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MBSE Model Integration in a Mixed-Fidelity Environment

**Mixed Fidelity Model Integration**

# Authors

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Problem Statement

# Mixed Fidelity MBSE

# The Mixed Fidelity System Design Problem Statement

## 01 New Systems

New systems are not truly clean sheet; integrate existing components

## 02 System Upgrades

System upgrades are built upon source of truth that may be in a variety of formats

## 03 New Components

New components can be fully modeled for use in future models

## New Models

Source of Truth developed in MBSE environment

## Existing Validated Models

Should not modify existing validated models for sake of integrating into a new design

## Existing Products without models

Existing products intended for reuse that have no MBSE models

## Supplier / Customer Models

Suppliers and customers may have different MBSE frameworks, tools, and skills

Applying “New Models” thinking to complex mixed fidelity systems adds undue cost, schedule, and source of truth risks



Conversion Cost

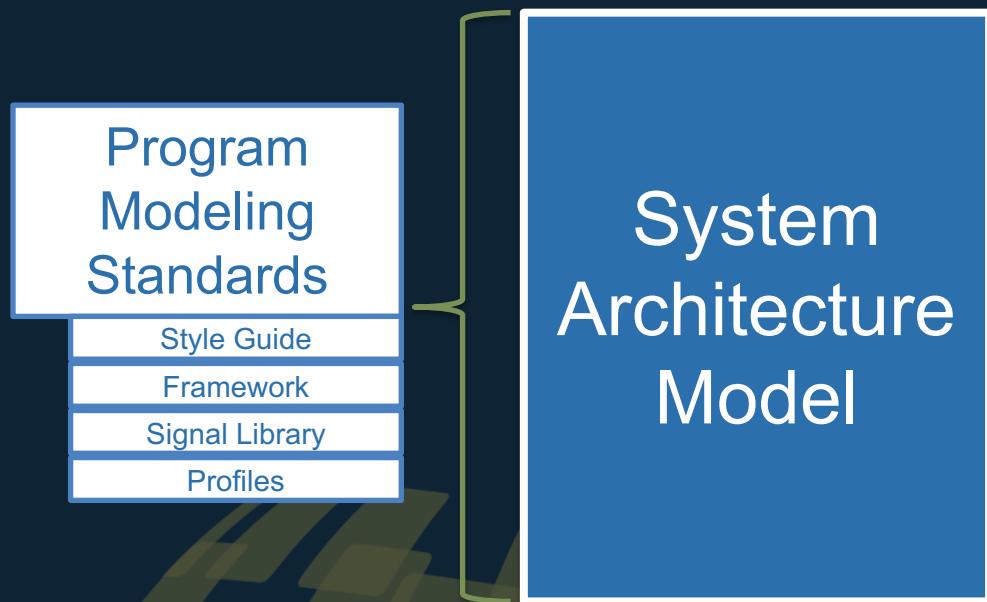


Modeling Scope

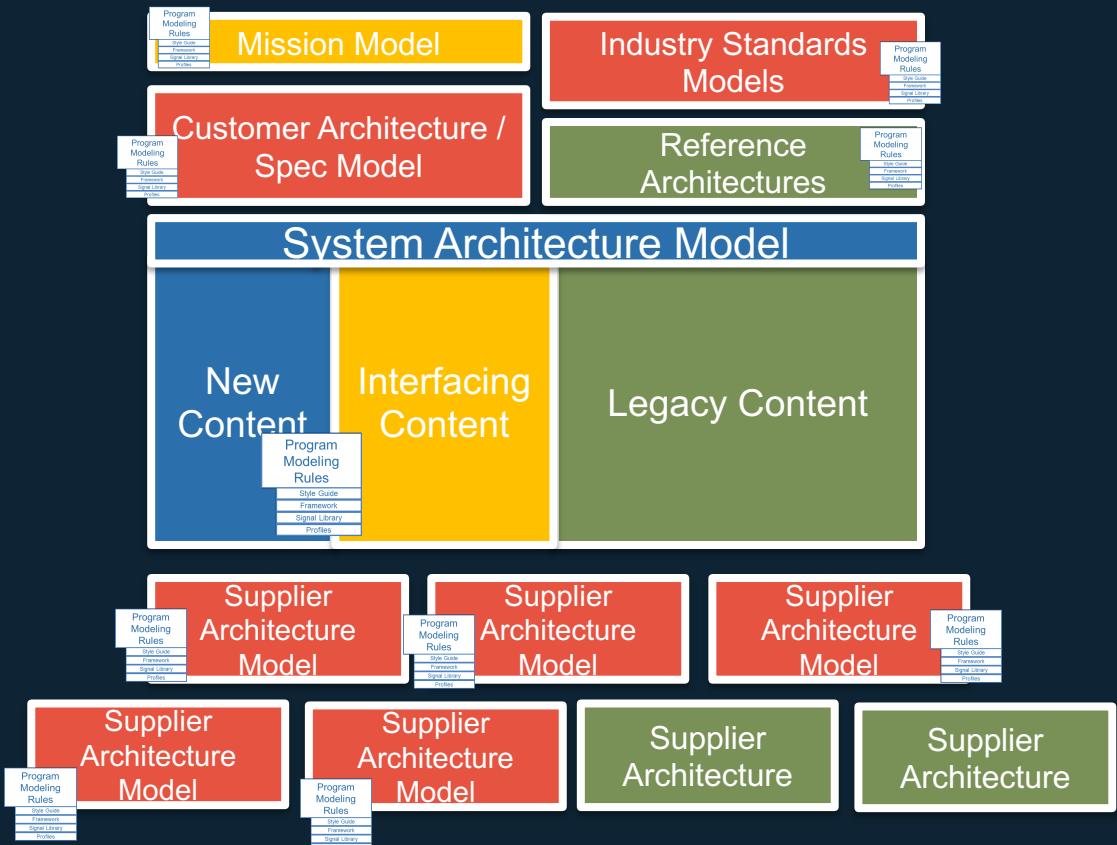


What is Truth?

# New Model Approach (Theory)

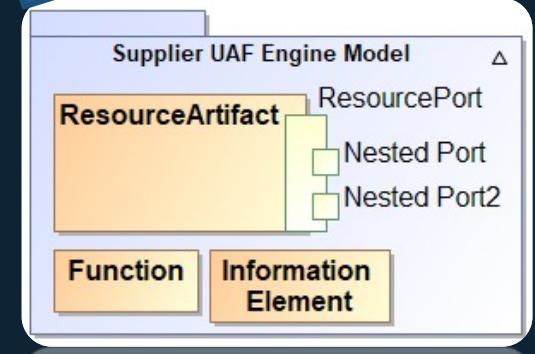
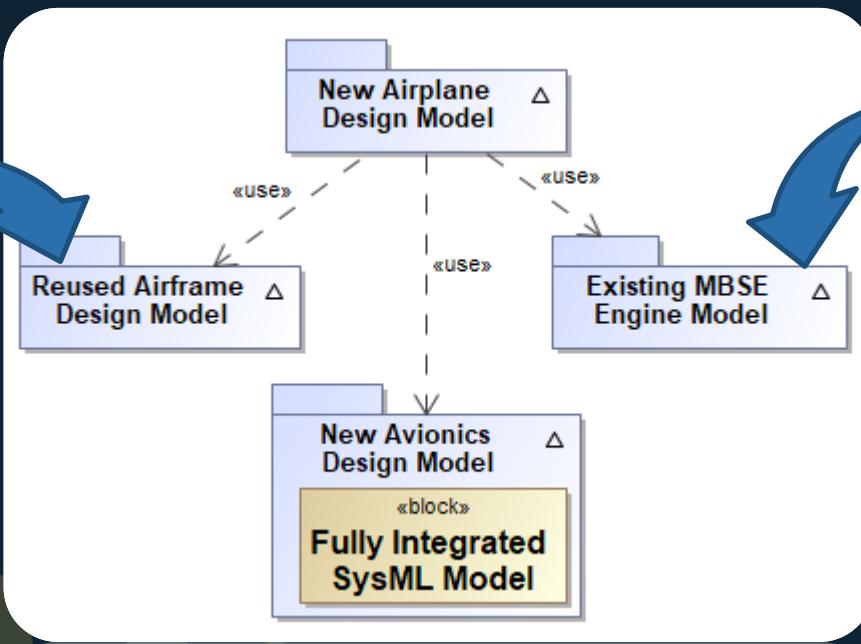


# Mixed Fidelity (Reality)



Modeling approaches must accept and accommodate that mixed-fidelity models and variations in modeling standards will exist

# Loose Coupling Allows Mixed Fidelity



Loose coupling allows extracting and modeling a minimum set of data from documentation of existing products that lack MBSE

Loose coupling allows “translation layers” between two different models, even models of different techniques and languages



Solution to Problem Statement

# Loose Model Coupling Approach

# Architecting Loose Coupling in Models

Black Box – White Box –  
Solution Concept

Implement BB-WB at Every  
Layer of Decomposition

Loose coupling allows flexibility to model only portions of a system, compare models for early trades, or swap out models for upgrades later in the lifecycle with minimal rework of higher tiers of the model.

Loosely Couple a WB to the BB

Develop the System Solution Architecture

1. Start with this concept, as explored in MagicGrid® Book of Knowledge
2. At each decomposition, turn each BB into a self-contained WB containing more BBs  
For structure, behavior, and interfaces effectively duplicate the BB into a WB and trace back to the BB
3. Realize each logical element into a system solution element, with a focus on HW/SW end items

# Loosely Coupled Modular Modeling Framework

Pillar					
Domain	Requirements	Structure	Behavior	Paramtors	Safety & Reliability
		Black Box	White Box	Measures of Effectiveness (MoEs)	Conceptual and Functional Failure Mode & Effects Analysis (FMEA)
	Stakeholder Needs	System Context	Use Cases	Conceptual Subsystems	Functional Analysis
	Conceptual Subsystems	Functional Analysis	MoEs for Subsystems	Conceptual Subsystems FMEA	System Safety & Reliability (S&R)
	System Requirements	System Structure	System Behavior	System Parameters	Subsystem Requirements
	Subsystem Requirements	Subsystem Structure	Subsystem Behavior	Subsystem Parameters	Subsystem S&R
	Component Requirements	Component Structure	Component Behavior	Component Paramtors	Component S&R
	Implementation Requirements				

From MagicGrid Book of Knowledge

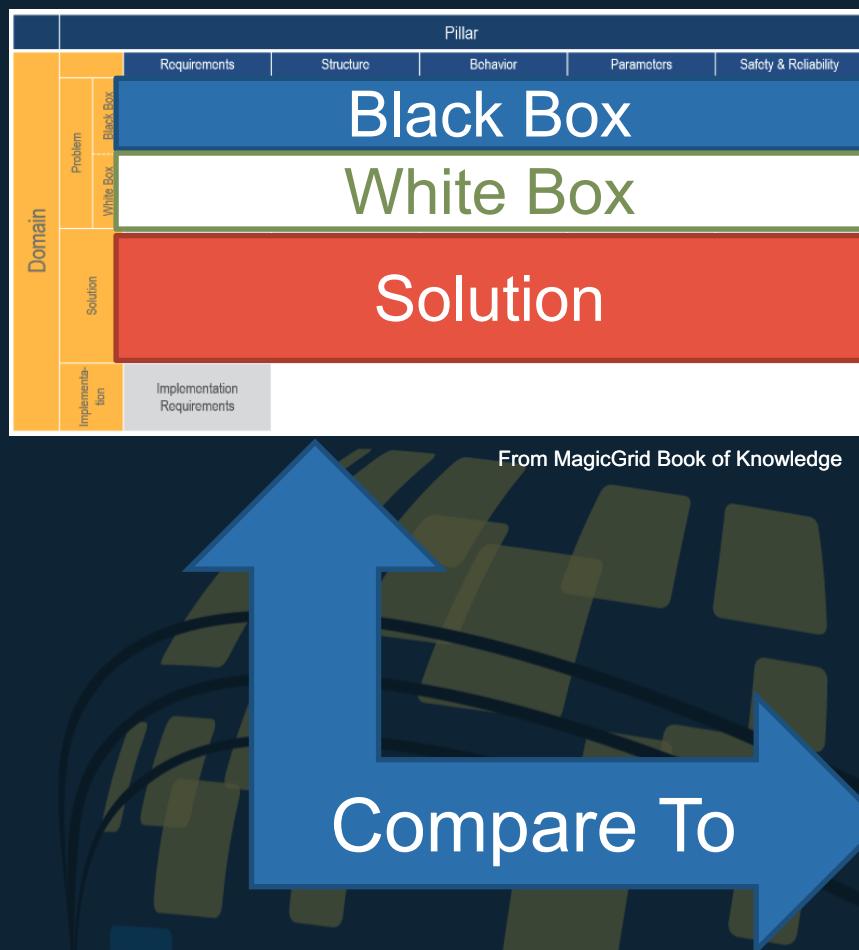
Compare To

Pillar								
Stakeholder Needs	Architecture	Modules	Requirements	Structure	Behavior	Interfaces	Parametrics	System Analysis
	Influencing Architectures	Multiple	Stakeholder Requirements	Reference Architectures		Interface Needs Information Exchange Requirements	KPPs, MOEs/MOPs	-
Weapon System Context	WB Weapon System Context	-		Weapon Sys Internal Structure	Use Cases WB Activities	Internal Data Flows	-	-
Weapon System WB	BB Weapon System	Weapon System Fn Requirements Verification Requirements	Needed Segments	BB Activities BB States	External Interfaces	Requirement Values	-	-
Vehicle (Segment) WB	WB Weapon System	-	Segment Internal Structure	WB Activities	External Interface Redefinition Internal Data Flows	-	Weapon System Trade Studies	-
BB Segments	BB Segments	Segment Fn Requirements Verification Requirements	Needed Segments	BB Activities BB States	Segment Ext Interfaces	Requirement Values	-	-
BB Subsystems	WB Segments	-	Segment Internal Structure	WB Activities	External Interface Redefinition Internal Data Flows	-	Segment Trade Studies	-
WB Subsystems	BB Subsystems	Subsystem Fn Requirements Verification Requirements	Needed Subsystems	BB Activities BB States	Subsystem External Interfaces	Requirement Values	-	-
BB Components / Skills	WB Subsystems	-	Subsystem Internal Structure	WB Activities	External Interface Redefinition Internal Data Flows	-	Subsystem Trade Studies	-
Skills WB	WB Skills	Component / Skill Fn Requirements Verification Requirements	Needed Components	BB Activities BB States	Component External Interfaces	Requirement Values	-	-
BB Services	BB Services	Service Fn Requirements Verification Requirements	Needed Services	BB Activities BB States	Services External Interfaces Service Contracts	Requirement Values	-	-
System Solution	Solution Architecture	Non-Fn System Requirements Non-Fn Equipment Requirements Verification Requirements Zone Requirements	Selected Equipment System HW-HW Schematics System SW-SW Schematics SW to HW Allocation	Equipment States	Interface Protocols Message Structure Network Interfaces Service Contracts	Equipment Parameters Predicted/Measured Values TPM Predictions TRL / MRL / IRL Evaluations	Solution Architecture Trades Model Metrics TPM Tracking Readiness Levels SCFTA Modularity Assessments Network Loading	-
Equipment Models	BB Equipment	Supplier Fn Requirements Supplier Non-Fn Requirements Verification Requirements	Detailed Equipment	Inherited	Pins Outs Connector Assignments	Interface Parameters TPM Predictions RMS&H Values	-	-
WB Equipment	WB Equipment	SRU Requirements Verification Results	Equipment Internal Structure	SRU Behaviors	Detailed Interfaces SRU-SRU Interfaces	Equipment Parameters Predicted/Measured Values TPM Predictions TRL / MRL / IRL Evaluations RMS&H Equipment Values	SRU Trades	-
Analysis & Planning	Specialty Analysis	-						FMEA / FMECA PHA / FHA
VV&C	-	Links to Verification Requirements Certification Requirements	CVA Plan Dependencies VV&C Facility Elements VV&C Article Configuration	Certification / Verification Activity	Test Facility Interfaces	VV&C Results	-	-

\*Black Box: Represents the external view only of a “thing” where “thing” could be a system, a subsystem, a component and any other type of logical or physical object.

\*White Box: Represents the internal view of a corresponding BB “thing”. WB internal structure & behavior must satisfy the “boundary requirements, interfaces, associations and interactions” defined by the BB

# Loosely Coupled Modular Modeling Framework



		Pillar					Pillar							
		Requirements	Structure	Behavior	Paramters	Safety & Reliability	Architecture	Modules	Requirements	Structure	Behavior	Interfaces	Parametrics	System Analysis
Domain	Problem	Black Box	White Box	White Box	White Box	White Box	Stakeholder Needs	Influencing Architectures	Multiple	Stakeholder Requirements	Reference Architectures	Interface Needs Information Exchange Requirements	KPPs, MOEs/MOPs	-
	Solution	White Box	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	White Boxes			WB Weapon System Context	BB Weapon System	WB Weapon System	WB Weapon System	WB Weapon System	WB Weapon System
Functional/Logical (Needs)	WB	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	Domain	Vehicle (Segment) WB	BB Segments	WB Segments	BB Segments	WB Segments	WB Segments	WB Segments
	WB	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes			BB Subsystems	WB Subsystems	BB Subsystems	WB Subsystems	WB Subsystems	WB Subsystems
Subsystem WB	WB	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	Solution	Skills WB	WB Components / Skills	WB Skills	WB Skills	WB Skills	WB Skills	WB Skills
	WB	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes			BB Services	BB Services	BB Services	BB Services	BB Services	BB Services
Skills WB	WB	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	White Boxes	Black Boxes	Analysis & Planning	System Solution	Solution Architecture	Solution				
	WB	Supplier Black Boxes	Supplier White Boxes	Supplier Black Boxes	Supplier White Boxes	Supplier Black Boxes			BB Equipment	BB Equipment	WB Equipment	WB Equipment	WB Equipment	WB Equipment
Analysis & Planning	WB	Verification	Verification	Verification	Verification	Verification			Specialty Analysis	-	VV&C	-	VV&C	VV&C

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# Pros and Cons

A modularized model is the key benefit

## Pros

Easier configuration management

Permits integration of different modeling fidelity and styles without reworking truth

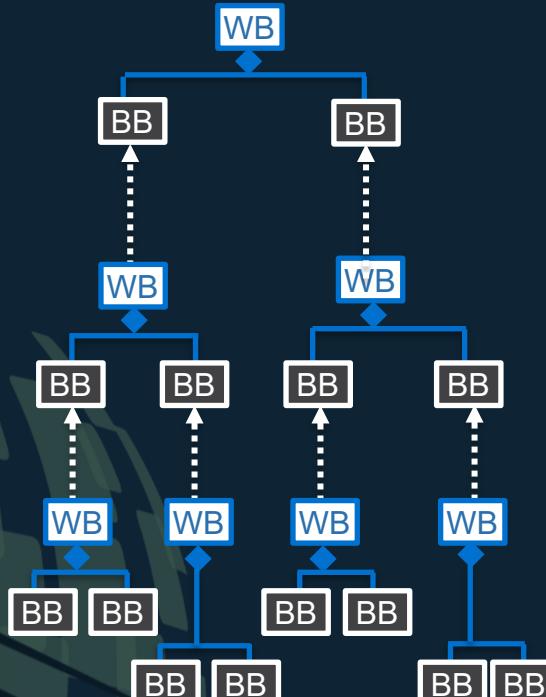
Efficient distributed modeling for very large teams

## Cons

Reduced vertical simulation ability across decomposition layers

Higher up-front modeling investment

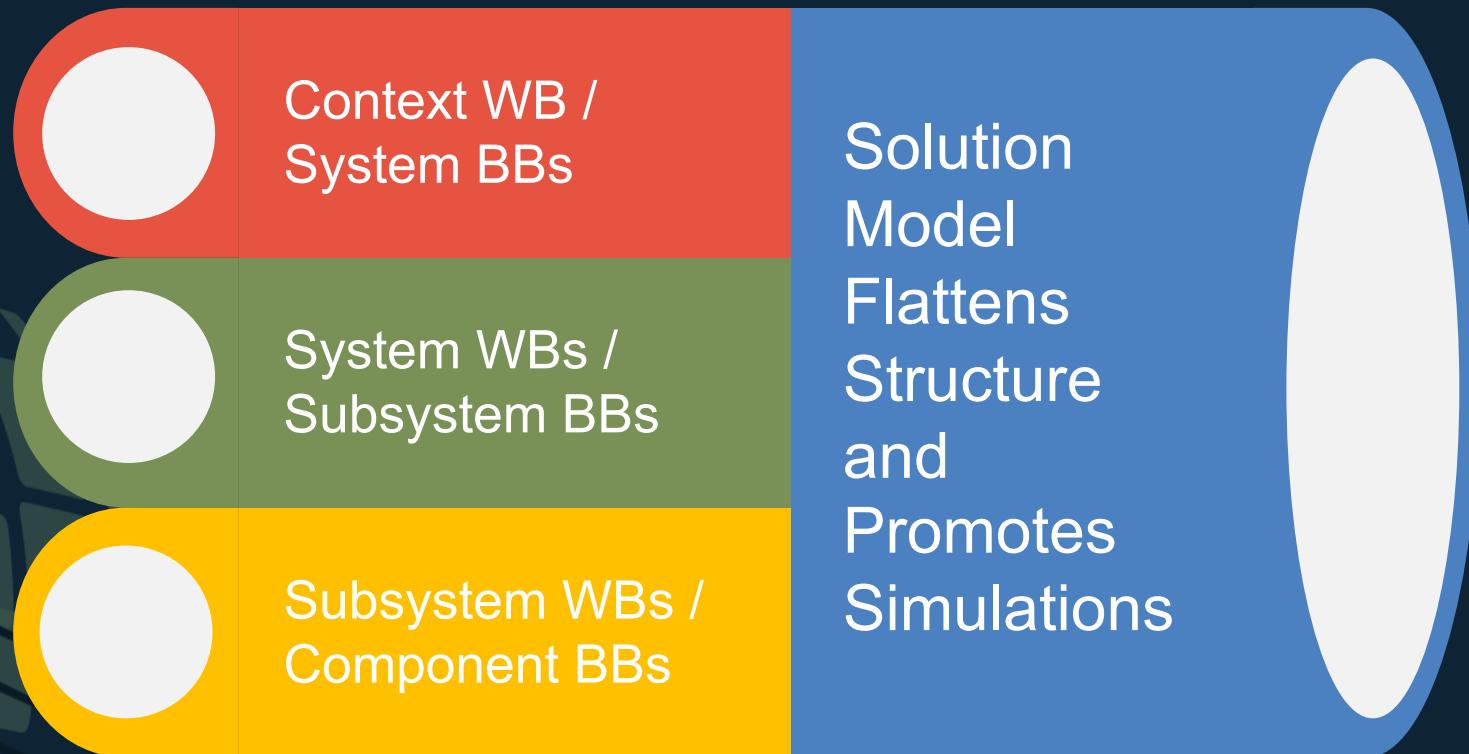
Model customizations require additional data architecting



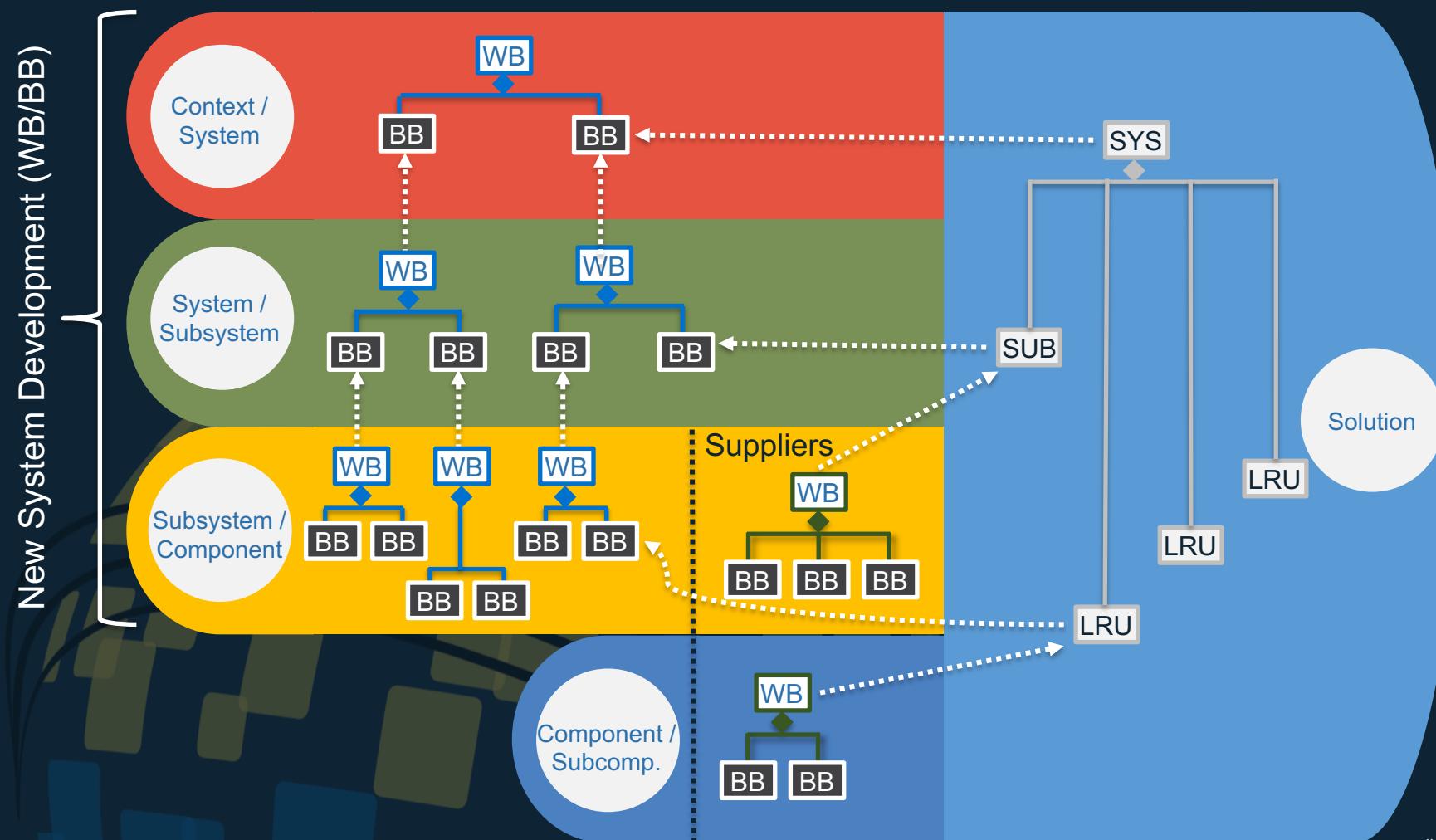
# Solution Modeling to Address Vertical Gap

**A Solution model helps fill in the vertical simulation gap caused by loose coupling of the logical model**

1. Solution represents real product, e.g. things with part numbers
2. Behaviors model signals on physical connections
3. Loosely coupled to logical elements



# Model Integration Approach



Solution represents  
real product, e.g.  
things with part  
numbers

## Suppliers Integration Approach

- System Integrator Delivers Models As Specification
- Supplier Delivers WB/BB Models As Response to Specification

“Supplier” can represent any organizational boundary, such as internal groups



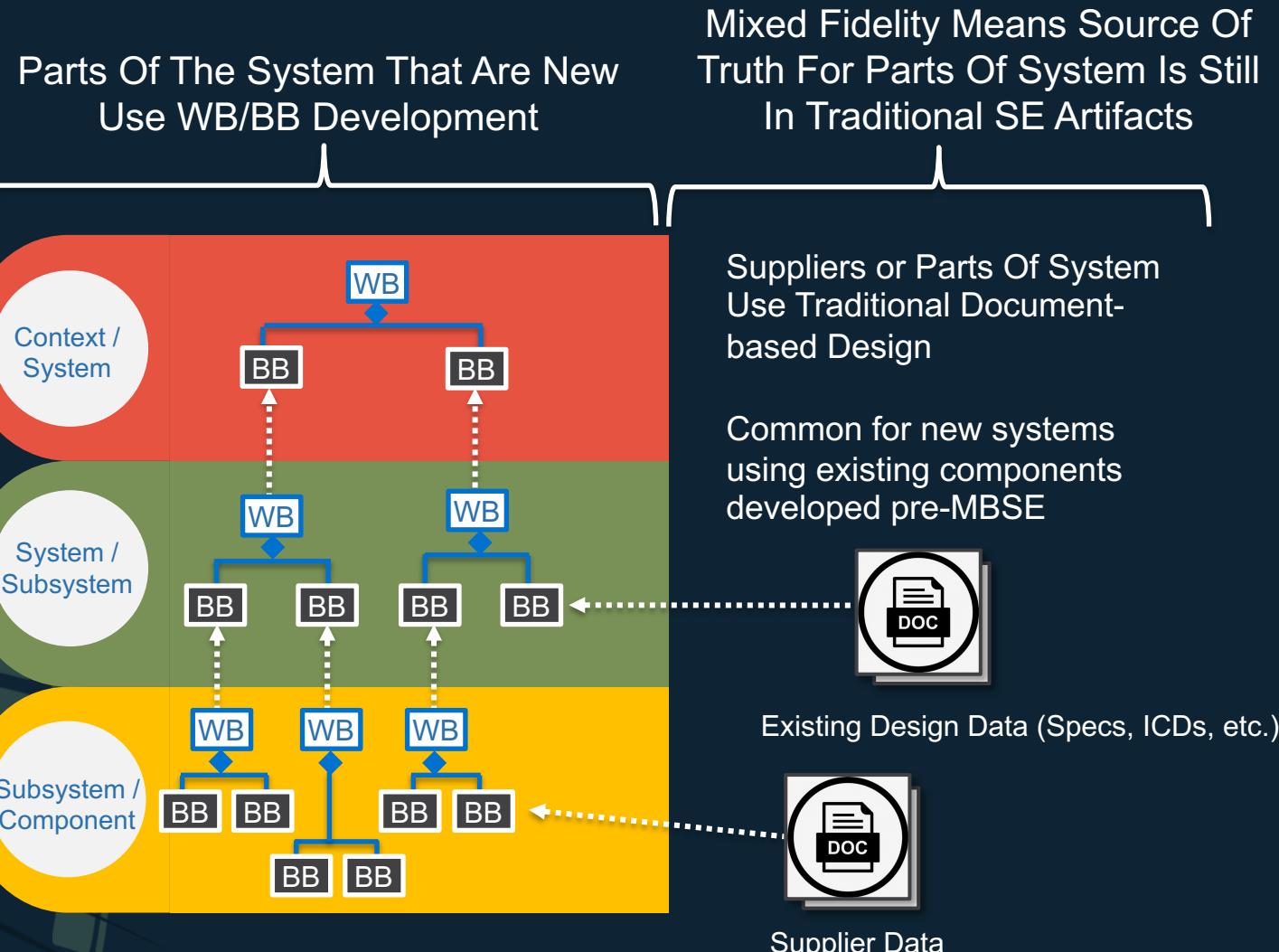
Boeing Examples

# Real World Examples

# Program 1

This program is an example of a brand-new development with heavy build-to-print reuse of legacy components

Full MBSE definition is used at the context and system levels, but as decomposition crosses the boundary to document-based sources-of-truth, a minimum set of BB data is copied into MBSE tool based on pre-defined MBSE analysis needs

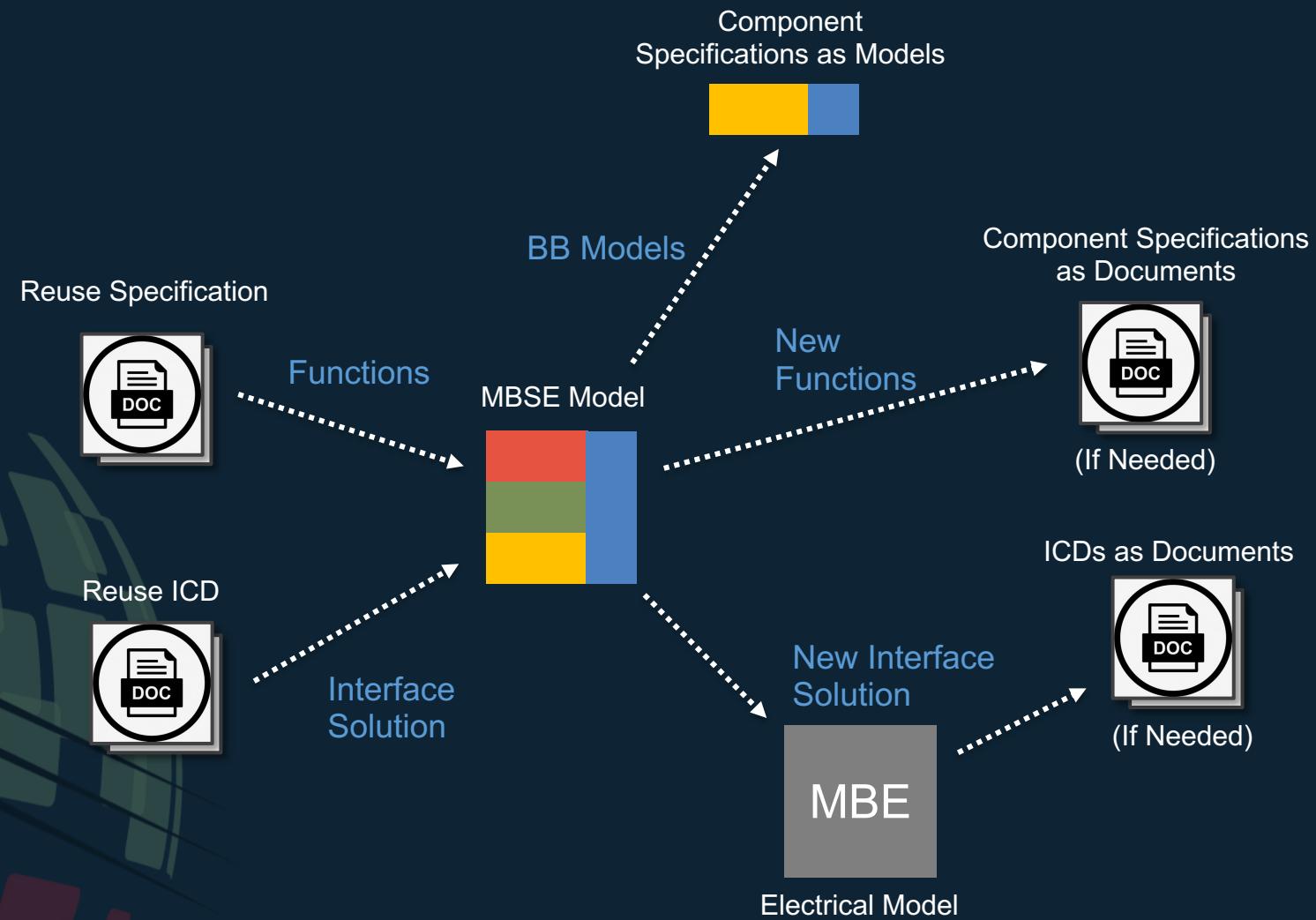


# Up-Front Definition of Modeling Goals

Key requirement for MBSE success is to define the modeling inputs and outputs

## Program 1 Example

- Inputs
  - Reuse / to be modified specifications
  - Reuse / to be modified Interface Control Documents (ICDs)
- Outputs
  - Program ICDs
  - Program Specifications

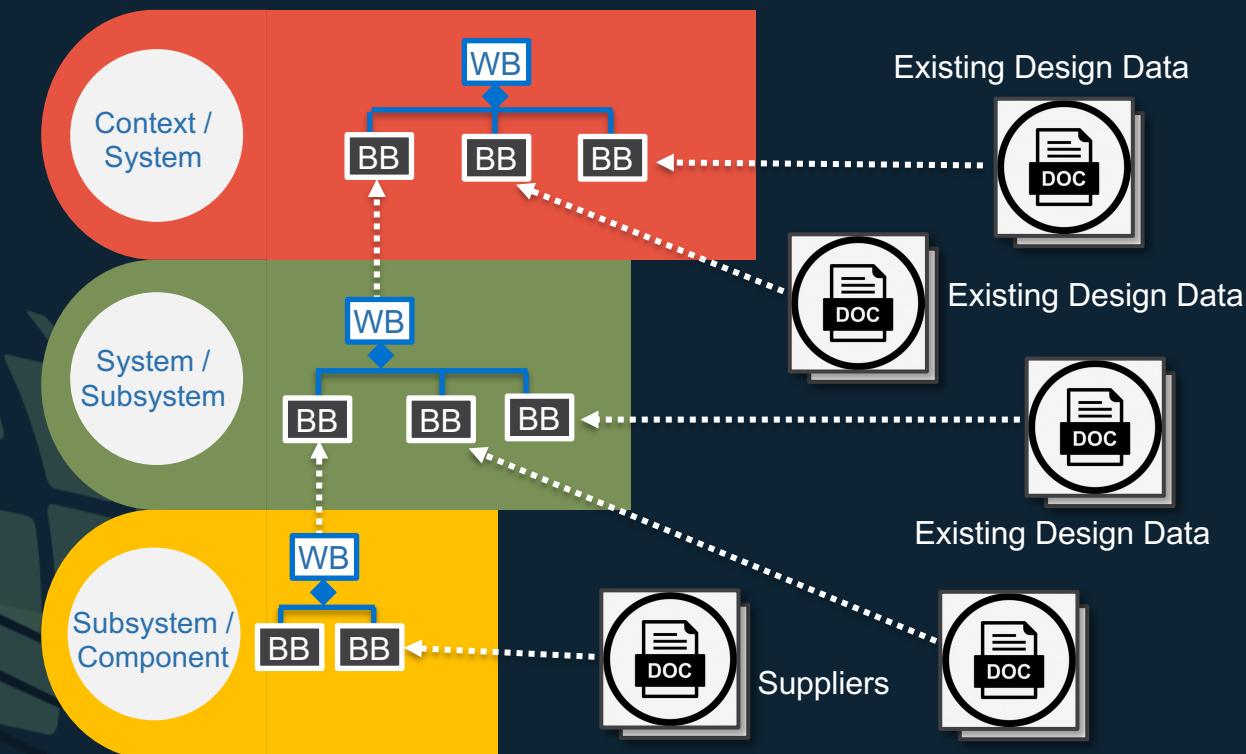


# Program 2 Upgrades

Program 2 features new development on a legacy platform

Program 2 leans heavily into need-based modeling approach, modeling only what is necessary to produce pre-defined outputs

Full MBSE definition is used on the new systems being integrated, suppliers required to use MBSE and integrate models with Boeing

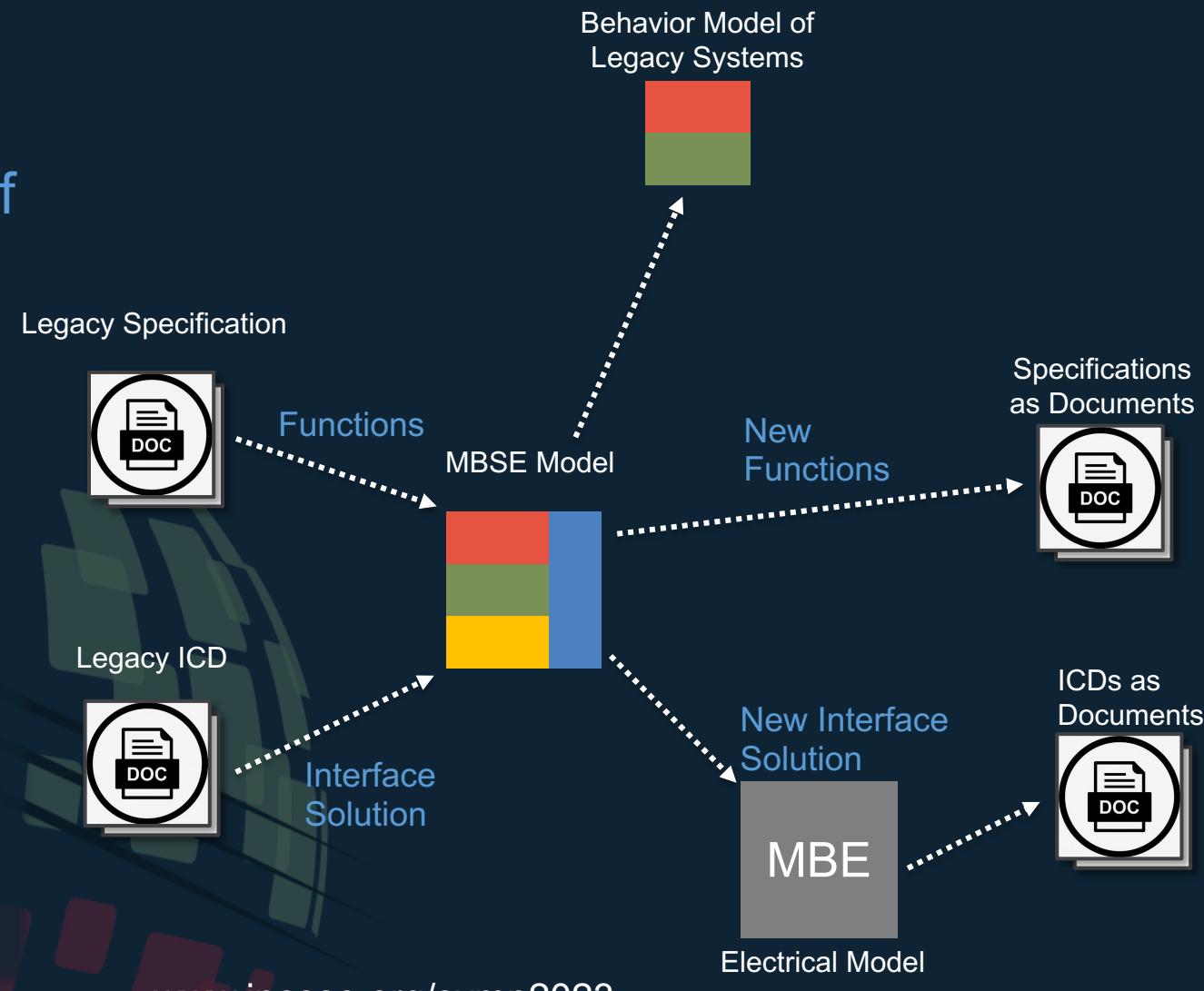


# Program 2 MBSE Inputs vs Outputs

Unique for Program 2,  
helping engineers  
understand functionality of  
legacy systems was an  
output

## Program 2 Example

- Inputs
  - Legacy specs
  - Legacy ICDs
- Outputs
  - Interface Design Docs
  - Guidance on system functions
  - Behavior validation
  - Upgrade specs



# Multiple New Programs

Several new programs at Boeing follow loose coupling to take maximum benefit from mixed fidelity modeling

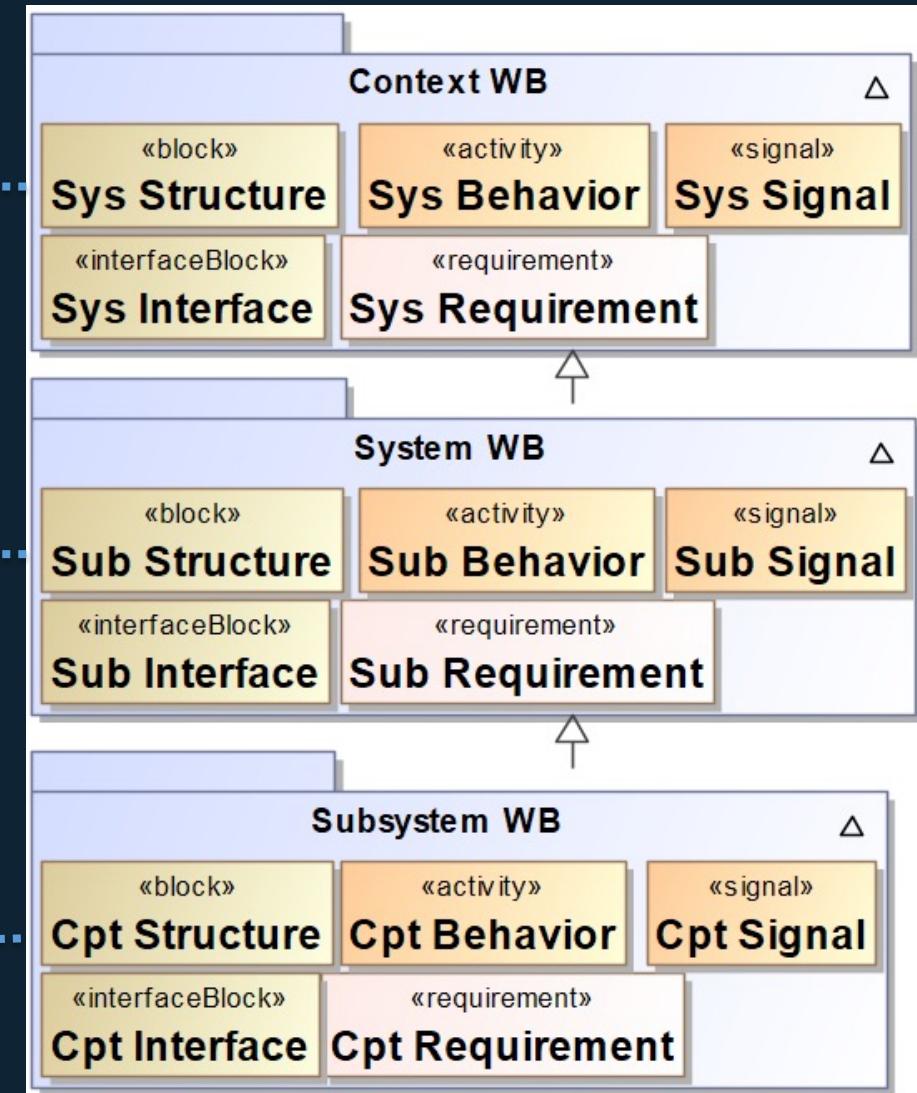
Modeling decomposition stops once a “procurable” black box is defined, and becomes the specification for a supplier either through export to documentation or directly as a model

New product models are validated/verified independently so source of truth is not modified during reuse

The System Black Box is Boeing's customer's procurable unit

Subsystem Black Boxes can be procured as-is without more decomposition (e.g. an engine)

Component Black Boxes can be defined and procured at lower levels (e.g. avionics)





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