Software Design Document (SDD) Template (summarized from IEEE STD 1016)

Software design is a process by which the software requirements are translated into a representation of software components, interfaces, and data necessary for the implementation phase.

The SDD shows how the software system will be structured to satisfy the requirements.

It is the primary reference for code development and, therefore, it must contain all the information required by a programmer to write code.

The SDD is performed in two stages. The first is a ***preliminary design*** in which the overall system architecture and data architecture is defined. In the second stage, i.e. the ***detailed design*** stage, more detailed data structures are defined and algorithms are developed for the defined architecture.

This template is an annotated outline for a software design document adapted from the IEEE Recommended Practice for Software Design Descriptions.

You can refer to IEEE Std 1016 2009 (first version 1998)) for the full IEEE Recommended Practice for Software Design Descriptions.

(Team Name)
(Project Title)
Software Design Document

Name (s):
Lab Section:
Workstation:
Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose
Identify the purpose of this SDD and its intended audience. (e.g. “This software design document describes the architecture and system design of XX. ….”).

1.2 Scope
Provide a description and scope of the software and explain the goals, objectives and benefits of your project. This will provide the basis for the brief description of your product.

1.3 Overview
Provide an overview of this document and its organization.

1.4 Reference Material
List any documents, if any, which were used as sources of information for the test plan.

1.5 Definitions and Acronyms
Provide definitions of all terms, acronyms, and abbreviations that might exist to properly interpret the SDD. These definitions should be items used in the SDD that are most likely not known to the audience.

2. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Give a general description of the functionality, context and design of your project. Provide any background information if necessary.

3. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

3.1 Architectural Design

Develop a modular program structure and explain the relationships between the modules to achieve the complete functionality of the system. This is a high level overview of how responsibilities of the system were partitioned and then assigned to subsystems. Identify each high level subsystem and the roles or responsibilities assigned to it. Describe how these subsystems collaborate with each other in order to achieve the desired functionality. Don’t go into too much detail about the individual subsystems. The main purpose is to gain a general understanding of how and why the system was decomposed, and how the individual parts work together. Provide a diagram showing the major subsystems and data repositories and their interconnections. Describe the diagram if required.

3.2 Decomposition Description

Provide a decomposition of the subsystems in the architectural design. Supplement with text as needed. You may choose to give a functional description or an object oriented description.

For a functional description, put top level data flow diagram (DFD) and structural decomposition diagrams.

For an OO description, put subsystem model, object diagrams, generalization hierarchy diagram(s) (if any), aggregation hierarchy diagram(s) (if any), interface specifications, and sequence diagrams here.

3.3 Design Rationale

Discuss the rationale for selecting the architecture described in 3.1 including critical issues and trade/offs that was considered. You may discuss other architectures that were considered, provided that you explain why you didn't choose them.

4. DATA DESIGN

4.1 Data Description

Explain how the information domain of your system is transformed into data structures. Describe how the major data or system entities are stored, processed and organized. List any databases or data storage items.

4.2 Data Dictionary

Alphabetically list the system entities or major data along with their types and descriptions. If you provided a functional description in Section 3.2, list all the functions and function parameters. If you provided an OO description, list the objects and its attributes, methods and method parameters.

5. COMPONENT DESIGN

In this section, we take a closer look at what each component does in a more systematic way. If you gave a functional description in section 3.2, provide a summary of your algorithm for each function listed in 3.2 in procedural description language (PDL) or pseudo code. If you gave an OO description, summarize each object member function for all the objects listed in 3.2 in PDL or pseudocode. Describe any local data when necessary.

6. HUMAN INTERFACE DESIGN

6.1 Overview of User Interface

Describe the functionality of the system from the user's perspective. Explain how the user will be able to use your system to complete all the expected features and the feedback information that will be displayed for the user.

6.2 Screen Images

Display screenshots showing the interface from the user's perspective. These can be handdrawn or you can use an automated drawing tool. Just make them as accurate as possible. (Graph paper works well.)

6.3 Screen Objects and Actions

A discussion of screen objects and actions associated with those objects.

7. REQUIREMENTS MATRIX

Provide a crossreference that traces components and data structures to the requirements in your SRS document.
Use a tabular format to show which system components satisfy each of the functional requirements from the SRS. Refer to the functional requirements by the numbers/codes that you gave them in the SRS.

8. APPENDICES

Appendices may be included, either directly or by reference, to provide supporting details that could aid in the understanding of the Software Design Document.