



Please join us on the next INCOSE Webinar

When

Tuesday April 17th 2018 from 11am-12pm EDT (3pm – 4pm UTC)

Topic

What is a System?

Speaker

Hillary Sillitto



Abstract

A special initiative was started by the INCOSE Fellows in summer 2016 at the request of the INCOSE president and President Elect, to review INCOSE's definitions of 'system' and 'systems engineering', and if necessary improve them to ensure they are fit for purpose, both now and looking forward towards the aspirations expressed in INCOSE's Systems Engineering Vision 2025.

The webinar will discuss:

- INCOSE's current definition of "system", and why it needs to change to accommodate the wider vision for SE presented in INCOSE's Vision 2025
- Our review of SYSTEM definitions
- The (at least) seven different worldviews on "system" that exist within the INCOSE community
- A taxonomy summarizing the range of system types we identified in the literature
- How this taxonomy relates to the seven worldviews
- The complex system challenge for INCOSE – "systems with minds of their own"
- Current challenges and proposed direction of travel towards (a) new definition(s)
- Current challenges and possible direction of travel towards a "system ontology"

Further (or pre-) reading:

Sillitto, Martin, Griego, McKinney, Arnold, Godfrey, Dori, Krob, Jackson; [Defining "System": a Comprehensive Approach](#); INCOSE International Symposium, Adelaide, July 2017
Dori & Sillitto, [What is a System? An Ontological Framework](#), Systems Engineering Journal, 14 June 2017
Sillitto, Martin, Griego, McKinney, Arnold, Godfrey, Dori, Krob, Jackson. [What do we mean by "system"? - System Beliefs and Worldviews in the INCOSE Community](#). INCOSE International Symposium, Washington, July 2018

Biography

Hillary Sillitto is an internationally recognised expert and thought leader in systems thinking and system architecting. Now working freelance, he is based in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"I studied Physics at St Andrews University and Applied Optics at Imperial College. I began my career with Ferranti in Edinburgh as an optical engineer, and shifted to Thales Optronics in 1993. From 2005-08 I was seconded to UK MOD as Head of Integration, responsible for managing system-of-systems interoperability. I returned to Thales to become Chief Systems Architect for the Thales Land and Joint Systems Division in the UK, and then Thales UK Systems Engineering Director, with an overview of a very wide range of complex system developments including transport sector, and was appointed a Thales Fellow.

I've been awarded eight patents and made a number of notable contributions to the Systems Engineering literature, including "Design principles for ultra large scale systems" (Best Paper Award at the INCOSE International Symposium, Chicago 2010), contributions to the BKCASE Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge and

the INCOSE Systems Engineering Handbook, and my book “Architecting Systems – concepts principles and practice” (College Publications 2014). I’ve held Visiting Professorships at the Universities of Bristol and Strathclyde. I am now leading a working group of INCOSE Fellows chartered to propose updates to INCOSE’s definitions of “System” and “Systems Engineering”. This work has resulted in five papers accepted for the 2017 and 2018 INCOSE International Symposia, and one for Systems Engineering Journal, and we hope to wrap up the work this Spring. I’m a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institute of Physics, Fellow of the International Council on Systems Engineering, past president of the INCOSE UK Chapter, certified Expert Systems Engineering Professional (ESEP), and Full Member of the Omega Alpha Association.”

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Please note that you can now receive a PDU in support of certification renewal by attending an INCOSE technical webinar. Here is the link to details about certification renewal, including information on PDUs.

<http://www.incose.org/certification/CertFAQs>

Regards,

Andy Pickard

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