Design Documentation

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institute for SOFTWARE RESEARCH

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Administrativia

Learning Goals

- Articulate the various purposes of a design document.

- Use design documentation to ensure that the correct thing is being implemented.

- Write useful, clear, high-quality design documentation.

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Common parts/templates

- Overview/feature description: what problem is being solved?
  - High-level requirements, both functional and quality
- Background/key terms
- Goals/non goals
- Design alternatives, tradeoffs, assumptions
- Decision
- Other considerations/elements of design

Examples: SourceGraph RFCs

https://about.sourcegraph.com/handbook/communication/rfcs

Exercise!

- Copy over/make concise:
  - Overview/feature description: what problem is being solved?
    - High-level requirements, both functional and quality
  - Relevant background/key terms
- Goals/non-goals
- **Develop two alternatives for deployment**
  - ***…let's discuss before we start, in the interest of time…***
  - **Sketch some diagrams**
  - **Give some tradeoffs/assumptions**
- Decision?