Solution Context Diagram
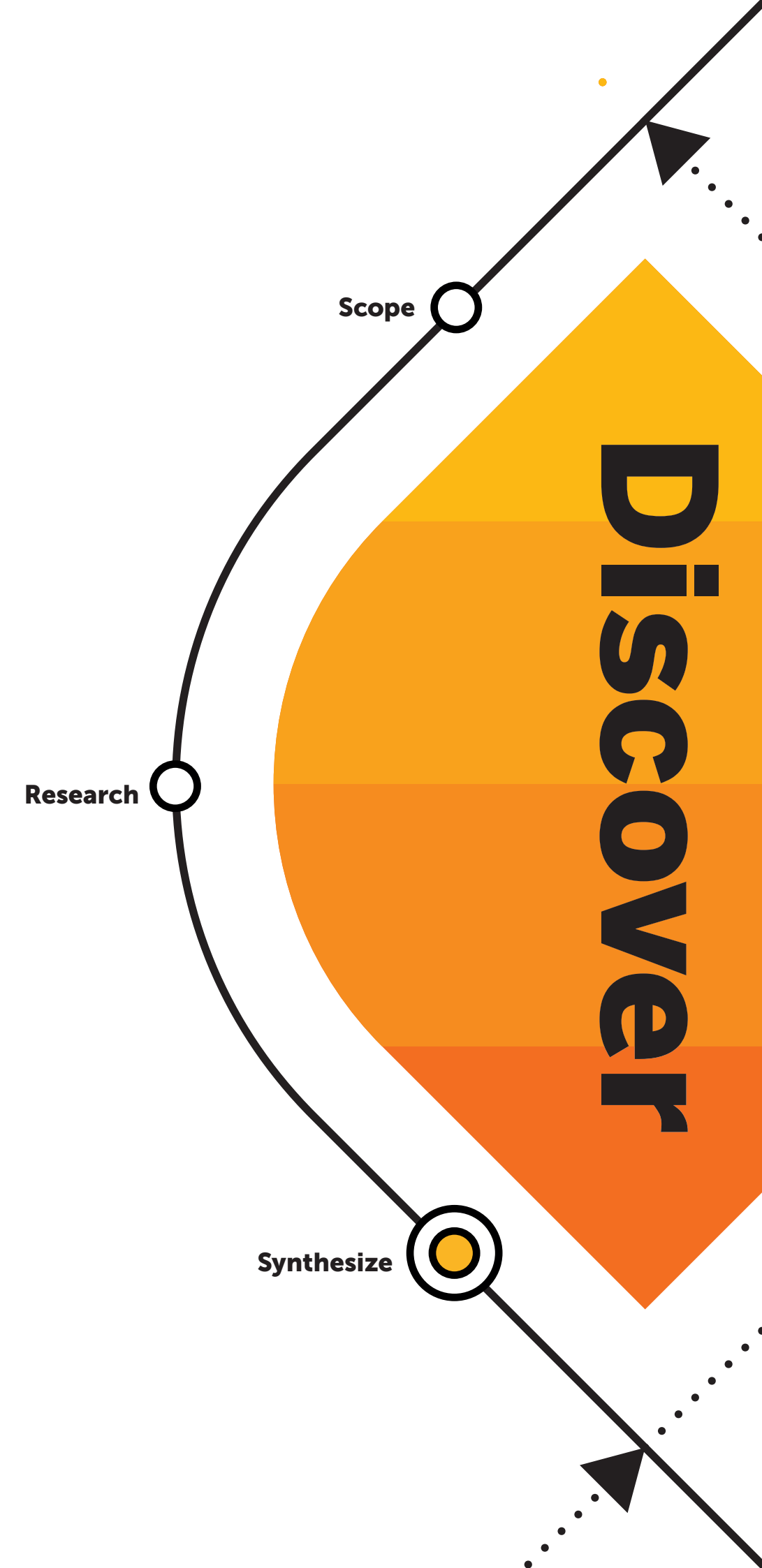
Shows the relationship between the proposed solution and the organizational units, business roles and business functions within the enterprise.

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Why to use a
Solution Context
Diagram

The goal of the Solution Context Diagram is to provide a high-level overview of the aspired solution that can be easily understood by the business. Therefore, the Solution Context describes the required business capabilities that need to be satisfied by the architecture.

Prerequisites for creating the Solution Context are the Stakeholder Matrix and Statement of Architecture Work.
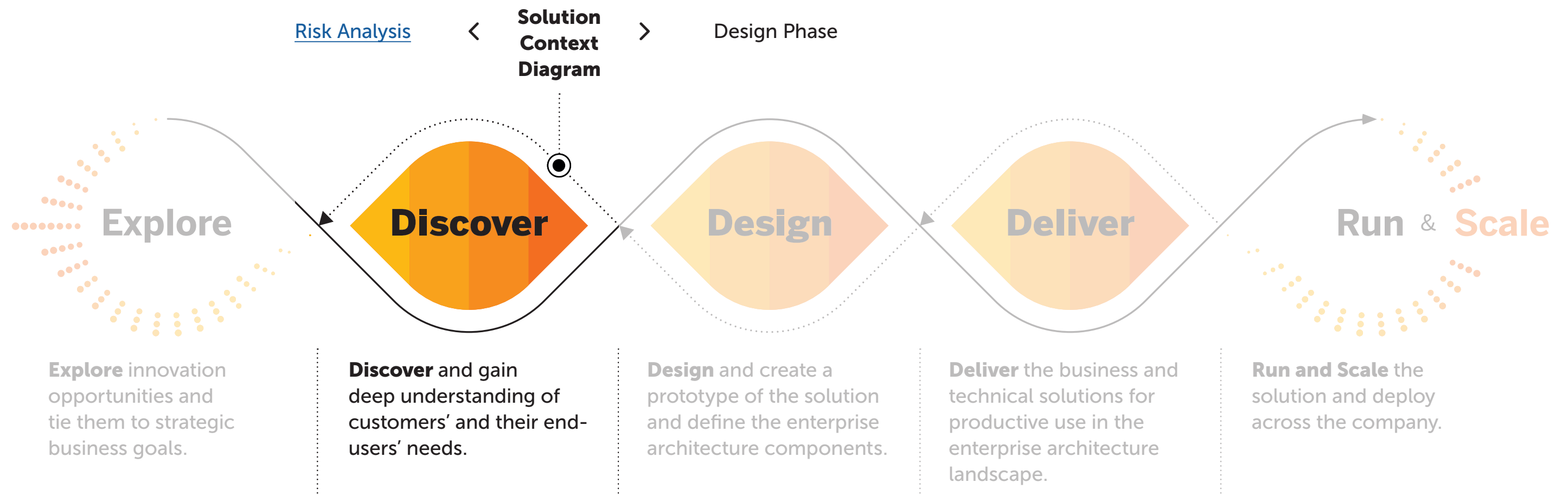
Specifically for stakeholders from the business domain, the Solution Context is a good visual representation of the architecture, showing how your anticipated solution interacts with different organizational units, roles and business functions.

Scope

Research

Discover

Synthesize

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When to use a
Solution Context Diagram

We use Solution Context Diagrams to identify business capabilities, capture business users and visualize the solution context. The Solution Context Diagram falls under the Discover Phase, within the business domain of Enterprise Architecture Thinking. To create a Solution Context Diagram, it is necessary to have the Stakeholder Matrix and Statement of Architecture Work.

Risk Analysis ＜ **Solution Context Diagram** ＞ Design Phase

Explore

Discover

Design

Deliver

Run & Scale

Explore innovation opportunities and tie them to strategic business goals.

Discover and gain deep understanding of customers' and their end-users' needs.

Design and create a prototype of the solution and define the enterprise architecture components.

Deliver the business and technical solutions for productive use in the enterprise architecture landscape.

Run and Scale the solution and deploy across the company.

Lear more about SAP's Human-Centered Approach to Innovation: https://experience.sap.com/designservices/approach

How to use a
Solution Context Diagram

Duration
Approx. 30–60 minutes

Use Input From
- **Stakeholder Matrix**
- **Statement of Architecture Work**

Steps

1 Translate your learnings about the aspired solution into business capabilities that describe what the solution can do. These can be main functions or features of the aspired solution expressed in business terminology. This list doesn't need to be exhaustive; think of 5 to 10 main capabilities.

2 Identify related organizational units, business roles and existing business applications. Use the Stakeholder Matrix as reference for users and roles.

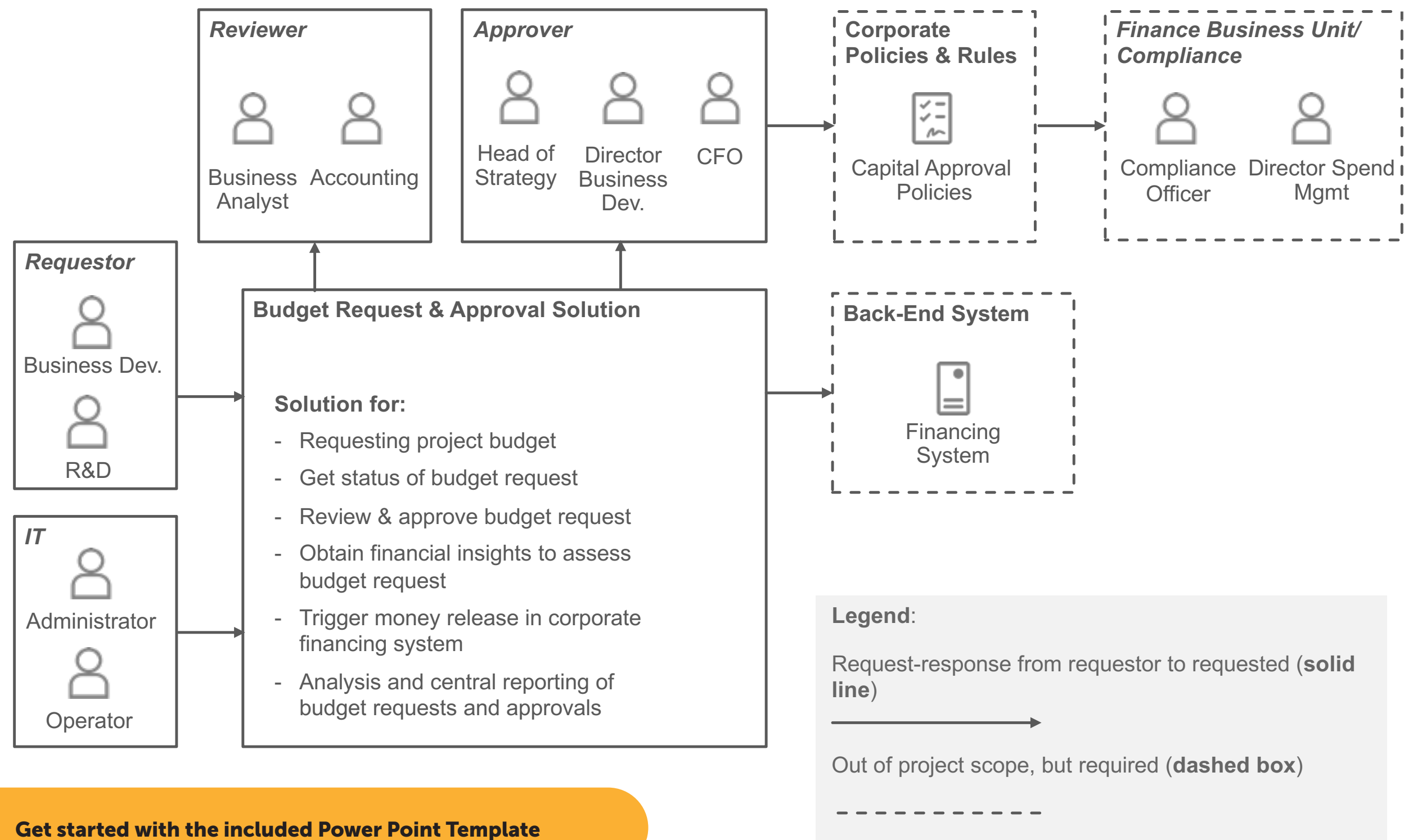**3** Visualize the components in a diagram (use the template).

Expert Tips

The most prominent part of the Solution Context Diagram is a box representing the aspired solution. Label the box with the name you have defined in the Statement of Architecture Work.

Throughout architecture development, you gradually add more details to the Solution Context, e.g., evolving the Solution Context to other work products such as a Solution Concept and Solution Realization Diagram.

You use the Solution Context Diagram to share and communicate your architecture to your business stakeholders. You can also update your Statement of Architecture Work by adding the Solution Context to the "Overview of architecture vision" section of the template.

Example
Solution Context Diagram

Reviewer

Business Analyst Accounting

Approver

Head of Strategy Director Business Dev. CFO

Corporate Policies & Rules

Capital Approval Policies

Finance Business Unit/ Compliance

Compliance Officer Director Spend Mgmt

Requestor

Business Dev.

R&D

IT

Administrator

Operator

Budget Request & Approval Solution

Solution for:

- Requesting project budget
- Get status of budget request
- Review & approve budget request
- Obtain financial insights to assess budget request
- Trigger money release in corporate financing system
- Analysis and central reporting of budget requests and approvals

Back-End System

Financing System

Legend:

Request-response from requestor to requested (**solid line**)

Out of project scope, but required (**dashed box**)

Get started with the included Power Point Template

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