiently support the relevant architecture concerns.
- Provide a sufficiently large and appropriate set of competing candidate architectural visions from which a single vision may be selected as most suitable.



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Architectural Vision Component vs. Architectural Vision Matrix		Candidate Architectural Visions			
		Architectur al Vision 1	Architectur al Vision 2	Architectur al Vision 3	Architectur al Vision 4
Candidate Architectural Vision Components	Component 1	X	X	X	X
	Component 2	X		X	X
	Component 3	X	X		
	Component 4	X	X	X	
	Component 5	X		X	X
	Component 6	X	X	X	
	Component 7	X		X	X
	Component 8	X	X	X	X
	Component 9		X		X
	Component 10		X	X	X
	Component 11			X	
	Component 12			X	X
	Component 13			X	X



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Example Architectural Concern vs. Vision Component Matrix

Architectural Concern vs. Vision Component Matrix		Architectural Vision Components												
		User Identifier and Pass Phrase	COTS Security Smart Card	COTS Biometrics Reader	Locked Rooms with Keyed Access	Guards with Security Cameras	Dedicated Encryption Decryption HW Server	COTS Encryption Decryption Software	Encrypted Messages	Encrypted Database Records	COTS Intrusion Detection Software	COTS Antivirus Software	Digital Signature	Single Sign-On
Architectural Concerns	Access Control	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
	Confidentiality	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0
	Integrity (Message)	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	0
	Integrity (Software)	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0
	Integrity (Data)	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	+	0
	Nonrepudiation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	++	0
	Availability	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	+	0	0
	Cost	++	-	--	0	0	--	--	--	0	-	+	-	-
	Performance	-	-	0	0	0	+	-	-	--	-	-	-	+
	Usability	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	++



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Guidelines

- Identify an appropriate number of candidate architectural visions.
- Complete candidate architectural visions to appropriate level of detail.
- Prepare architectural components for OTS incorporation.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 5)

Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Pitfalls

- The architects engineer only one architectural vision.
- Management provides insufficient resources.
- Management confuses the architectural vision with the completed architecture.
- Management does not permit architects to make mistakes.
- The architects compare the architectural visions prematurely.
- The architects do not compare the pros and cons of the candidate visions.



MFESA Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources ◀

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Goal:

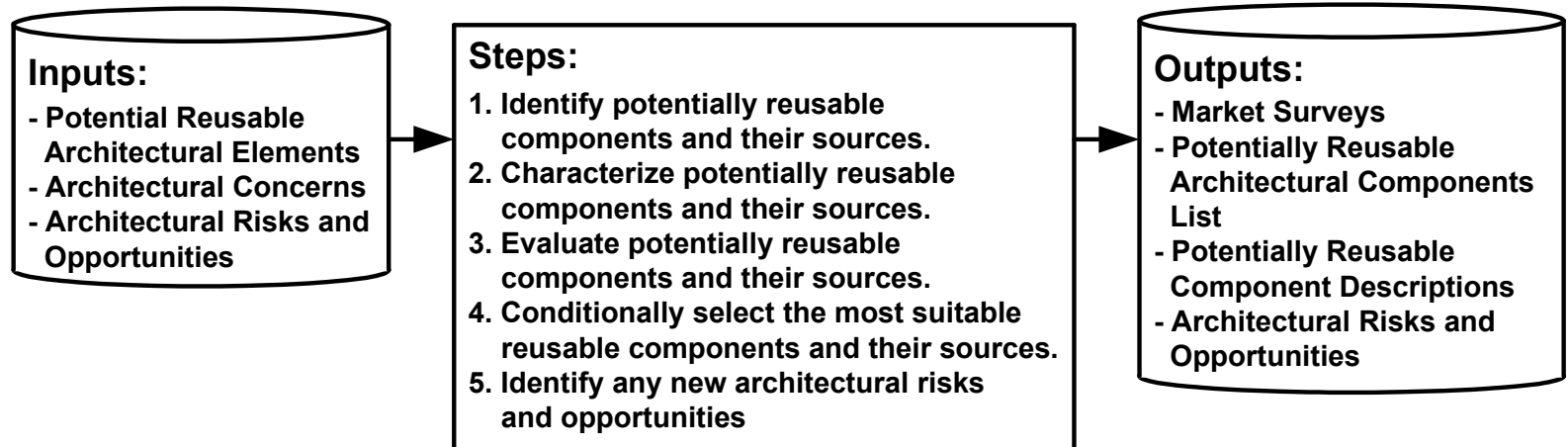
- Determine if any existing components are potentially reusable as part of the architecture of the current system or subsystem.

Objectives:

- Identify any existing components that are potentially reusable as part of the architecture of the current system or subsystem.
- Evaluate these components for suitability.
- Evaluate the sources of these components for suitability.
- Provide a set of potentially reusable components to influence (and possibly include in) a set of initial draft architectural models.



MFESA Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources



MFESA Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Guidelines

- Use appropriate decision techniques.
- Perform task concurrently.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Pitfalls

- Authoritative stakeholders assume reuse will improve cost and schedule.
- Insufficient information exists for evaluation and reuse.
- Stakeholders have an unrealistic expectation of “exact fit.”
- Developers have little or no control over future changes.
- The source organization (e.g., vendor) fails to adequately maintain a reusable architectural component.
- Legal rights are unacceptable.
- Incompatibilities exist with underlying technologies.



MFESA Task 7) Select or Create the Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision ◀

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 7) Select or Create the Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Goal:

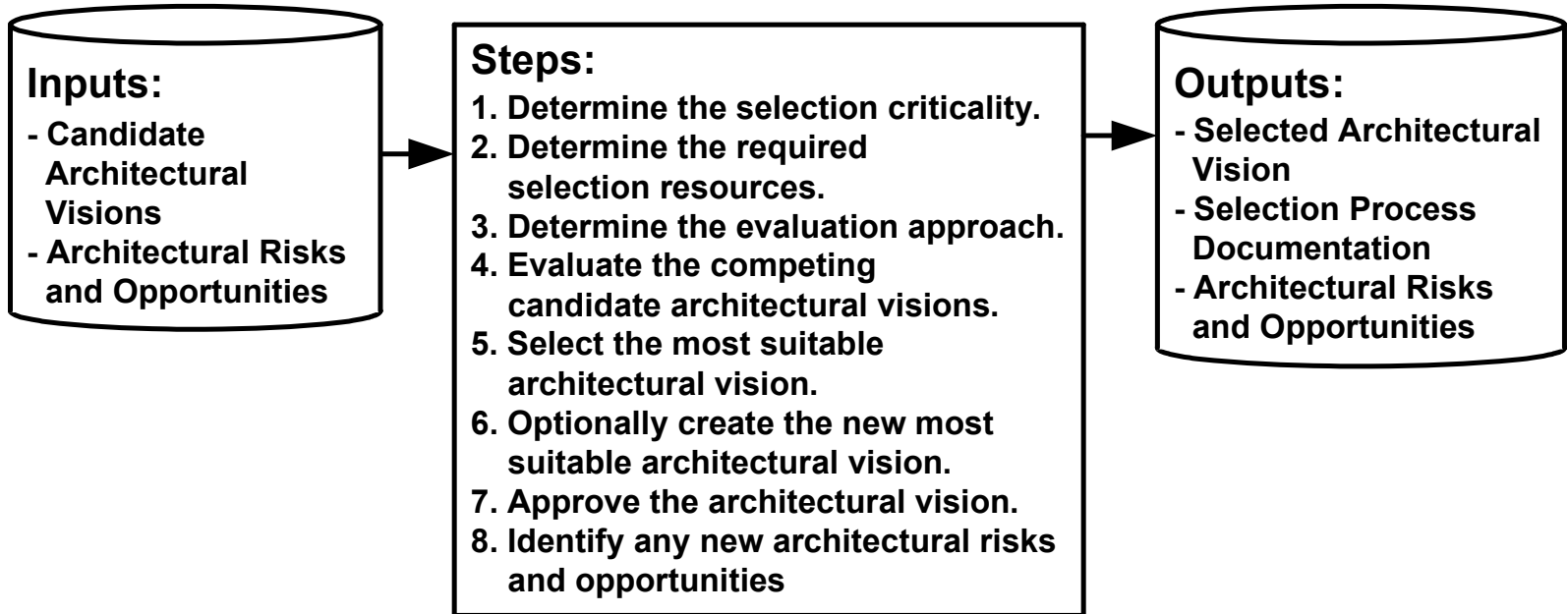
- Obtain a single architectural vision for the system or subsystem architecture from the competing candidate visions.

Objectives:

- Ensure that the selected architectural vision has been properly judged to be most suitable for the system or subsystem architecture.
- Provide a proper foundation on which to complete the engineering of the system or subsystem architecture.



MFESA Task 7) Select or Create the Most Suitable Architectural Vision



MFESA Task 7) Select or Create the Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Architectural Concern vs. Architectural Visions Matrix		Candidate Competing Architectural Visions			
		Architectural Vision 1	Architectural Vision 2	Architectural Vision 3	Architectural Vision 4
Architectural Concerns	Availability	+	+	++	+
	Development Cost	0	++	--	0
	Development Schedule	+	++	--	-
	Interoperability	+	-	+	+
	Performance	+	--	+	++
	Portability	0	+	0	+
	Reliability	+	-	++	-
	Safety	-	-	++	0
	Security	-	++	-	0
	Usability	-	0	-	+



MFESA Task 7) Select or Create the Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Guidelines

- Ensure a commensurate approach.
- Ensure a consistent evaluation approach.
- Ensure complete evaluation criteria.
- Avoid unwarranted assumptions.
- Use common sense when using decision methods to select the most suitable candidate architectural vision.
- Take reuse into account.
- Test reusable architectural component suitability.
- Maintain the architectural vision.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 7) Select or Create the Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Pitfalls

- Architects use an inappropriate decision method.
- Management provides inadequate decision resources.
- Selecting the most suitable architectural vision is treated as just a technical decision.
- Stakeholders do not understand risks.
- The decision makers are weak.



MFESA Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations ◀

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Goal:

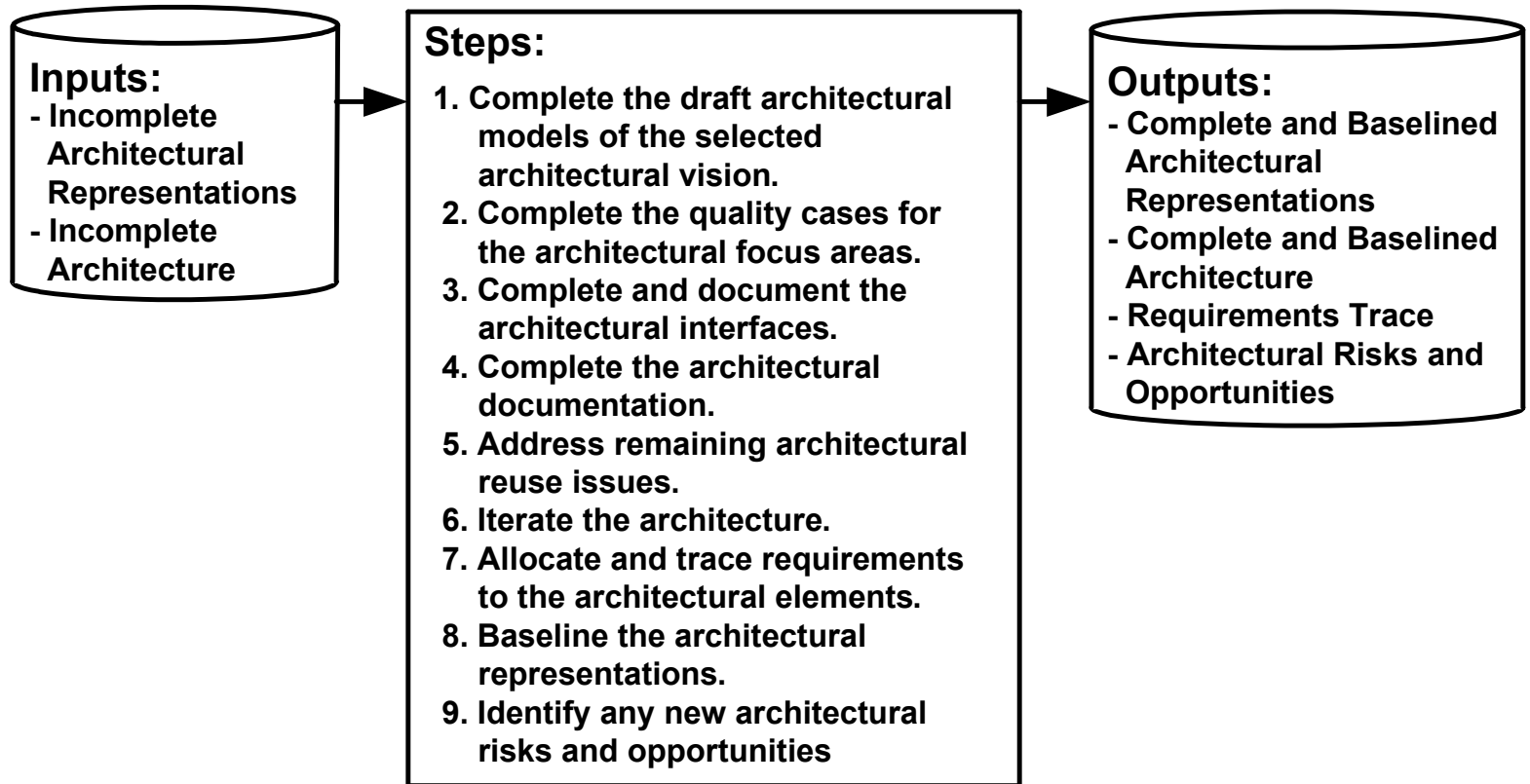
- Complete system or subsystem architecture based on the selected or created architectural vision.

Objectives:

- Complete the architectural models.
- Complete the interface aspects of the architectural.
- Complete the reuse aspects of the architecture.
- Complete the architectural representations.
- Provide a system or subsystem architecture that can be evaluated and accepted by its authoritative stakeholders .



MFESA Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Guidelines

- Develop quality cases as a natural part of the architecture engineering process.
- Architect all relevant types of interfaces.
- Work with the requirements team to provide requirements traceability.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Pitfalls

- Architecture engineering is done.
- Management provides inadequate resources.
- The architectural representations lack configuration control.
- The architecture is not maintained.
- A “beautiful” architecture is frozen solid.
- There is inadequate tool support for architecture maintenance.



MFESA Task 9)

Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture ◀

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 9)

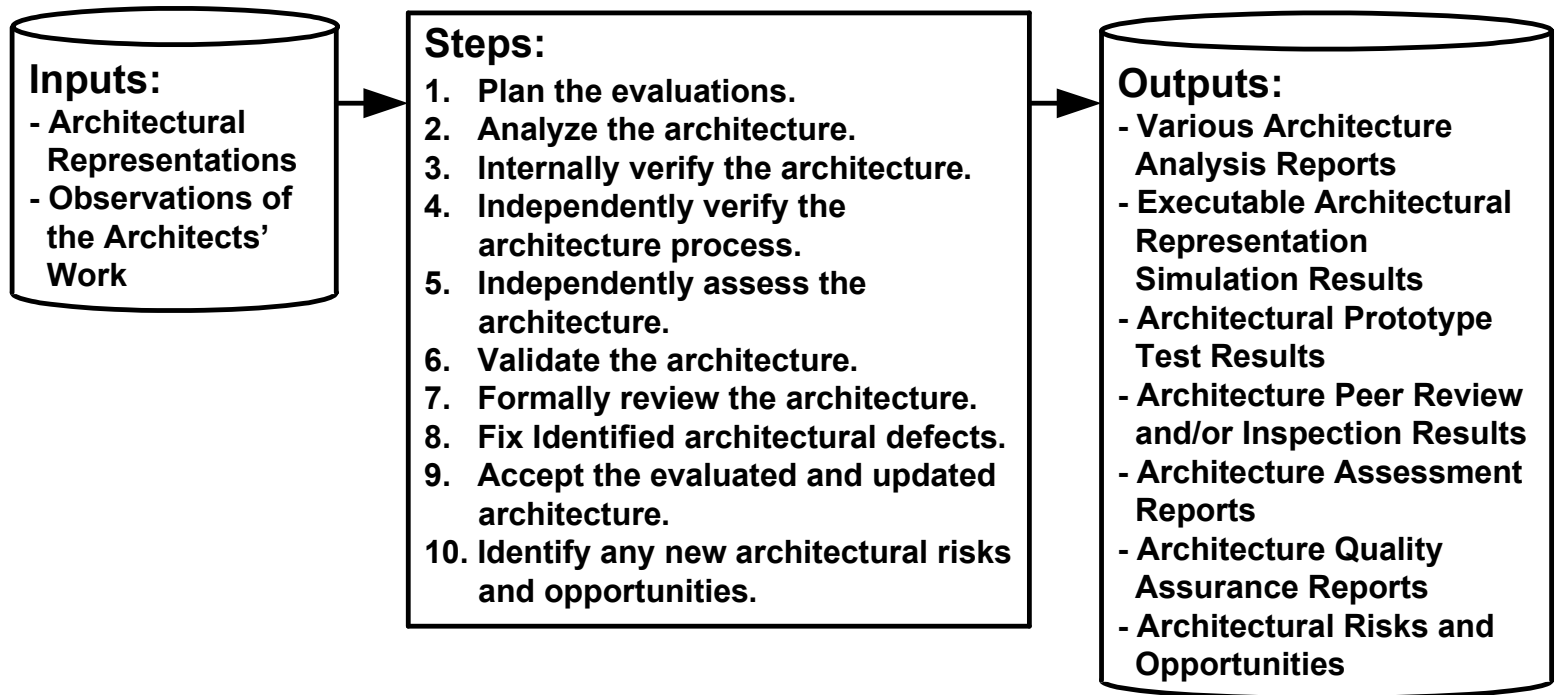
Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Goals:

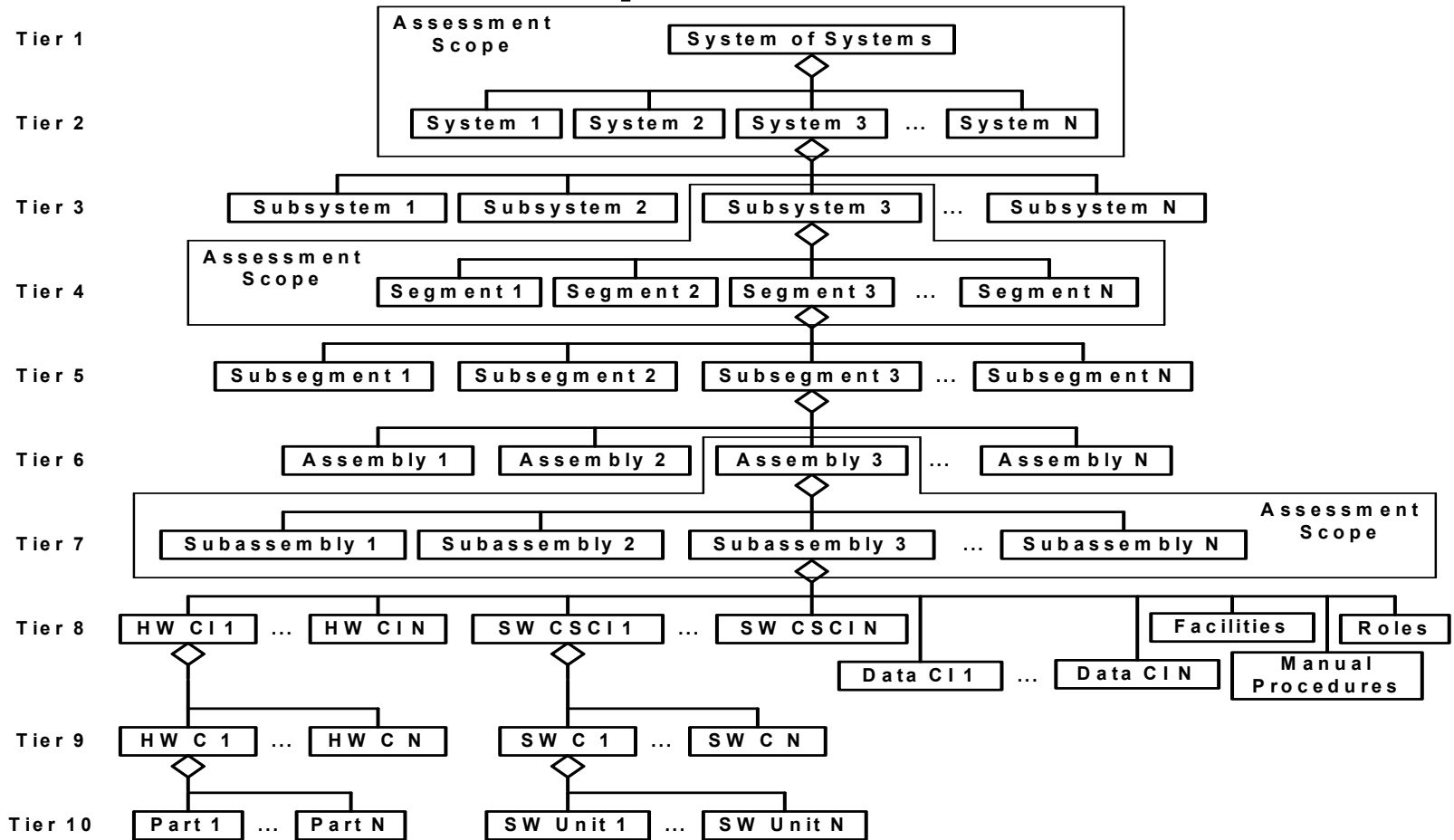
- Monitor and determine the quality of the system or subsystem architecture and associated representations.
- Monitor and determine the quality of the process used to engineer the system or subsystem architecture.
- Provide information that can be used to determine the passage or failure of architectural milestones.
- Enable architectural defects, weaknesses, and risks to be fixed and managed before they negatively impact system quality and the success of the system development/enhancement project.
- Accept the system or subsystem architecture based on the results of the evaluations.



MFESA Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture



MFESA Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture



MFESA Task 9)

Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Guidelines

- Use evaluations to support architectural milestones.
- Evaluate continuously.
- Internally evaluate models.
- Perform architecture analysis substeps.
- Collaborate with the stakeholders.
- Tailor software evaluation methods.
- Perform independent architecture assessments.
- Formally review the architecture.
- Verify architectural consistency.
- Perform cross-component consistency checking.
- Perform *both* static and dynamic checking.
- Set the evaluation scope based on risk and available resources.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 9)

Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Pitfalls

- Disagreement exists over the need to perform evaluations.
- Consensus does not exist on the evaluation's scope.
- It is difficult to schedule the evaluations.
- Management provides insufficient evaluation resources.
- There are too few evaluations.
- There are too many evaluations.
- How good is good enough?
- Evaluations are not sufficiently independent.
- The evaluators are inadequate.
- Evaluations only verify the easy concerns.
- The quality cases are poor.
- Stakeholders disagree on the evaluation results.
- The evaluations lack proper acceptance criteria.
- The evaluation results are ignored during acceptance.
- The acceptance package is incomplete.



MFESA Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations

Task 1) Plan and Resource Architecture Engineering Effort

Task 2) Identify the Architectural Drivers

Task 3) Create Initial Architectural Models

Task 4) Identify Opportunities for Reuse of Architectural Elements

Task 5) Create Candidate Architectural Visions

Task 6) Analyze Reusable Components and their Sources

Task 7) Select or Create Most Suitable Architectural Vision

Task 8) Complete the Architecture and its Representations

Task 9) Evaluate and Accept the Architecture

Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations ◀



MFESA Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations

Goal:

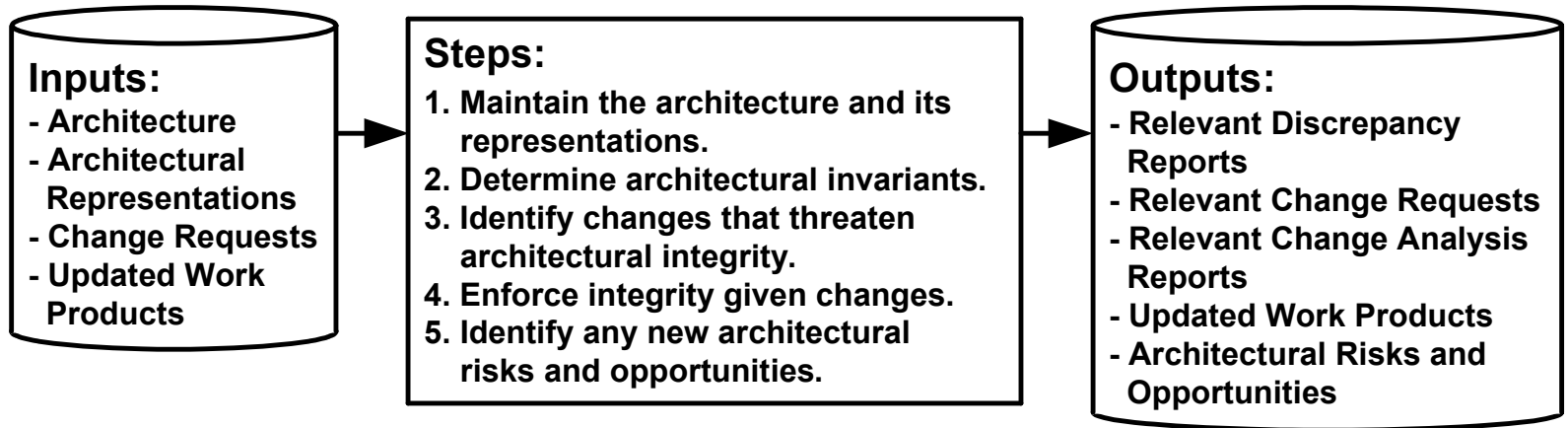
- Maintain the system or subsystem architecture as the architecturally significant requirements change.
- Ensure the continued integrity and quality of the system architecture as the system evolves.

Objectives:

- Eliminate inconsistencies within the system architecture and its representations.
- Eliminate inconsistencies between the system architecture and its representations and:
 - Architecturally Significant Requirements
 - Enterprise Architecture(s)
 - Reference Architecture(s)
 - The Design of architectural components
 - The Implementation of architectural components
- The system architecture and its representations do not degrade over time.



MFESA Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations



MFESA Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations

Guidelines

- Maintain the architectural representations to maintain architectural integrity
- Consider entire scope of ensure architectural integrity task.
- Consider the sources of architectural change.
- Protect the architectural invariants.
- Determine the scope of architectural integrity.
- Train the architects and designers.
- Formally manage architectural risks.



MFESA Task 10) Maintain the Architecture and its Representations

Pitfalls

- The architectural representations become shelfware.
- Architecture engineering is done.
- The architecture is not under configuration management.



Topics

Motivation

MFESA Overview

MFESA Ontology of Concepts and Terminology

MFESA Metamodel of Reusable Method Components

MFESA Repository of Reusable Method Components

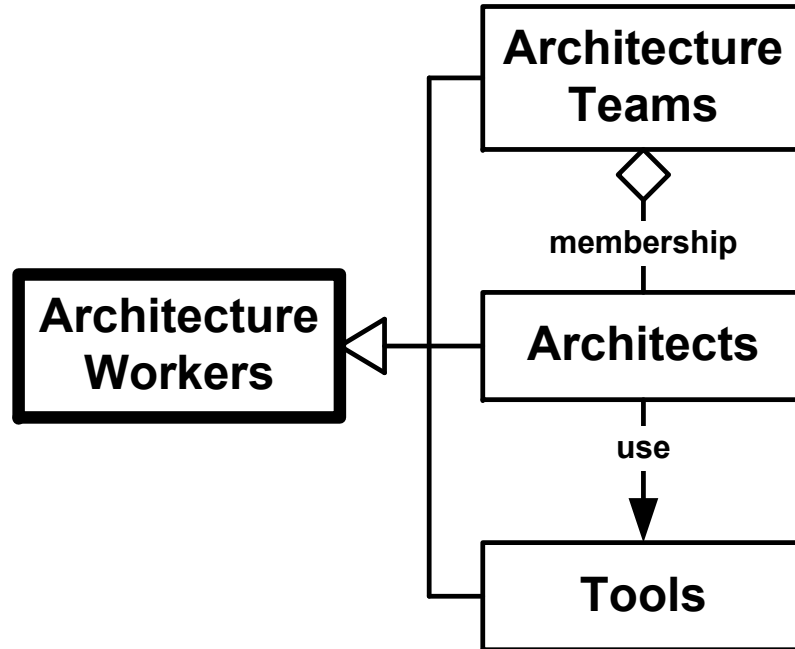
- Architectural Work Units and Work Products
- **Architectural Workers** ◀

MFESA Metamethod

Conclusion



MFESA Repository – Architecture Workers



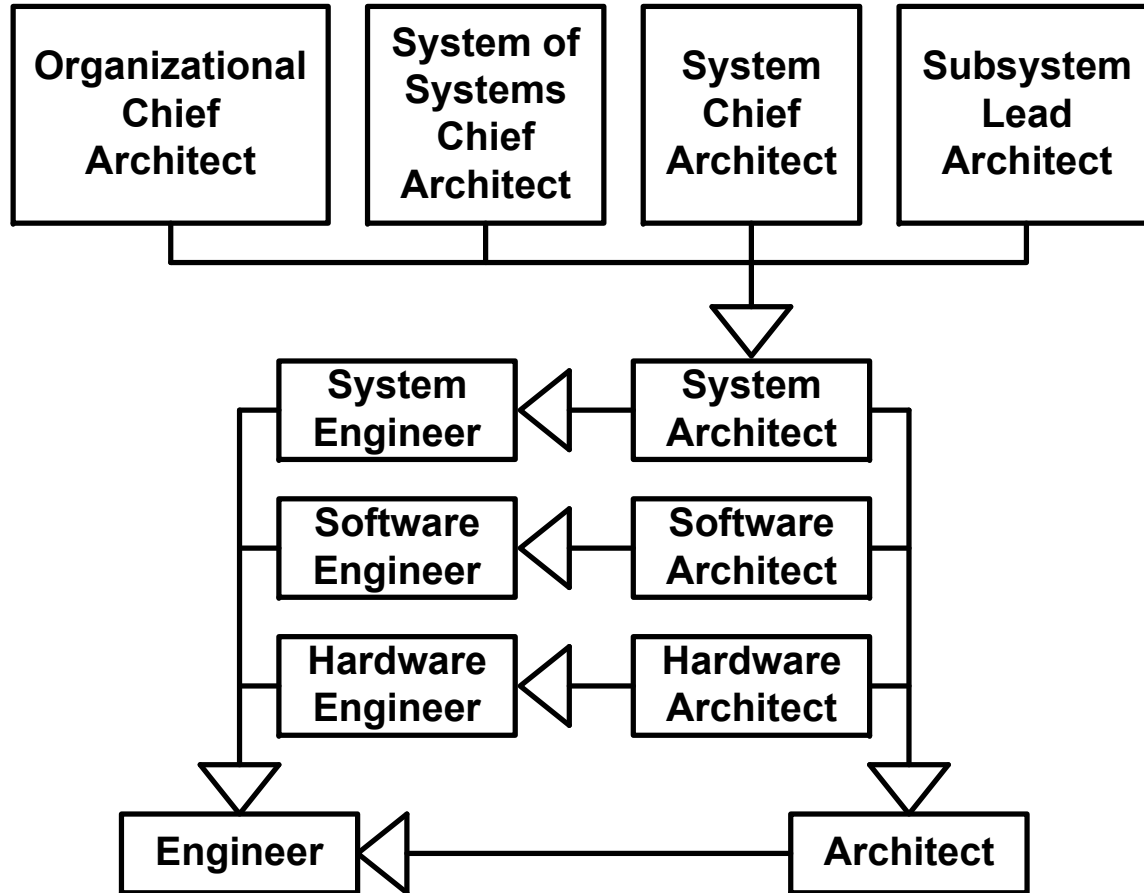
Architects - Definition

System Architect

the highly specialized role played by a systems engineer when performing system architecture engineering tasks to produce system architecture engineering work products



Types of Architects - Ontology



Architects – Primary Responsibilities

Determine and Assess Impact of the Architectural Drivers and Concerns

Develop Architecture and Architectural Representations

Analyze Architecture using Architectural Representations

Evaluate Architecture and Architectural Representations

Maintain Architecture and Architectural Representations

Ensure Architectural Integrity



Architects – Organizational Responsibilities

Lead Architectural Activities

Manage Performance of Architecture Engineering Tasks

Be an Architecture Advocate

Be a Stakeholder Advocate

Instantiate and Tailor Architecture Engineering Method

Select and Acquire Architecture Engineering Tools

Train Architecture Stakeholders

Evaluate Architecture Method and Process

Interface and Collaborate with Architecture Stakeholders



Architects – Authority

Determine architecture engineering method

Determine architectural work products to produce including models, documents, and architectural prototypes

Select and acquire architecture engineering tools

Determine architecture

Instantiate evaluation of Off-The-Shelf architectural components



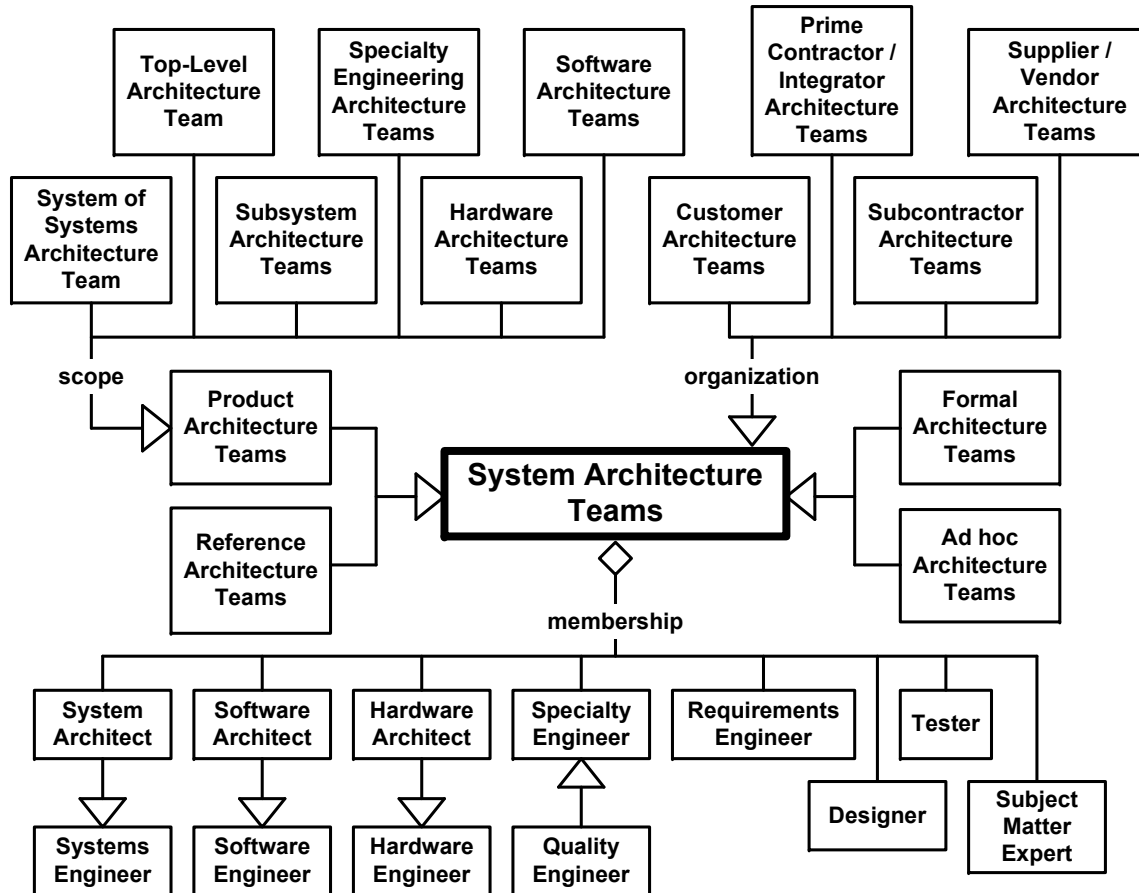
System Architecture Team - Definition

System Architecture Team

a team responsible for developing and maintaining all or part of a system's architecture



Types of Architecture Teams - Ontology



System Architecture Tools - Definition

System Architecture Tool

any thing that assists with the production, coordination and maintenance of architectural work products

Many types:

- Whiteboard
- Image Capturing Device
- Word Processor
- Spreadsheet
- General-Purpose Drawing Tool
- Graphical Modeling Tool
- CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing)
- Simulation Tool
- Configuration Management Tool
- Requirements Engineering Tool
- Information Architecting Tool
- Business Process Modeling Tool
- Mass/Size/Geometry Modeling Tool
- Software Architecture Tool



Topics

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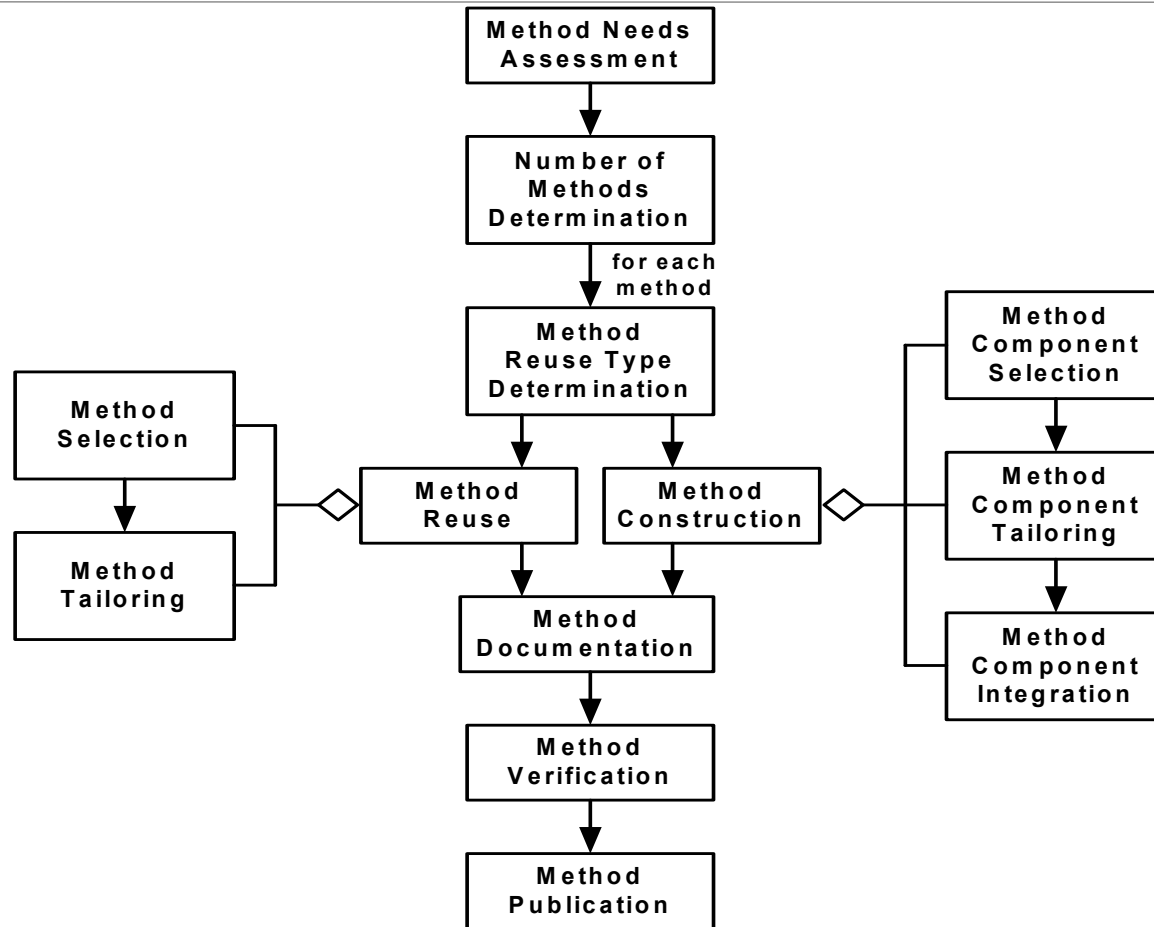
- Architectural Work Units and Work Products
- Architectural Workers

MFESA Metamethod ◀

Conclusion



MFESA Metamethod - Tasks



Topics

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MFESA Metamodel of Reusable Method Components

MFESA Repository of Reusable Method Components

- **Architectural Work Units and Work Products**
- **Architectural Workers**

MFESA Metamethod

Conclusion ◀



Key Points to Remember

System architecture and system architecture engineering are critical to success.

MFESA is *not* a system architecture engineering method.

Architectural quality cases make the architects' case that their architecture sufficiently supports the architecturally significant requirements.

It is critical to capture the rationale for architectural decisions, inventions, and trade-offs.

Architects should keep their work at the right level of abstraction.

Reuse has a major impact on system architecture engineering.

Architecture engineering is never done.



Future Book

*Method Framework for Engineering System Architectures (MFESA):
Generating Effective and Efficient Project-Specific
System Architecture Engineering Methods*

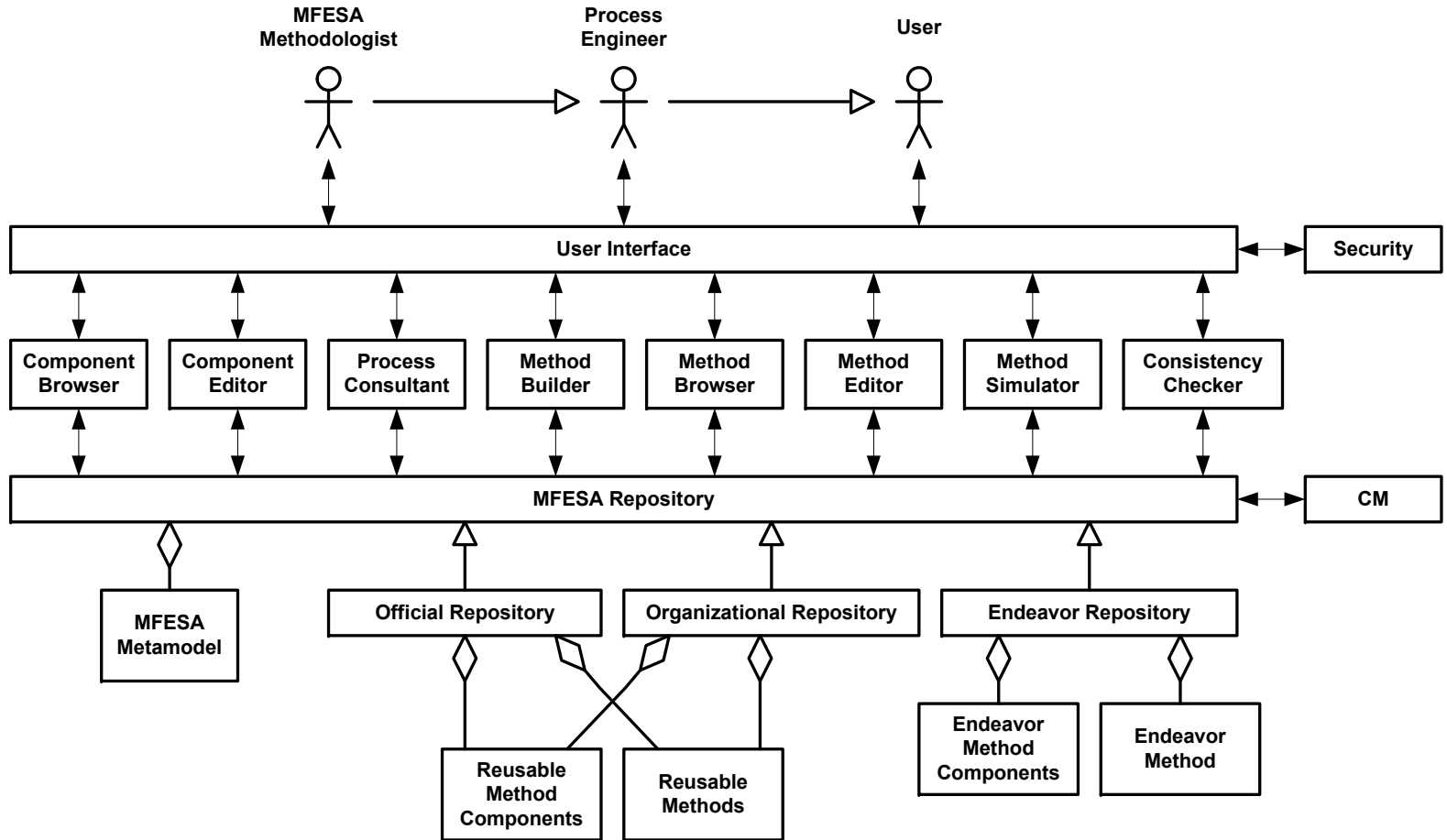
Donald Firesmith (SEI) with Peter Capell (SEI) , Dietrich Falkenthal (MITRE), Charles Hammons (SEI), DeWitt Latimer IV (USAF), and Tom Merendino (SEI)

Auerbach Publishing

2008



Potential Future Tools



Questions?

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