



[Company Name]  
[Project Name]

[Document Name]  
[Version Number]

### 3 Design Overview

*Provide a brief introduction to the proposed system. Outline how the system will fit into the company's business and technology environments, and discuss any strategic issues if appropriate.*

#### 3.1 Background Information

Outline any background information that is relevant to the propose design, for example, business drivers, such as the need for the company to offer customer's new services or compliance issues, such as security controls that must be incorporated into the system design.

#### 3.2 System Evolution Description

[Optional] Describe how to migrate the existing system(s) to a more efficient system, or alternately moving an existing system to a future implementation.

#### 3.3 Current Process

[Optional] Describe the current processes that are in place (if applicable). This may help place the overall design in context.

#### 3.4 Proposed Process

[Optional] Describe the proposed process. Reference any supporting documents, if relevant.

#### 3.5 Technology Forecast

[Optional] Outline the emerging technologies that are expected to be available in a given timeframe(s), and how they may impact the future development of system the architecture.

#### 3.6 Constraints

Detail any constraints that are placed upon the system design, such as schedules, costs, or technical constrains, such as the company's commitment to a specific development platform or programming language.

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### 3.7 Design Trade-offs

Discuss the tradeoffs involved with the design chosen and the reasons for your choices. For example, an increase in security controls will likely entail a decrease in ease-of-use; an increase in the flexibility of a system typically entails a decrease in the simplicity of that system. For this reason, the designer must decide to put a higher value on some attributes over others. Some areas to consider include:

- Flexibility
- Interoperability
- Performance
- Reliability and robustness
- Usability

### 3.8 User Characteristics

Describe the features of the user community, and their proficiency with software systems etc.

#### 3.8.1 User Problem Statement

Describe the major problem(s) experienced by the user community.

#### 3.8.2 User Objectives

Outline the users' objectives and requirements for the new system. Where appropriate, include a "wish list" of desirable features.

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