

## Target Architecture 2007

The document is very large, some 362 pages in size. As such it is a massive tome and difficult for any one reviewer to encompass with their mind. The overall structure of the document is, once encountered, haphazard at best. It lacks an underlying structure in which facts or requirements are discussed, analysed and a series of guiding conclusions then drawn from the discussion. Because of this fundamental flaw, it is impossible to endorse any conclusion in the document because they are all, essentially, unproven.

Early on in reading the document the reviewer will start to encounter difficulties driven by the language the document uses. Despite a specific requirement for the document to be useable and in the English language, it is patently not. Very few passages actually read easily in English. Most have to be read several times to try and extract the sense of what is being stated, and even then doubt and ambiguity remain. It seems to us that in fact this document was written in French and then run through a poor quality translation programme to generate English words for what had been written. The result is disastrous.

In a document of this size, cross referencing of the text is an absolute essential to enable everyone to find their way around. THALES has failed to include anything that could be recognised as a cross-reference. They do, however, make general references in the nature of a promise to discuss a concept or principle in depth elsewhere. In every case checked this promise of more to come is the only mention of the topic in the entire document.

Much of the technical content of the document is either childishly simple or just appears wrong. All too often technical sections are swamped in irrelevant verbiage that achieves nothing and distracts the reader from the arguments under discussion. The company seems to lack an understanding at the most basic level of what they are trying to do. The document was meant to a practical, real-life exercise in developing a structure for the new Network; in reality this document is a paper exercise.

Far too many sections of the document appear twice, or even more. Why THALES should feel such a need to constantly repeat passages is a mystery, but it does, in part, explain how this document reached such a massive size. Constant repetition of this type is a particular strain on the reviewer who knows they have read it elsewhere but are forced to re-read in case any new material has been added. A particular irritant has been the re-use of diagrams, all too often with the title changed but otherwise untouched. The company also has a penchant for being free and easy with terminology. They will use one term in a diagram and then use a completely different terminology for what is apparently the same thing, quite often directly below!

THALES has misused the numbering system presented in the Reference Architecture (RA). I have personally tried to tie the 'Views' they present in this document back to the RA and been largely unable to do so. Even worse, having distorted the content of the RA, the company has then invented two versions of the item for the Technical and the Managerial Aspects. This underlines a major theme in this document – lack of consistency. No-one has done anything like a basic sense check to ensure that this document actually hangs together and fulfils the aim. A check of the Configuration Record for this document merely confirms that opinion. If the record is to be believed, the entire document was written, verified and authorised all on one day, 19 September 2008. Quite an achievement!

To be brutally frank, we think this document one of the biggest piles of garbage it has ever been our displeasure to encounter.