



**Please join us on the eleventh
INCOSE/GfSE Webinar**

When

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022 from 11:00am-12:00pm
EST (4:00pm-5:00pm UTC, 5:00pm – 6:00pm CET)

Topic

**Leveraging decision patterns to tame complexity and
accelerate solution delivery**

Speaker

John Fitch



Abstract

Decision-making is one of four fundamental human thinking (aka analysis) processes. Decisions comprise the essential thinking content, the integrative mechanism of any design process, and as such effect the transformation of a problem definition into a solution description.

The author's 35 years of experience in teaching and facilitating decision-making and systems engineering has led to the conclusion that there is a pattern of decisions behind every strategy, solution design or life. A wide variety of decision patterns have been created and refined through use in 150+ projects across 40+ organizations.

This presentation summarizes the conceptual basis for decision patterns and how they were "discovered", defines a decision-centric information model of the engineering process, explains key principles behind how decision patterns create value, shares how a pattern-based decision model fits into a broader engineering process and identifies a range of use cases in which decision patterns have been employed.

Using a decision-centric information model (metamodel) creates a much richer digital thread than is currently supported in formal systems engineering languages and MBSE tools.

The presentation will demonstrate a simple but powerful technique by which a project decision baseline may be established by reverse engineering stakeholder decisions against a decision pattern. The resulting decision model (aka Decision Breakdown Structure) may be used validate system requirements and to focus project efforts on the decisions that are most critical to project success.

Take-Away Key Message

- Decision patterns are a useful technique for managing the complexity and reducing the time-to-capability of engineered systems.
 - Decisions are the integrative mechanism of systems engineering and as such decision-to-everything traceability and associated viewpoints should be at the heart of any organization's digital thread.
 - Proven decision patterns exist that may be used to quickly frame the scope of any project, validate system requirements, and provide a structure for organizing project work around the most critical choices.
 - Although there is limited "native" software tool support for a decision-centric approach to engineering, existing MBSE tools or desktop tools may be extended to deliver this capability.
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Biography

John Fitch is a Principal Consultant and Course Presenter for Project Performance International (PPI). He also edits PPI's SyEN monthly news journal. John brings over four decades of systems engineering, engineering management, consulting, and training experience to the PPI team. In 2012, John was certified by INCOSE as an Expert Systems Engineering Professional (ESEP). Within the field of systems engineering, John's career has focused on decision management, requirements management, risk management, systems design & architecture, product/technology road-mapping and innovation. In addition to defense / aerospace, John has guided initiatives in domains such as communications systems, software, energy, nanotechnology, medical devices, manufacturing systems, knowledge management and business process improvement. In addition to his work with PPI, John also supports Purdue University Fort Wayne in systems engineering research, courseware development and as a guest lecturer for masters-level systems engineering classes.

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Regards,
Christian Lalitsch-Schneider
christian.lalitsch-schneider@gfse.de

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