



International Council on Systems Engineering
A better world through a systems approach

Digital Engineering Testbed for Test and Evaluation: Operation Safe Passage Status and Lessons Learned

Short Title: ***DE for T&E Testbed***

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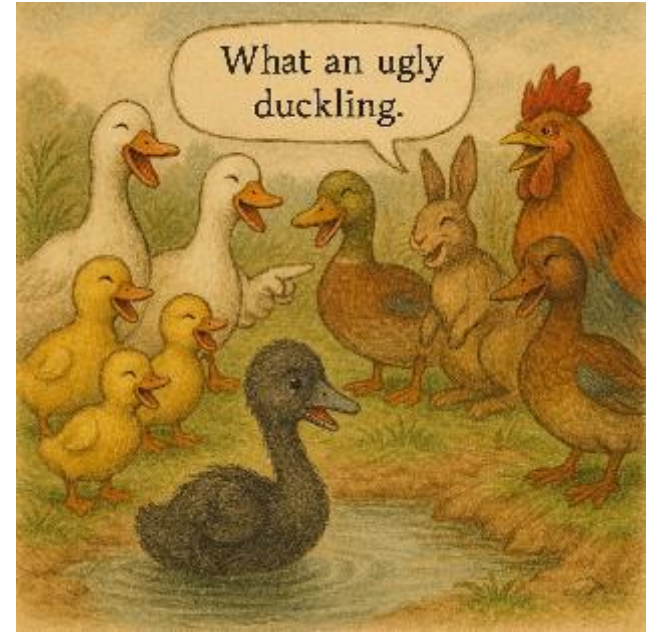
Dr. Taylan Topcu, Mr. Geoff Kerr, Virginia Tech

INCOSE International Symposium 2025 | Ottawa, Canada



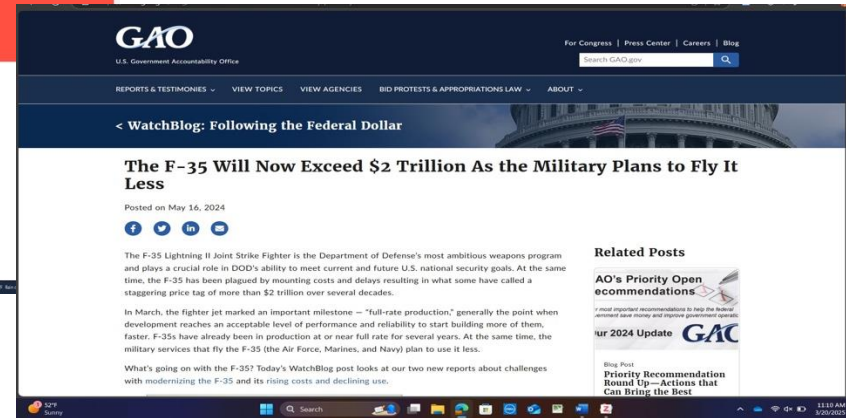
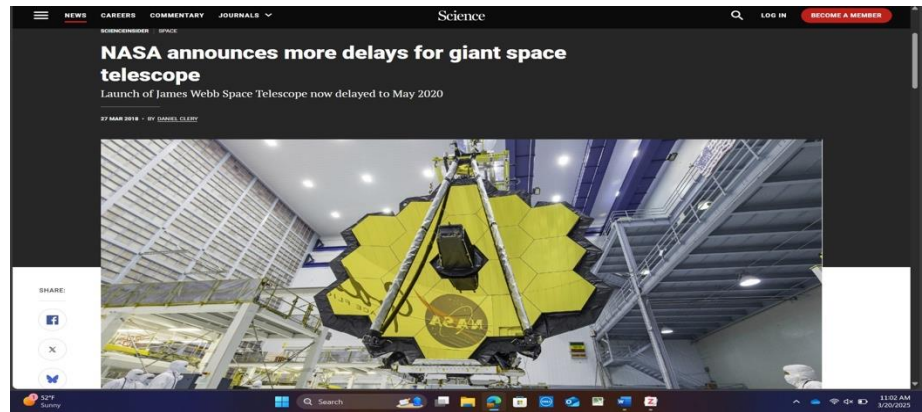
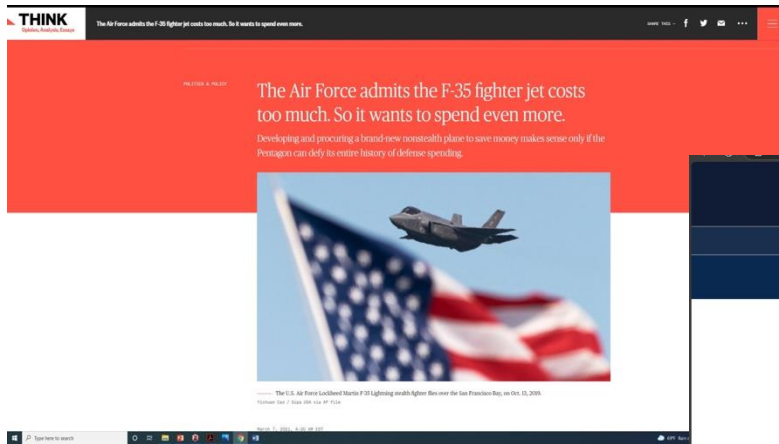
...before we get into the technical details...

Reactions to digital engineering...



Are we there yet?

- Difficult to use real programs/systems
- 10+ years, classification, etc.
- Changes in technology over time and struggle to stay adapted

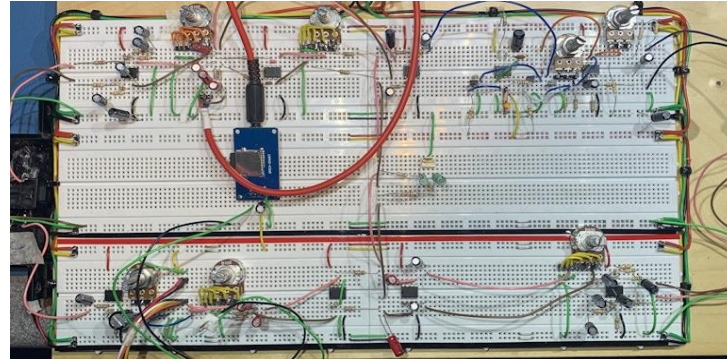


What do we mean when we say “test and evaluation” (T&E)?

- Government owned and executed verification and validation (V&V) activities
 - Research team perspective (may not be sponsor’s perspective)
- From a US DOD perspective:
 - Read DoDI.5000.89
 - Developmental T&E
 - Conducted while the systems is under development
 - Department of Developmental Test, Evaluation, and Analysis (DTE&A)
 - Operational T&E
 - Conducted before and while the system is in operation
 - Department of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E)

Use of proxies/analogies is regular practice

- Modeling & Simulation (M&S)
- Breadboards
- Prototypes
- Wind tunnels (reduced scale)
- Test ranges (reduced scale)



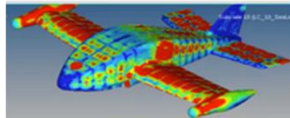
Recognized need to start new

Desire deliberate elegance rather than organic, momentary success

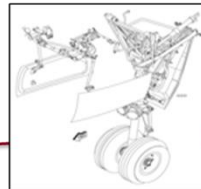
Graphical CONOPS
Scenario: Search &
Rescue



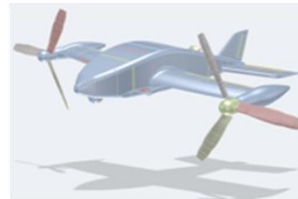
Deep Dives by Phases



P1: Multi-physics



P2: Airworthiness



P3: Cost Modeling

Performance constraints force
Multi-physics Design
considerations –
similar to Bell Eagle Eye



*Skyzer

Doing Everything in Models to Demonstrate Art-of-the-Possible

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Meet the team

Part of the **Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC)** and Acquisition Innovation Research Center (AIRC)



Dr. Alejandro
Salado, UA



Dr. Joe
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Dr. Paul Wach,
VT



Geoffrey Kerr,
VT

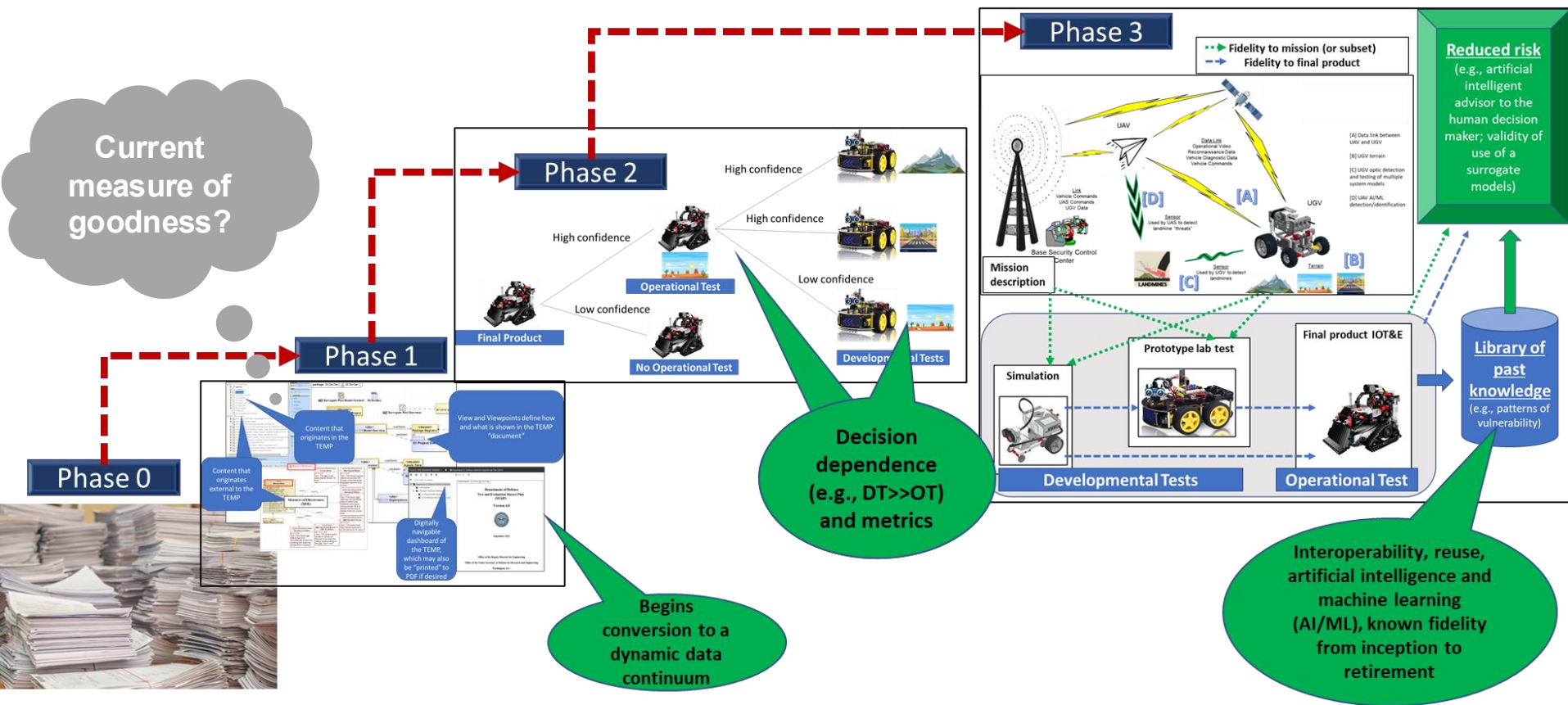


Brandt
Sandman, VT



Taylan Topcu,
VT

**Current
measure of
goodness?**



Historical Fiction?!

Mission proxy

- Operation Safe Passage



- Operation Safe Lego



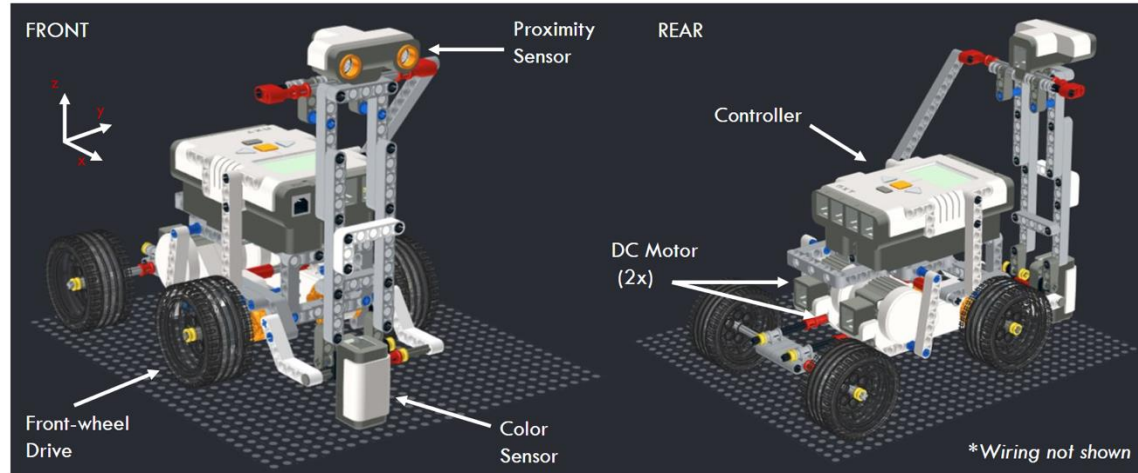
Historical Fiction?!

System proxy

- Operation Safe Passage



- Operation Safe Lego



Historical Fiction?!

Terrain proxy

- Operation Safe Passage



- Operation Safe Lego



Historical Fiction?!

Threat proxy

- Operation Safe Passage

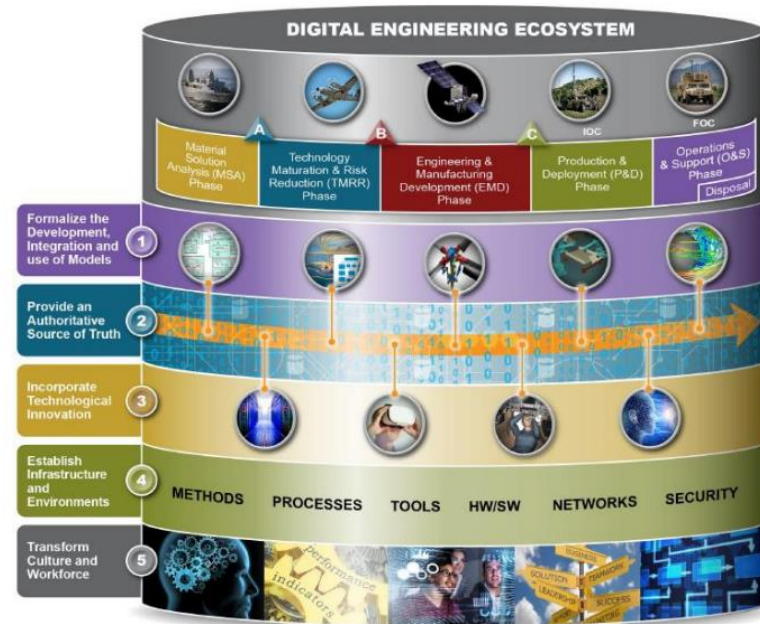


- Operation Safe Lego

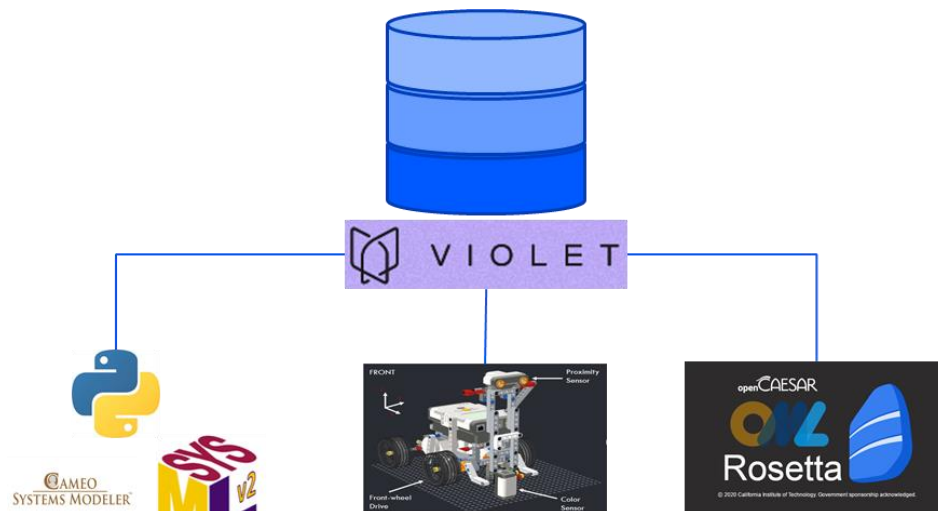


System proxy

- Operation Safe Passage



- Operation Safe Lego



Key Performance Parameters (KPPs)

Measures	Definition
Detection Rate*	% mines detected correctly
False Alarm Rate, Detection*	% mine detection false alarms
Classification Rate*	% mines classified correctly
False Alarm Rate, Classification*	% mine classification false alarms
Pathway Creation Time*	Time taken to clear a pathway from start to finish
Safety Rating	Adherence to safety standards and protocols
Adaptability Rating	Ability to operate in various terrains and conditions

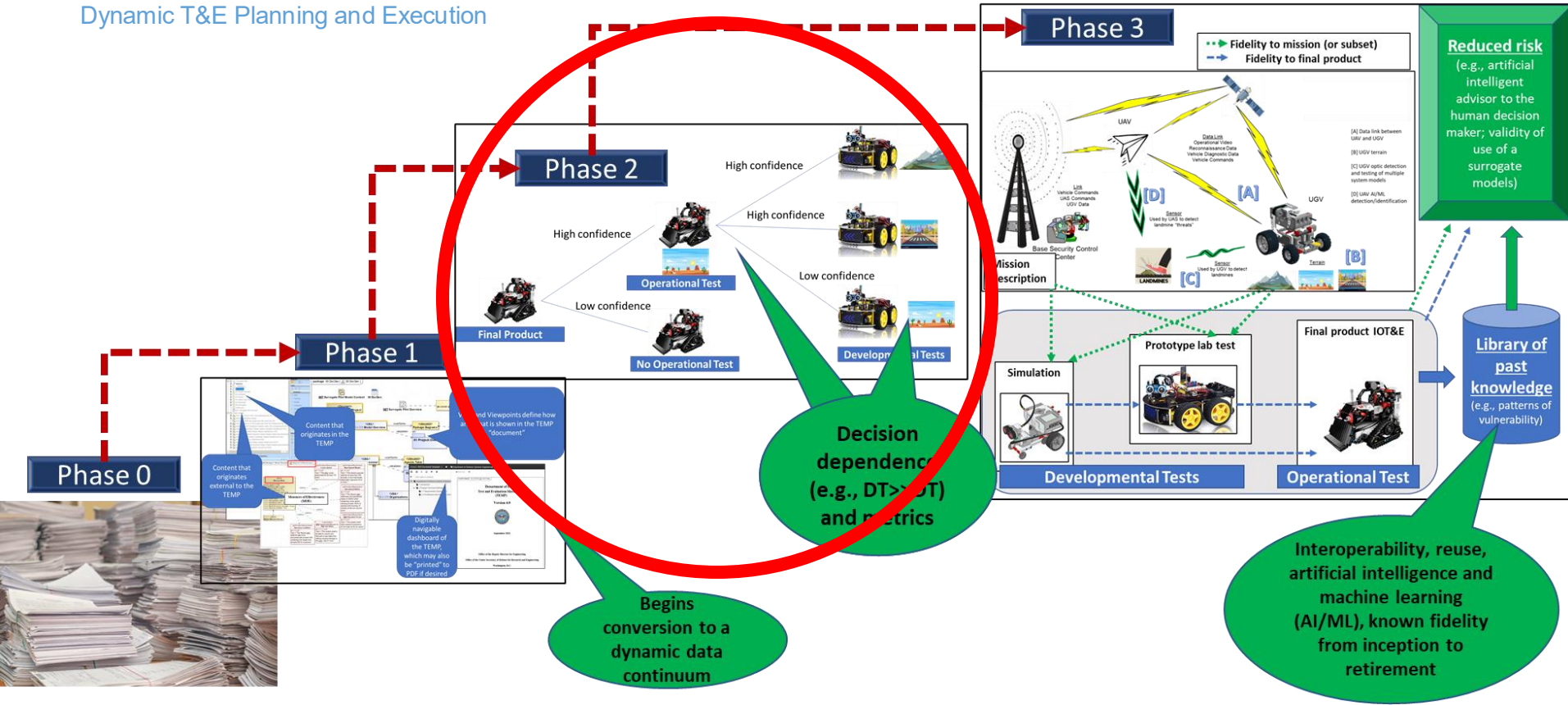
*"mine" ~= "sticky note"

Mock interim design review” (IDR)


Category	Description
Entities involved and role	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DOT&E personnel with a role as the T&E decision authority 2. AIRC researchers with a role to conduct the T&E activities and provide artifacts to the decision authority
Supporting artifacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PowerPoint slides as a read ahead 2. Lego mission model 3. Lego (SysML) system model 4. Lego CAD models 5. MBTEMP 6. Modeling and Simulation (M&S) models (Python-based) 7. Analytical results 8. IDSK (decision dashboard)
Means of conducting the review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Virtual (MS Teams) 2. Use of PowerPoint to guide the review 3. Use of real-time presentation of models and data (e.g., MBTEMP and IDSK)
T&E use cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developmental tests resulting in design change after T&E showed the inability to achieve traction at lower weights 2. Developmental tests resulting in design and performance trade after T&E showed the tire diameter and terrain are co-dependent 3. Operational tests resulting in change in employment due to inability to employ to UGV and causing the need to utilize a UAV as an alternative
Review phases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial IDR (June 2024) 2. Delta IDR (Aug 2024)

Phase of T&E Transformation

Dynamic T&E Planning and Execution



Digital Test and Evaluation Master Plan (dTEMP)

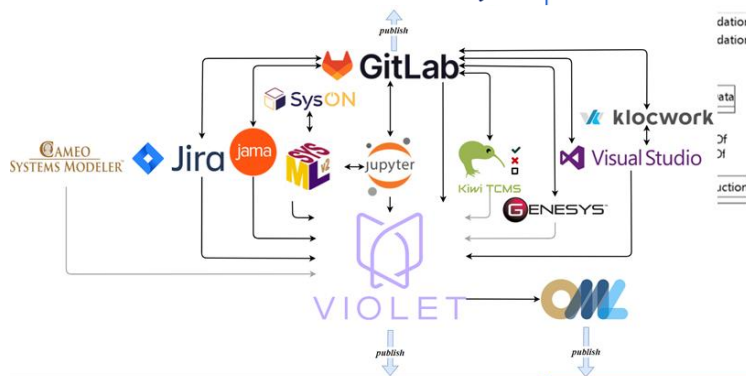
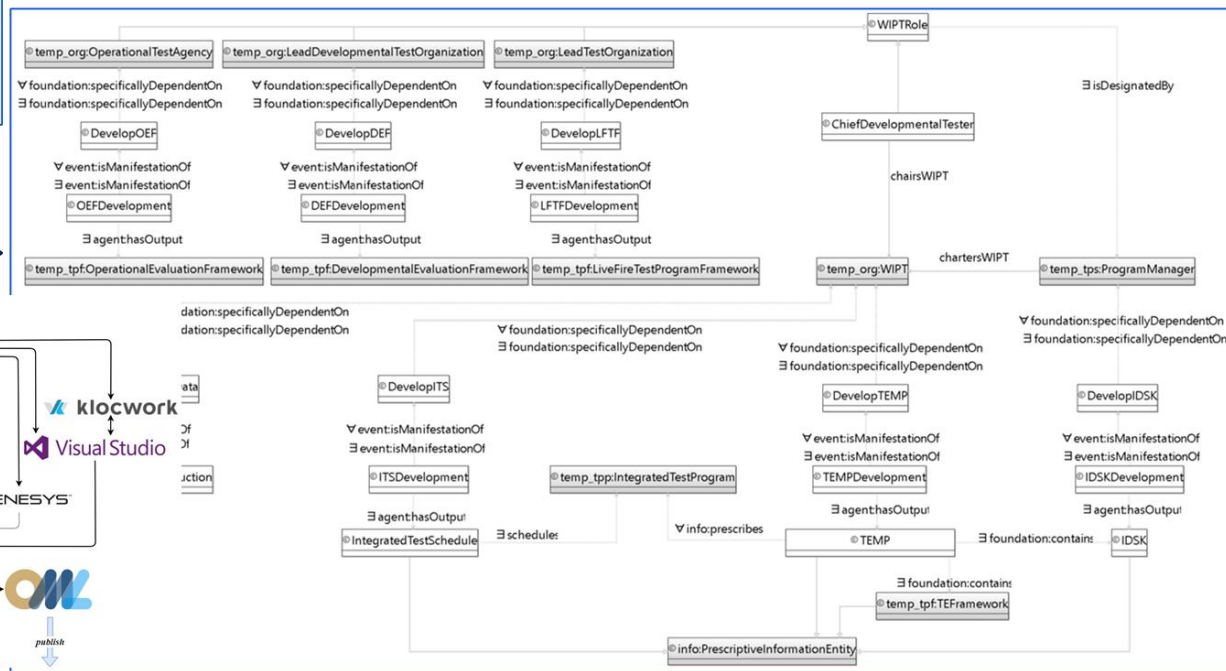


DoD INSTRUCTION 5000.89

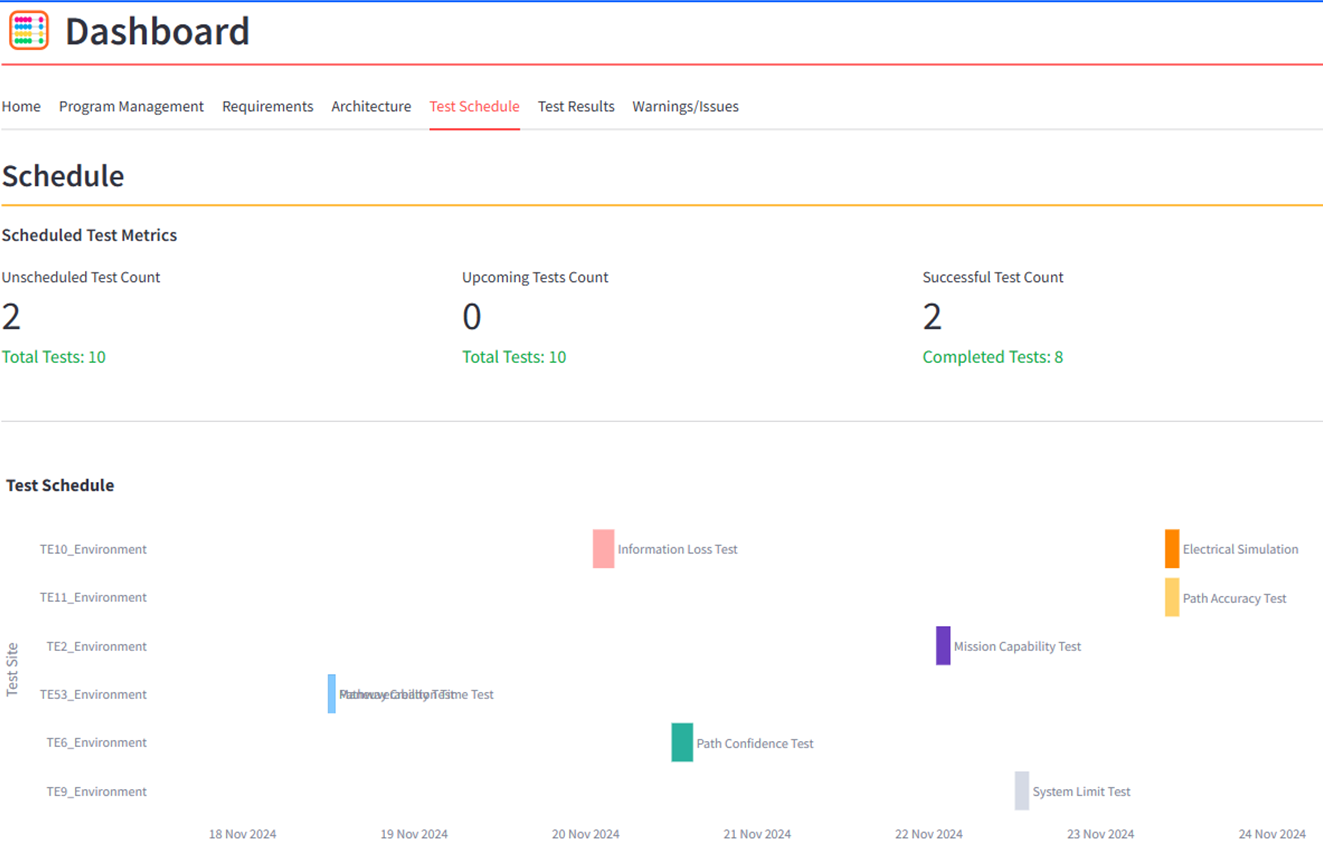
TEST AND EVALUATION

Originating Component: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
Originating Component: Office of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
Effective: November 19, 2020

Mapping the DoDI Into Foundational Tooling



Digital Test and Evaluation Master Plan (dTEMP)



A job fit for students: Battery testing



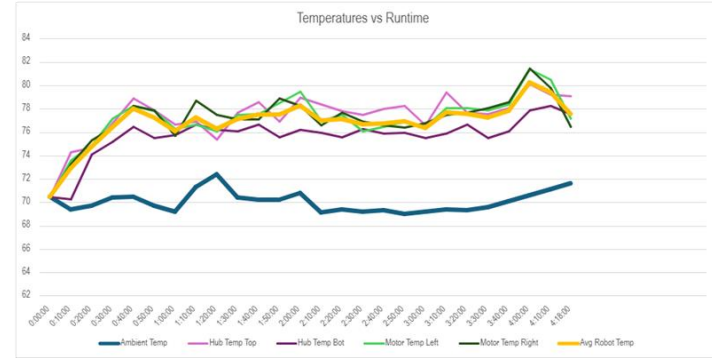
Spike Robot



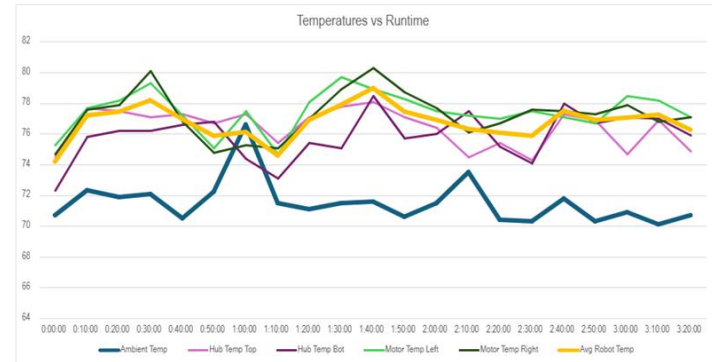
EV3 Robot



EV3
Test 1

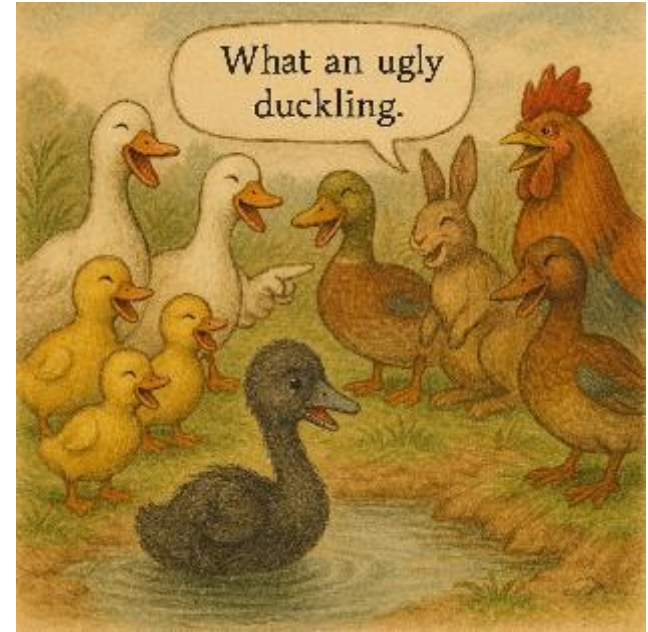


EV3
Test 2



Reactions to our work???

We hope not



Questions?

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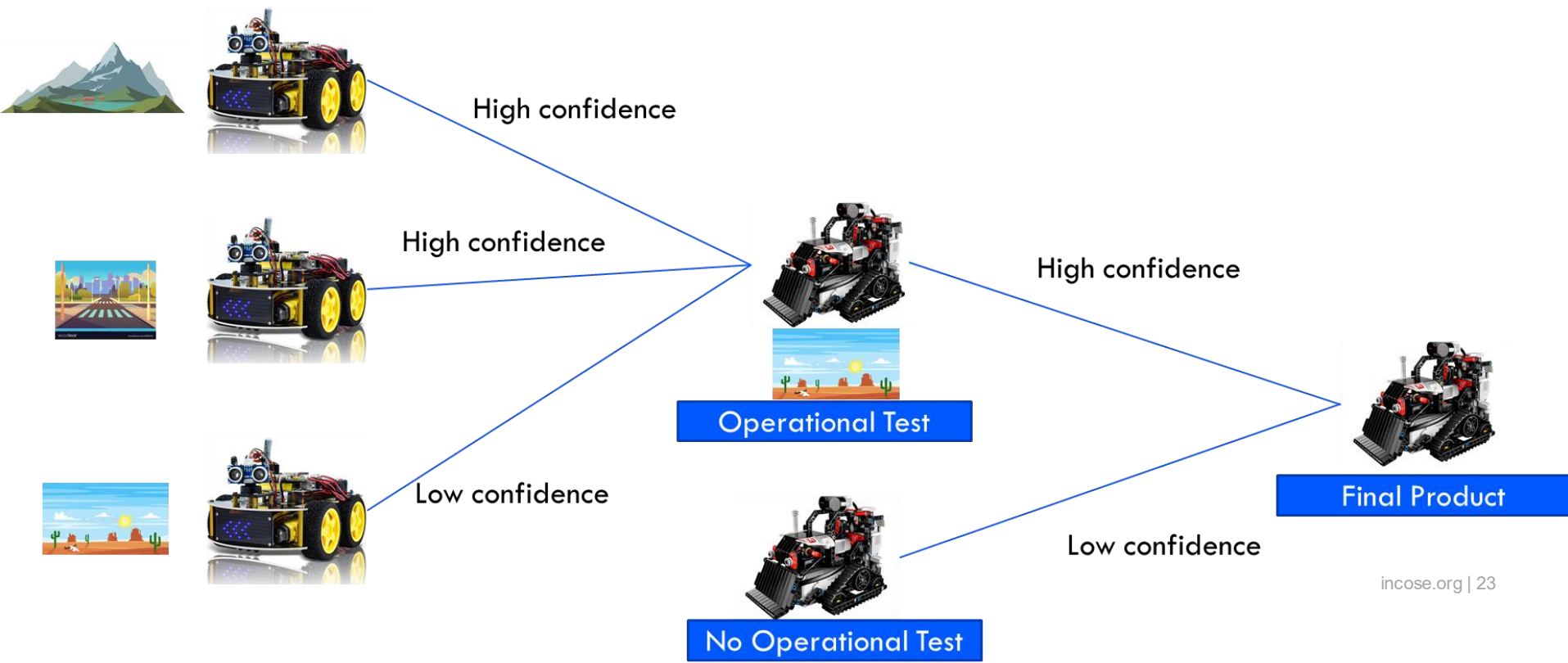
Current trajectory:

- ✓ Continued injection into classroom
- ✓ Scaling and expanding
- ✓ Phase 3 (mathematically underpinned models/data)
- ✓ Expanding to other systems
- ✓ Expanding to system of systems
- ✓ Expanding to mission/capability level

Backup

What do I really need to test?

Developmental Tests



A job fit for students



Brandt Sandman



Trevor Ierardi



Robert Sharpe III



Walter Lin



Allegra Oledibe



Liam Superville



Austin Lane



Emmanuel Oteng



Winston Mensah

Test procedures

Test execution

Actions	Measurements
Measure the room temperature using the thermometer.	
Simultaneously initiate Rover movement and activate stopwatch.	
Check the Rover's wheels are moving by inspection.	
Measure the rpm of the Rover's wheels.	
Continue observation of wheel movement.	
Stop the stopwatch once the Rover's wheels stop moving.	
Record the time indicated on the stopwatch.	

Test preparations

Actions
Place Rover on the Workbench.
Load SD Card 1 into the Rover Computer Module.
Place Rover in the Disruption Lab.
Plug the Rover Battery Charger into the Rover.
Wait until the battery indicator indicates the battery is fully charged.
Unplug the Rover Battery Charger from the Rover.
Place the Rover in the Hallway with no surface in contact with the Rover's wheels.
Reset the stopwatch to 0.

Check Preconditions

Name	Calibration Status
Old Engineering University of Arizona	Valid
Thermometer	Valid
Stopwatch	Valid
Rover Battery Charger	Valid
Disruption Lab	Valid
Hallway	Valid
Workbench	Invalid
Rover Computer Module	Invalid

Notional Case: Legacy Data/Systems Used to Inform T&E for New System

Legacy System

New System



High confidence



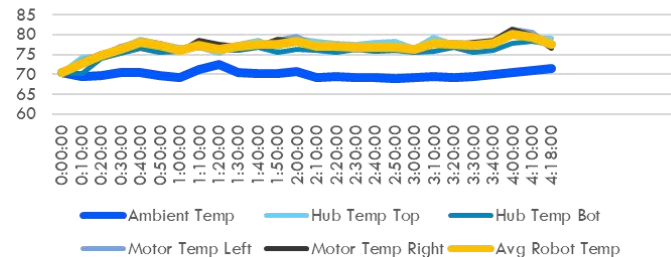
High confidence



High confidence



Temperatures vs Runtime



Battery Voltage vs Runtime

