# Modular product architecture Product Architectures 

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## What is product architecture

- The organization or chunking of the products functional elements and the definition of the interfaces between these elements
- It consists of 3 constituents:

1. The definition of functional elements
2. The mapping of these elements into physical components
3. The specification of interfaces among interacting physical components

## Different types of product architecture

- Integral
- Modular

- Mixed



## Definitions

- Integral produc† architecture
- Does not exists a clear relationships between functional elements and physical chunks: one function may be implemented by more chunks or one chunk may implement many functions (or part of functions)
- In the integral product architecture usually interactions between chunks are not well defined
- Modular product architecture
- A clear relationships is established between functional elements and physical chunks: each function is fully implemented by only one chunk (each may chunk implement one or more functions)
- Interactions between chunks are well defined (with standardized interfaces)
- Mixed architecture
- A mix of the above


## Different types of modular product architecture

- Slot
- Each interface between modules is different, so different types of modules cannot be interchanged
- Bus
- All modules are connected to a single bus with tha same interface
- Sectional
- All interfaces are of the same type and each module may be connected to every other


## Examples of different types of architecture



Fig. 6. Four desk architectures.

## Product platform

- A product platform is a set of modules and interfaces that form a common structure from which a stream of derivative products can be efficiently developed and produced


Optional accessories

- Modules that may be included in a product configuration, but are not mandatory


