

FICTIONAL COMPOSITE / REAL PRACTITIONER PATTERN

THE DIAGRAM NOBODY WANTED TO UPDATE

The architecture changed every month. The picture stayed beautiful for three years.

01

The architecture changed every month. The official picture stayed beautiful for three years.

02

**The diagram had shape without
freshness. The spreadsheet had
freshness without architecture.**

03

Six teams maintained six partial versions of current.

04

Updating the picture felt risky because every honest edge reopened an unresolved decision.

05

**The spreadsheet became a waiting
room full of permanent yellow cells.**

06

The team walked one transaction and one admin path across every source.

07

Contradictions received evidence, an owner, and a due date.

08

Architecture views need not be identical. They must be reconcilable.

THE NEXT USEFUL QUESTION

Run a one-path reconciliation drill: compare the diagram, scope table, live configuration, and operating owner before attempting a complete redraw.

FIND / MAP / EXPLAIN / REDUCE / PROVE