



25<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
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international symposium  
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# The Virtual Instrumentation Diagram

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West Richland, Washington

# Ron Claghorn



- Not very good at operating computers. Therefore, he has a real passion for automation.
- Before Six—Sigma became popular, his father characterized him as someone “always looking for the easy way”. Now Ron makes a living at it.
- His favorite cooking utensil is the microware because it can be operated with just one button

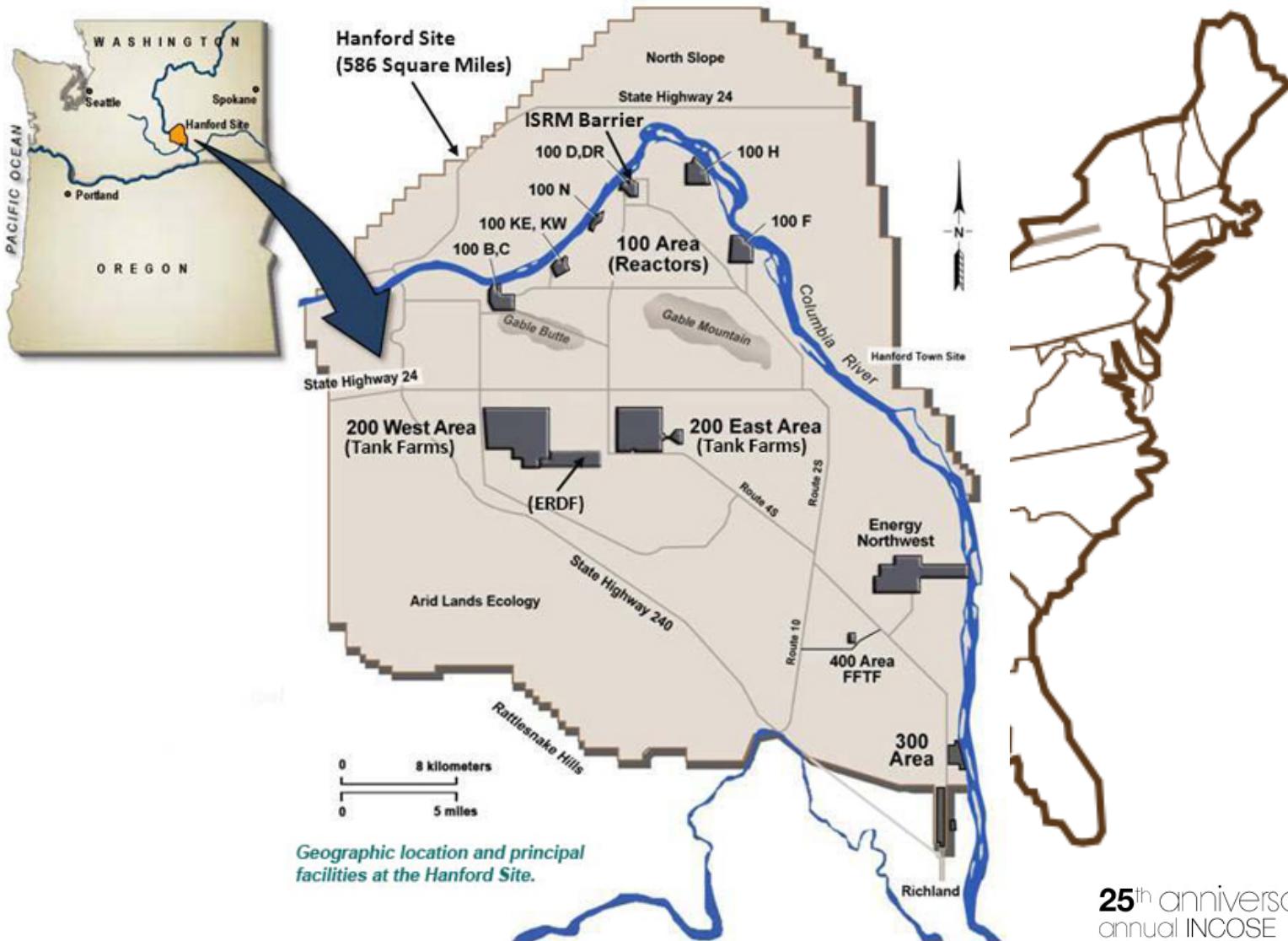
# Agenda

- Motivation for this work
- The promise of model-based systems engineering (MBSE)
- MBSE implementation issues
- Proposed resolution

# Author Experience

- Chemical engineer by degree
- 34 years at Hanford Site, Washington
- Primarily Engineering, Procurement, and Commissioning (EPC)
- 12 years Systems Engineering supervisor
- Currently involved in updating the flowsheet for disposition of Hanford tank waste

# Hanford Site



# Inherent Risks

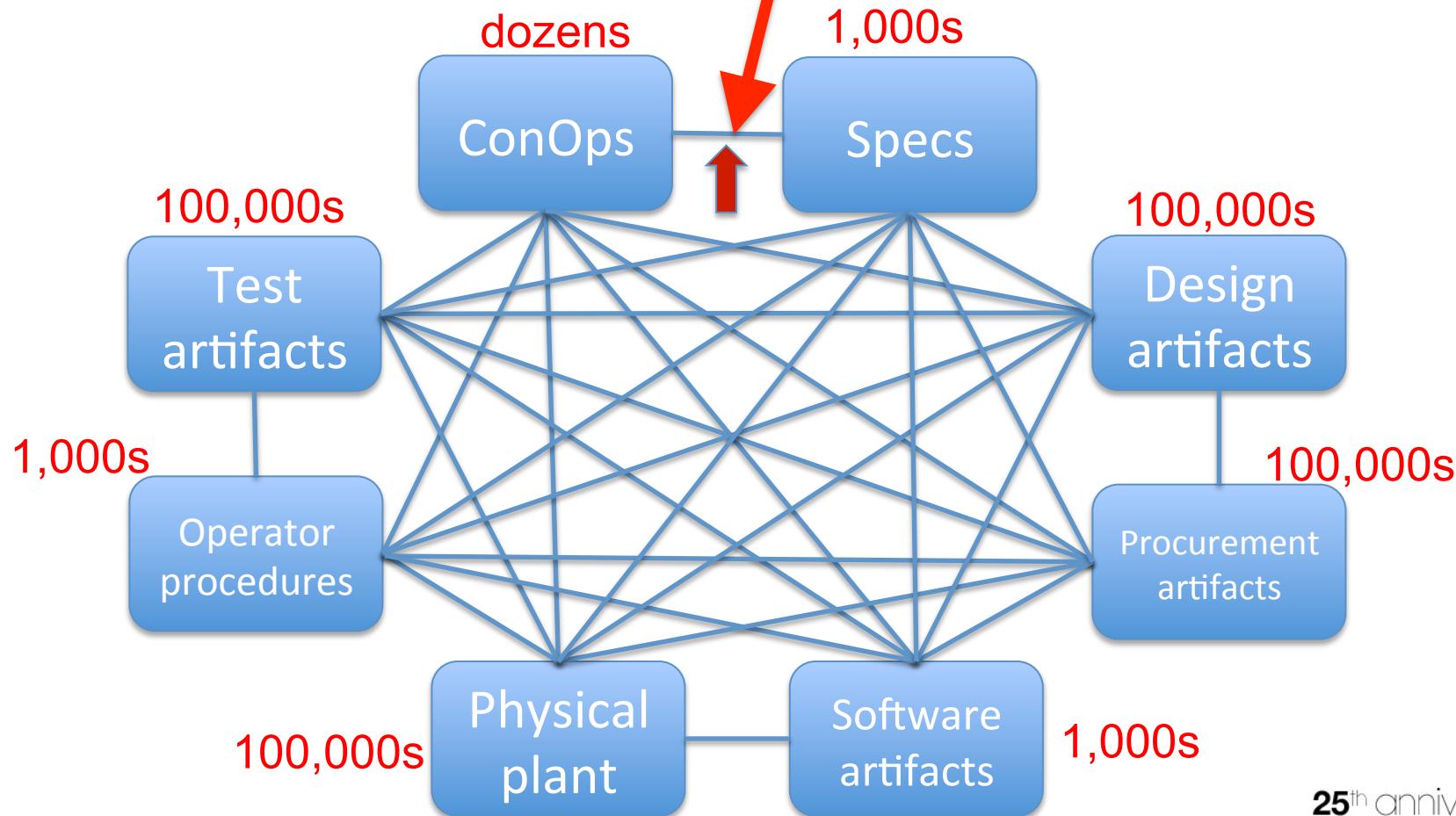
- Chemical and nuclear waste materials
- Some materials soluble in water
- Proximity to a very important river
- Selected disposition of waste includes high pressure and high temperature processes



High expectations for high quality work to minimize risks

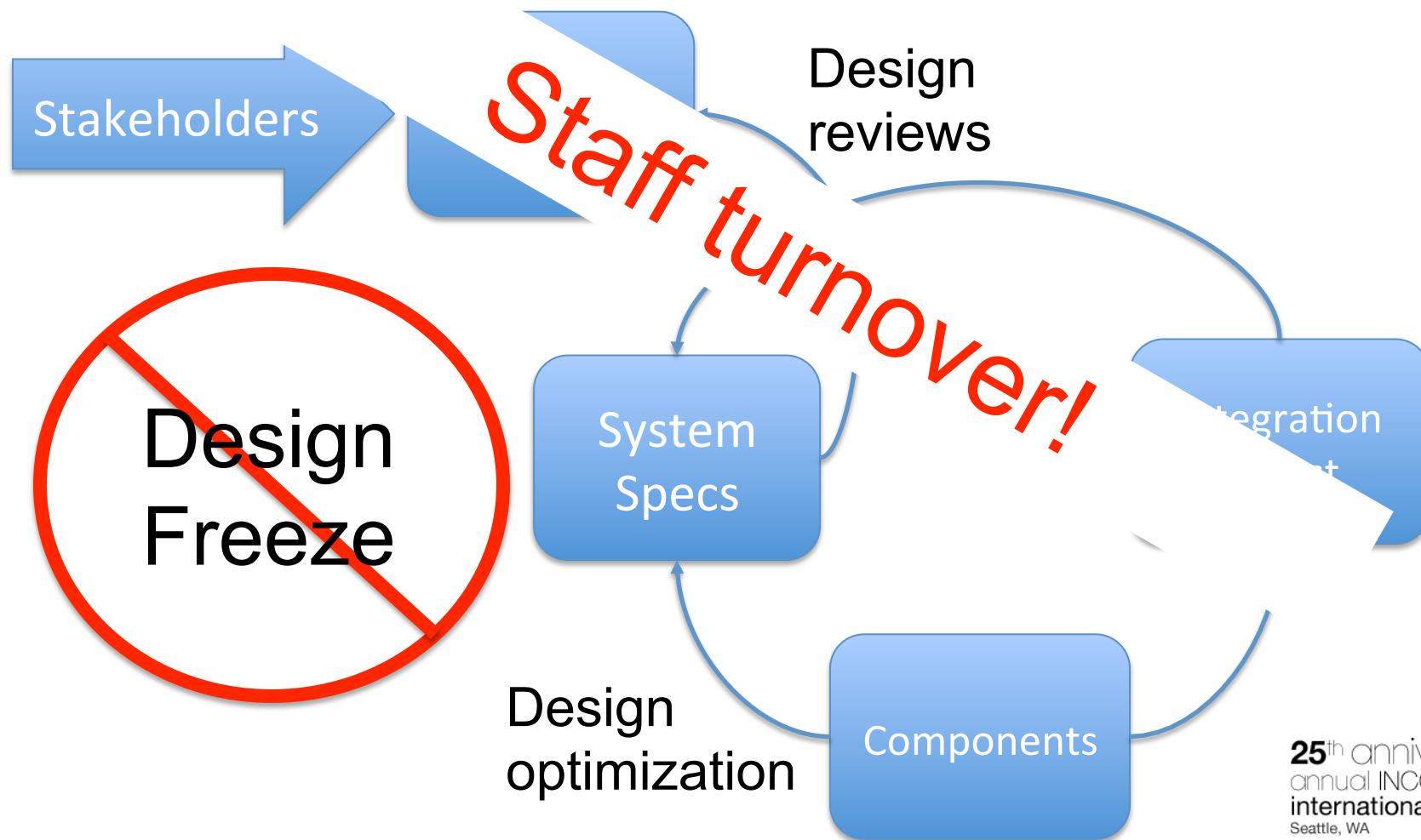
# Challenge: > 100,000 links!

## Configuration Management (CM) = Consistency



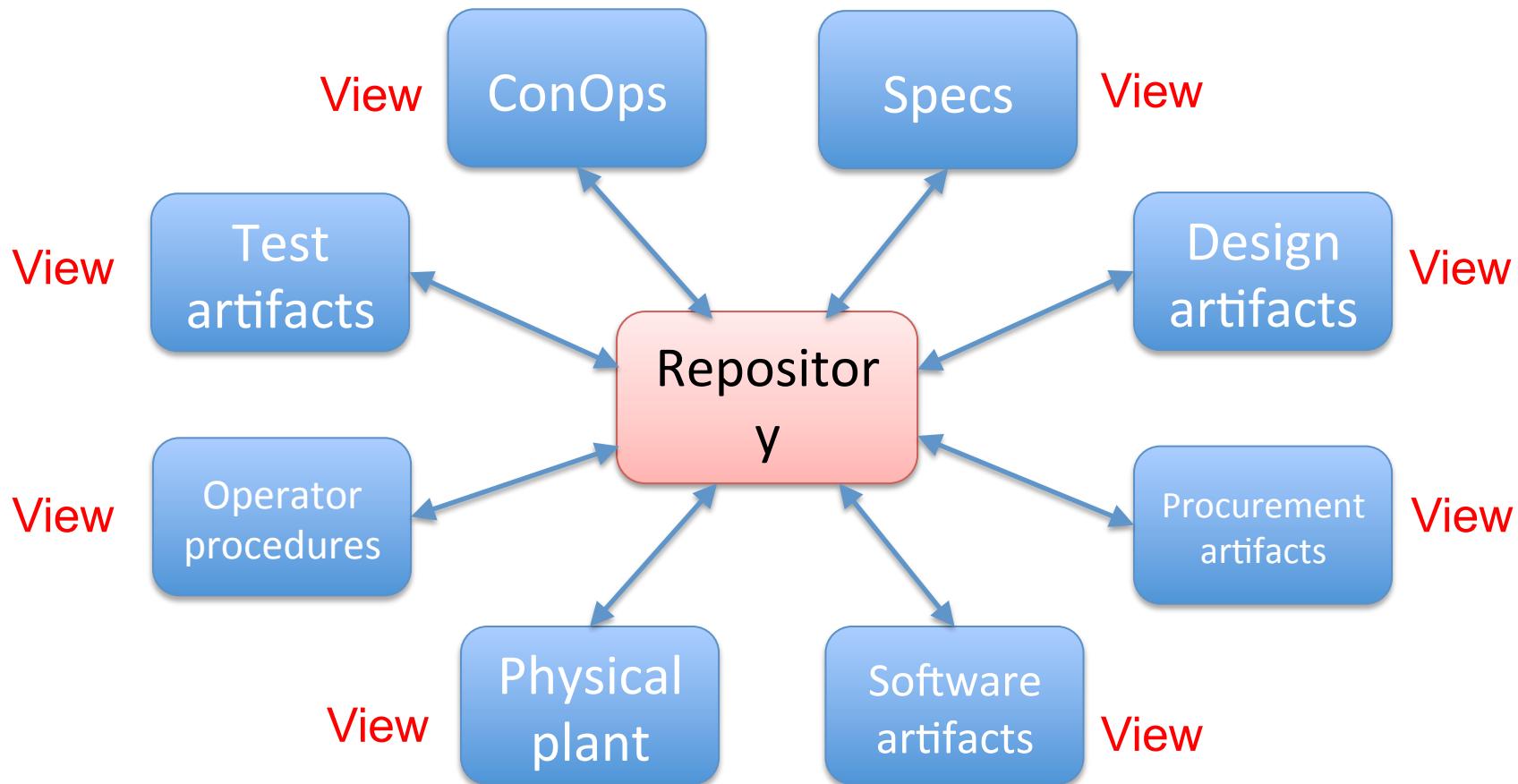
# Document Instability

EPC - constant change



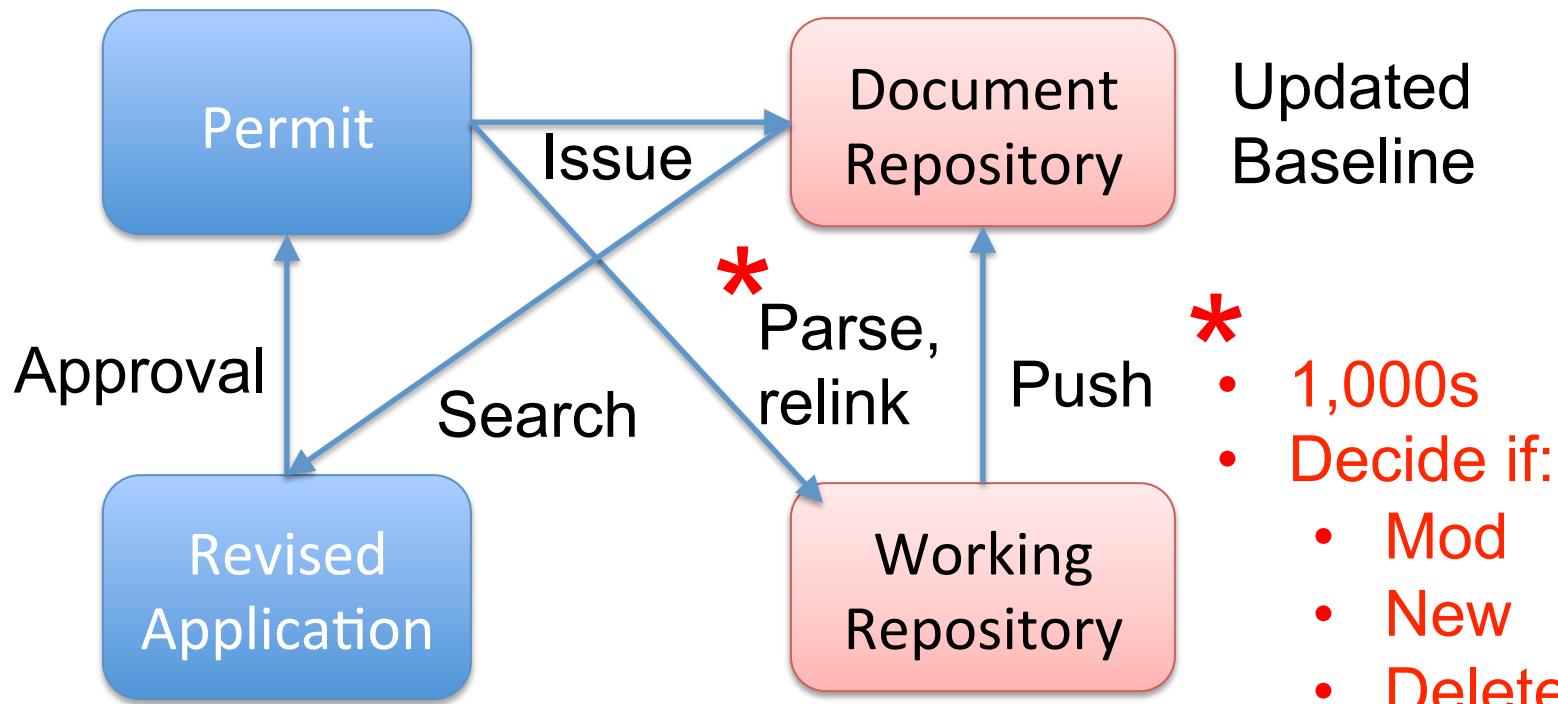
# The Promise of MBSE

One repository → Dynamic views → Problem solved?



# MBSE Issue #1

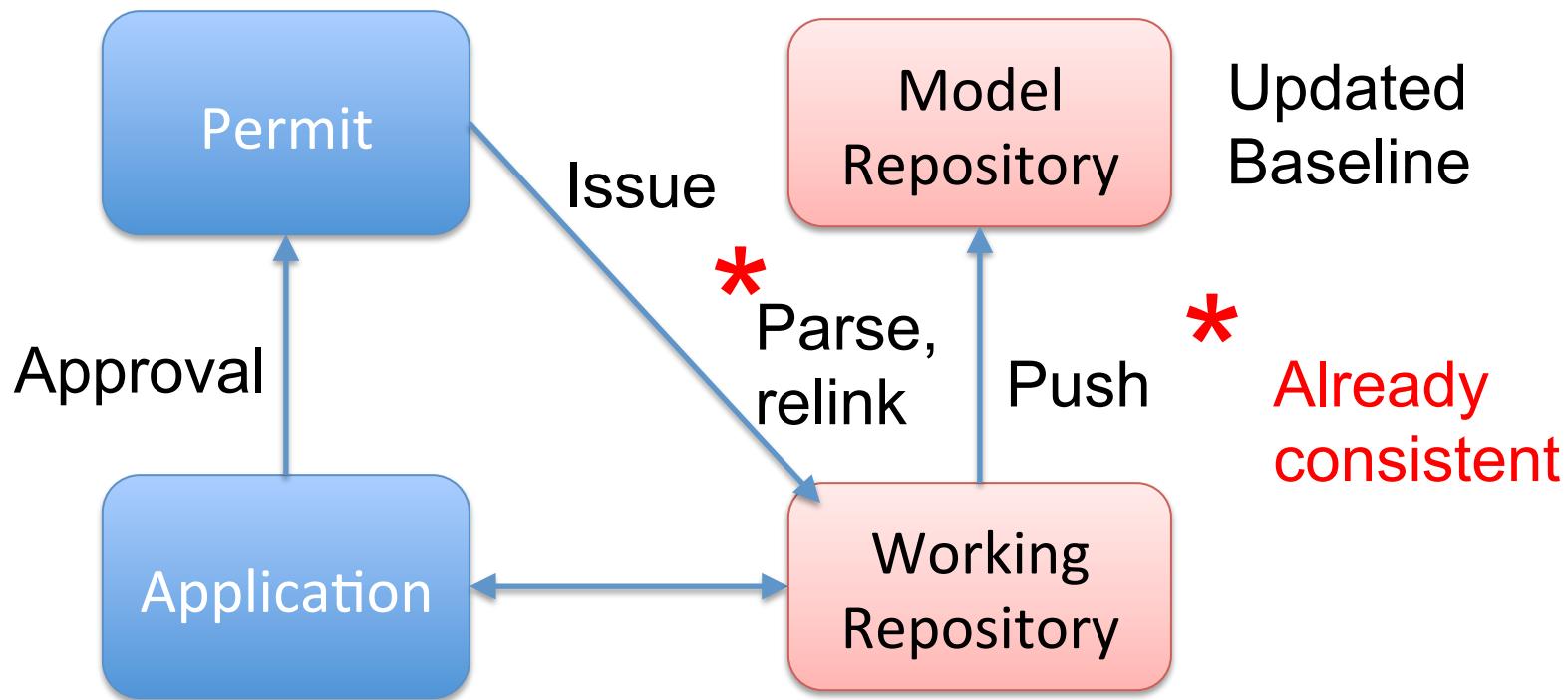
Some documents won't have two-way communication with the repository



\*Problem solved with US Patent 7890486

# MBSE-like Approach

## Two-way updates

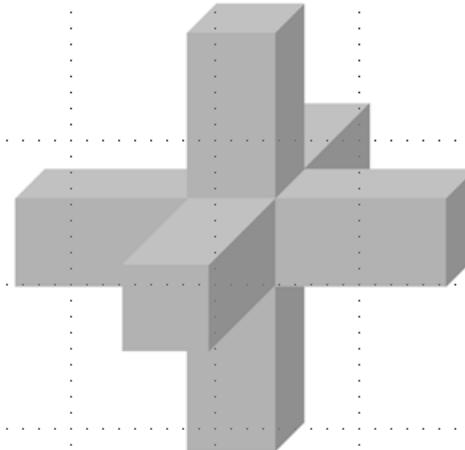
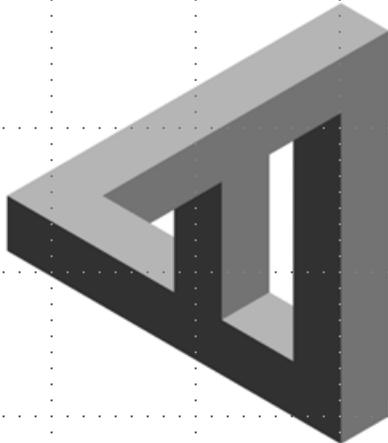


# MBSE Issue #2

## Complexity of the graphics\*

“A picture paints a thousand words”

*or ...*



“A thousand readable words could have been put in the space of this one unreadable drawing”

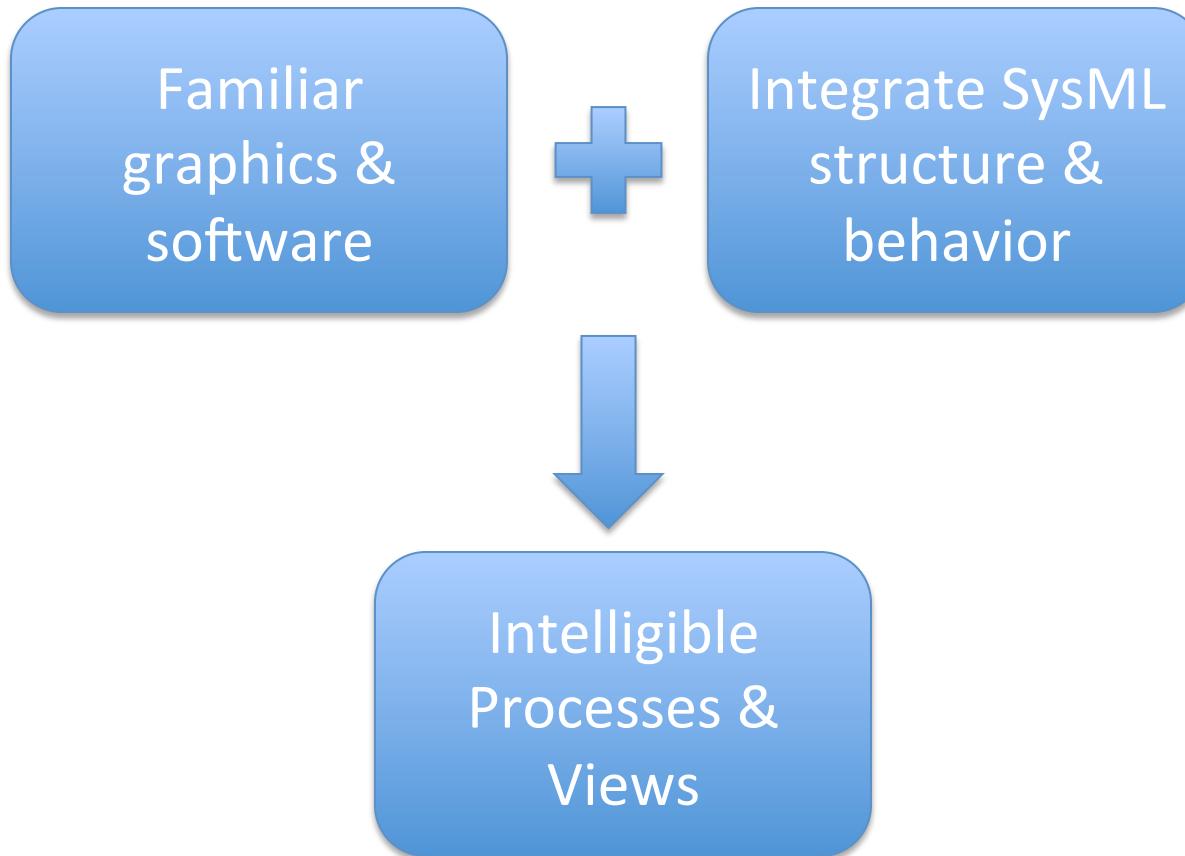
\*Andy Gurd, IBM Requirements Management blog, July 31 2012

# MBSE Issues

## Complexity of the tools

- Huge learning curve
- Helps to have background in computer programming (SysML Block ~ Software Class)
- Requires ~months for the average user to become proficient (Internet: many give up and go back to spreadsheets)

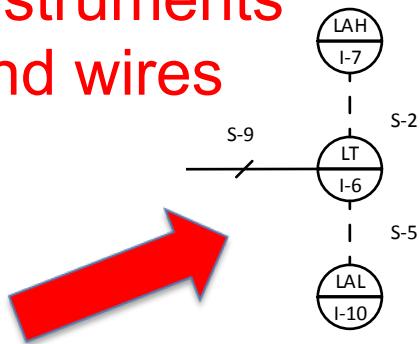
# Gentle MBSE Implementation



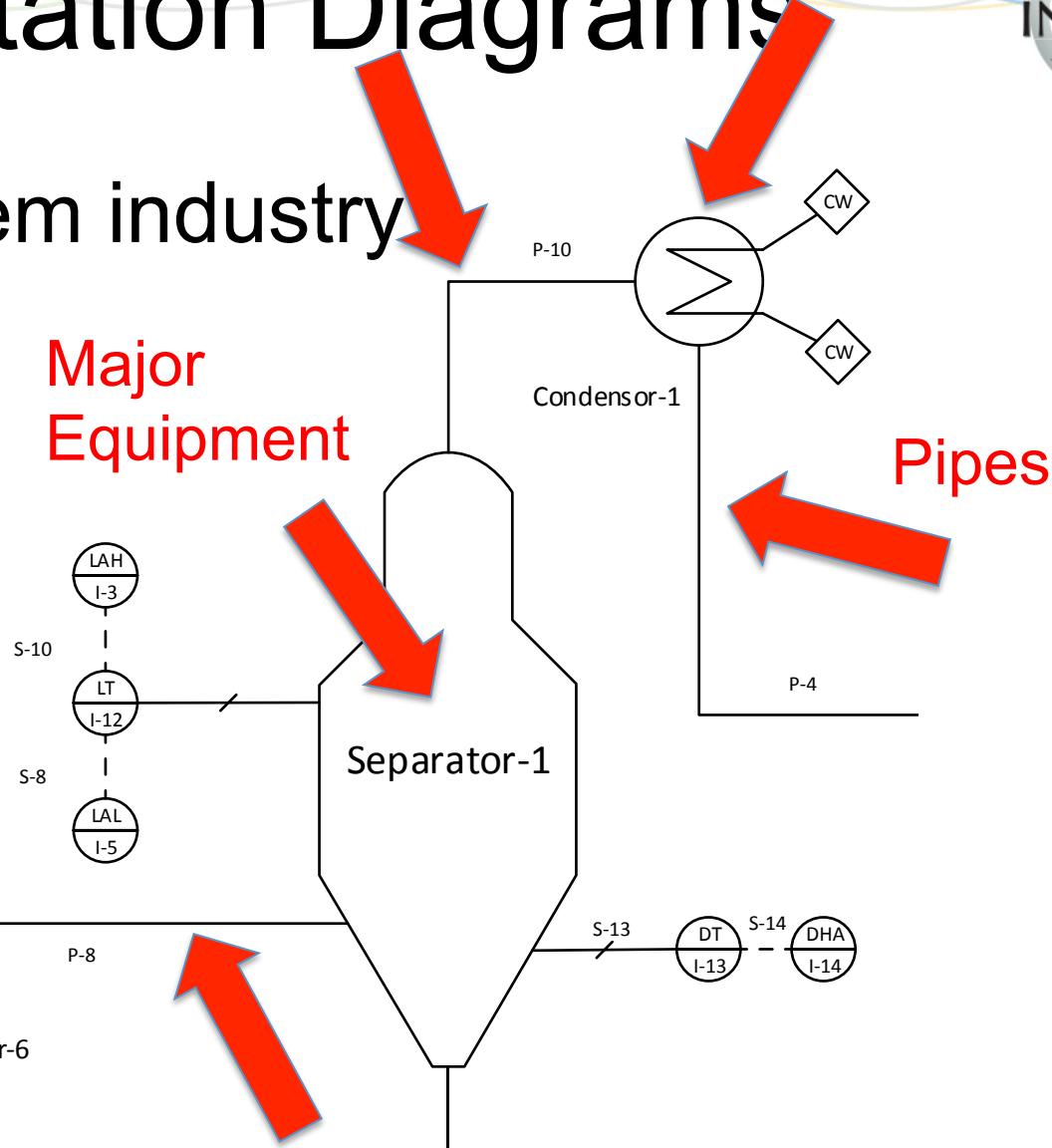
# Instrumentation Diagrams

Familiar to chem industry

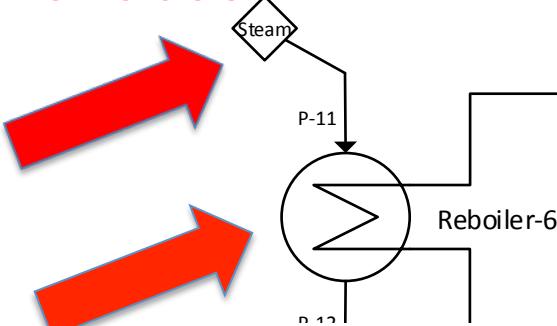
Instruments  
and wires



Major  
Equipment

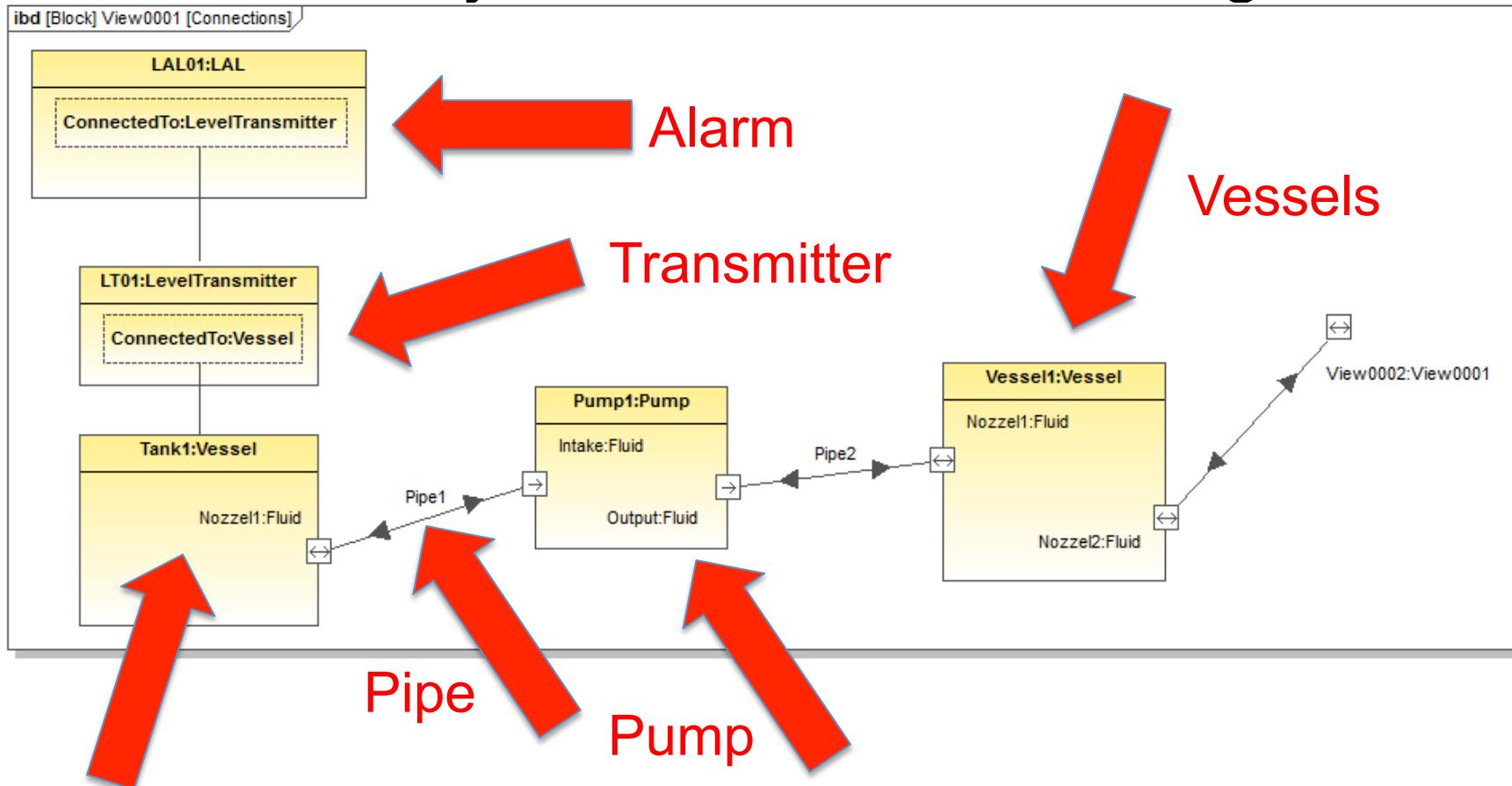


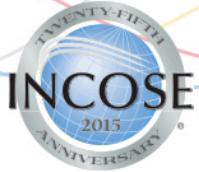
Interfaces



# Instrumentation Diagrams

Similar to a SysML internal block diagram

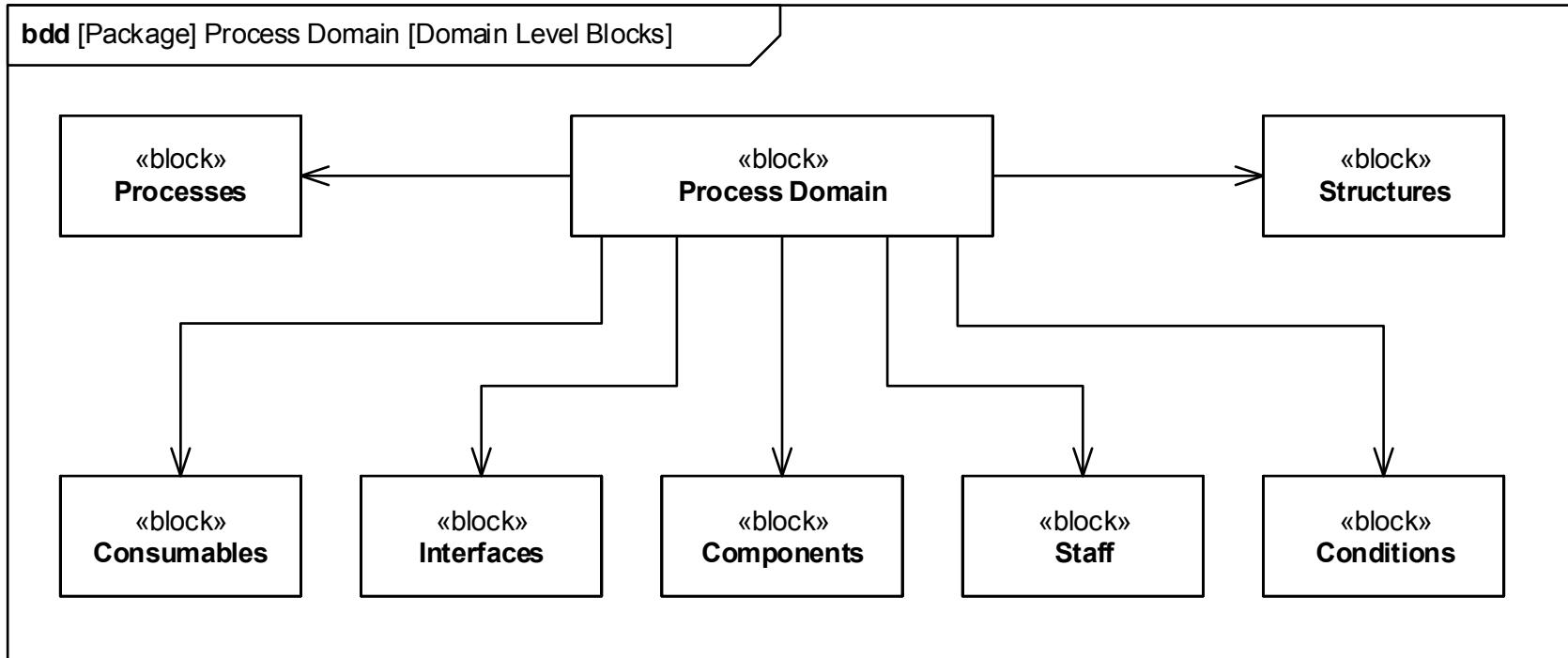




# Instrumentation Diagrams

- Multiple uses:
  - Trade studies
  - Hazard analysis
  - Basis for layouts and isometrics
- Requires collaboration of multiple disciplines: process; instrumentation, controls, mechanical

# P&ID Coverage



# Selection of Modeling Tool



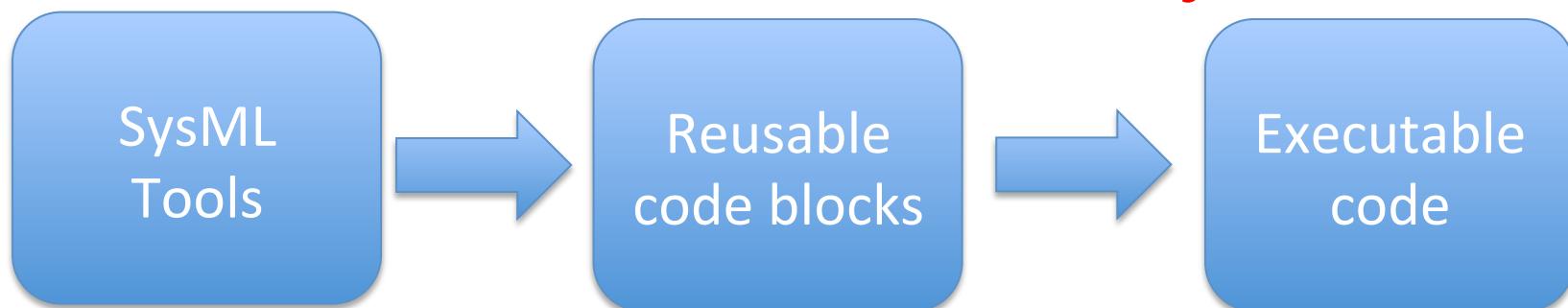
## Criteria

- Syntax – Correct use of SysML
- Semantics – Reflect reality
- Pragmatics – Understood by stakeholders
- Two-way communication with the repository
- Other features such as easy to use

# Syntax

- SysML modeling tools evaluated for this paper (UModel and Rhapsody) are very good at enforcing SysML syntax vs Visio stencil

**Perfect syntax!**



# Semantics

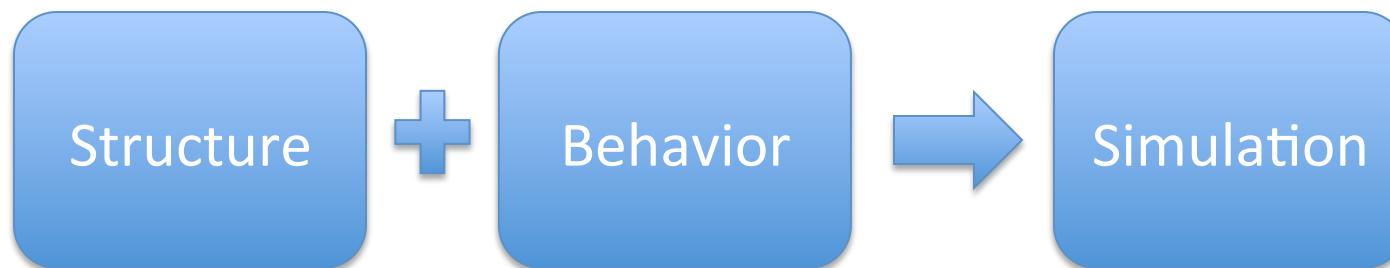
The model must mimic reality:

- In actuality, components are specified, created, tested, integrated, and then tested as part of the system
- Components react to conditions independant of other components



# Pragmatics

The model must be understood by all stakeholders



# Other Criteria

- Ease of use (e.g. symbol library)
- Cost (\$300 to \$10,000)
- Schedule (time to produce)
- Searchable repository for casual users
- Bi-directional code:

SysML – code – SysML

# Selection of MBSE Tool

- Survey at [SysMLtools.org](http://SysMLtools.org) provides a summary but also warns:  
the “Muddle-Driven Marketecture” vendor hype and tool featuritis associated with commercial SysML tools can overwhelm even savvy engineers
- In other words: try before you buy
- Evaluated UModel (inexpensive) and Rhapsody (for advanced simulation)

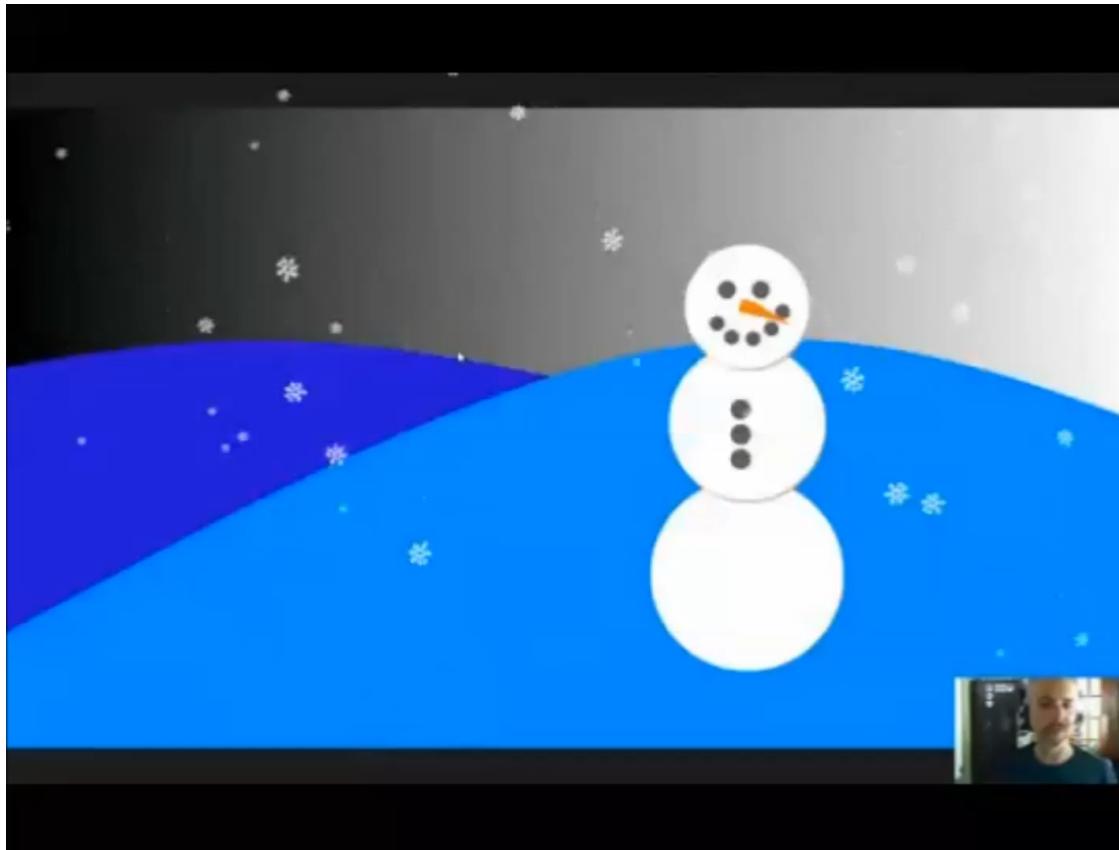
# Tool Test Results

- Each good at enforcing SysML syntax
- Each good at creating reusable software objects
- Each capable of creating executables from those objects
- Animation is a differentiator: none to some. All tools would need coding to animate a P&ID.

What code to use?

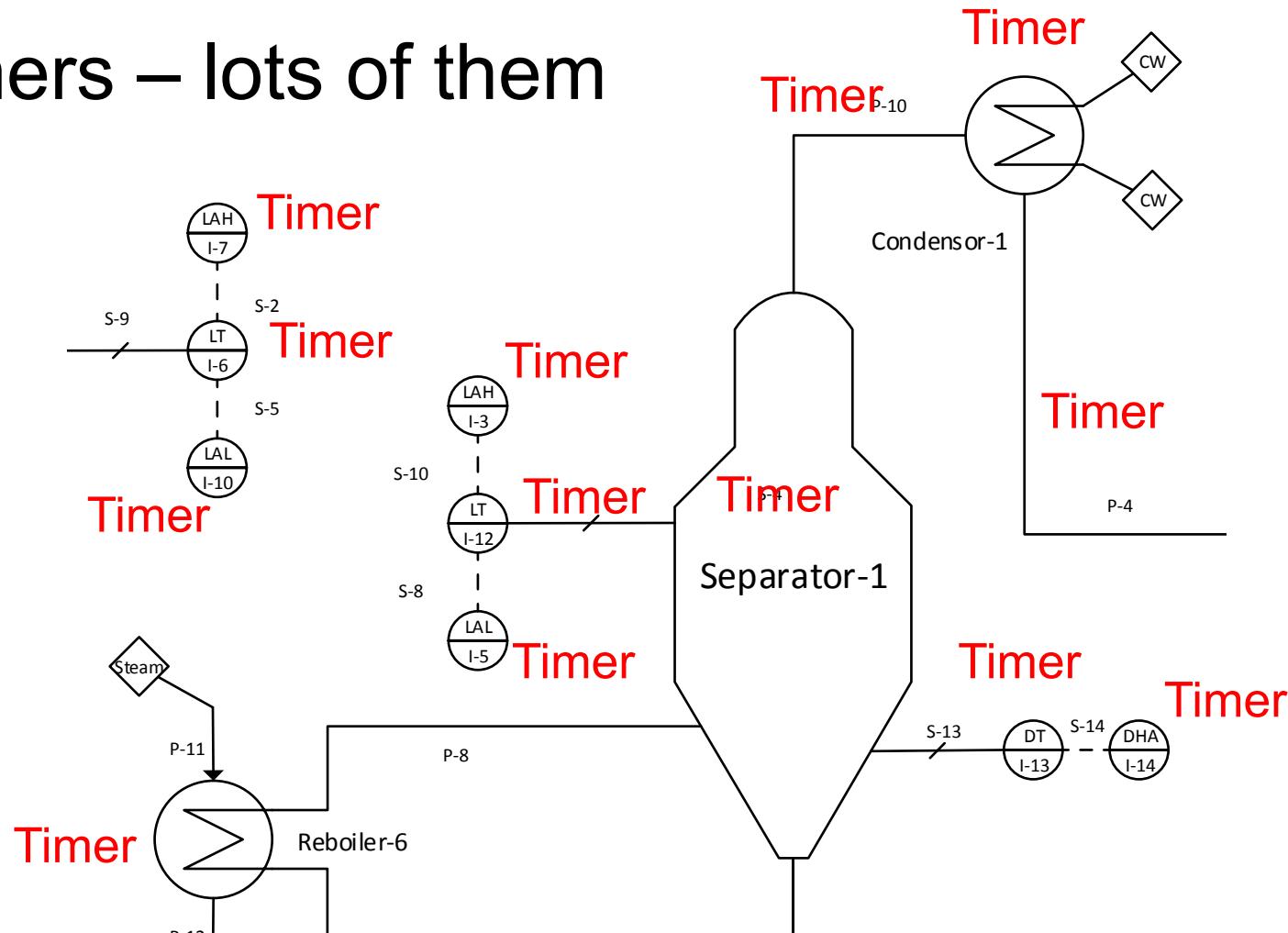
# Animation Technology

Windows Presentation Foundation specially created to facilitate animation.



# Animation Requirements

Timers – lots of them



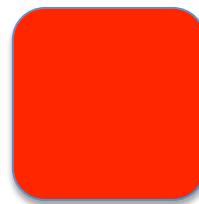
# WPF Animation Toolbox

Examples (of many):

Color change to  
indicate temperature

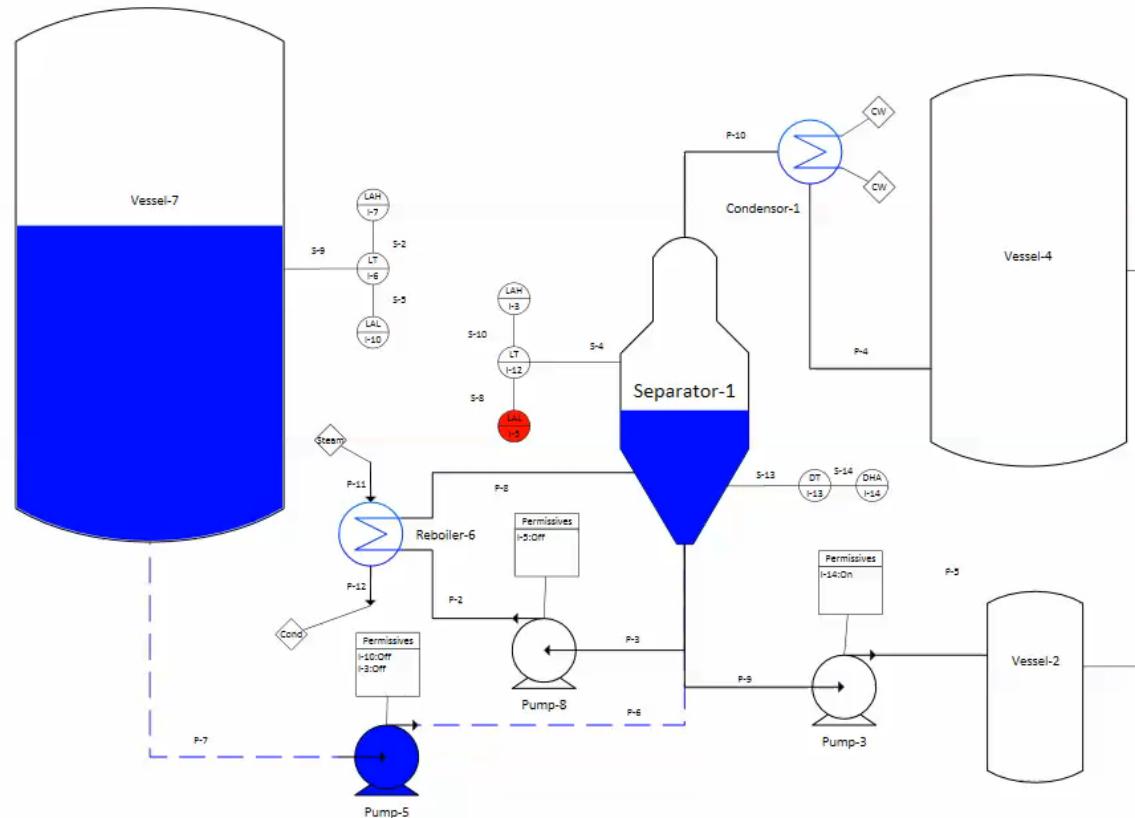


Opacity to indicate  
decontamination



# Animation Requirement

Pan and zoom vector-based graphics



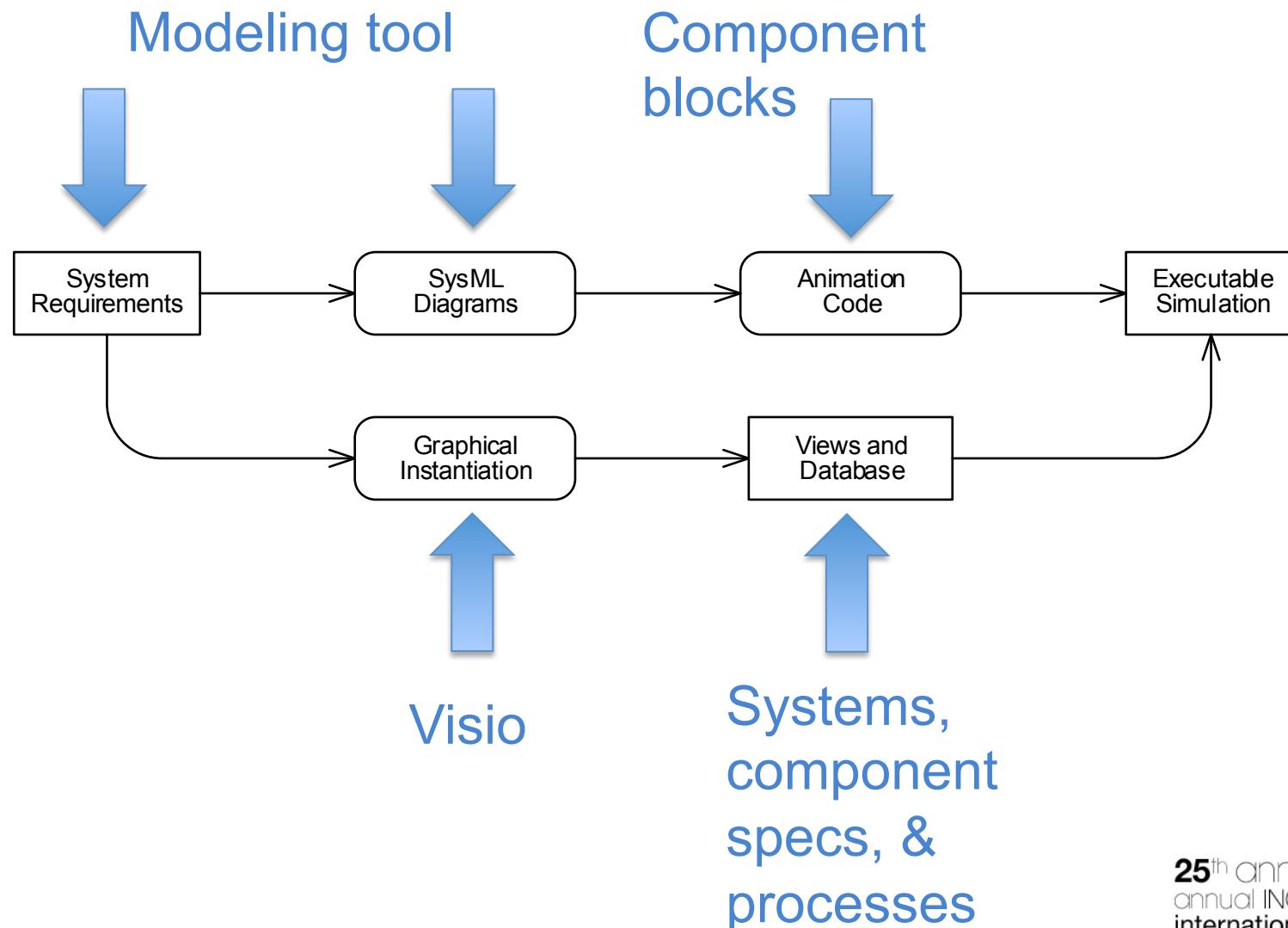


# XAML Drawing Tool

WPF uses Extensible Application Markup Language (XAML an instance of XML)

- Hard to find drawing tools that generate XAML
- Found that Visio will create XAML in when saved as a web page. And the professional version has a P&ID library!

# Selected Approach



# Draw the View in Visio

Drag & drop

Tag each component

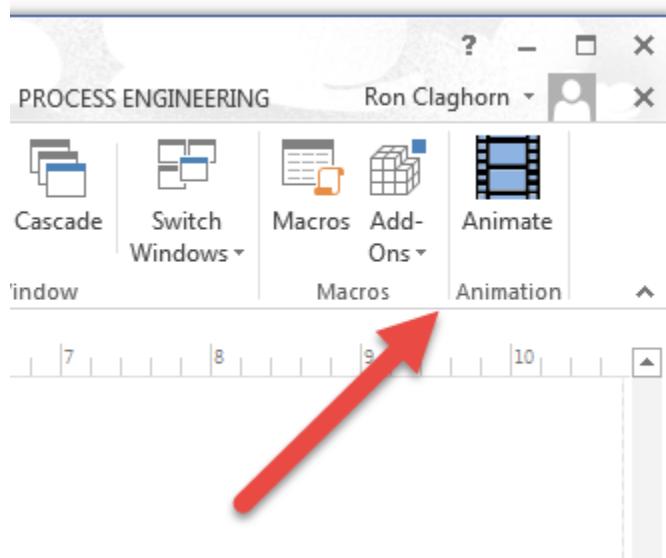
Right-click to add values

- Drag and drop components to instantiate the component blocks and the associations created using the MBSE tool
- Give each component a unique tag name
- Right-click on components to quantify properties and initial values

# Start the Animation

Command button in Visio ribbon:

- Inserts details into the repository
- Creates XAML



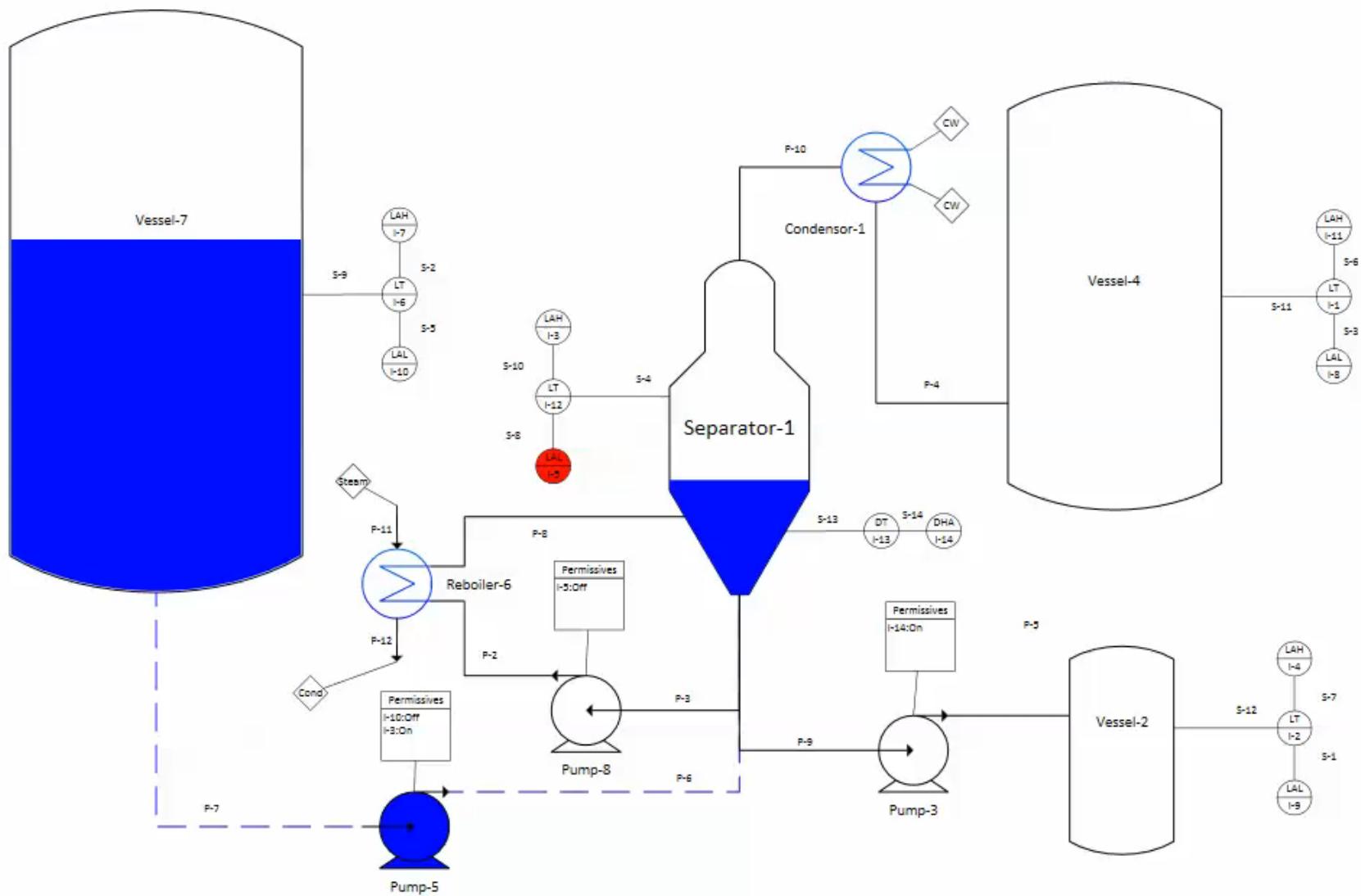
# Application Startup

Read  
repository

Read XAML

Create  
instances

- Reads the repository
- Pulls in the XAML from Visio output
- Create instances of components and associations



# Net Result

Minimal pain for the gain in adopting the MBSE approach:

- Maximum engineer participation in model development
- Quality based on established metrics
- Meaningful presentation to a wide range of stakeholders
- Repository for creating consistent artifacts