

# Solution Architect Role Description

## 1 General Role Description

A Solutions Architect provides both the technical leadership and accountability for the overall success of an engagement's technical team's efforts including architecture, design, development, testing, and deployment for the business solution. This high-level role requires an in-depth understanding of the client's business, its operating model and business challenges, together with the technology available for creating a fully integrated, successful business solution. This role would typically form part of a design authority group on a project, which strives to maintain start to finish integrity of the solution. The key responsibilities would be to:

- Oversee the quality and integration of the solution architecture, design integrity and communications, and the interface between applications, legacy systems, component libraries, content repositories and supporting databases
- Liaise between the client, vendors, project management and the technical team on questions, issues, revisions to the solution architecture
- Advise project management and the client on the solution architecture options, their impacts and decisions
- Advise project management and the client on the impact of new technologies on their existing technical and information system environment
- Oversee the integration of the new business solution with legacy (existing computer) systems to satisfy clients' requirements
- Work closely with the Client Architecture Group, Technical & Application Architects, Performance Engineer, and Business Architect to evaluate key technology decisions
- Work closely with project management and development teams to assist the planning and review of project schedules, project reviews and gap analysis.

In addition, there are specific responsibilities in relation to Design, Development, Deployment and testing:

- Provides overall design principles and guidance for software and hardware integration, performance design, reliability design, manageability design and security design
- Leads architecture team: Data, Technical and Application Architects
- Defines application subsystems and major components
- Develops, communicates, maintains, and enforces the overall architecture (applications, data, and technical infrastructure) of the project and knows what the system components are and how they fit together
- Ensures that the interface specifications are published and controlled
- Controls the development of interfaces for the different components so they meet interface specifications
- Co-ordinates interface design and back-end application design and development
- Prioritises solution performance improvements based on performance engineering (PE) benchmarks

## 2 Knowledge and Skills

- Extensive knowledge of Infrastructure components e.g. Enterprise Storage, Networking and Server technologies
- Good practical knowledge of EAI technologies, e.g. Tibco, Seebeyond etc

- Deep understanding and practical experience of J2EE, CORBA, .Net, UML
- Understanding of System Integration sales, scoping and delivery activities
- Good practical knowledge of transitioning into operations and support.
- Ability to lead an engagement with a client.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written)
- A good understanding of the stakeholder political pressures on clients and projects.
- Strong stakeholder management skills
- Is a natural Solutions Architect
- Is able to consult & advise the client as well as 'doing';
- Good business sense, with business and/or functional knowledge
- Be able to think holistically and analytically and know when to take which approach
- Be capable of visualising a problem context/situation, develop a number of resolution options and think them through from concept to implementation
- Have a clearly methodical approach

### 3 Typical Background

A typical background for this role has:

- At least 10 years Systems Integration experience, ideally gained in complex projects for the Big 6 Consulting & Systems Integration firms (e.g. Accenture, CSC, IBM Global Services, Logica, KPMG etc), or recognised niche System Integration companies
- Good understanding of current application development standards, methodologies, issues etc
- Experience in both bespoke (custom designed) software development and integration of COTS products
- Very good interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to communicate highly complex technical information clearly and articulately at all levels from Senior Executive to Developer
- An understanding of the stakeholder political pressures on clients and projects