

INCOSE Webinar 86 – Systems Thinking for Conceptual Design of Complex Systems

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You're Invited.

Abstract:

'System acts as a whole' is an accepted paradigm for 'Systems Thinking'. In today's complex societal environment, which encompass or influence systems of all kinds, business or otherwise, it would be difficult to resolve problems unless we use the 'Systems Thinking' approach to conceptualize the contexts. Modelling is the common method employed to cope with complexity and hence is a natural and essential requirement in handling problems of complex systems. The challenge lies in modeling these systems which have myriad factors with intricate inter-relationships which impinge on and shape the problem configuration. In order to discern their combined impact on the system, there is an acute need to structure the problem space identifying relevant variables and integrating them through a holistic framework. These complex problems are not amenable to direct perceptions leading to erroneous decision. Also approaches based on quantitative models require time & data, which is a challenge in solving real time business situations.

Therefore we need an approach which enables us to understand these complex systems. An approach based on qualitative systems models and concepts to guide understanding and analyzing these complex situations with minimal data in real time. What we need therefore is to design a checklist of various dimensions to be probed and patterns to be unearthed to get a holistic understanding of the problem situation or context.

The primary objective of the webinar is to share an approach using Systems Thinking that would help in conceptualizing complex environments for understanding and suitably intervening. The utility of such an understanding is manifold in addressing such areas as Knowledge Domain, Requirements Gathering, Systems Engineering, Process Improvement, Conceptualizing Design and Problem Solving.

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