



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





Different types of product architecture

Integral



Modular



Mixed





Definitions

- Integral product 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

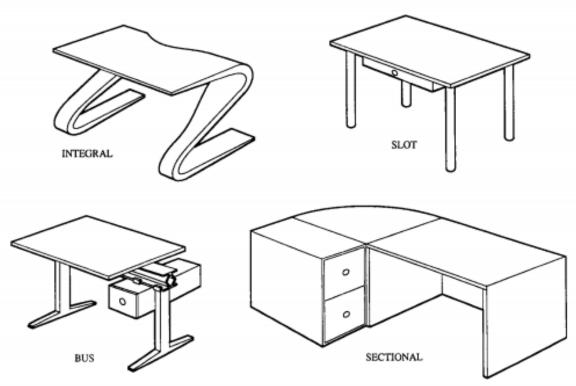
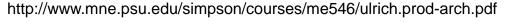


Fig. 6. Four desk architectures.

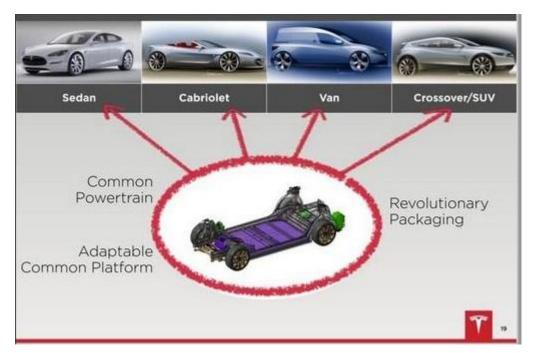




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Product platform

 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

