

Recruiting people who are changing the world through cutting edge technology.

Technical and Solutions Architects are responsible for designing high quality complex solutions. But for some the line between solution and technical architect are blurred.

Below we provide an overview of the two roles and the differences between them, along with what skills and experiences are generally required.

What is the difference between a technical and a solutions architect?

A Solutions Architect is someone who generally looks at the overall infrastructure and software architecture taking into account performance, scalability of applications that work together over the system, including database, middle tier and user interface.

Whereas, a Technical Architect is very much hands-on delivery, providing technical leadership for development teams and defining technical standards and practices on an individual project basis.

What responsibilities can I expect?

A Technical or Solutions Architect would normally have the following responsibilities:

- Engaging with customers to understand their requirements from either a technical or solutions point of view.
- Designing and documenting the appropriate solution.
- Effectively manage time and people to deliver project components.
- Proactively identify and communicate potential issues and / or risks.
- Support sales efforts by looking for opportunities to increase sales.
- Lead and manage developers or project teams in a team lead capacity.

What skills and experience do I need to be a Technical or Solutions Architect?

This is where there is a distinctive difference between the two roles. Technical Architects for example need to be able to:

- Design and build custom applications on the chosen platform, such as force.com.
- Integrate the chose system into other platforms and other enterprise applications such as CRM, SFA, ERP (Oracle Applications, SAP, PeopleSoft, JDE, Baan, QAD, Siebel) from an architectural and development standpoint.
- They need to have software development experience using tools, such as; Use Case Modelling, UML, Sequence Diagrams,

Component Models & Deployment Models.

- Deploy enterprise software systems using XML, HTTP / HTTPS, Java, C++, and ASP.

Solutions Architects on the other hand, need to be able to:

- Find solutions for real business problems, which may include software re-engineering, proposing the appropriate technology or platform.
- They will have a high understanding of data management and how to manage the movement of data from a legacy system to the new system.
- They will understand how users need to interact with system through the user interface.
- They will be able to work multiple projects simultaneously.
- They are usually semi-technical and will be instrumental in the solution design up to coding level.

What certifications are required?

Technical Architects usually come from a development background, so having a development certification for your area of expertise, is the first step to becoming a certified architect.

Solutions Architects often come from a consulting background, as they are able to draw upon their experience of working on a variety of real-world projects, to deliver the best solution.

What type of companies can I work for?

The good news is that Technical and Solutions Architects, are in high demand at most types of technology based companies, such as; consulting companies, technology resellers, or independent software vendors and cover most technology markets.

Looking for a Technical / Solutions Architect role?

We have a number of roles for Technical or Solutions Architects. We would be happy to talk to you about your needs and then introduce you to some clients, who we feel would suit you.

Just phone us on 020 8123 7769 or email us: rod@resourceondemand.com and one of our team will be happy to help.