



**33<sup>rd</sup>** Annual **INCOSE**  
international symposium

hybrid event

Honolulu, HI, USA  
July 15 - 20, 2023

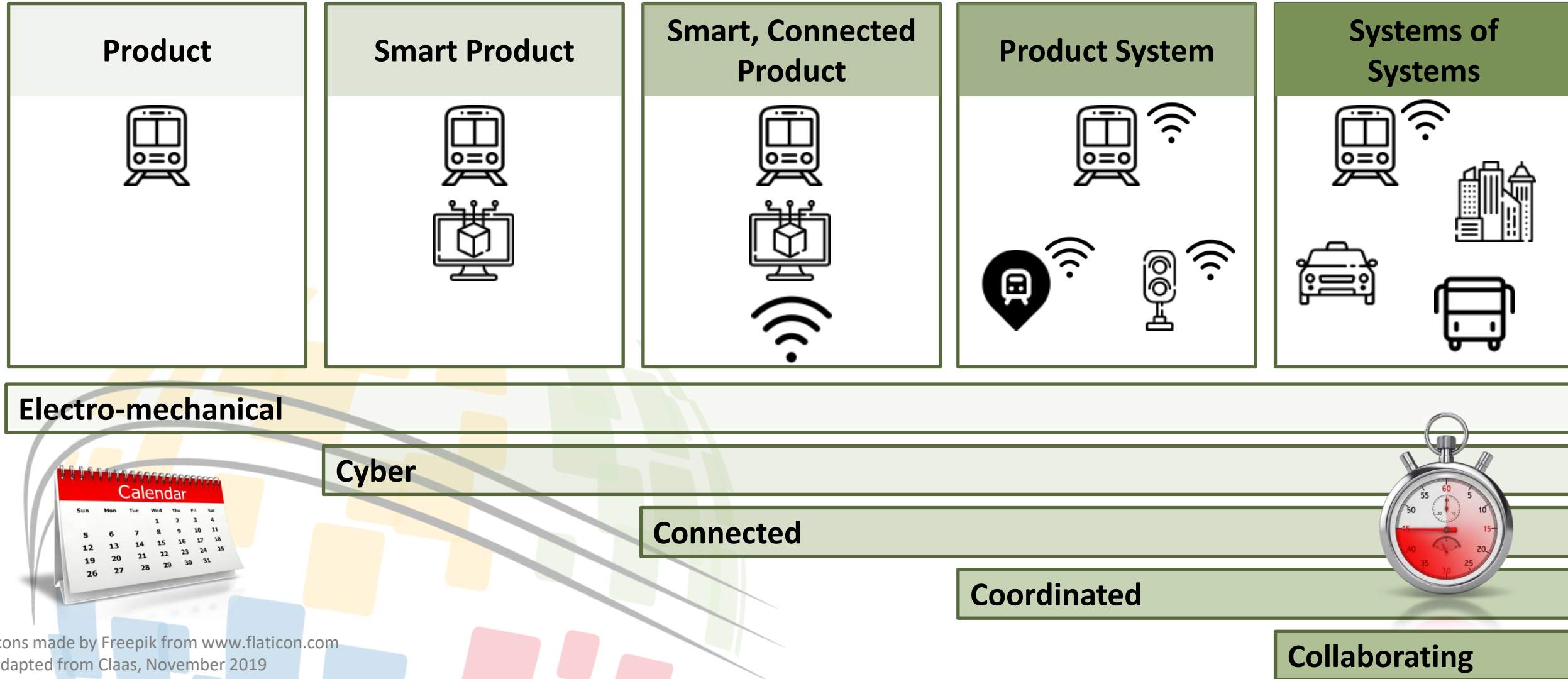


David Long  
President, Blue Holon  
INCOSE Director for Strategic Integration, Past President, and Fellow

# Making Sense of Alphabet Soup: MBSE and DE

# Appreciating a Changing Context

## *From Static Products to Intelligent Systems of Systems*



Icons made by Freepik from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com)  
Adapted from Claas, November 2019

15-20 July 2023

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# Exploding Complexities and Expectations

## *Exceeding the Capabilities of Traditional (S)E*

1

Mission complexity is growing faster than our ability to manage it . . . increasing mission risk from inadequate specifications and incomplete verification.

4

Knowledge and investment are lost between projects . . . increasing cost and risk: dampening the potential for true product lines.

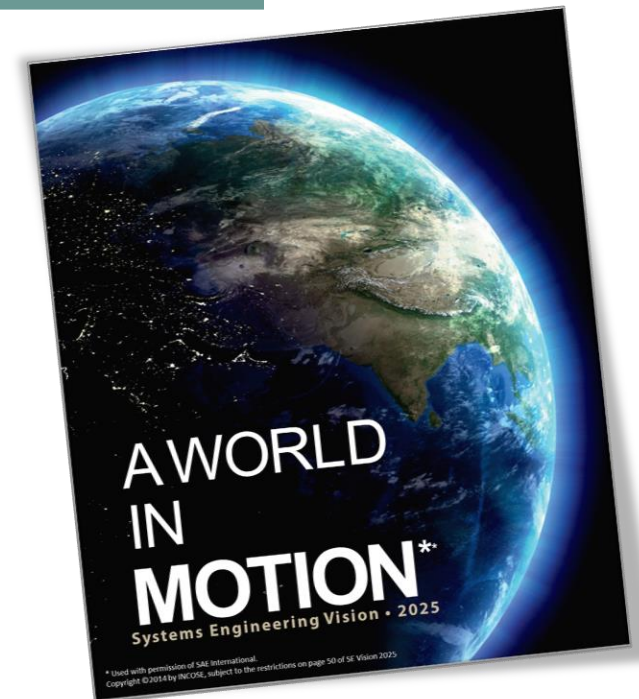
2

System design emerges from pieces, rather than from architecture . . . resulting in systems that are brittle, difficult to test, and complex and expensive to operate.

3

Knowledge and investment are lost at project life cycle phase boundaries . . . increasing development cost and risk of late discovery of design problems

Document-centric  
Long-Lived  
Stand-alone  
Top-down  
Stable  
Electromechanical  
Aerospace  
Defense  
Green-Field





*It is not necessary to change.  
Survival is not mandatory.*

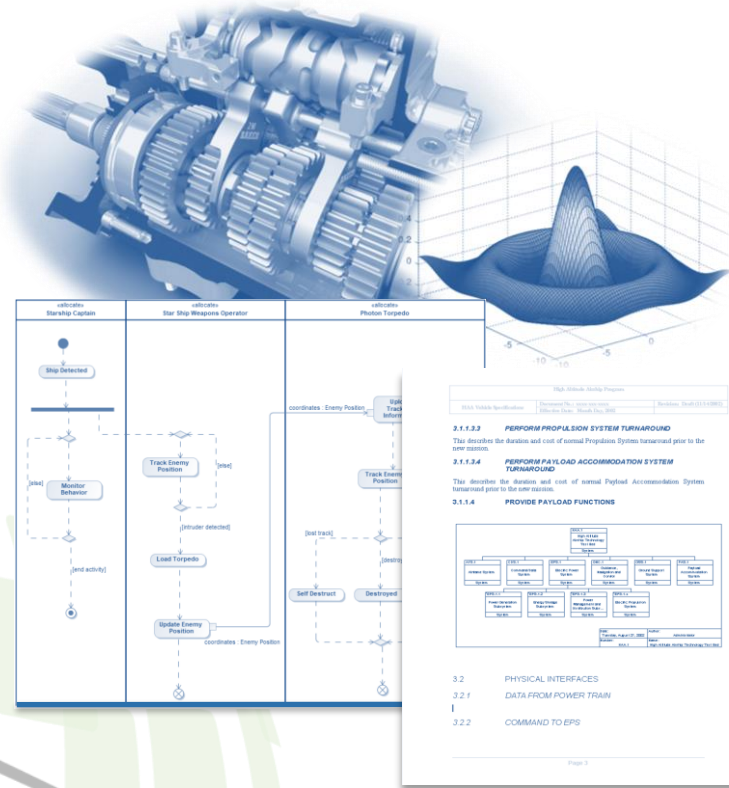
# Responding to a Changing World



# “Defining” Models and MBSE

**A graphical, mathematical (symbolic), physical, or verbal representation or simplified version of a concept, phenomenon, relationship, structure, system, or an aspect of the real world**

*www.businessdictionary.com*



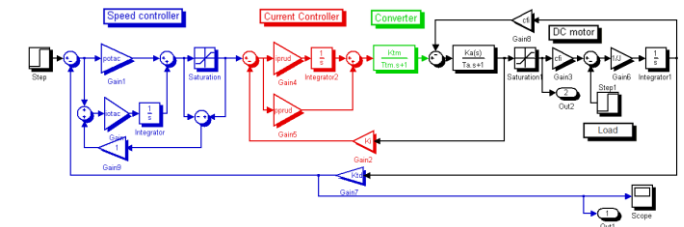
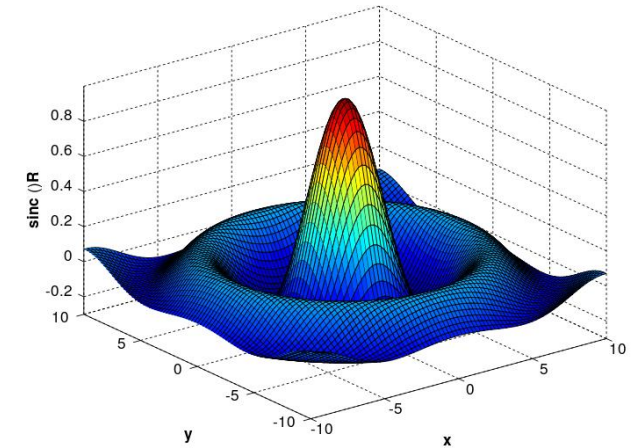
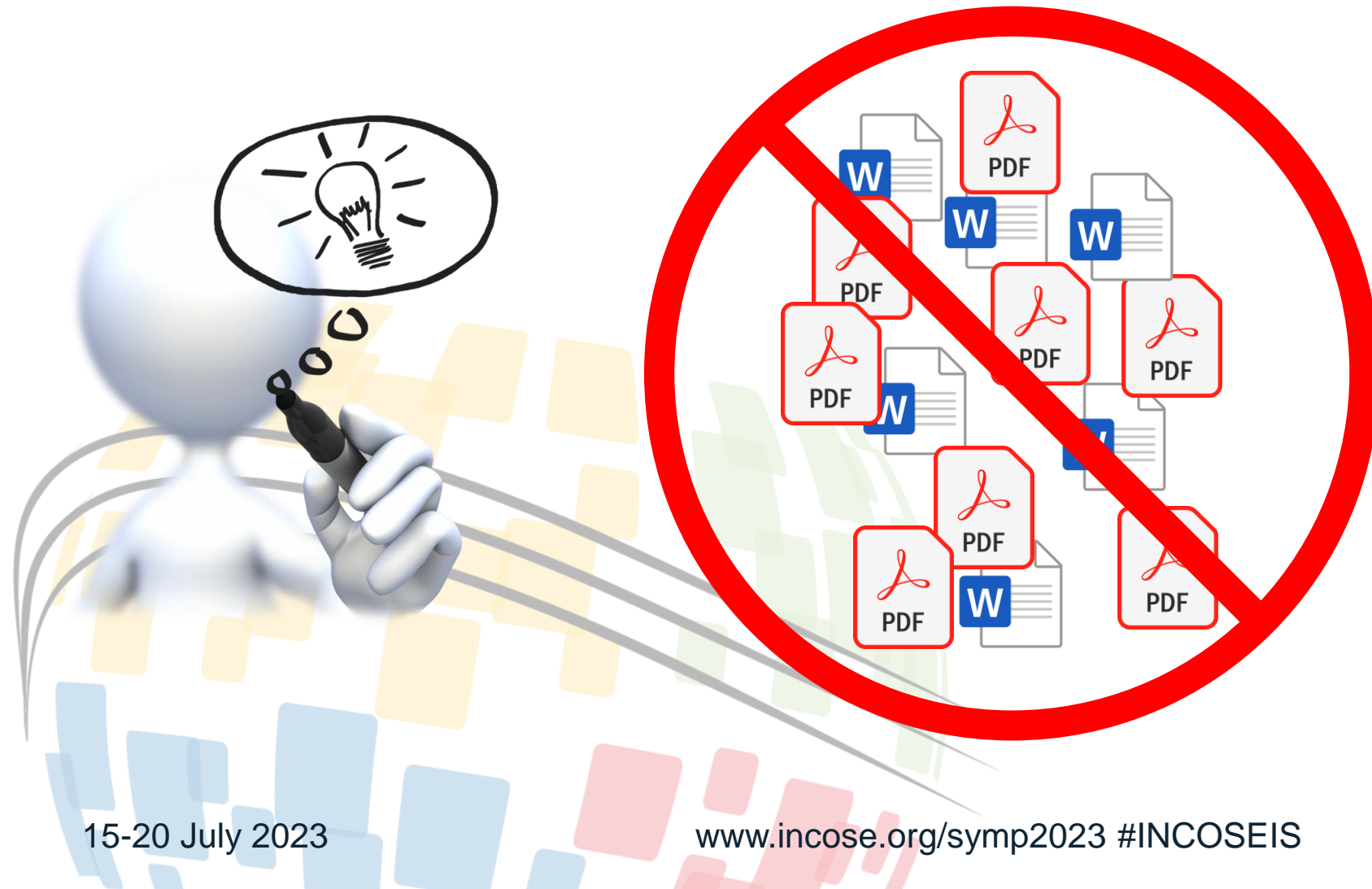
**A physical, mathematical, or otherwise logical representation of a system, entity, phenomenon, or process**

*DoD5000.59-M 1998*

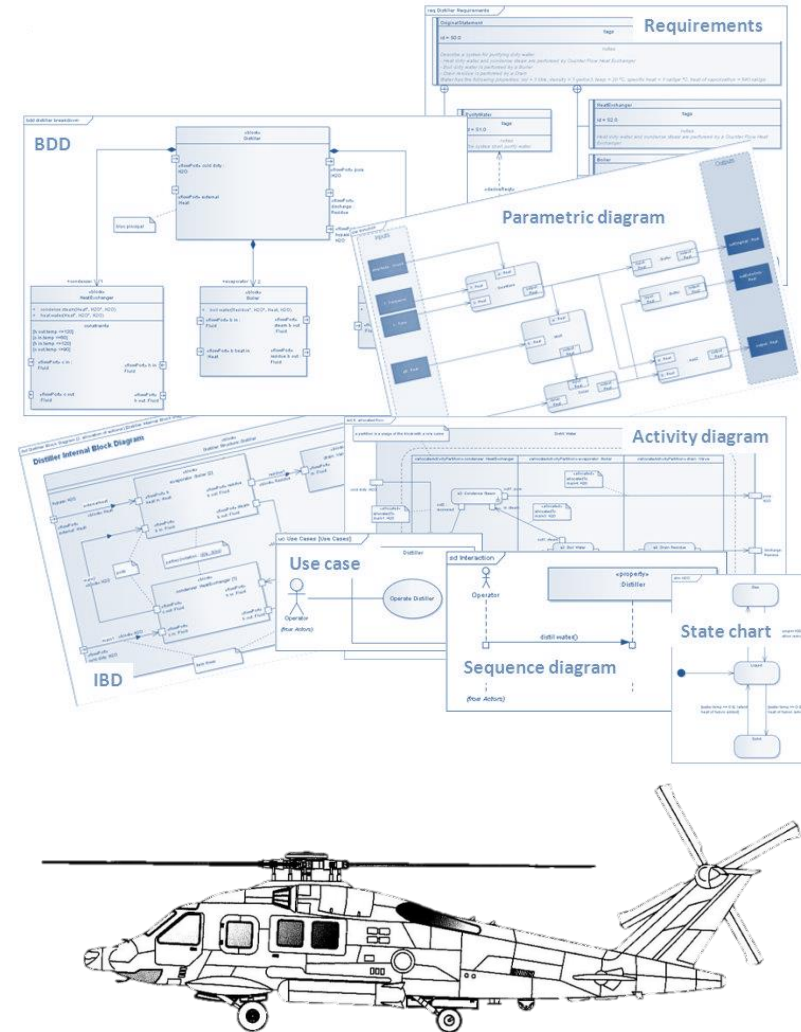
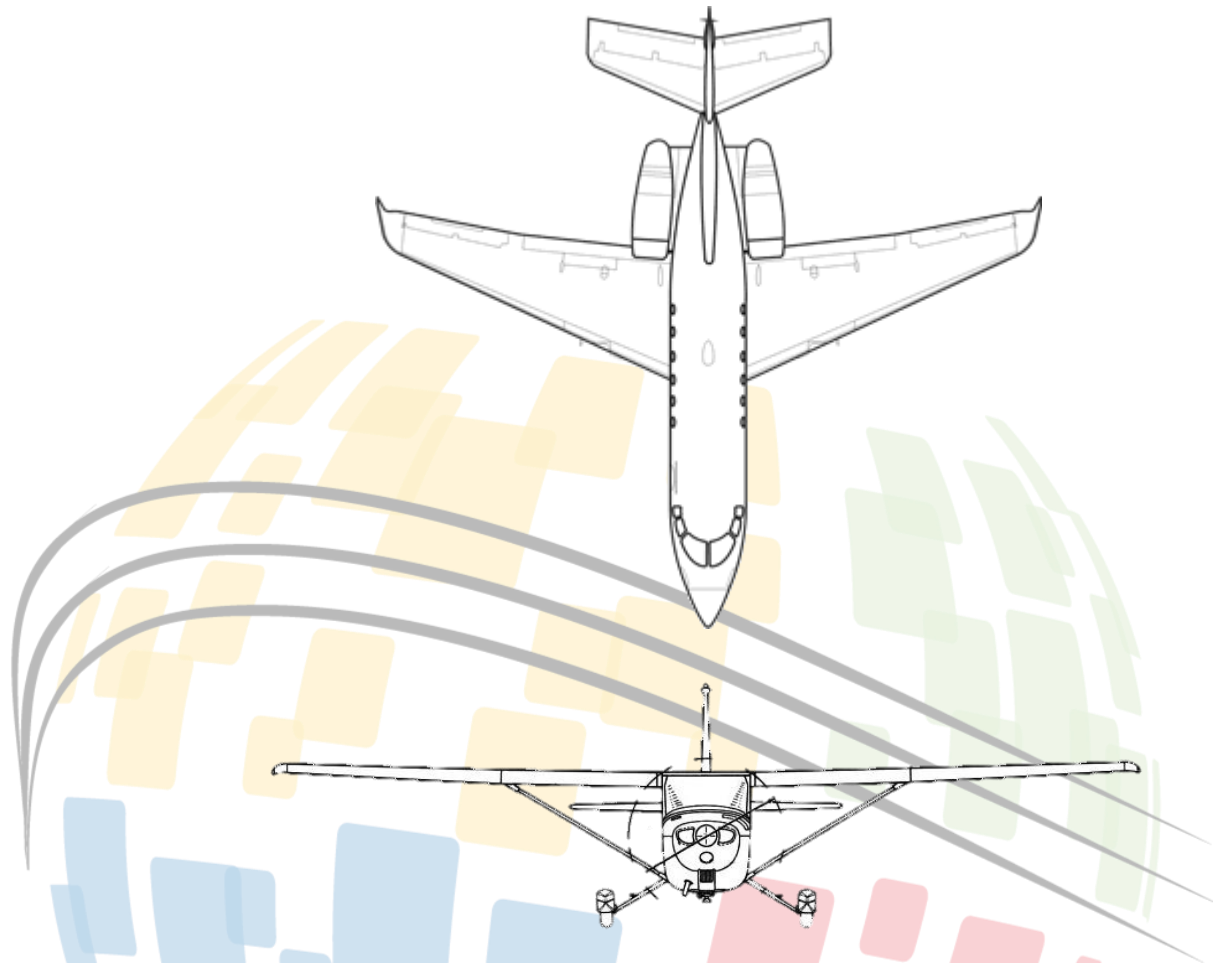
Much of the confusion in MBSE is the ambiguity in “model”.  
If everything is a model, everything qualifies as MBSE.

# Recognizing Myths and Misconceptions

## *What MBSE Is Not*

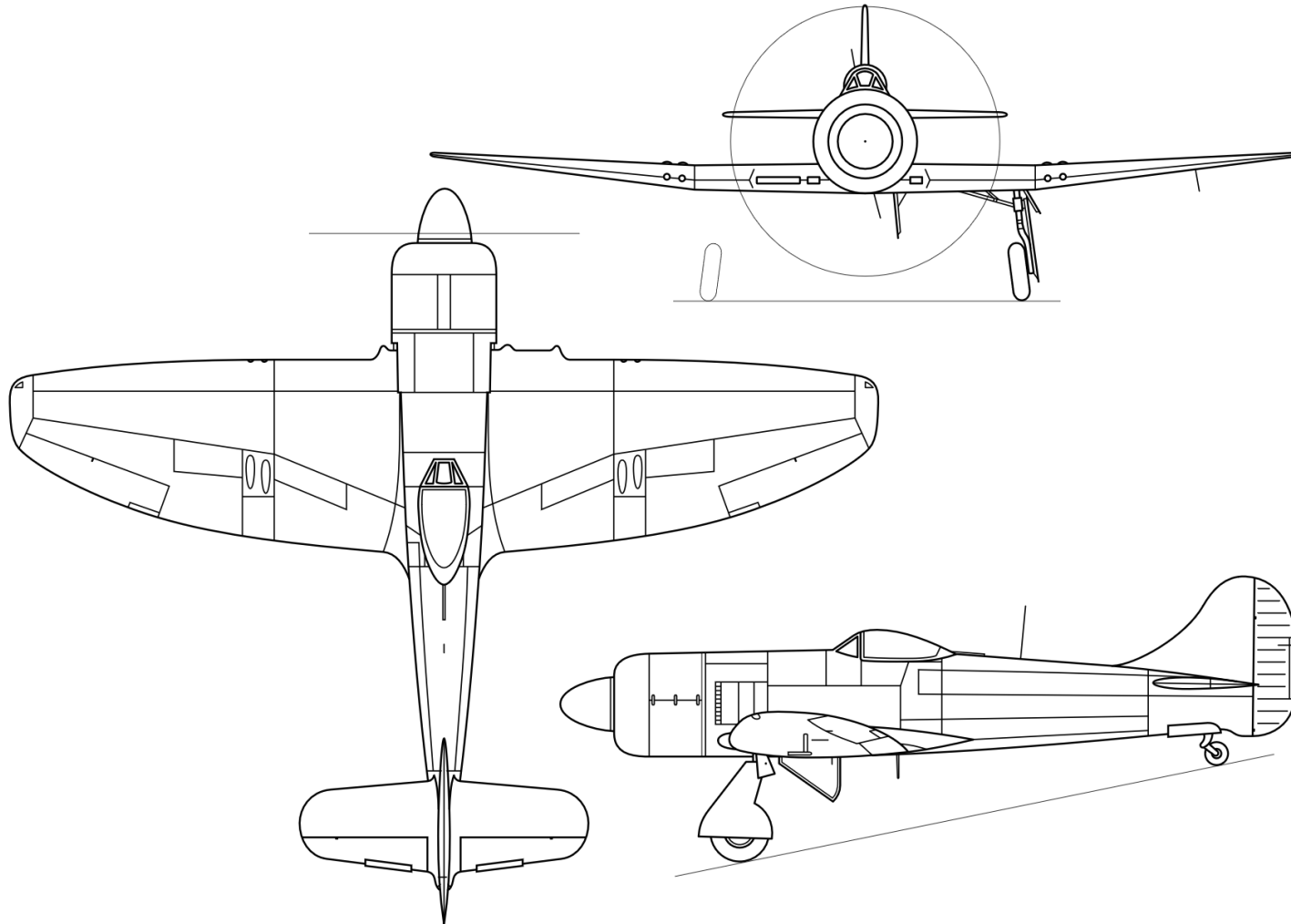


# Recognizing the Decoy of Diagram-Based SE



# Focusing on Essential Information and Clarity

## *Looking to Data over Visualization*



● Points

↓  
Vectors

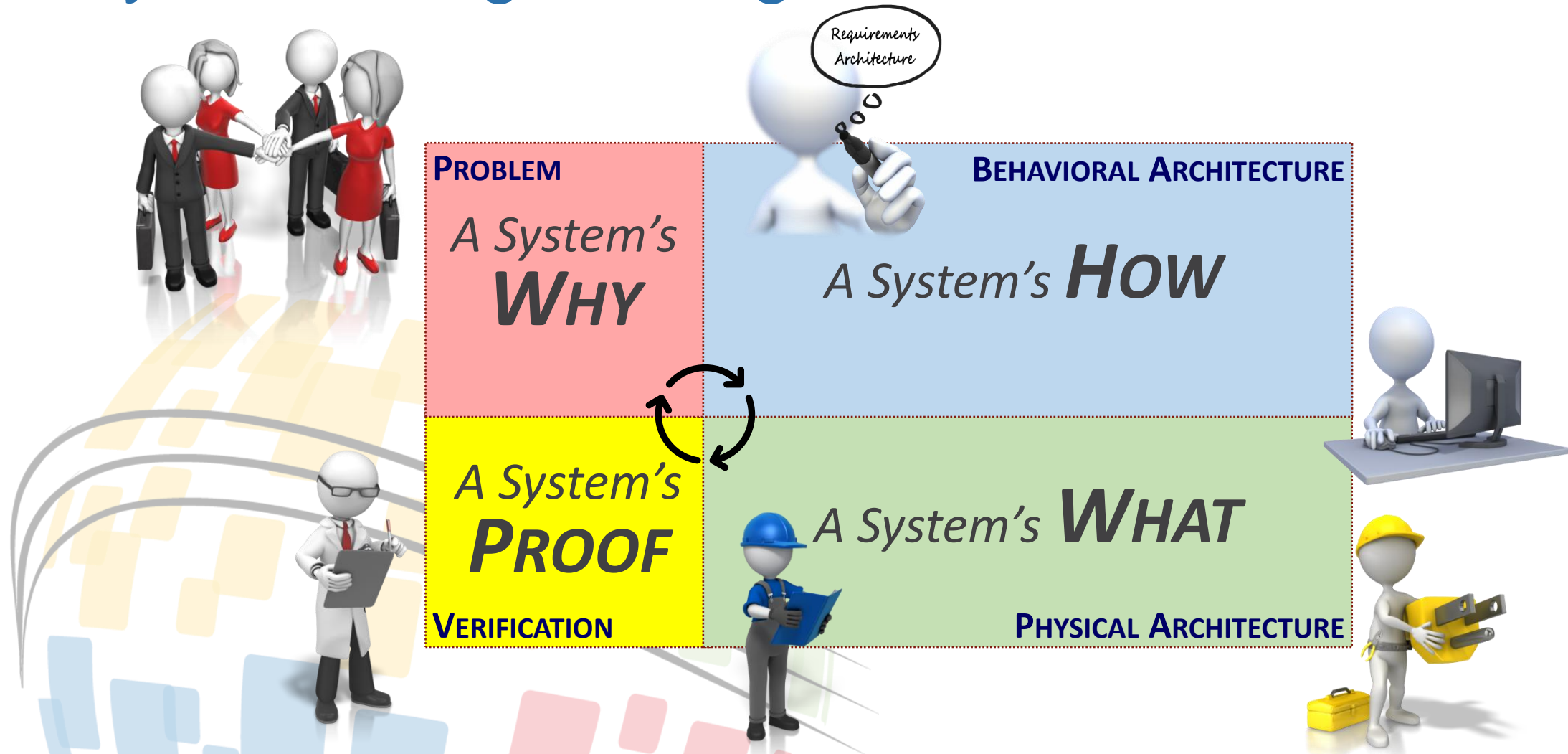
Credit: MLWatts. CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21356392>

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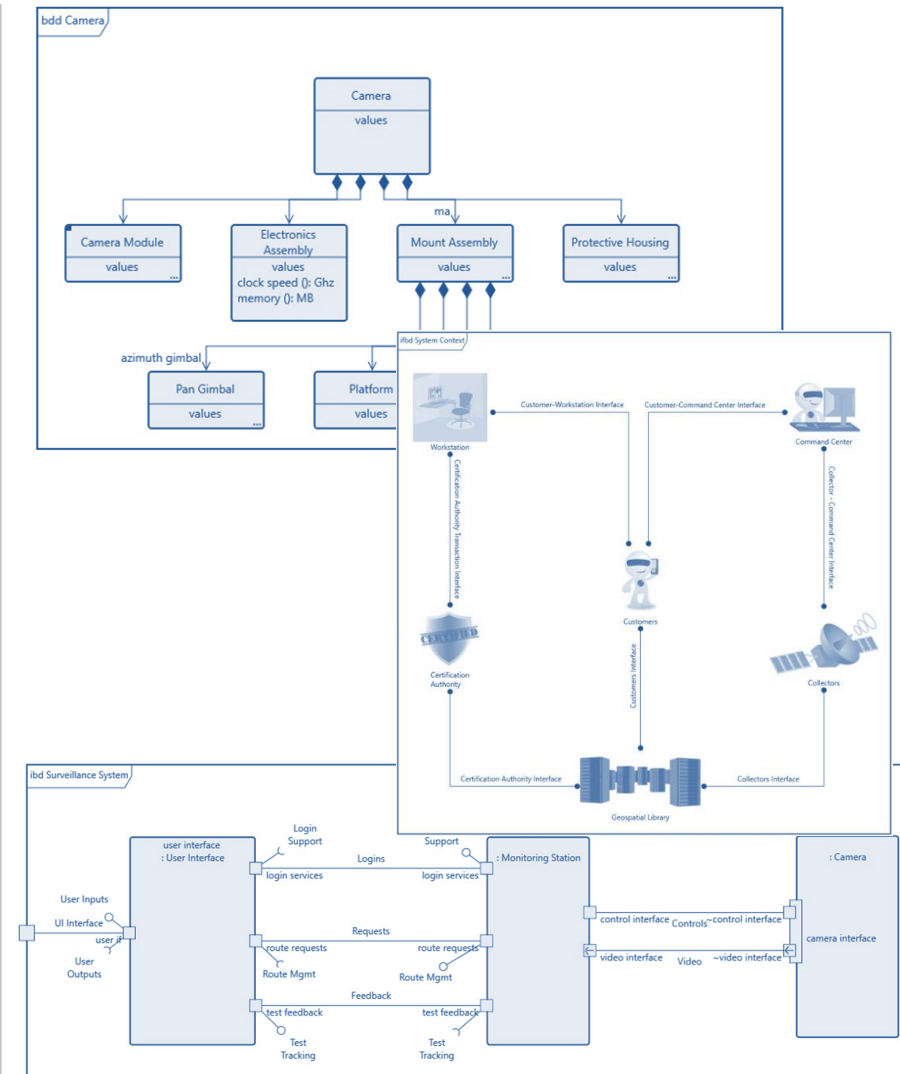
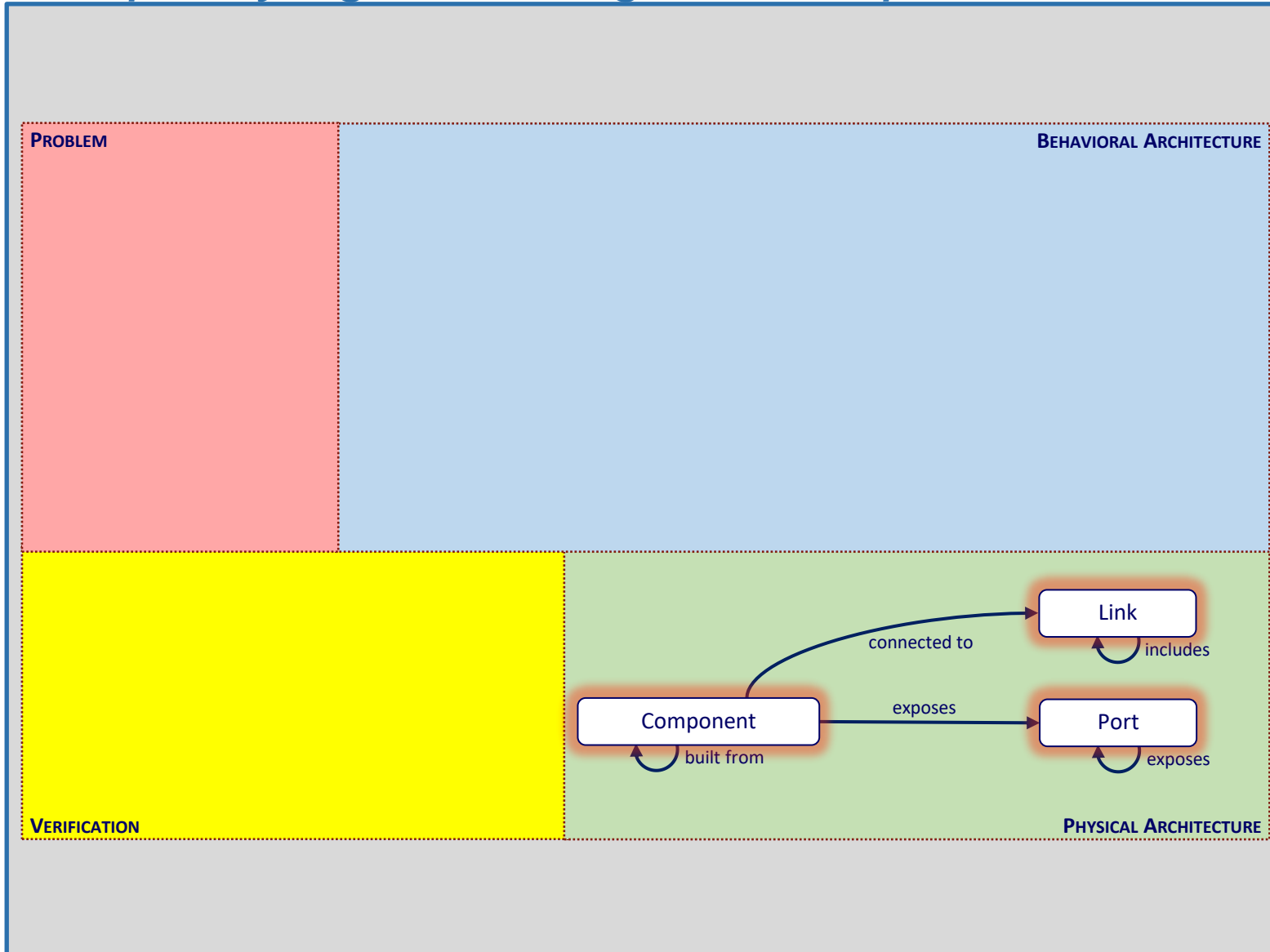


# Representing the Fundamental Concepts of Systems Engineering



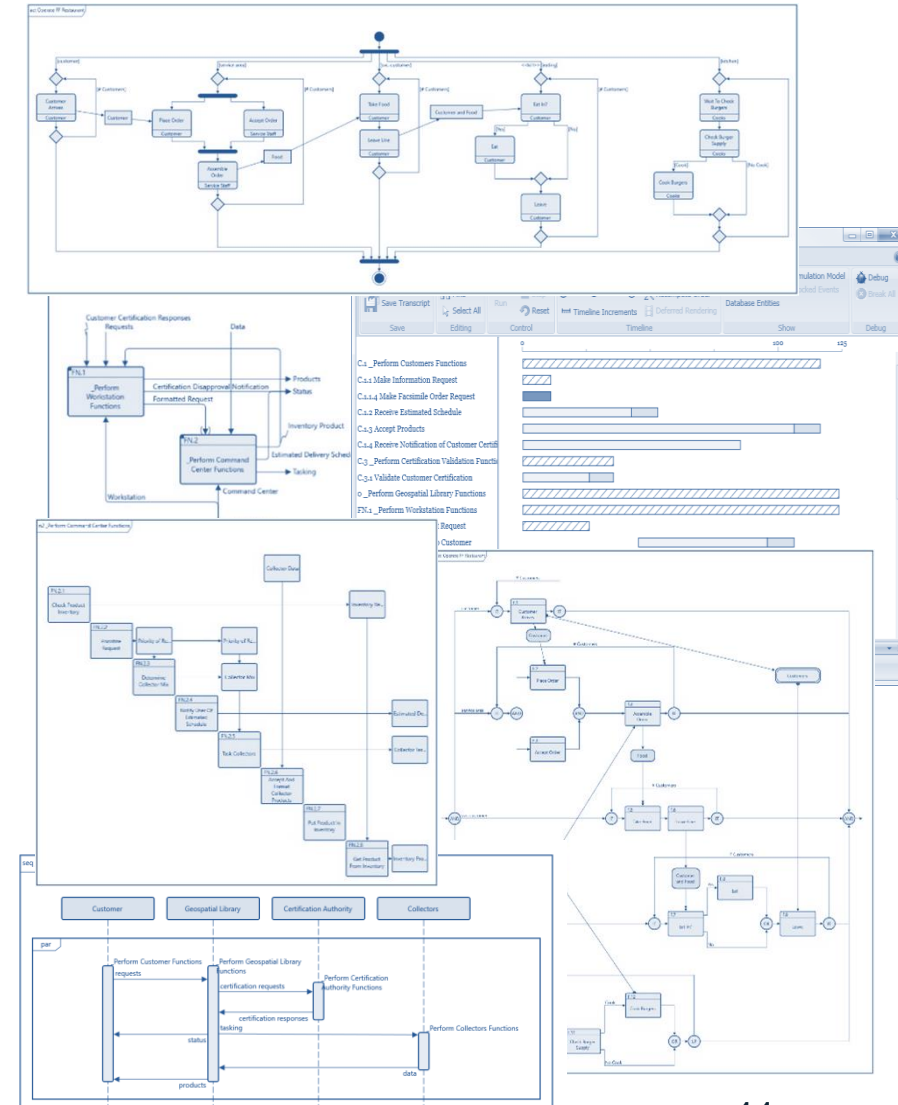
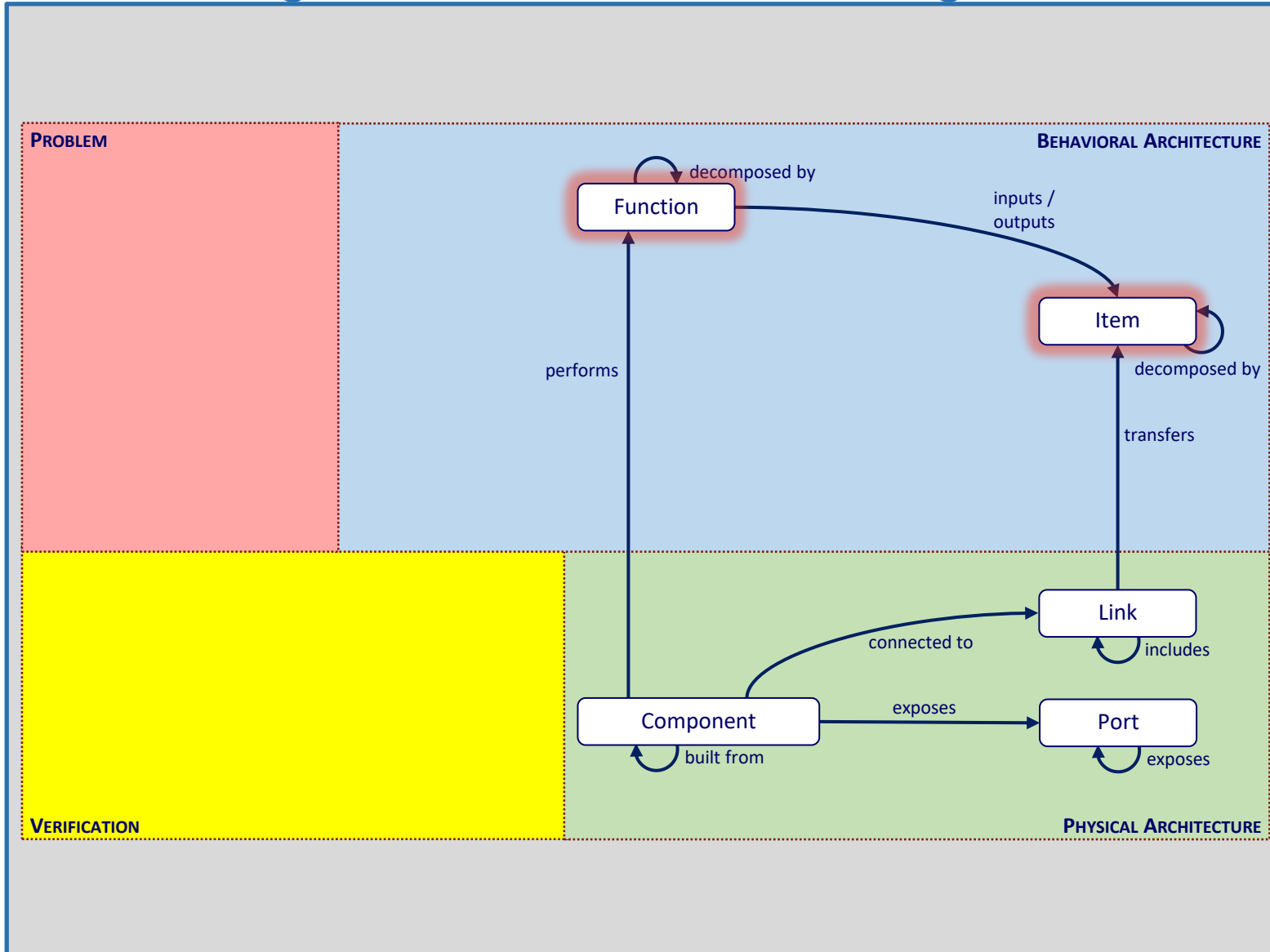
# Representing the Foundational Concepts

## *Specifying the Design Envelope and Interfaces*



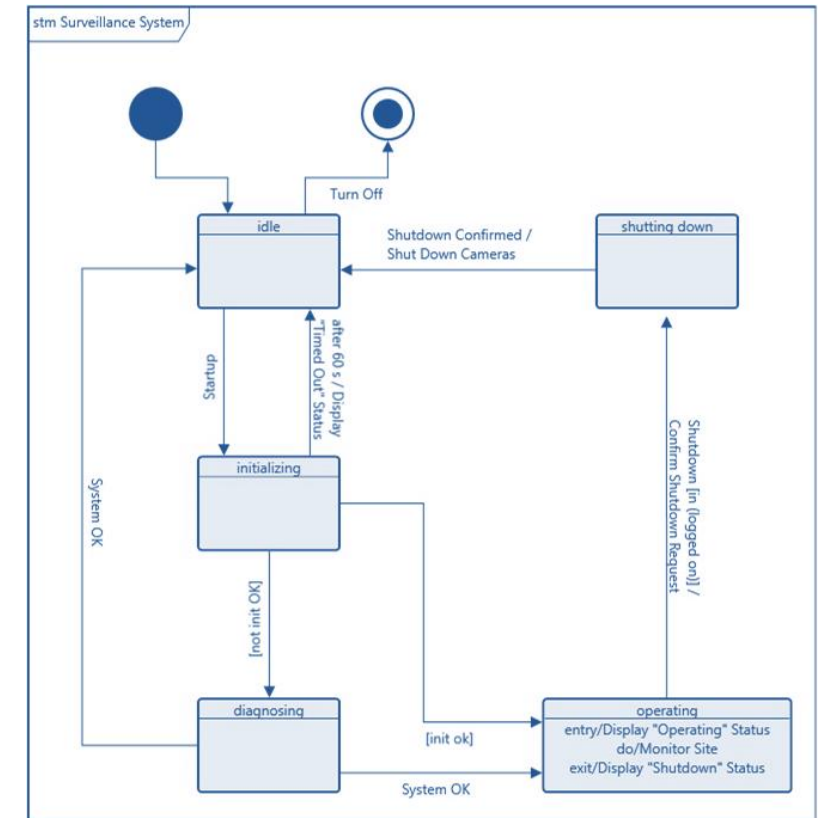
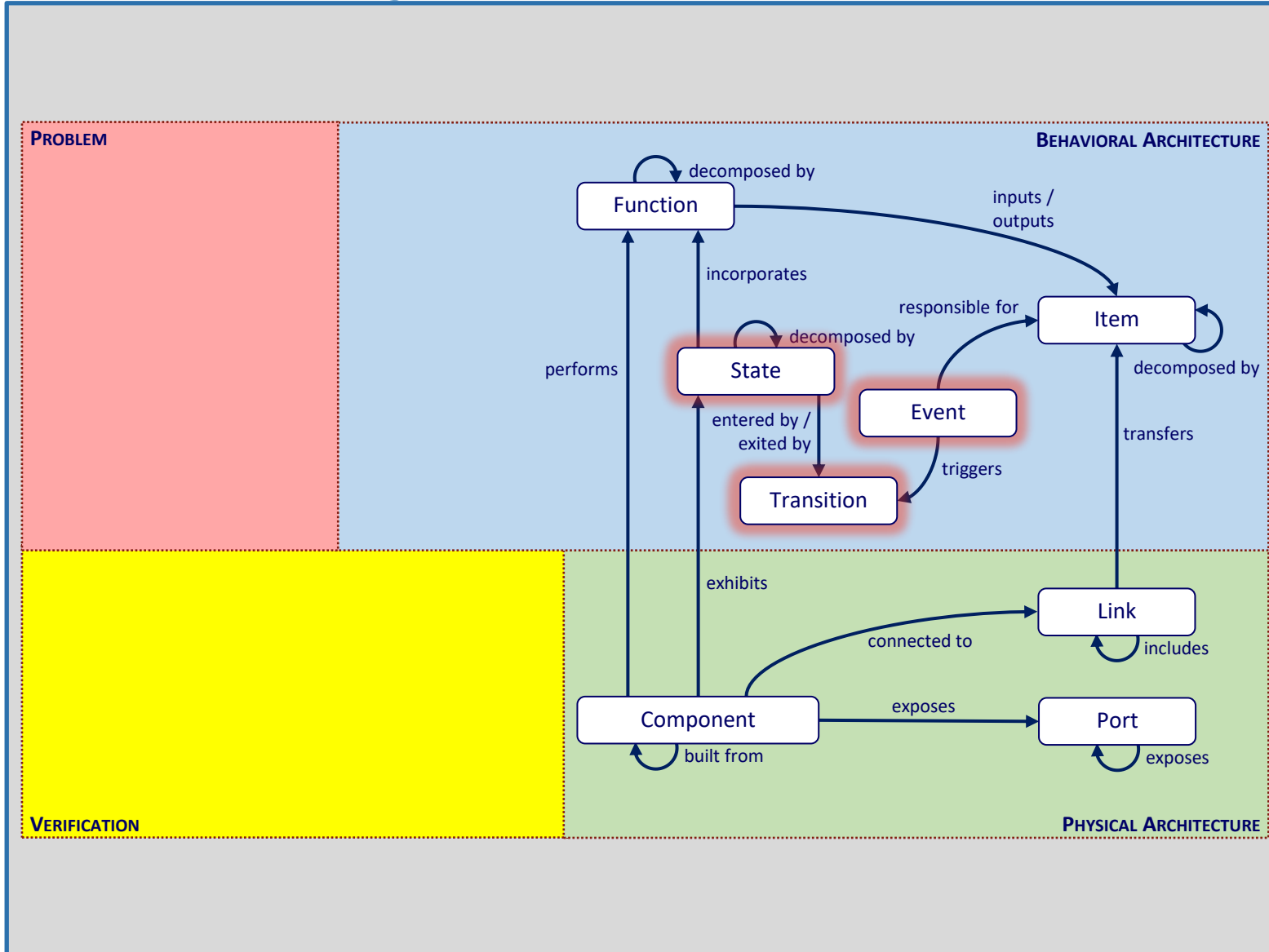
# Representing the Foundational Concepts

## *Defining Functions and Exchanges*



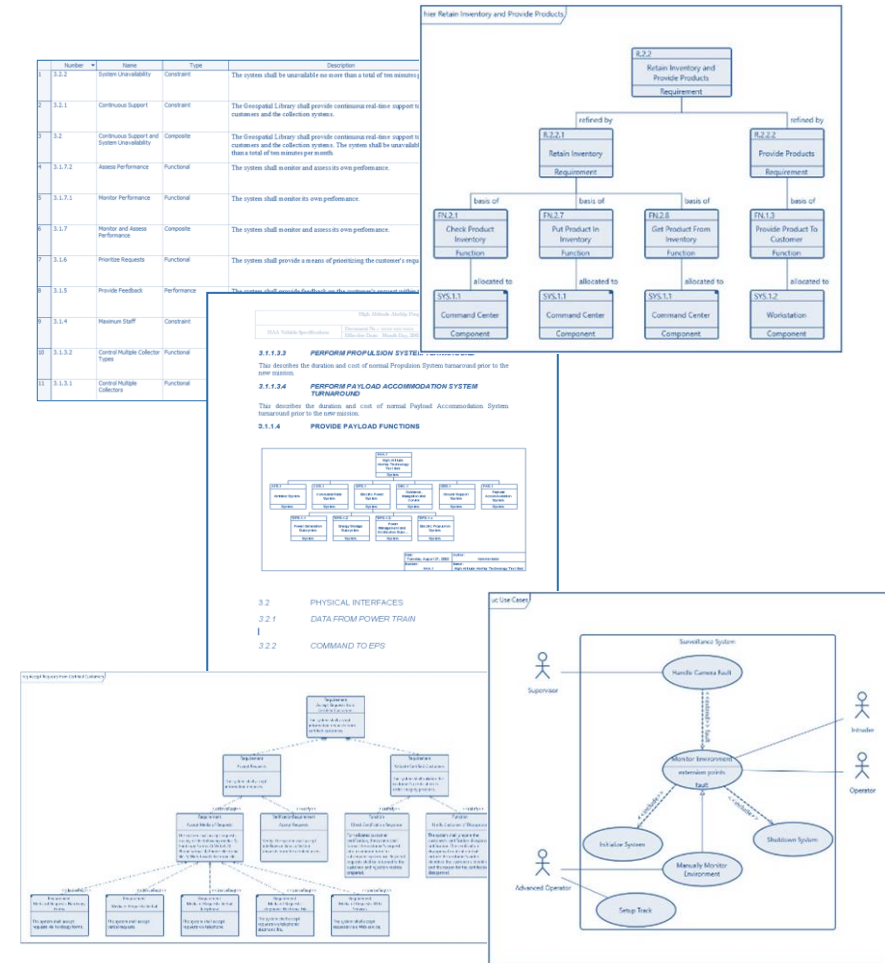
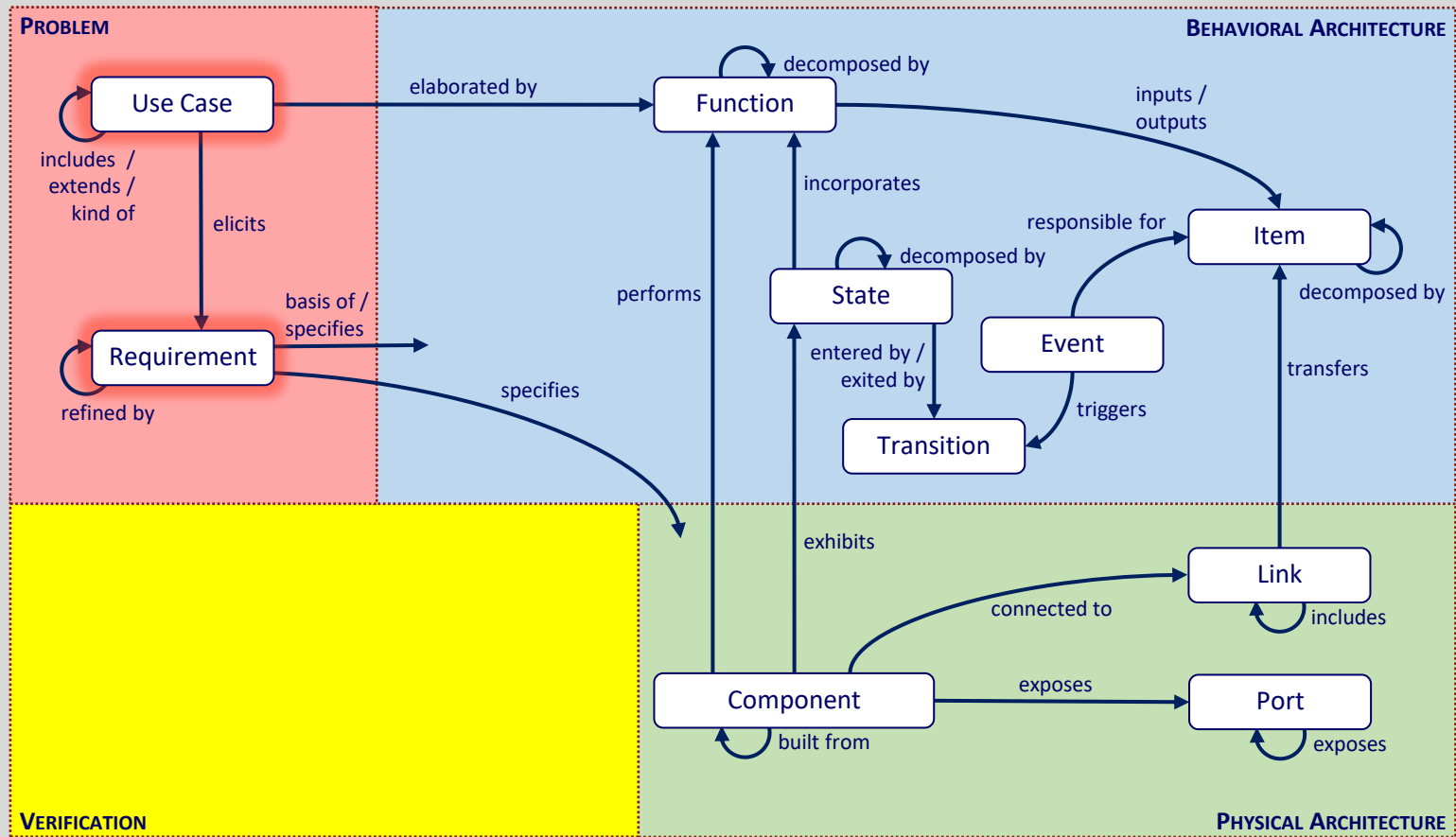
# Representing the Foundational Concepts

## *Considering All States*



# Representing the Foundational Concepts

## *Capturing the Right Problem, Tracing Throughout*

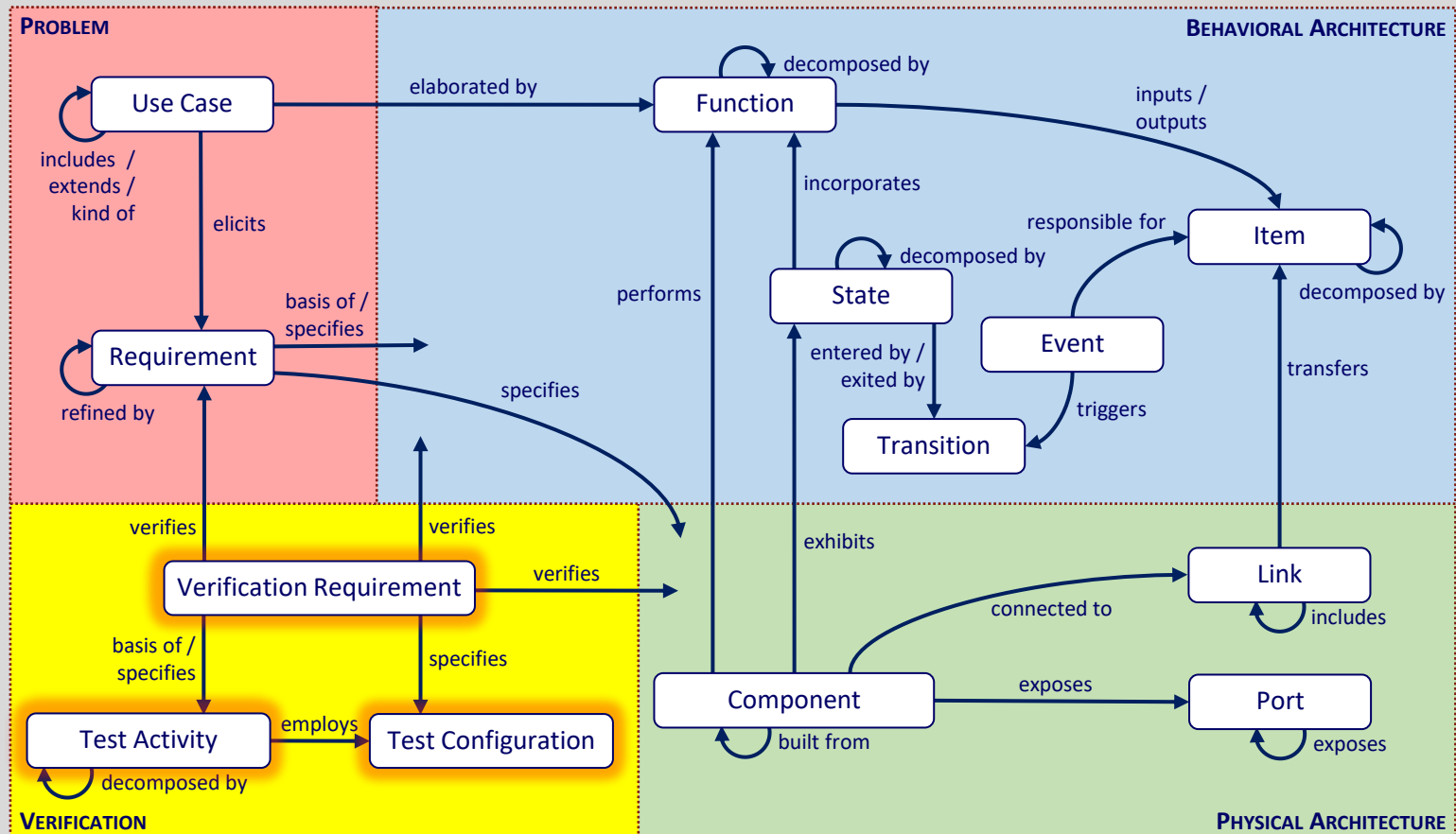




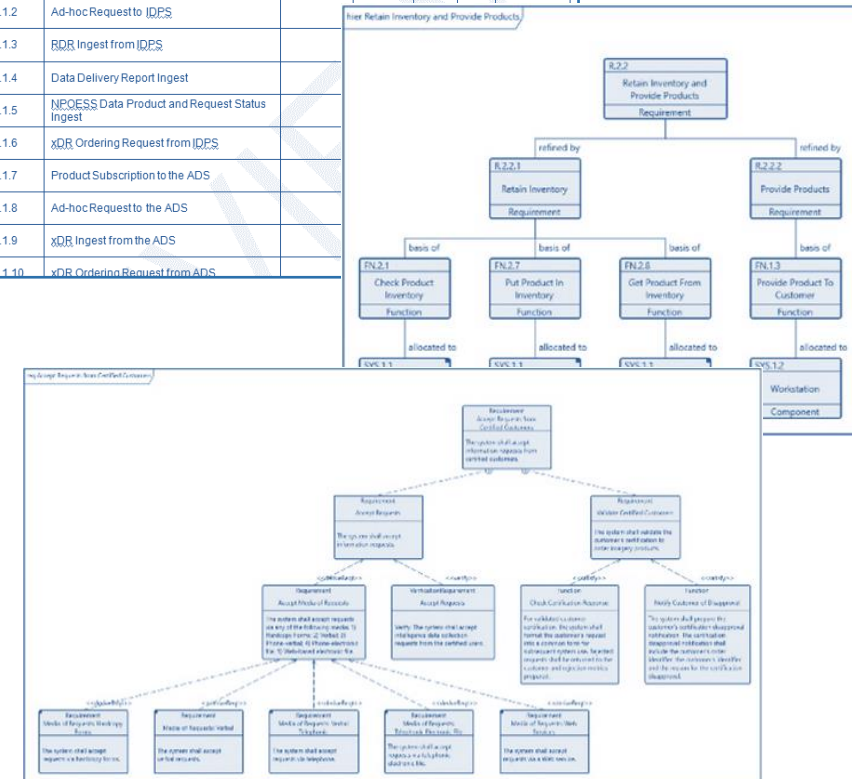
# Representing the Foundational Concepts

*Planning and Tracking Verification*

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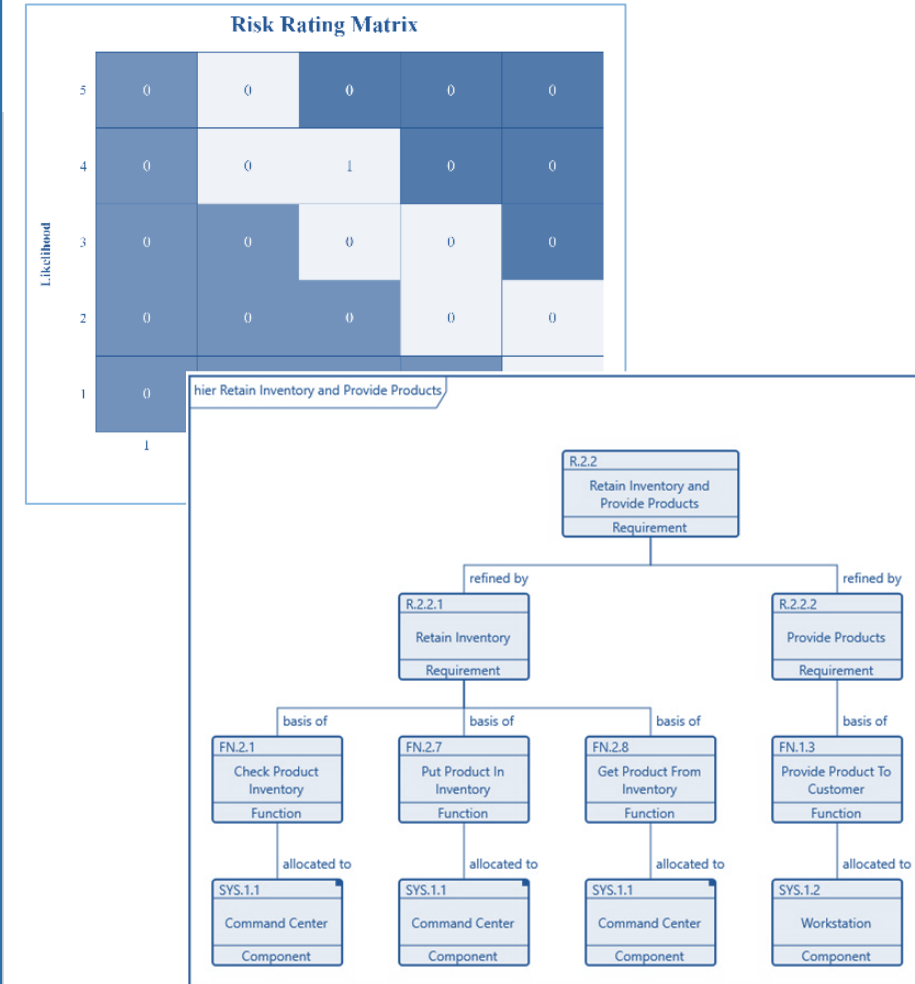
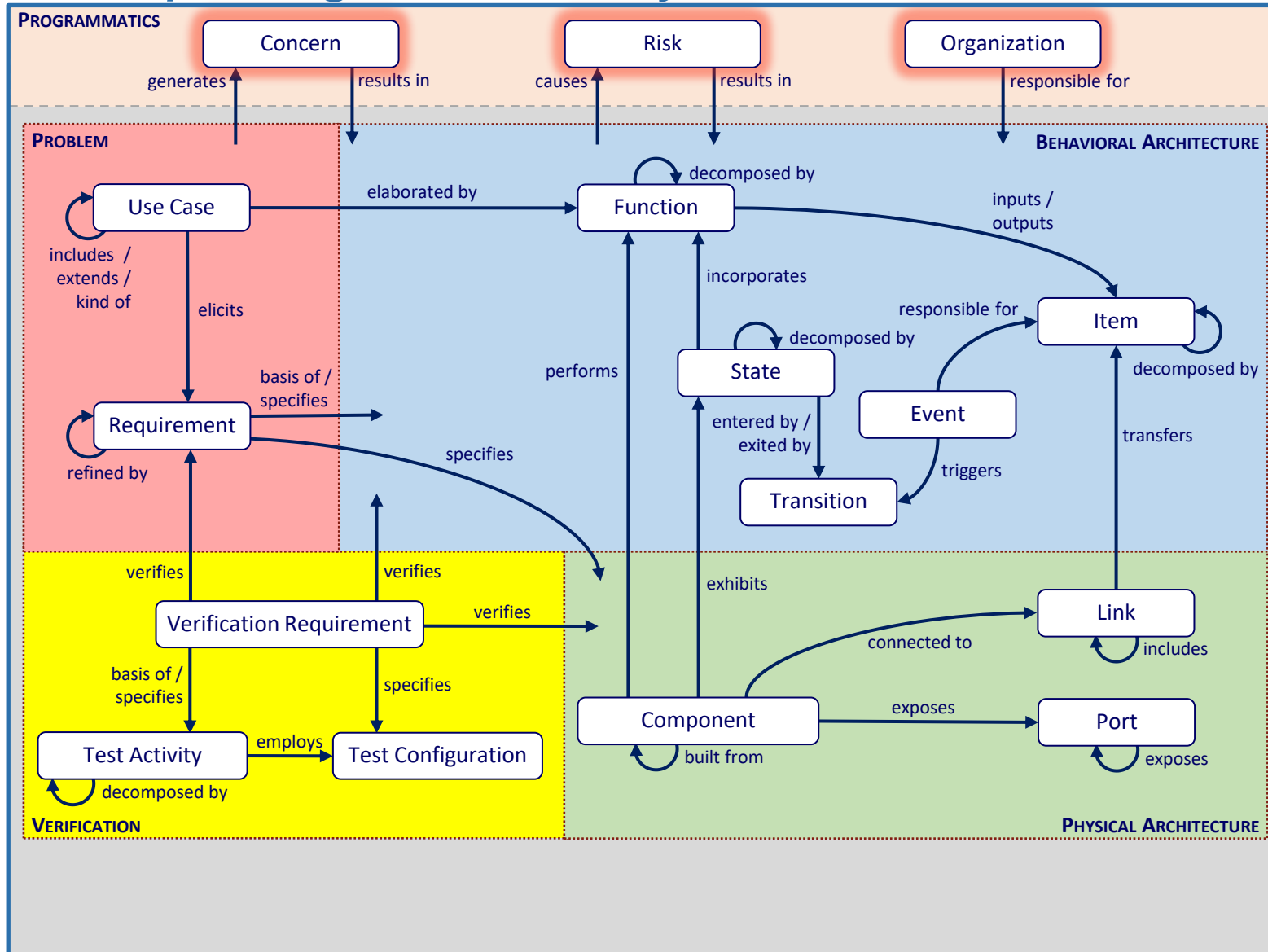


SDS Rgmt Number	SDS Rgmt Title	Verification				
		Inspection	Analysis	Demo	Test	Comments
3.1	SDS DATA DISTRIBUTION AND DEPOSITORY ELEMENT					N/A
3.1.1	Ingest SD3E Data				X	
3.1.1.1	Product Subscription to IDPS			X	X	
3.1.1.2	Ad-hoc Request to IDPS					
3.1.1.3	RDR Ingest from IDPS					
3.1.1.4	Data Delivery Report Ingest					
3.1.1.5	NPOESS Data Product and Request Status Ingest					
3.1.1.6	xDR Ordering Request from IDPS					
3.1.1.7	Product Subscription to the ADS					
3.1.1.8	Ad-hoc Request to the ADS					
3.1.1.9	xDR Ingest from the ADS					
3.1.1.10	xDR Ordering Request from ADS					



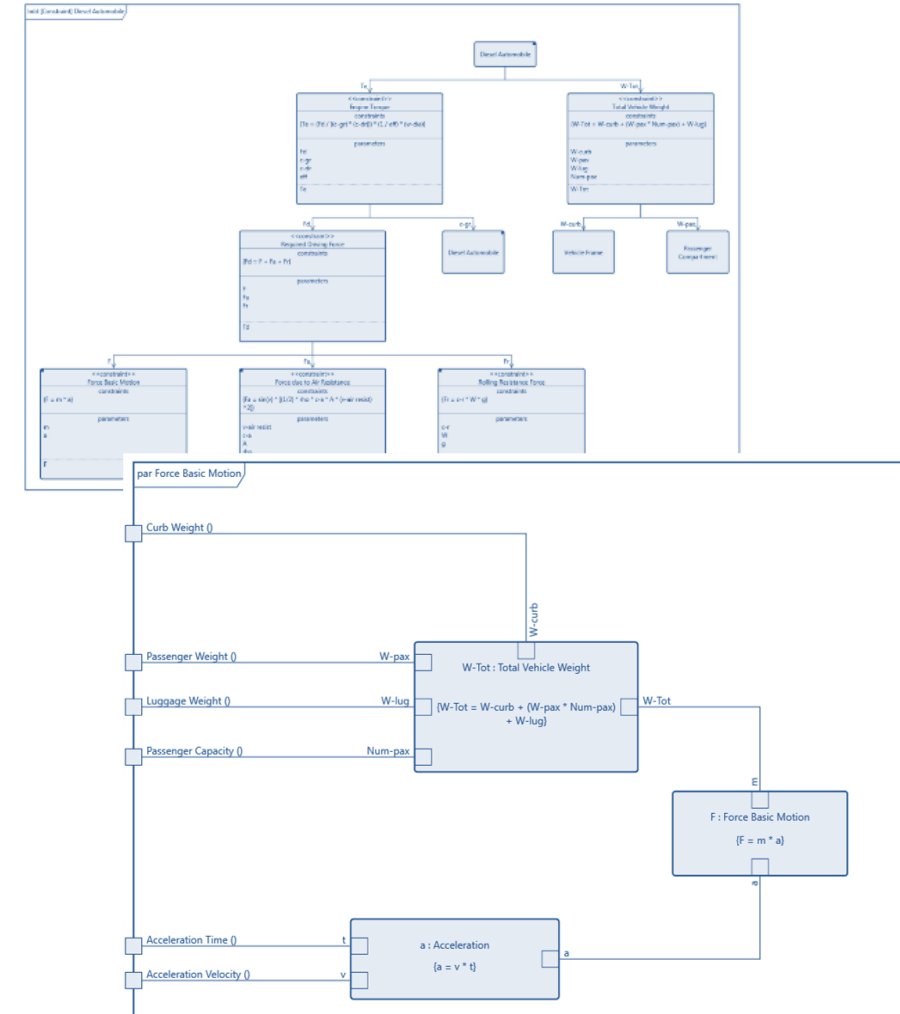
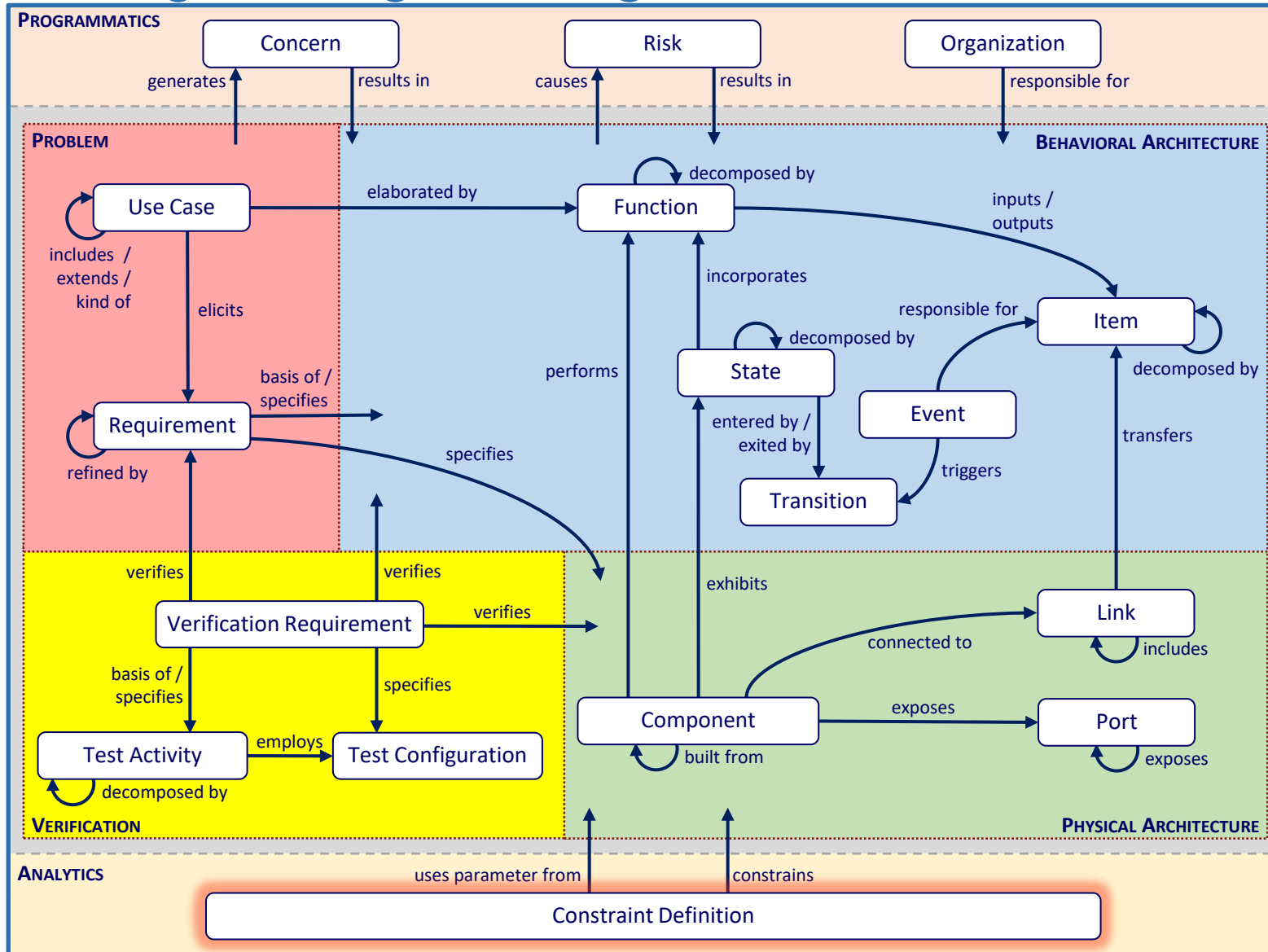
# Representing the Foundational Concepts

## *Capturing the Journey*



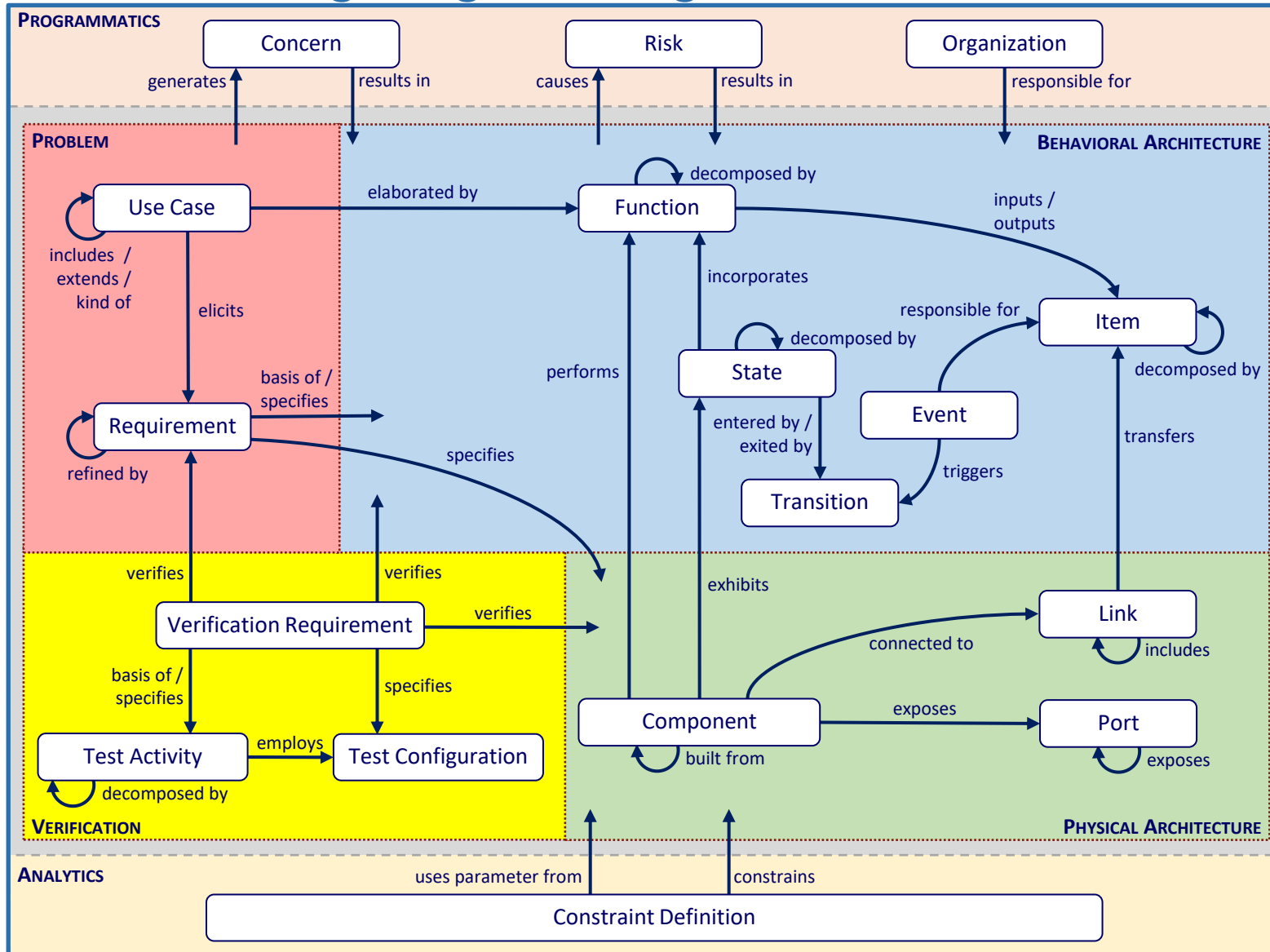
# Representing the Foundational Concepts

## Engineering with Rigor



# Representing the Foundation

## *Delivering Engineering and Business Value*



*...more than diagrams*

*...more than a data dictionary*

*...more than capture*

**EXPLICIT OVER IMPLICIT**

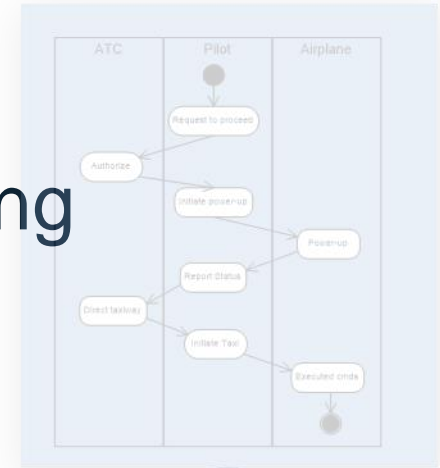
**CLARITY OVER AMBIGUITY**

**ACCURACY || PRECISION**

# Expressing the Fundamentals of MBSE

*Model-Based Systems Engineering is about...*

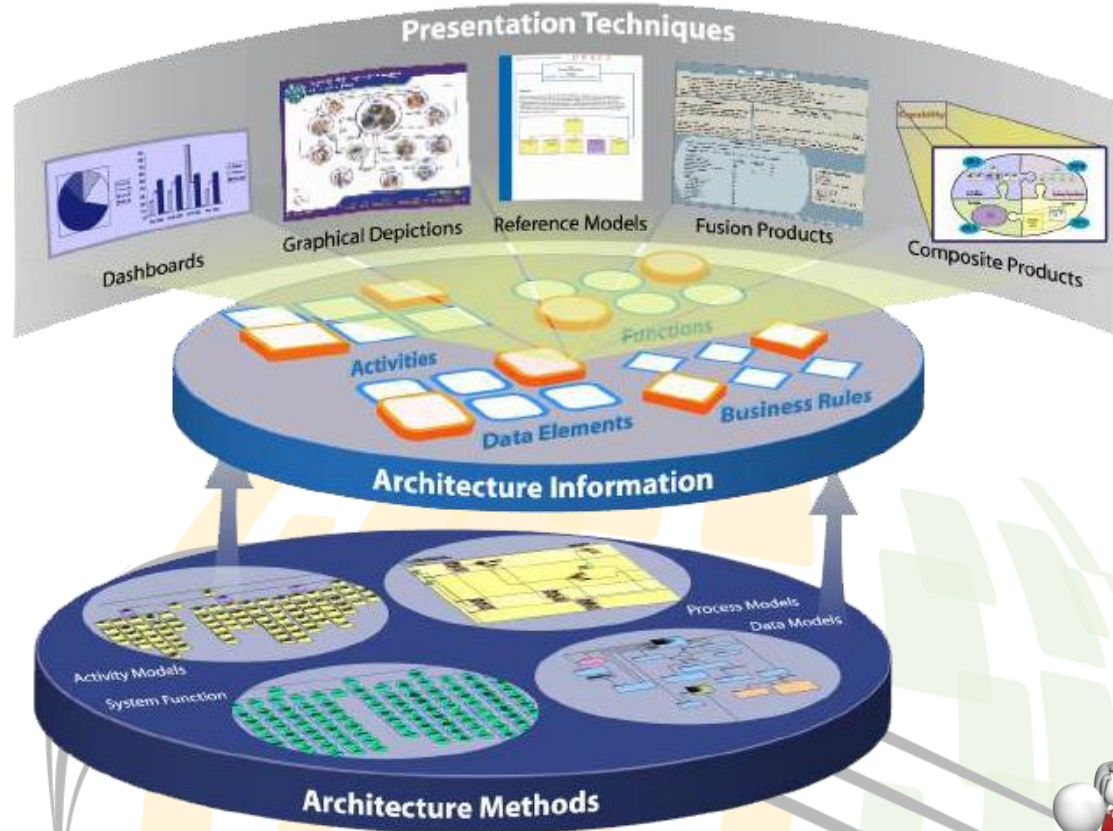
- Making system architectural and analytical models **explicit**, **coherent**, **consistent**, and **actionable** through the power of digital
- Leveraging models for communication and analysis
- Developing and using authoritative data for engineering systems
- Ensuring consistent design and specification (when done well)
- Providing an explicit system model to engineering teams



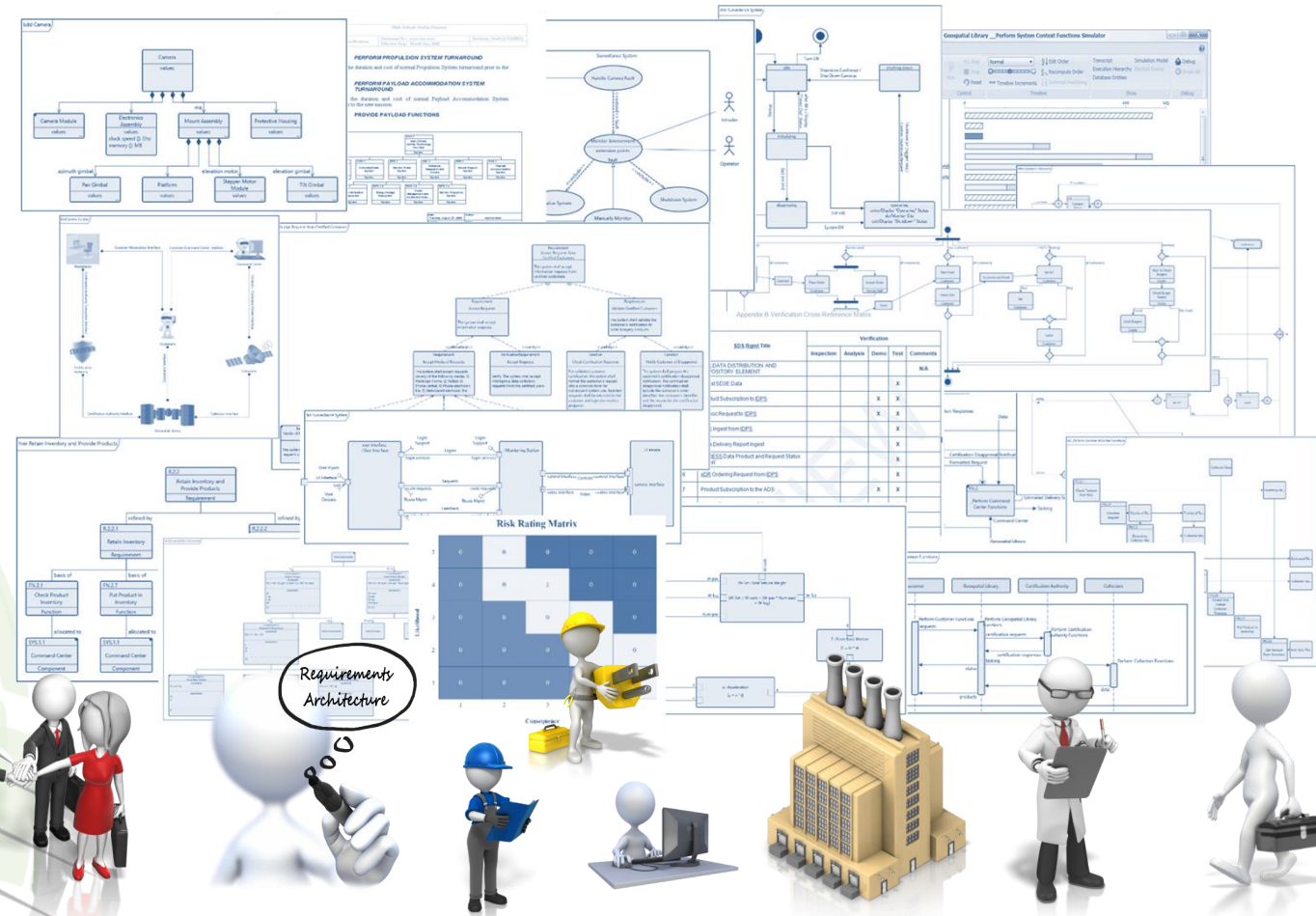


# Supporting “Fit for Purpose” Views

## *A Model-Based Approach to Visualization and Artifacts*

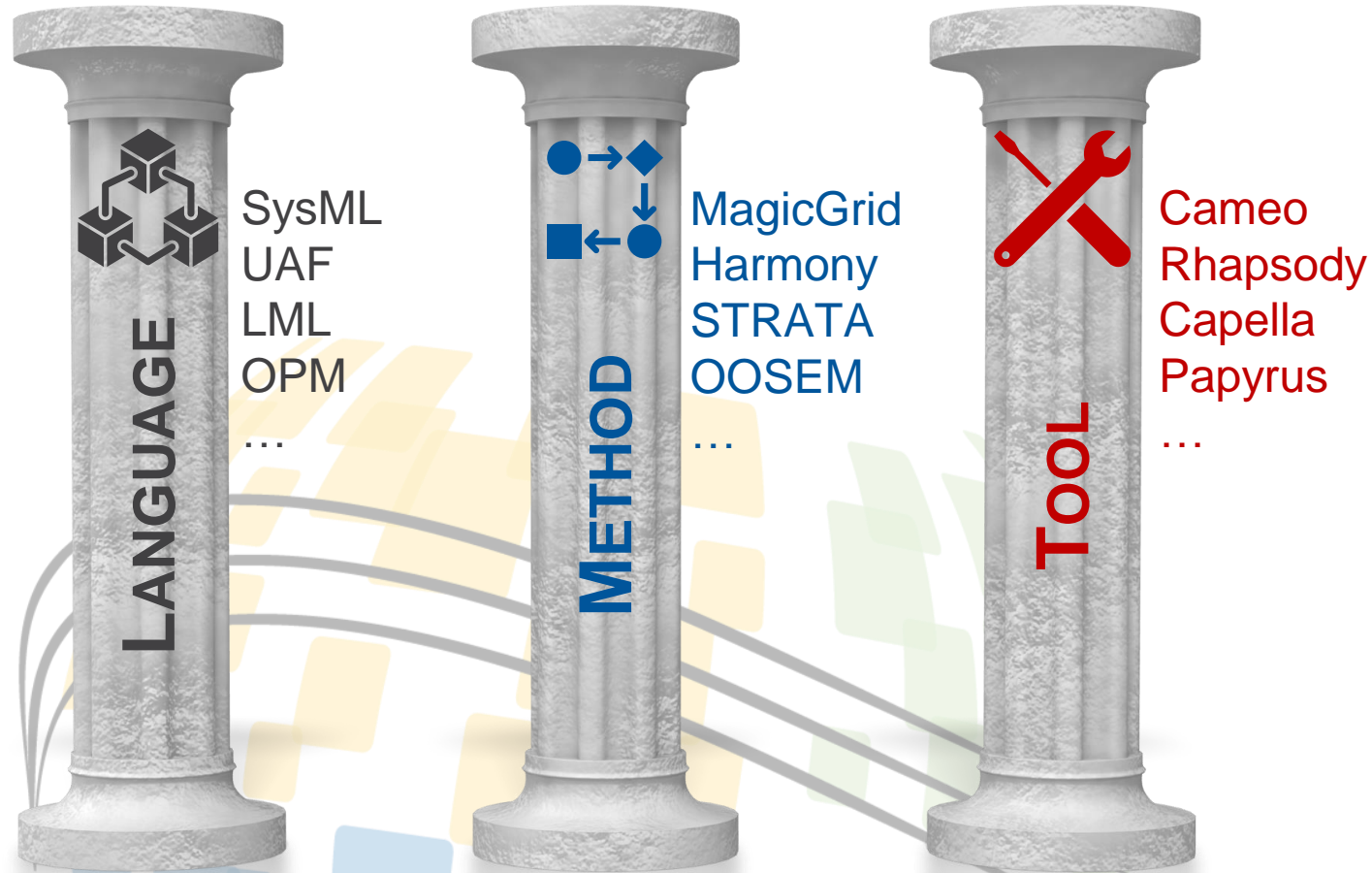


Credit: Department of Defense Architecture Framework (DoDAF) 2.0, May 2009



# Understanding the “Three Pillars of MBSE”

*Awareness with Caution*

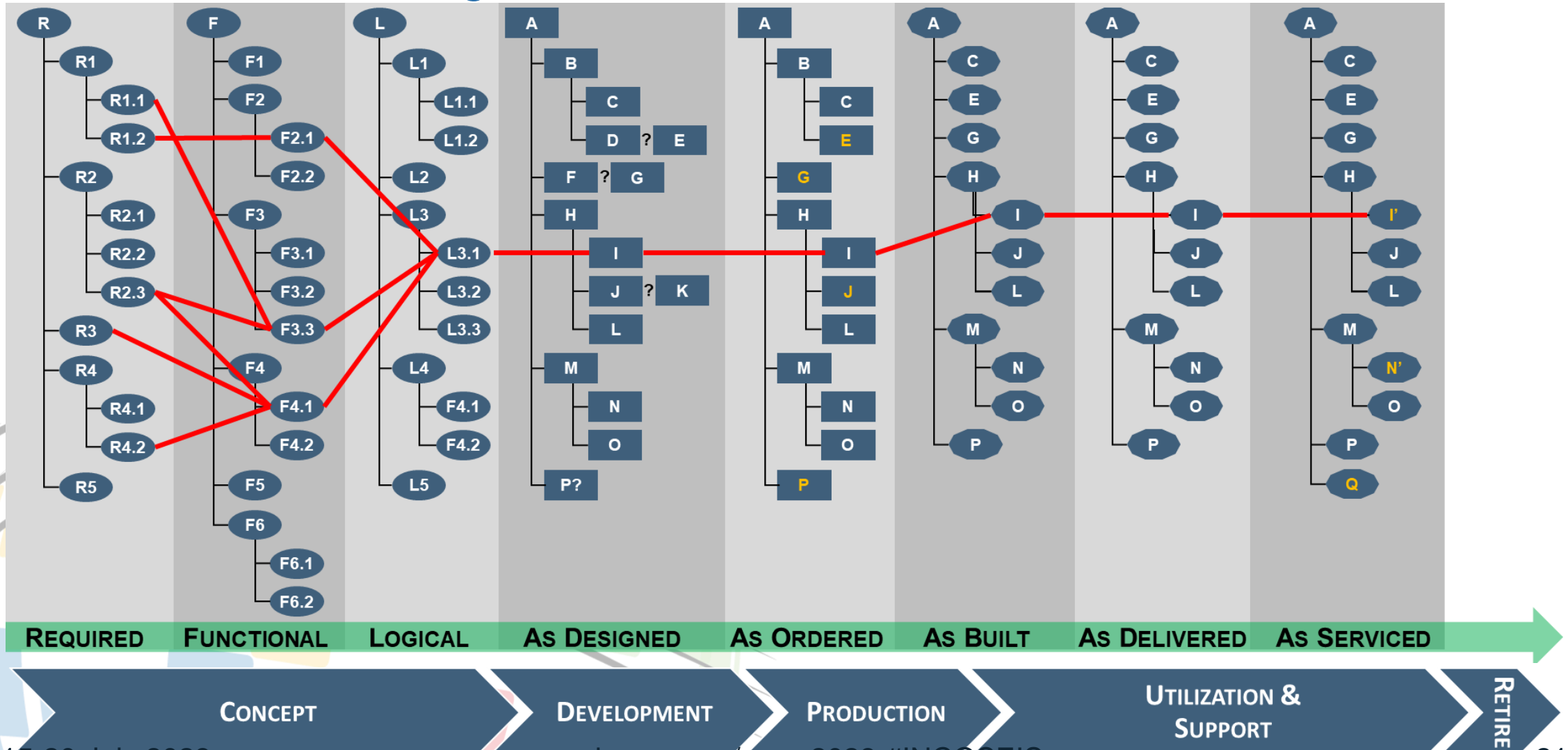


SysML ≠ MBSE



# Maintaining an Unbroken Thread of Traceability

## *The Power of the Digital Thread*



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# Leveraging the Power of Digital

*A “Smart” Digital Twin Connecting Design and Operation*



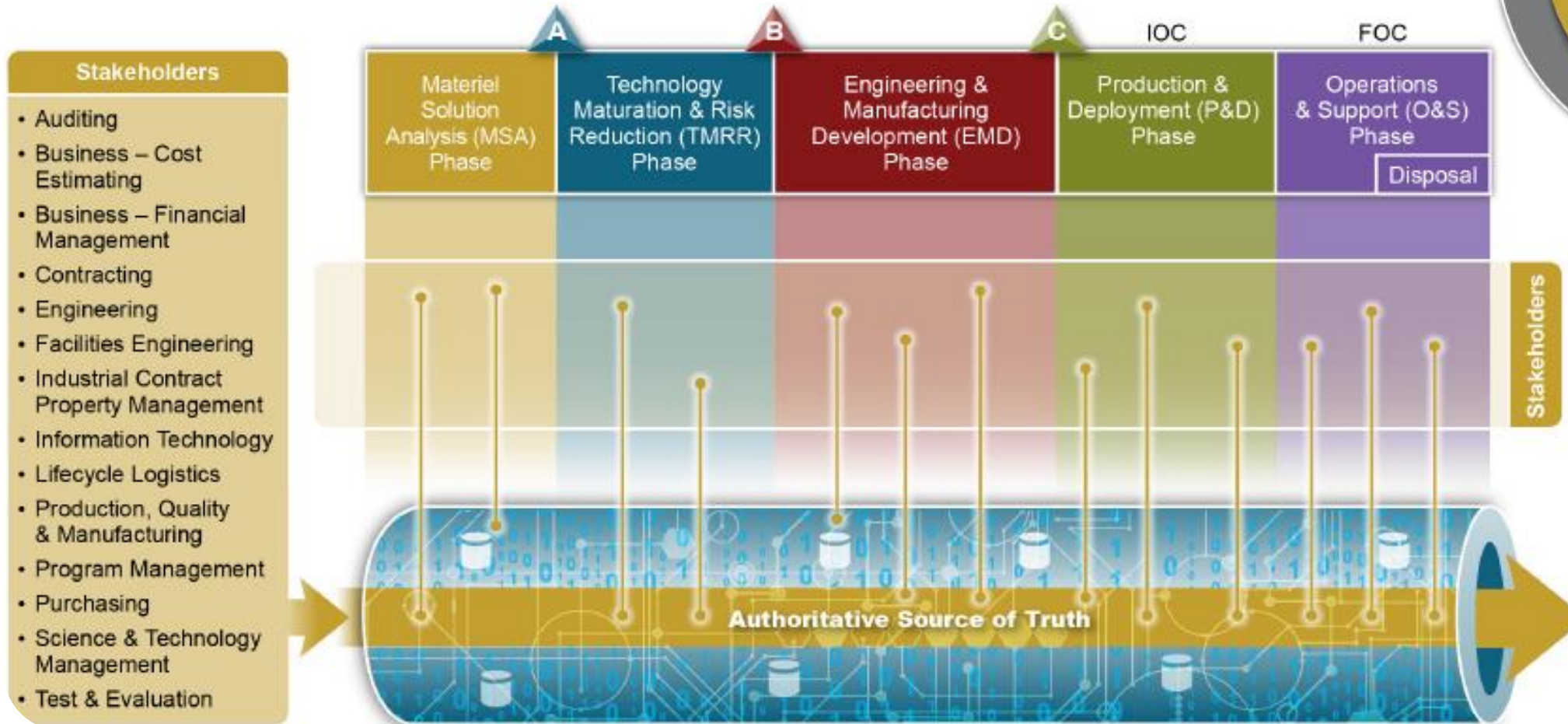
Credit: Sumit Awinash, Creative Commons 4.0

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# Connecting the Engineering Lifecycle

## *The Authoritative Source of Truth*



Credit: US Department of Defense, 2018

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# Relating the Key Concepts

## *The Foundations of DE and Our Digital Transformation*



**Digital Engineering** *a critical enabler for the modern engineering enterprise*



**MBSE**  
*connective tissue of the  
Digital Engineering environment*



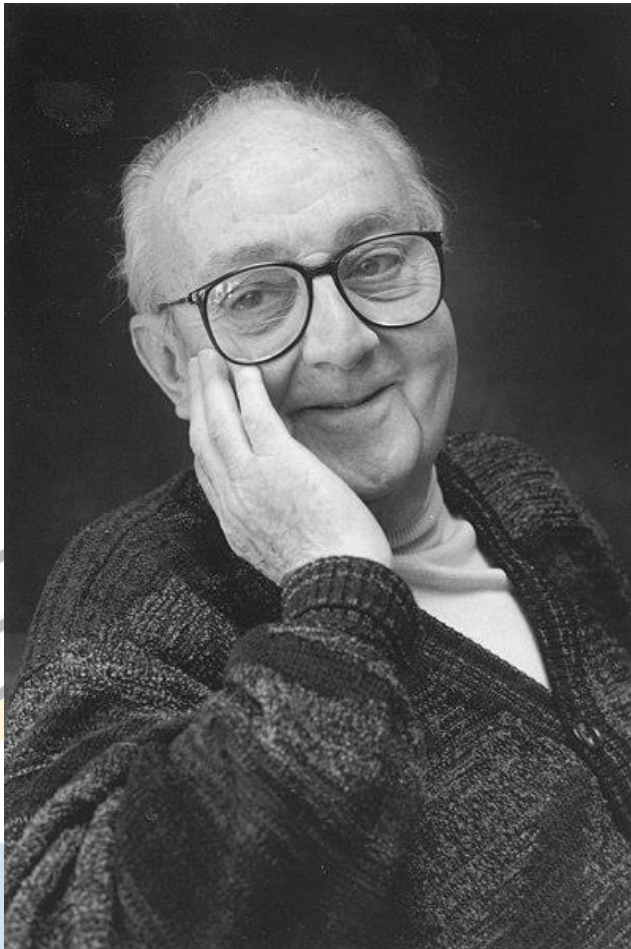
**Systems Engineering**  
*technical connective tissue of  
the project team*



**Data**  
*oxygen fueling 21<sup>st</sup> century  
engineering and operations*

# Leveraging the Thinking of George Box

*Both Caution and Guidance*



All models are wrong

All models are wrong  
but some are useful

The question is how wrong a  
model can be and still be useful



Making your model work for you

# Realizing the Benefits of MBSE



# Unlocking the Power of Multiple Perspectives

*From Customer to C-Suite, from First Concept through Life*



Image credit: SE Vision 2025.  
Copyright © 2014 by INCOSE.

# Aligning across the Engineering Enterprise

*Right Data, Right Place, Right Time, Right Presentation*





# Reasoning about Completeness and Integrity

## *Reducing Defects, Rework, and Lifecycle Cost*

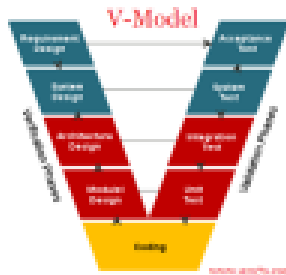


- *Do all blocks have descriptions?*
  - *Are all requirements satisfied?*
  - *Are all leaf-level activities allocated?*
  - *Are all requirements verified?*
- 
- *Do all parameters satisfy the design constraints?*
  - *Have I accounted for inputs/outputs in decomposition?*
  - *Do links exist to transfer signals and data between activities allocated to different blocks?*
- 
- *Is my design dynamically valid?*
  - *What happens under heavy loads?*
  - *What is the impact of this changed requirement? new technology?*

# Meeting the Pace of Change

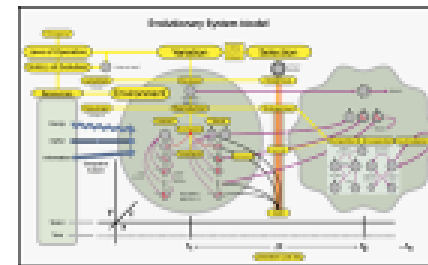
## *Serial Engineering in a Dynamic Parallel World*

### The Transition



#### From: Systems Engineering 1.0

- Systems built to last
- Opinion-based decision making
- Paper-based documentation
- Deeply integrated architectures
- Hierarchical organizational model
- Satisfying the requirements
- Phase-based Verification & Validation



#### To: Systems Engineering 2.0

- Systems built to evolve
- Model and Data-driven decision making
- Simulation-based documents
- Modularized architectures
- Ecosystem of partners
- Constant experimentation and innovation
- Continuous Verification & Validation

© Jon Wade 2022

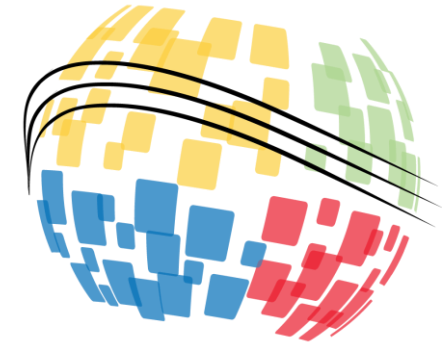
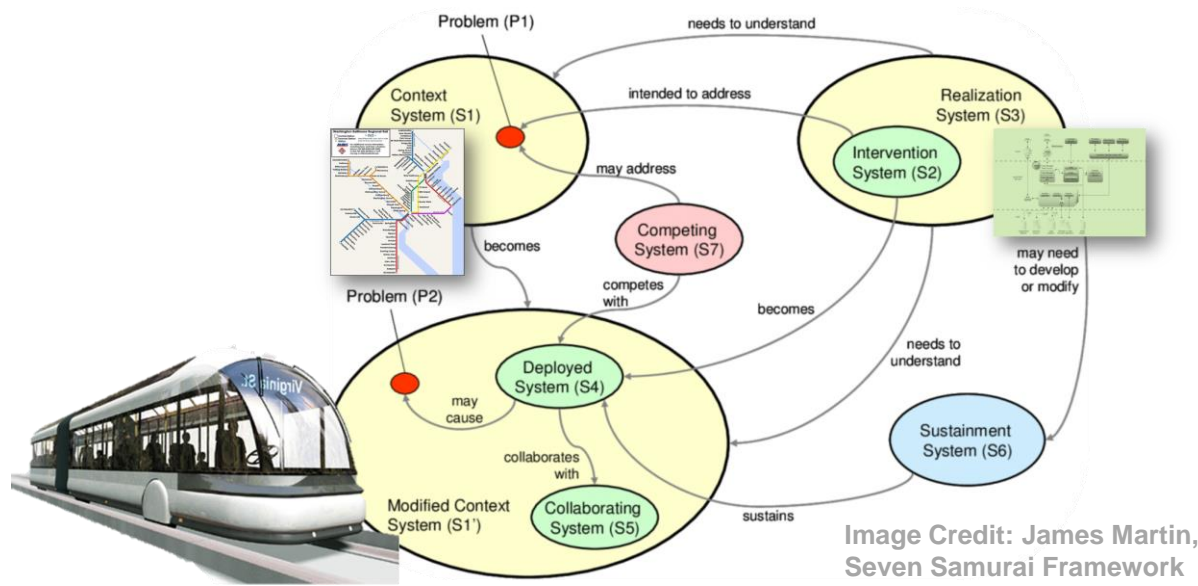
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Credit John Wade, Engineering the Value Supply Chain: Ethical Sustainability, INCOSE International Symposium, June 2022

# Evolving from Custom-Built to Composability

## *Accelerating through Reference Architectures, MOSA, and Reuse*





A system is a system is a system

# Systems Engineering

## Your MBSE and D<sub>x</sub> Deployment



# Identify Traps before You Begin

*Classic Errors on the Journey to MBSE and DE*

- Thinking it's a tool (or a technical) issue
- Implementing someone else's solution
- Ceding responsibility to a (tool) vendor
- Starting too big or too small
- Overlooking middle management
- Thinking sprint not marathon



# Find Your Customer

*aka Your Champion*

Find the people in your system most susceptible to having their situation improved. Focus on them, not technology.

Larry Leifer

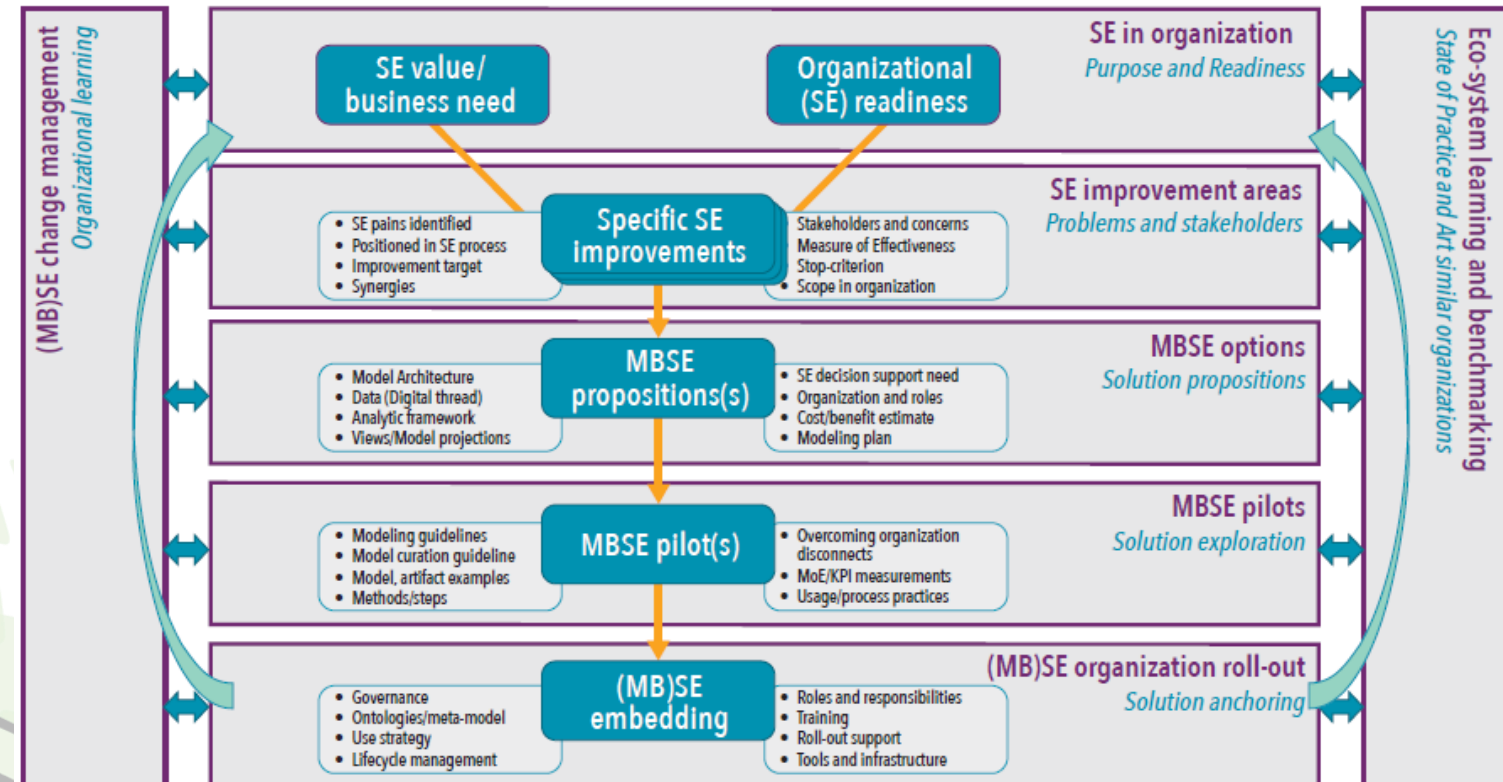
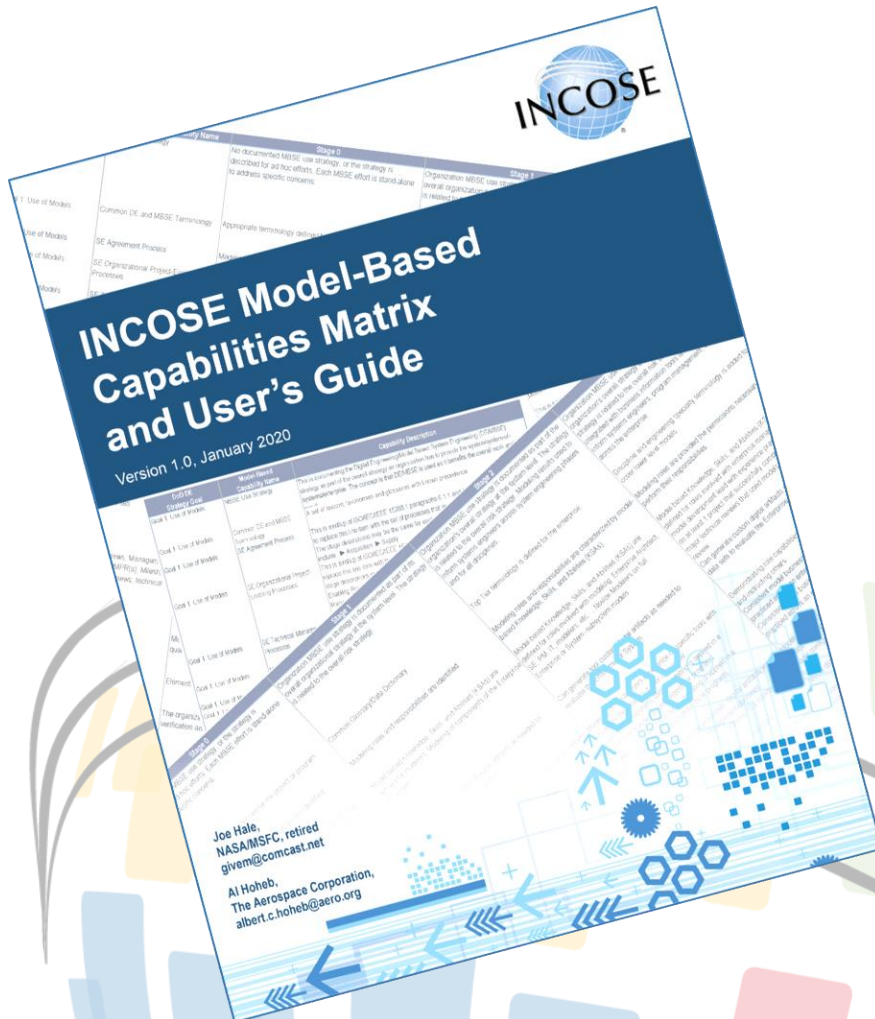
*Dancing with Ambiguity*

INCOSE IS 2016



# Assess Where You Stand Today

*Undertaking a Journey Requires Both an As-Is and To-Be*

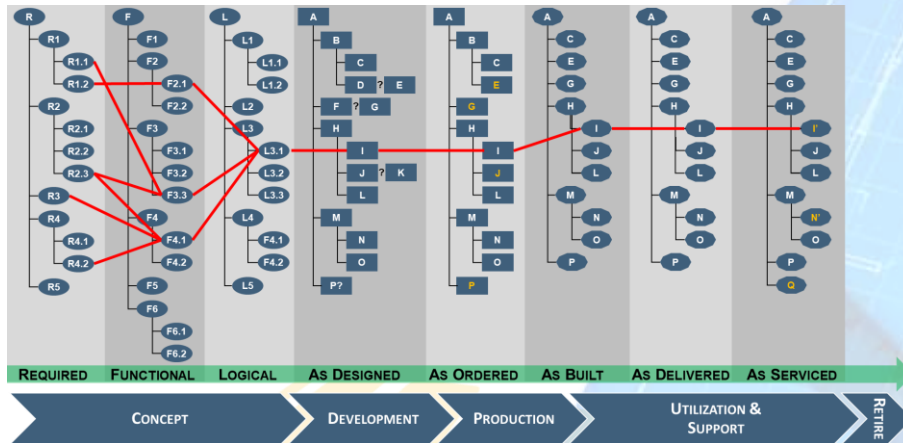


Credit: Creating Value with MBSE in the High-Tech Equipment Industry, Hendriks et al., INCOSE Insight Volume 25 Issue 4, December 2022.

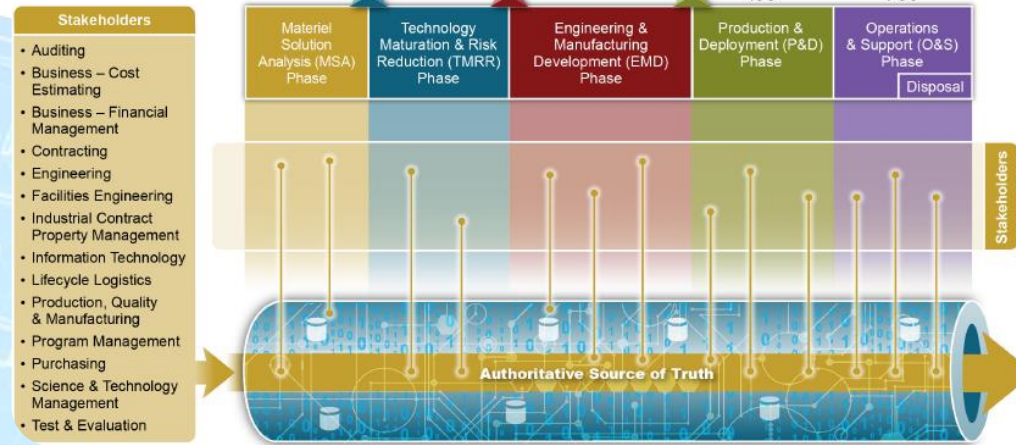


# Define Your Reach for MBSE and Dx

## Where You Need to Be not Want to Be – SE, EoS, or Beyond?



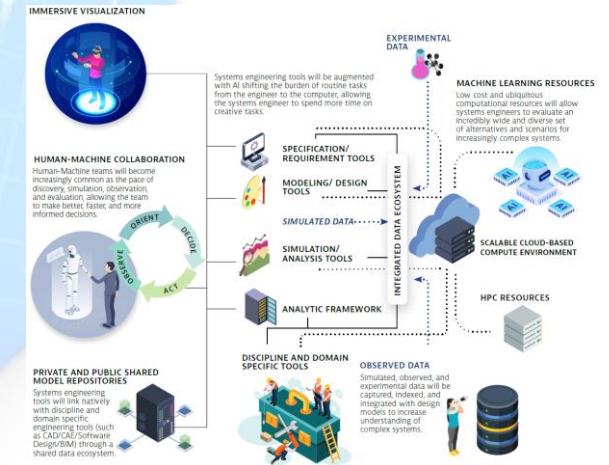
Adapted from Aras Corporation, 2018



Credit: US Department of Defense, 2018



Credit: Sumit Awinash, Creative Commons 4.0

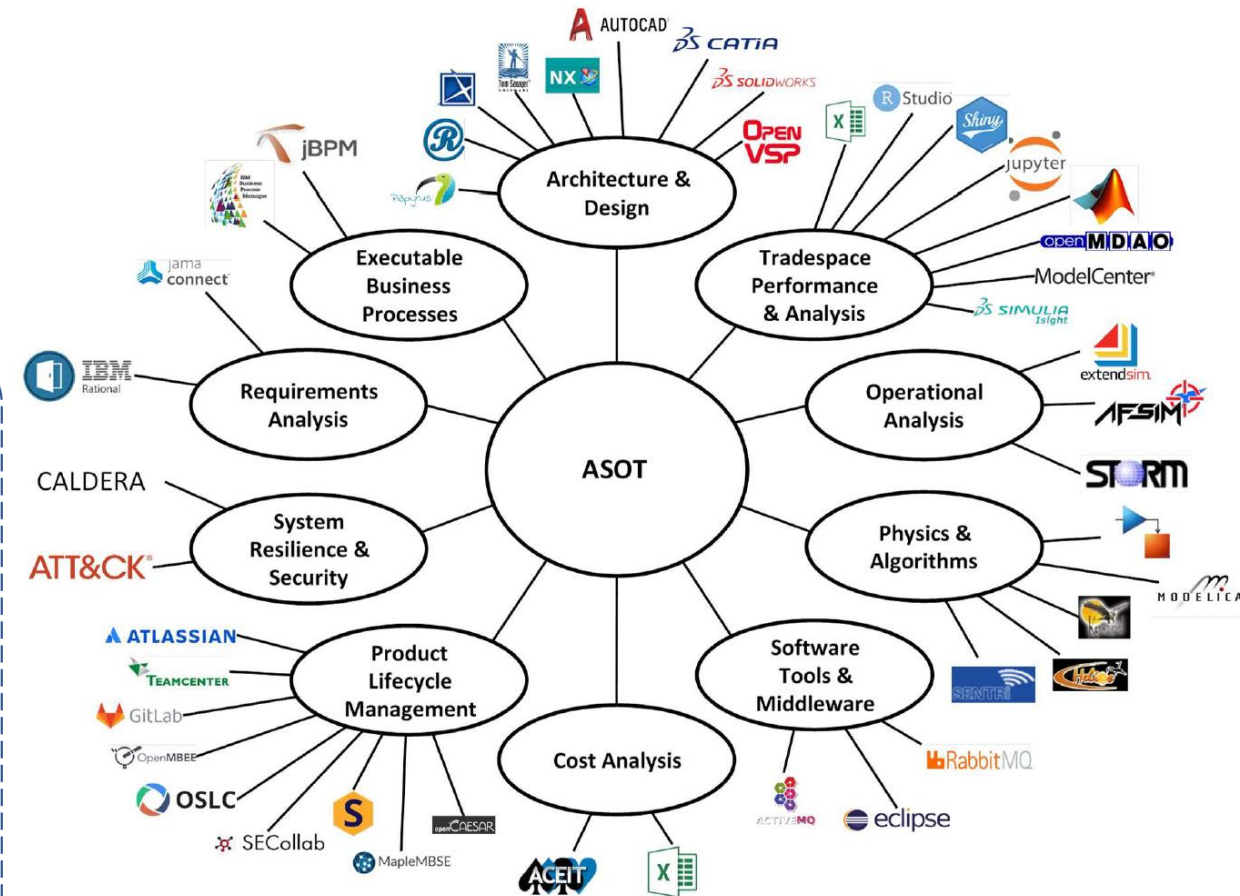
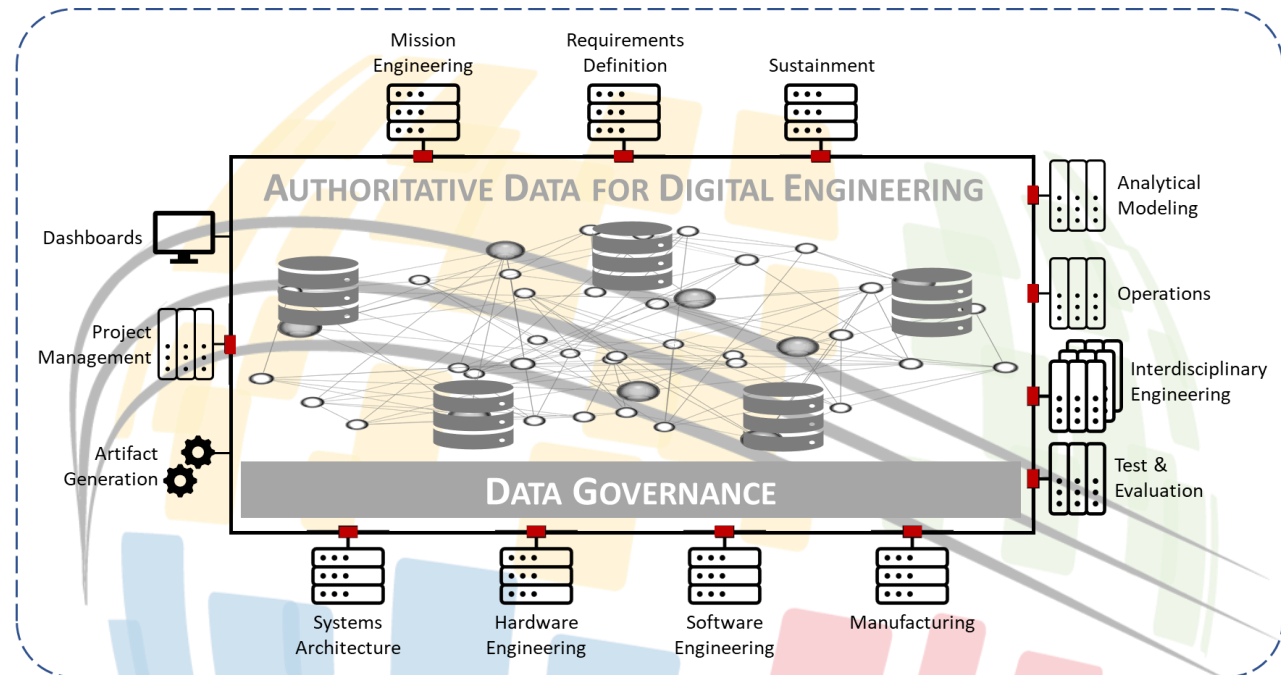


Credit: SE Vision 2035. Copyright © 2021 by INCOSSE.



# Appreciate and Honor Your Scope

## *Neither Benefit nor Difficulty Increase Linearly*



Credit: WRT-1051, Program Managers Guide to Digital and Agile Systems Engineering Process Transformation, August 2022

# Elicit Requirements

*Understanding Both Project and Journey*



**NEEDS**

**DESIRES**

**CONSTRAINTS**

# Identify the Components and Allocate

*Tools, Infrastructure, Processes, Workflows, Training, People*



# Leverage the Power of the Black Box

## *Managing the Change Boundary*



- ✓ Compartmentalize change
- ✓ Empower change agents
- ✓ Honor existing interfaces
- ✓ Honor interface formats
- ✓ Expand intentionally



# Lead the Change –In, Out, and Up

## *From Customers to the C-Level*



- Be informed – about the topic, customer, team, vision, and journey
- Move beyond positions to interests
- Align to and guard the why
- Sell through attunement, buoyancy, clarity – *To Sell is Human* (Pink)
  - Sell technologies only to technologists
  - Move the conversation from cost to value (but beware the Shanri-La of ROI)
  - Under-promise and over-deliver
- Drive better solutions through holistic understanding of problem and context
  - Don't underestimate the costs of transformation
- Champion systemic considerations and systemic change
  - Through-life considerations and concerns
  - Thinking and engineering

***Prioritize your letters*** – E then S before D and M then lastly B

# Continuing the Conversation



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Past President (2014/2015)  
Fellow

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