

Who is the Solution Architect?

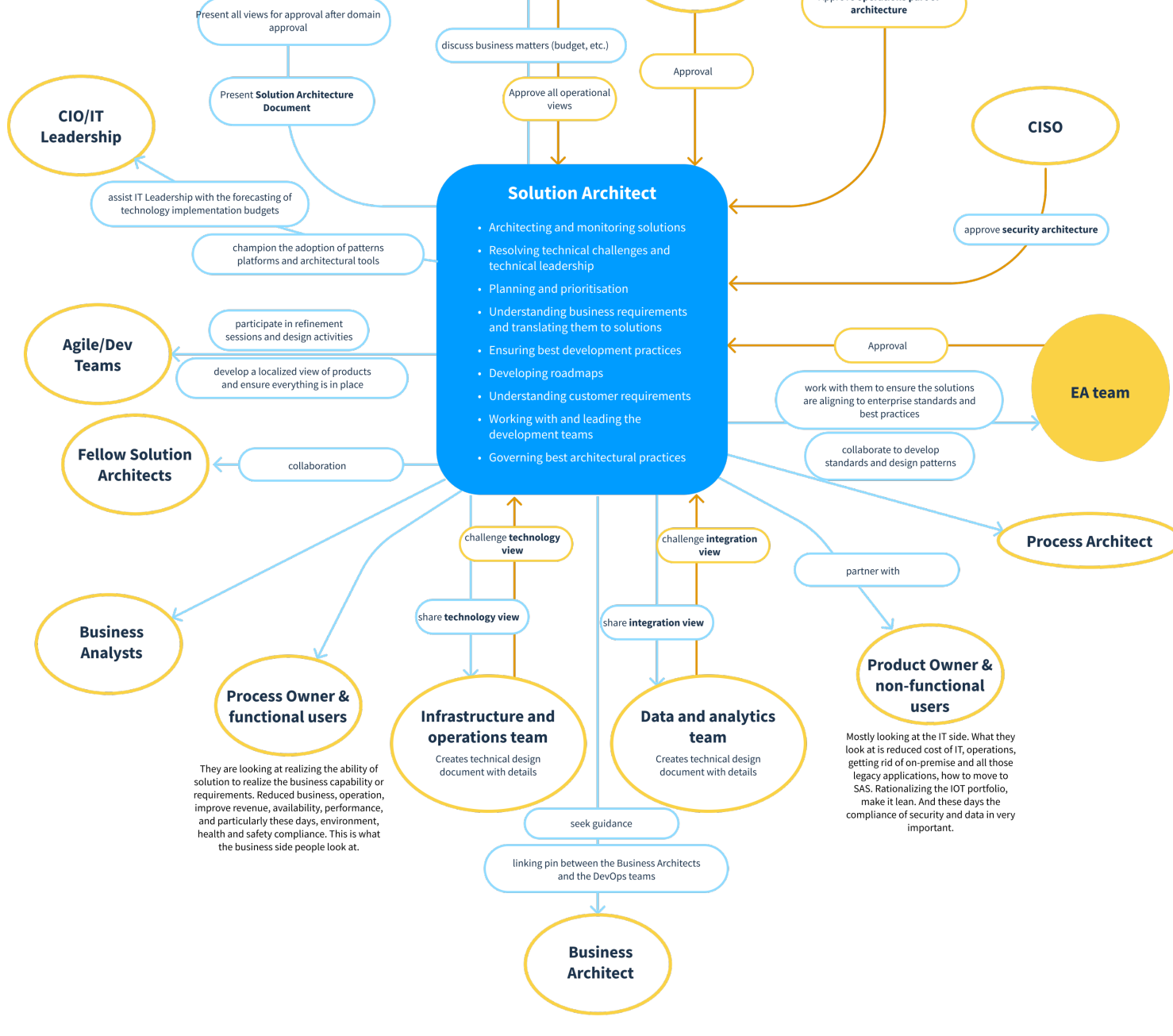
This data is informed by UX research conducted by our design team.



Introduction

Solution architects operate in the midst of enterprise change processes, collaborating with different stakeholders during their design process. Although their focus is often more narrow than an enterprise or business (domain) architect, being 'solution-focused' is an intense job that requires research, communication and prioritization at all times to ensure successful change.

Main Interactions with stakeholders and deliverables:



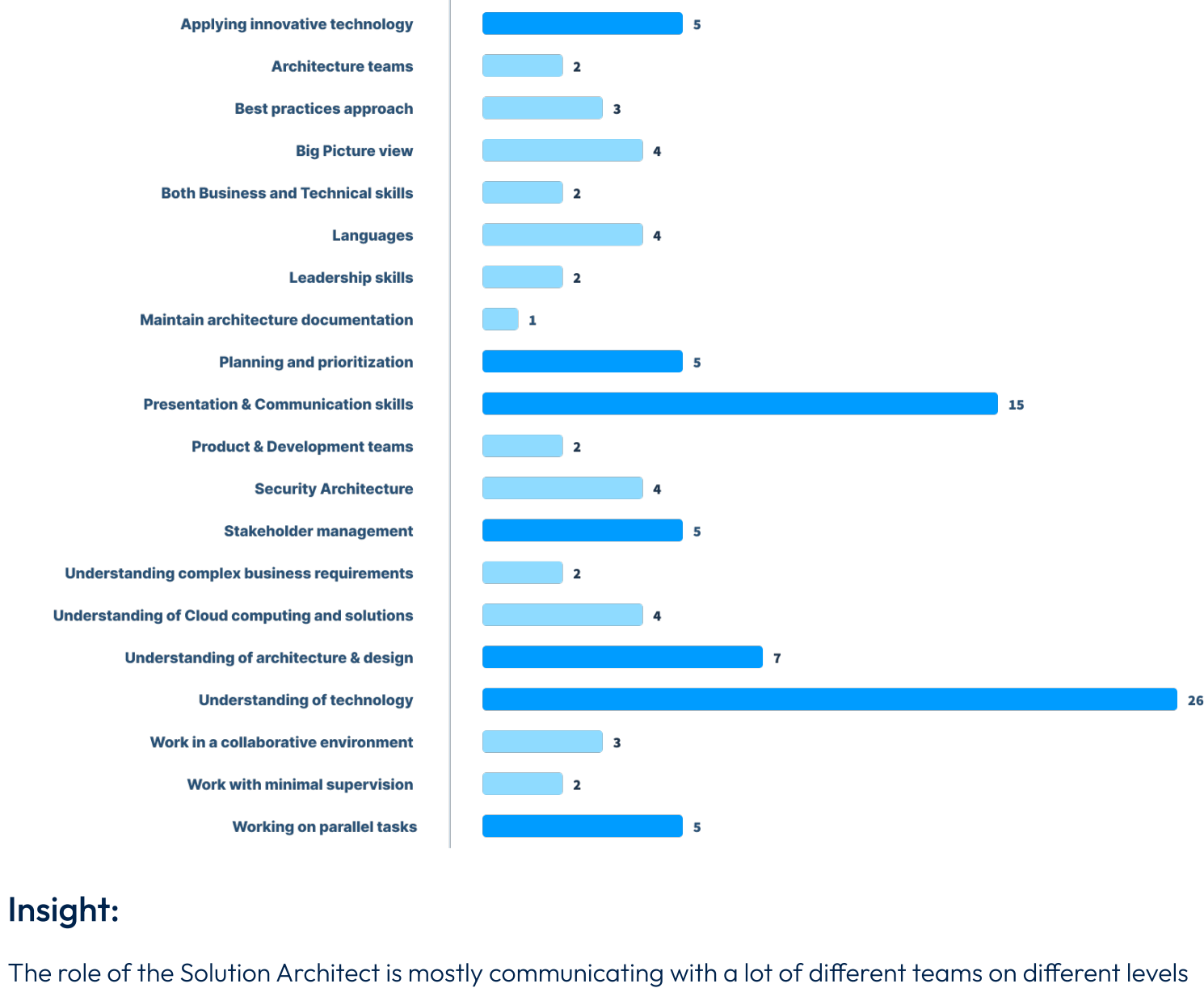
*The diagram above is also based on discovery interviews with Solution Architects

Insight:

From our analysis, we can clearly see which are the main interactions of Solution Architect with stakeholders and other teams. Working with **Product Management** and **Architecture Teams** seem to be the most important collaboration in order to **translate the product roadmap** into a feasible scalable solution design and to **ensure the designed solutions are aligned with enterprise standards** and best practices.

SA creates and develops **process models**, implements **CICD pipelines**, develops **Go-To-Market playbook**, evaluates the **ROI** of systems development, **solves complex technical challenges**, creates and maintains **code documentation**, develops new and co-maintains existing Business, Information Systems and **Technology architecture** and builds and develops the **technology roadmap**.

Competencies:



Insight:

The role of the Solution Architect is mostly communicating with a lot of different teams on different levels and that is why having **great communication** and **presentation skills** is an essential requirement, including the ability to **translate complex concepts** into multiple architectural "views" aimed at varying audiences and the ability to **effectively communicate results and insights value to stakeholders**. Being able to communicate and **influence successfully across regional and functional lines** is also a valuable requirement.

A Solution Architect should also have a **broad-based understanding of architectural design patterns** and **best practices** to address application, data and technology in the context of business processes within the context of existing and new architectures and standards. Having an advanced proficiency with **architecture modeling** and **methodologies** as well as **integration patterns** is a must.

Another important asset to a SA is having **strong technical skills and IT knowledge**. It is an essential part of the SA job to have a strong understanding of **professional software engineering best practices** for the full SDLC, including coding standards, code reviews, source controls, build processes, testing and operations.

Main responsibilities and tasks:

Architecting Solutions	Planning and prioritization	Translate business requirements to solutions	Understand and meet business needs
14	10	10	10
Ensures development best practices	Develop roadmaps	Solve complex technical solutions	Govern architectural best practices
9	9	8	7
Understand customer requirements	Application and technical leadership	Future state architecture	Presentation skills
9	6	4	4
Work with and lead the development teams	Guide and support the teams	Connect different worlds	Testing
9	6	3	2
Monitoring solutions	Assess risks	Application architecture	SME role
8	4	3	2

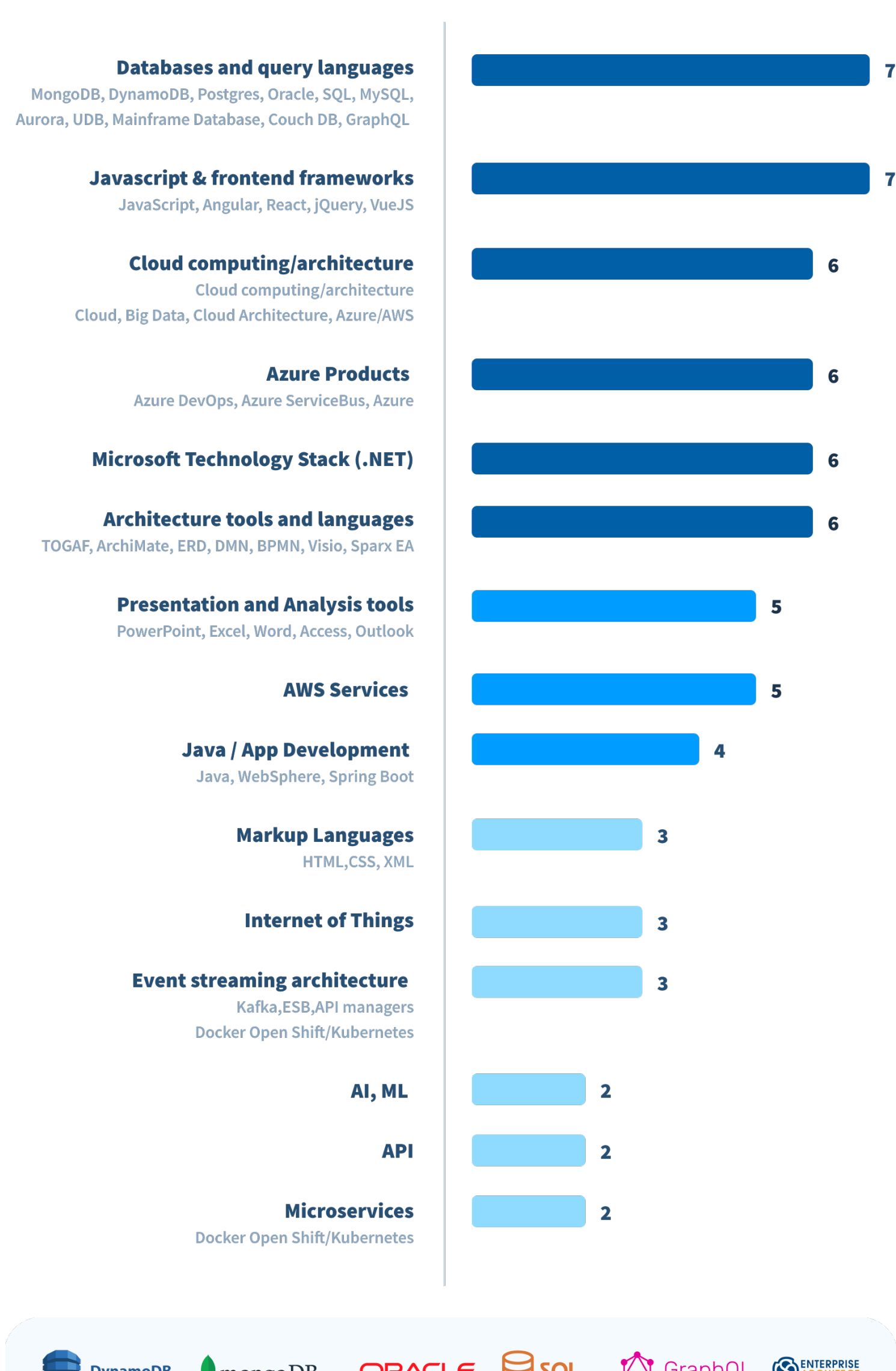
Insight:

The SA is accountable for **architecting and designing comprehensive solutions** that **meet business requirements** in support of a given portfolio. The SA proposes policies, standards, new technology services and components for solutions.

Another part of the SA's responsibilities is to **organize and prioritize work to ensure time-sensitive tasks and deliverables are on time to the stakeholder and/or customer**. They perform **project management duties** as required to ensure the timely and cost-effective completion of assigned projects.

The SA is also responsible for **translating requirements into solutions** and describing it through architectures and designs.

Technology and tools:



There are plenty of technology requirements for the position of a SA. The ones with bigger importance are the ability to work with **Architecture tools and languages** (such as TOGAF, Archimate, etc.), **Databases** (MongoDB, CouchDB, DynamoDB, Postgres, SQL Server, MySQL, etc.), knowledge of **JavaScript and UI JavaScript frameworks** (Angular, React, jQuery, etc.), strong Microsoft Office skills and ability to work with **Development tools**, such as Azure, AWS, Agile, DevOps and Visual Studio.

We appreciate honesty

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