The Architecture of Open-Source Applications (AOSA) project has resulted in architectural descriptions of 49 open-source systems in two different volumes. Recently, 12 more systems were described in a third volume from a performance-oriented perspective. All three volumes can be found online at


Your assignment will consist of the following steps:

1. Select one of the chapters, i.e., systems and study its description in the AOSA book, as well as any additional online materials you feel are necessary to help your understanding.

2. Summarize the system’s objective, functionality, major features, history, and any other key characteristics. (1-2 paragraphs)

3. Capture the system’s overall architecture in a visual notation of your choice. This should include the system’s major components, its connectors, and any interfaces if necessary to describe the system. Be sure to distinguish between data and processing components, as appropriate. Even though many of the chapters have different diagrams that show different aspects of the respective systems, those are generally incomplete. (1 diagram)

4. Provide the rationale for your architecture. This will take the form of direct quotes from the chapter and must account for all of the major design decisions that are included in your architecture. Of particular interest will be design decisions you make because you end up connecting multiple (two or more) pieces of information presented in different parts of a chapter. You are required to have at least three such cases in your architecture. (2 paragraphs)

5. Discuss one style that would be a good fit for your system’s architecture. Tie the properties of the style to the system and argue convincingly why the style is a good fit. Be sure also to discuss aspect of the system that may not be a perfect fit for the style and/or aspects of the style that may not be a perfect fit for the system. (1-2 paragraphs)

6. Discuss one architectural style that is not a good fit for your system. Justify your argument by selecting relevant characteristics of the system and the style and showing how/why they are incompatible. (1-2 paragraphs)

7. EXTRA CREDIT: Find an online resource that describes your chosen system’s architecture or one of its parts in a way that is inconsistent with your architecture. Discuss where the discrepancy may be coming from. Develop a carefully reasoned argument regarding which of the two descriptions of the architecture is the correct one. (1-2 paragraphs)