



Published Role Title	Technical Architect (SYS-36546)
Type of Role	Perm
Location	Street, Somerset, UK

Job Description

UK Job Title
Digital Architect
Job Code
Grade 5
US Job Title

Function
Technology and Information
AP Job Title

Sub Function

Reports to
Head of Digital Engineering
Team

FSLA Status (US Only)

Purpose:

Scope
Key elements about the role that demonstrate where it fits

Financial: N/A

Staff: N/A

You will combine your deep experience of architecting, technology and delivering customer centric Digital platforms and solutions with your skills and credibility to lead technically a digital product team(s) to successful digital project delivery. You will take accountability for ensuring that the end-to-end digital solutions to fulfil our stakeholder's expectations of high quality and cost-effectiveness.

The Digital Architect will be experienced in understanding customer requirements, delivering Digital platform solutions, producing high quality code and scalable, integrated software solutions in the Digital space. It will suit someone who wants to take a strategic approach to Digital platform design and delivery whilst also maintaining a hands-on role working with technology. Ideally you will have experience in software development or software engineering.

Responsibilities
RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Assess the current environment, capabilities and performance**
Assess the performance of current internal business and IT capabilities and external IT services, and develop an understanding of the enterprise architecture in relation to IT. Identify issues currently being experienced and develop recommendations in areas that could benefit from improvement.
- 2. Define reference architecture**
Ensures that the reference architecture describes the current and target architectures for the business, information, data, application and technology domains.

3. Define architecture implementation

Create a viable implementation and sprint plans in alignment with the programme and project portfolios. Ensure that the plan is closely co-ordinated to ensure that value is delivered and the required development and QA resources are available to complete the necessary work.

4. Monitor and scan the technology environment

Monitor and scan the external environment to identify emerging technologies that have the potential to create value (e.g., by realising the enterprise strategy, optimising costs, avoiding obsolescence etc). Monitor the marketplace, competitive landscape, industry sectors, and legal and regulatory trends to be able to analyse emerging technologies or innovation ideas.

5. Respond to risk

Respond in a timely manner with effective measures to limit the magnitude of loss from IT related events.

6. Recommend appropriate further initiatives

Evaluate and monitor the results of proof-of-concept initiatives and, if favourable, generate recommendations for further initiatives and gain stakeholder support.

7. Close a project or iteration

At the end of each project, release or iteration, ascertain whether the project, release or iteration delivered the planned results and value. Identify and communicate any outstanding activities required to achieve the planned results of the project/sprint. Identify and document lessons learned for use on future projects, releases, iterations and programmes

8. Design detailed solution components

Develop, document and elaborate detailed designs progressively using agreed and appropriate phased or rapid agile development techniques.

9. Define and maintain business, functional and technical requirements / user stories

Based on the user stories, identify, prioritise, specify and agree on business information, functional, technical and control requirements covering the scope/understanding of all initiatives required to achieve the expected outcomes of the proposed IT enabled solution.

10. Develop solution components

Develop solution components progressively in accordance with detailed designs following development methods and documentation standards, quality assurance (QA) requirements, and approval standards.

11. Obtain approval of requirements and solutions

Co-ordinate feedback from affected stakeholders during sprints, obtain product owner sign-off on user stories, feasibility studies, risk analyses and recommended solutions.

12. Establish a test environment

Define and establish a secure test environment suitable for the required functionality, performance and capacity, security, internal controls, operational practices, data quality and privacy requirements, and workloads.

13. Promote to production and manage releases

Promote the accepted solution to the business and operations. Where appropriate, run the solution as a pilot implementation or in parallel with the old solution for a defined period and compare behaviour and results. If significant problems occur, revert back to the original environment based on the fallback/backout plan. Manage releases of solution components.

14. Provide early production support

Provide early support to the users and IT operations for an agreed-on period of time to deal with issues and help stabilise the new solution.

15. Perform a post implementation review

Play an active role in project post-implementation reviews to confirm outcome and results, identify lessons learned, and develop an action plan. Evaluate and check the actual performance and outcomes of the new or changed service against the predicted performance and outcomes (i.e., the service expected by the user or customer).

16. Provide input into the continual improvement of services

Continually improve and evolve IT-enabled services and service delivery to the enterprise to align with changing enterprise and technology requirements.

For other responsibilities, refer to the Clarks IT Level 3 RACI

Knowledge and Skills

Qualifications, training and skills required

1. Collaborative working style with a clear and relentless focus on delivering outcomes
2. Good understanding of the Clarks operating environment and our strategic intent/objectives.
3. Solid understanding of the technology market in areas such as Digital Experience Platforms, content management systems, Marketing, Automation or E-commerce, and applications of emerging technologies in the market. An appreciation of both open source and proprietary solutions, and the place for each, is essential.
4. Good understanding of Enterprise Integration Platforms (e.g Mulesoft) and experience in delivering API services.
5. Strong analytical and conceptual reasoning skills and highly effective communication skills – ability to articulate complex issues and concepts to a wide range of recipients both written and verbally.
6. Good honours degree in a numerate subject (which could be scientific, technical or business oriented) or equivalent of knowledge acquired through experience, other qualifications and training/development.
7. Demonstrable experience of delivering high-quality engineering services in a similar sized organisation.
8. Detailed understanding of software application frameworks, specifically Spring Java and J2EE.
9. Demonstrable experience of designing and governing high-quality, test driven code, in a fast-paced, agile delivery environment.

Additional information

The Digital Architect role is specific to digital development and as such plays an integral role in the move to more agile practices, methods and ways of working with business teams. As such they are agile evangelists and lead by example in the behaviours required to deliver software in agile environments.