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An A3AOs Method of Software Tools Integration in the Complex System Development

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Who is presenting

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Associate Professor in Systems Engineering
University of South-Eastern Norway

Research interests

- Testing and verification, Systems Engineering, Product development, Robust design, Crash mechanics and Numerical simulations

Work Experience as

Specialist Engineer, Structural Analysis at FMC Kongsberg Subsea AS (2006 - 2016)
Assistant Systems Engineer at TATA Consultancy Services, Pune, India (2001 - 2002)



Educational Background

PhD in Structural Engineering, NTNU (2002 - 2005)
M.Tech in Applied Mechanics, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, India (1999 - 2000)



Agenda

- Introduction
- Data and methods
- Literature review
- Conceptual solution
- Case study
- Prototyping
- Demonstration
- Conclusion





Introduction

- Company is a technology supplier in the maritime industry
- This specific case is about improving projects with integrated automation systems for advanced vessels
- Increased cost pressure and increase in competition
- Concern in a continuous improvement program: Deviations in the way the engineers works in projects
 - Especially visible in the use of software tools
 - No detailed system development process
 - Reduces efficiency, quality and consistency

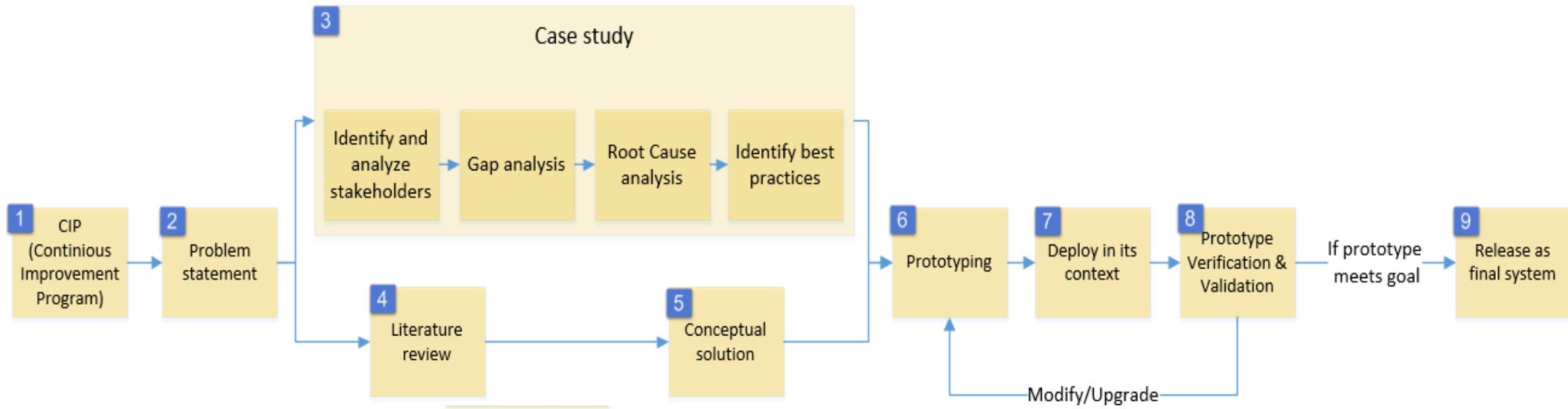


Goal

- Optimize performance in department projects:
 - Reduce 200 man-hours
 - Increase quality
 - Increase consistency
- *To reach this goal we propose the following research question:*
- *How to develop a system development process that integrates software tools for optimized performance?*



Research method

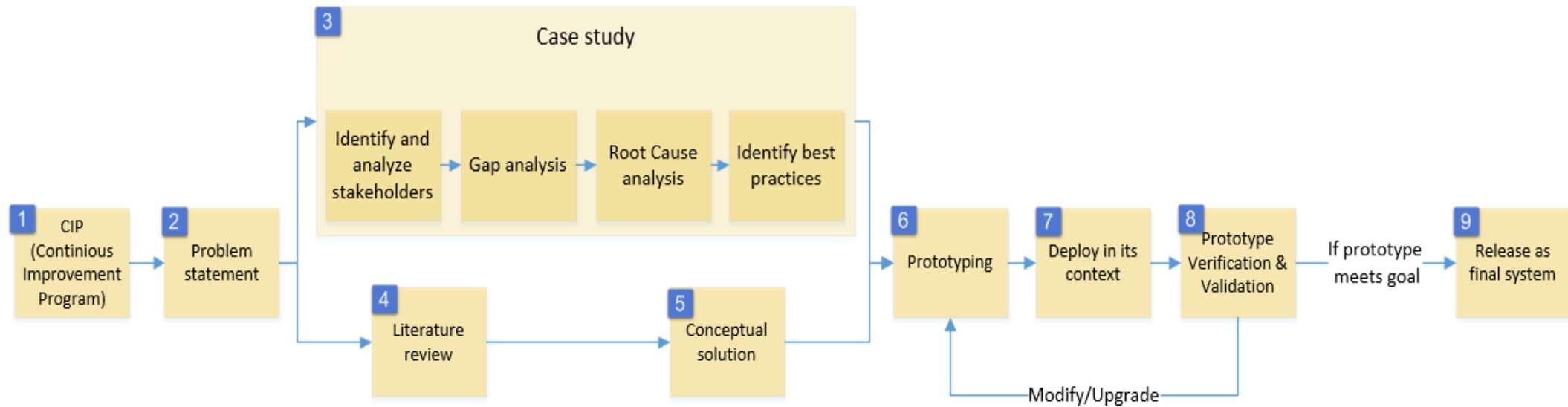




Literature Review

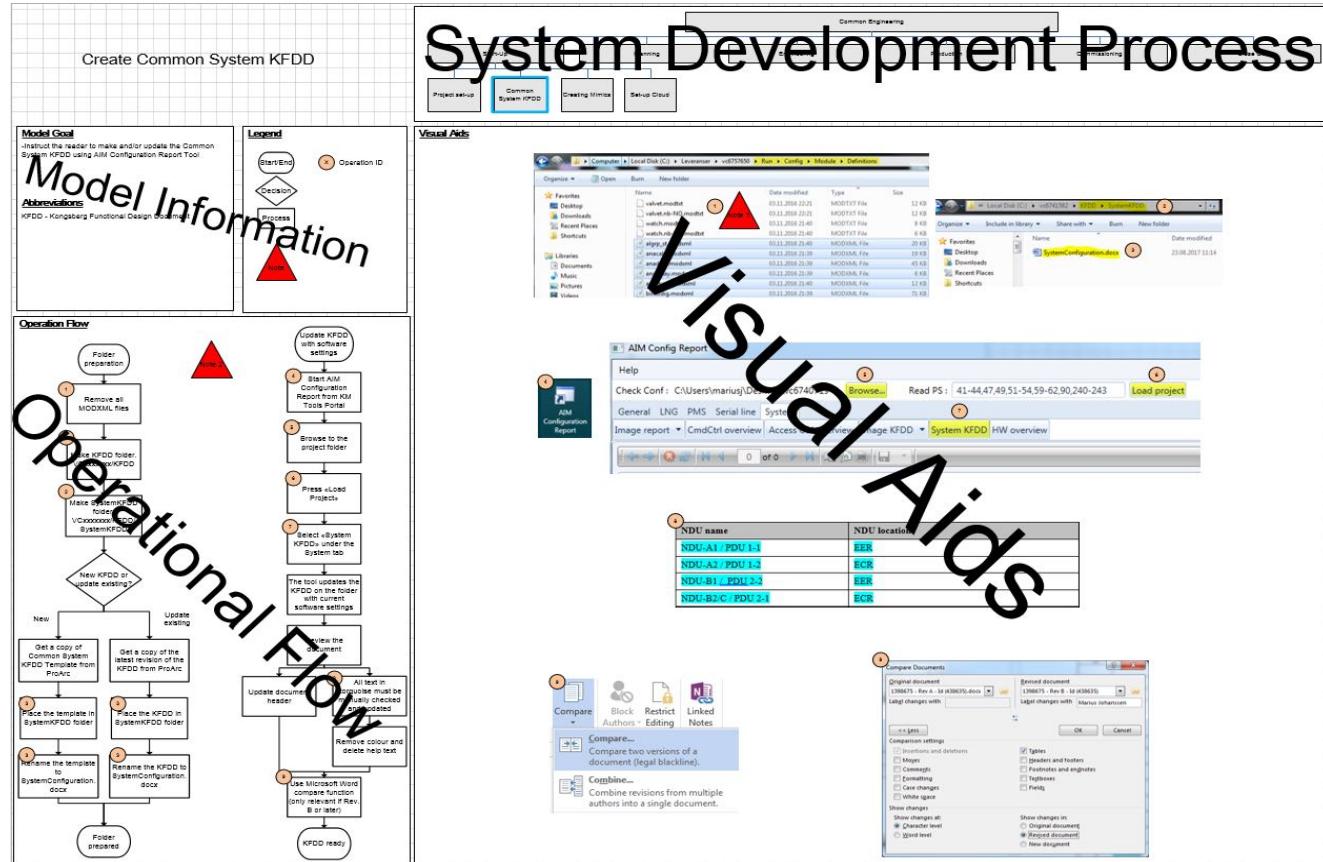
- System development processes
- Systems Engineering
- Systems Architecting
- A3 Architectural Overviews (A3AOs)
 - Borches (2010) communicate architectural knowledge
 - A3AO applied in several industries and domains
 - Diesel Control System (Wiulsrød, Muller & Penotti, 2012)
 - Lube oil system of a gas turbine (Singh & Muller, 2013) – Dynamic A3 Architecture
 - Interactivity in A3AOs (Brussel & Bonnema, 2015)

Conceptual Solution

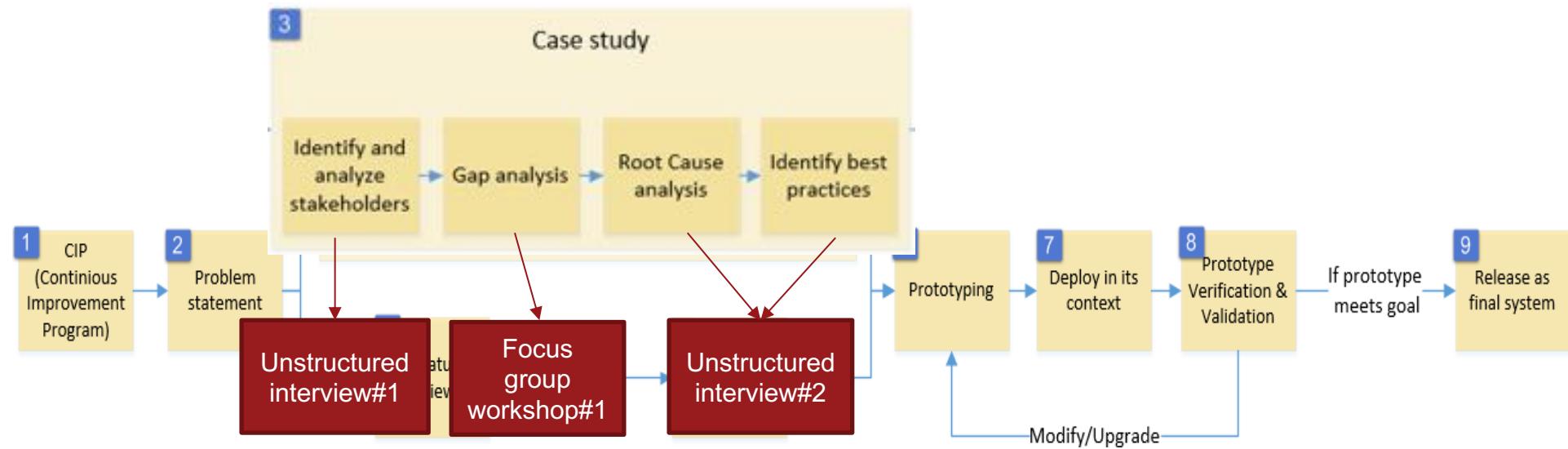




Conceptual Solution

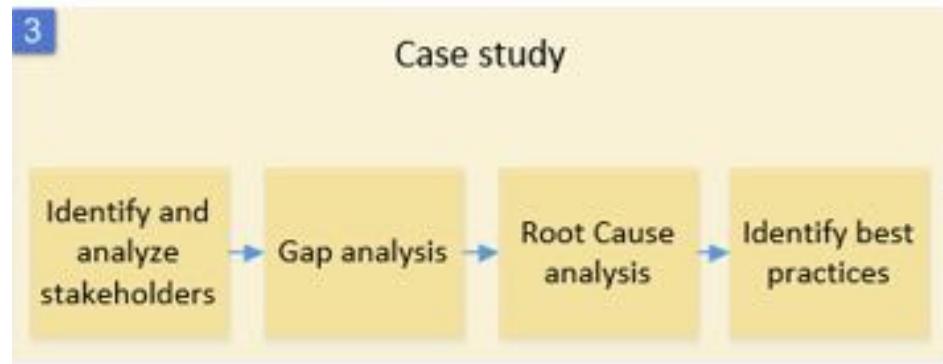


Case Study

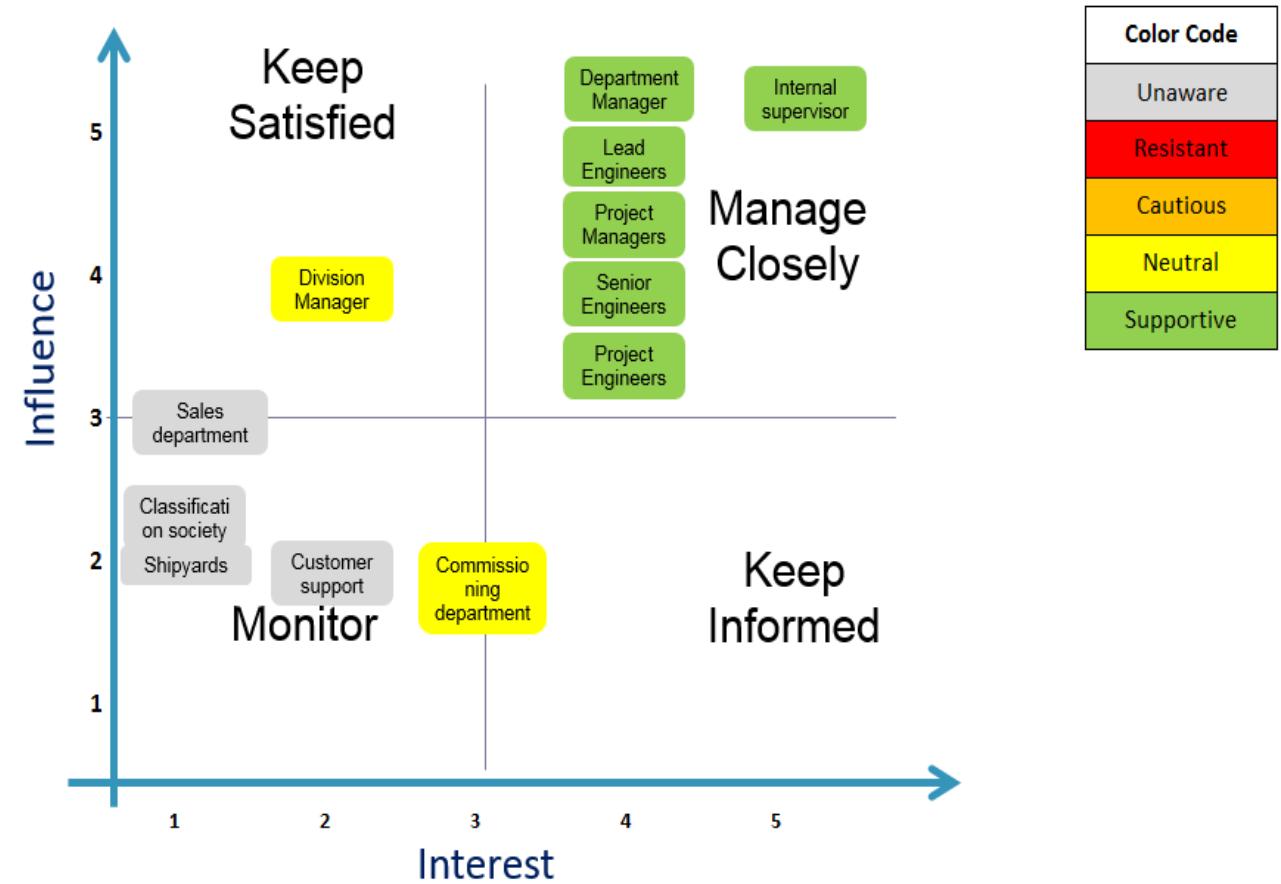




Stakeholder Analysis

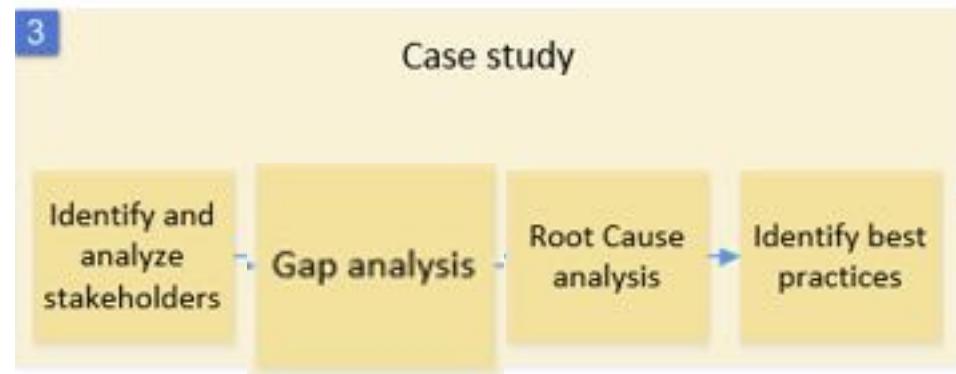


Stakeholder Analysis





Gap Analysis





Gap Analysis

Current State (As-Is)

- Mostly manual system development
- Individual-experience based development
- Software tools used occasionally
- Reduced efficiency, quality and consistency
- 27 software tools available

Future state (To-Be)

- Mostly tool-based system development
- Standard procedure based system development
- Common understanding of the best practice
- Manual development occasionally
- Reduce 200 man-hours on LNG Projects while improving quality and consistency

Gap

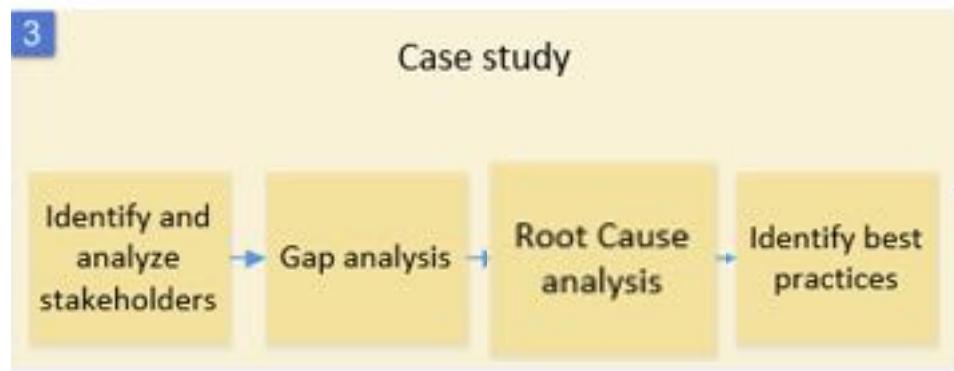
- The LNG department lacks a guide, procedures or processes that captures the use of software tools in the development process
- The LNG department lacks a common understanding of the best practice (it is all individual - experience based)
- The engineers in the LNG department lacks training in software tools

Proposed actions to close gap

- Architect a LNG specific system development process
- Integrate the best practice in a LNG specific system development process
- Integrate software tools in a LNG specific system development process



Root Cause Analysis





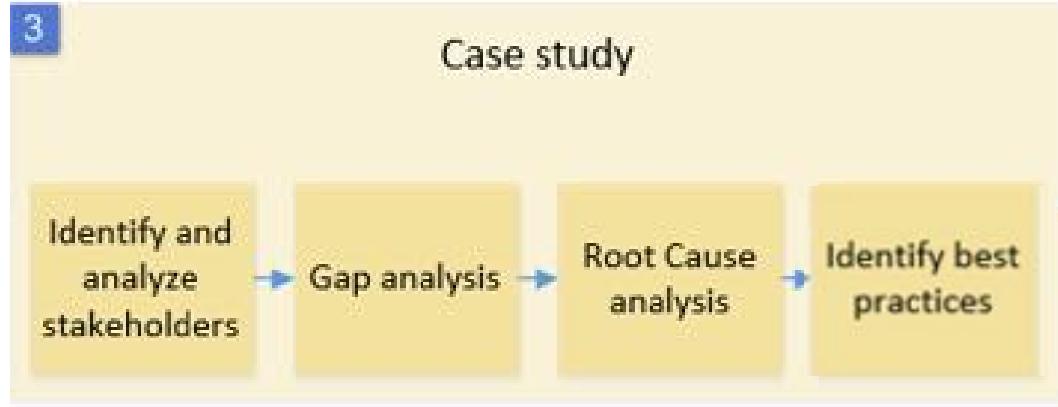
Root Causes – Why are software tools used insufficiently?

- Several software tools
- Located on different servers
- Different user interfaces
- Poor or no user manuals
- No process/guideline on what, when and how to use the software tools
- No process/guideline that captures best practices
- Lack of available time for training
- Software tools are not used on a regular basis



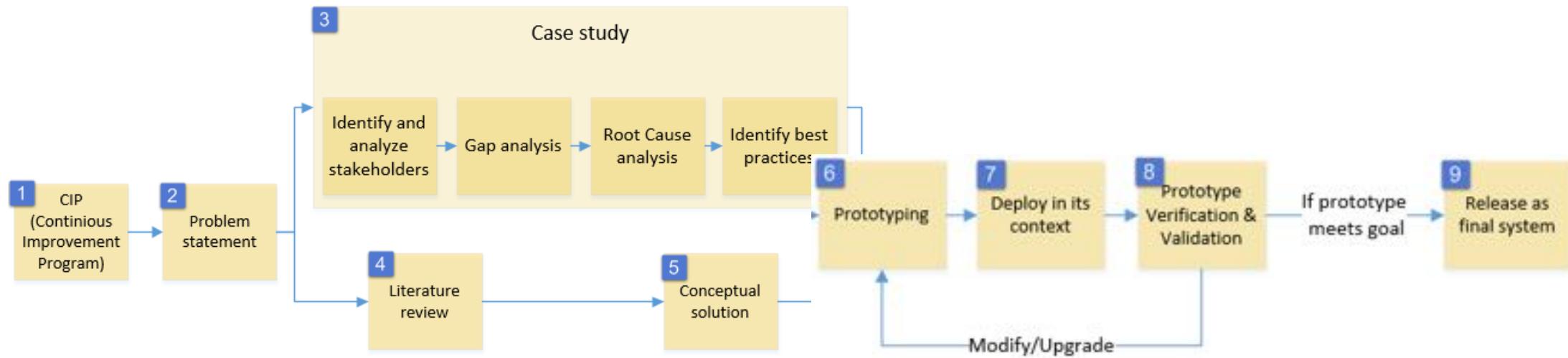


Best Practices



We identify the best ways of using software tools today

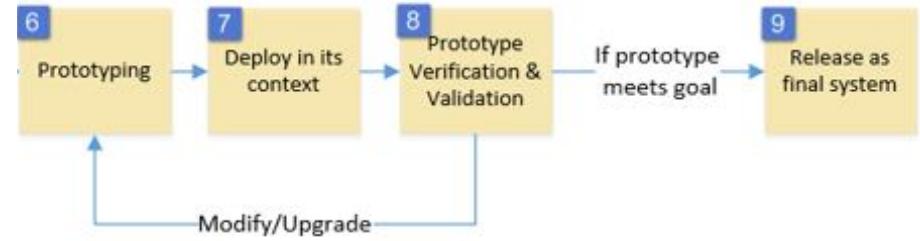
Prototyping





Prototyping

- Rapid prototyping
- Released to the stakeholders
- If it meets the goal it is released as final system
- 3 prototypes





Prototype 1

- Prototype 1 – focus group workshop#2 (non-operational)
 - 2 pages of A3AOs
- Positive feedback from the stakeholders
 - Visual nature
 - Step by step
 - Suggestions for improvement
 - 4 design modifications and 3 new functions
 - General understanding that the prototype will improve project performance
 - However, not to the level of 200 man-hours





Prototype 2

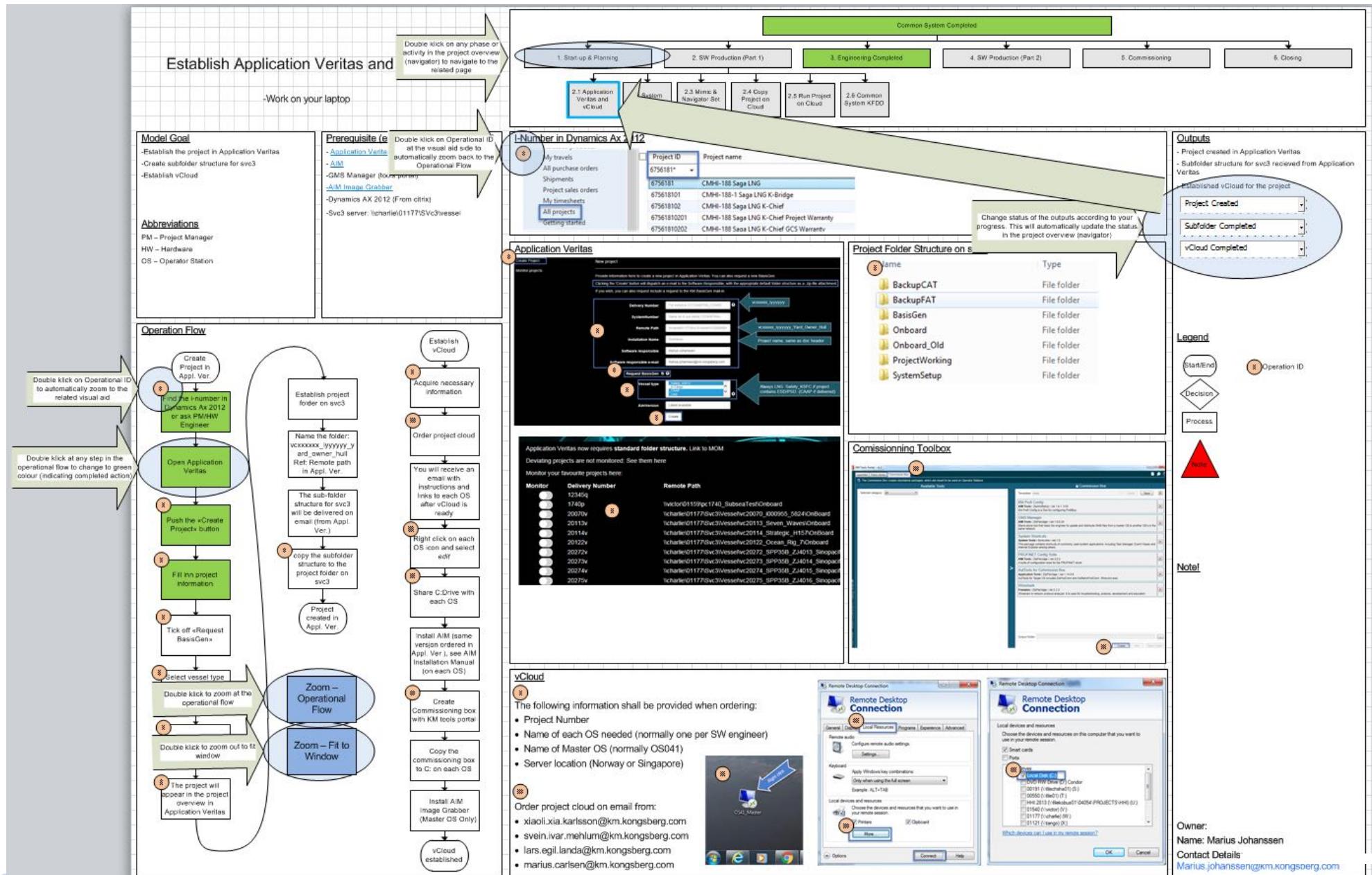
- 7 pages of interactable A3AOs
- Released to stakeholders for evaluation
- Survey was done to capture knowledge from hands-on experience personal
 - 23 participants
 - The net promoters for a solution using A3AOs was evaluated with positive results
 - Suggestions for improvement
 - 5 design modifications and 6 new functions
- Prototype 2 increases project performance however, not to the level of 200 man-hours





Prototype 3 (final solution)

- 33 pages of interactable A3AOs with two levels of abstraction
- Released to stakeholders for feedback
- Semi structured interview
 - 8 participants
 - 2 project engineers
 - 1 senior engineer
 - 2 lead engineers
 - 2 project managers
 - The department manager
 - Reduce 200 man-hours while improving quality and consistency in projects
- Prototype 3 is the final solution to this research and released for application in real life projects





Conlcusions

- *How to develop a system development process that integrates software tools for optimized performance? - A3AOs*
- It is shown that A3AOs can be used for process architecting as well as system architecting
- Contribution to system architecting literature by extending the use of A3AOs
- Reduce up to 200 man-hours, improves quality and consistency in projects
- 1 man-hour costs 750 NOK– 150.000 NOK each project – 2.7 million NOK in 2019





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