

Does Scale Really Matter?:

Ultra-Large-Scale Systems Seven Years after the Study

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May 24, 2013



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Software Engineering Institute (SEI)

- Department of Defense R&D Laboratory
- Created in 1984
- Part of Carnegie Mellon University
- Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Offices in Washington, Los Angeles, and Frankfurt
- **Mission:** To advance the technologies and practices needed to acquire, develop, operate, and sustain software systems that are innovative, affordable, trustworthy, and enduring.



My Comfort Zone



Ultra-Large-Scale (ULS) Systems



My Talk

ULS System Study Reprise

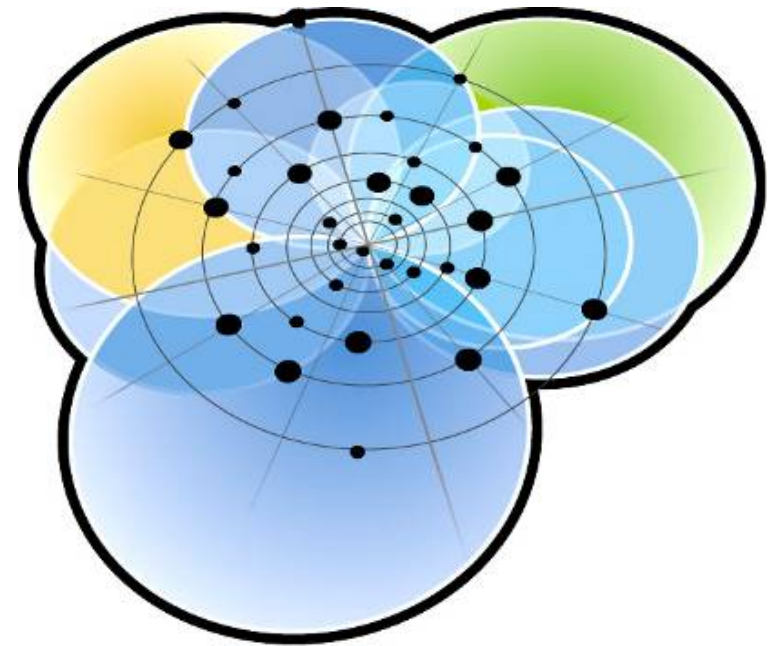
Current Climate

Experiences with Systems at Scale

ULS Systems-Related Research

Reflection

Interaction



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Beginning of the ULS System Journey



Seven Years Ago

Windows Vista released



Saddam Hussein sentenced to death and executed



NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter enters Mars orbit



Beyonce Knowles releases second consecutive No.1 album and fourth No.1 single in the US



BlackBerry users numbered 4,900,000 in March, 2006



Pittsburgh Steelers win Super Bowl XL



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Societal Problems

Climate change and the environment

Powering our civilization

Disease, epidemics, and health care

Livable megacities

Safety and security

Transportation



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Society's Dependence on Software



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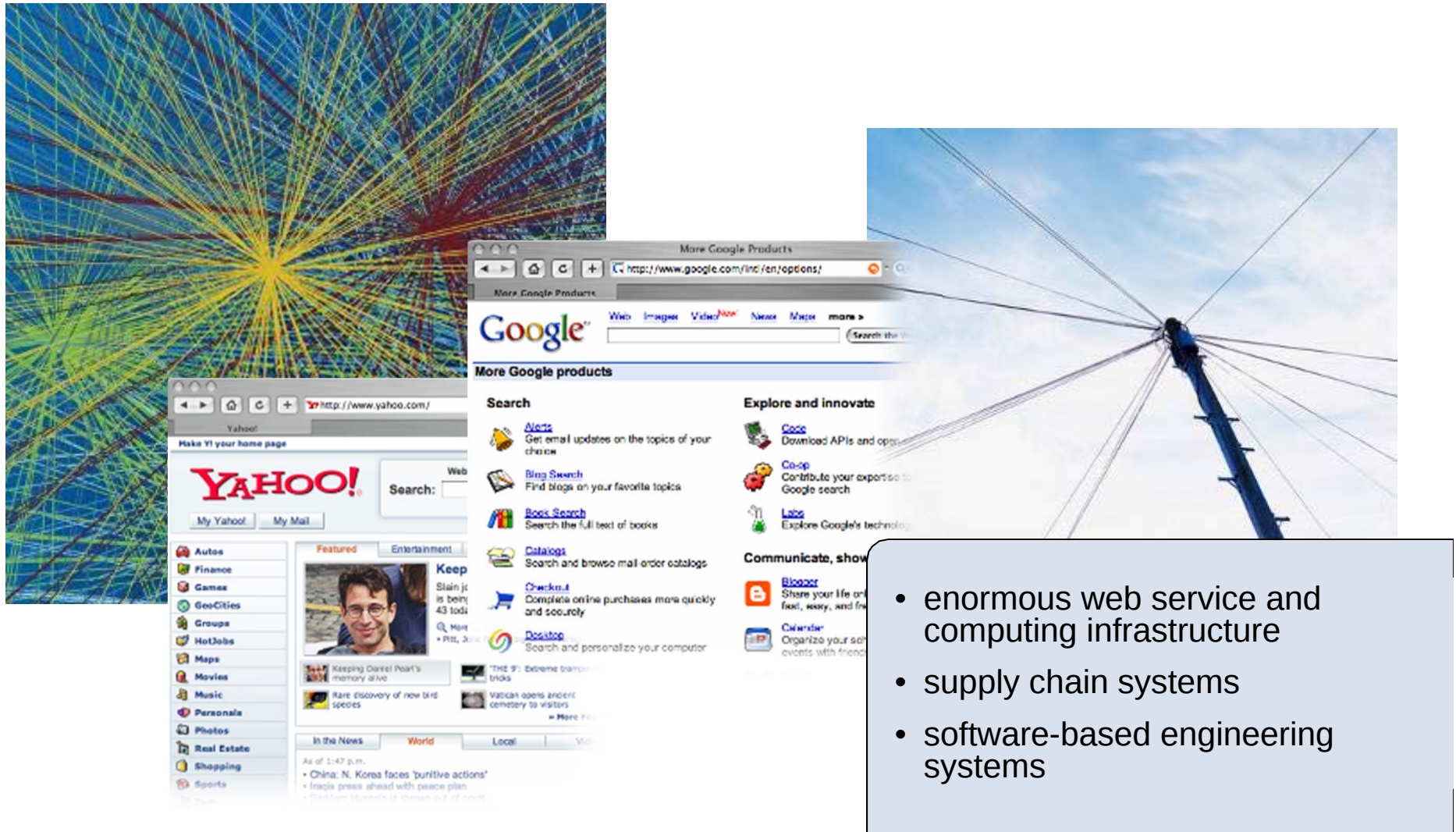
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Trend Toward Increasing Scale-1



- enormous web service and computing infrastructure
- supply chain systems
- software-based engineering systems



Trend Toward Increasing Scale - 2



Healthcare Infrastructure



Military Systems



Homeland Security



Networked Automobiles



Saving the Environment



Increasing Scale In Military Systems

Increasingly Complex Systems

- ultra-large, network-centric, real-time, cyber-physical-social systems
 - thousands of platforms, sensors, decision nodes, weapons, and warfighters
 - connected through heterogeneous wired and wireless networks

- *Transient and enduring resource constraints and failures*
- *Continuous adaptation*
- *Sustainable - legally, technically, politically*



Ultra-Large-Scale (ULS) Systems Study



Asst Sec Army
Claude Bolton

August 16, 2005



Gather leading experts to study these ULS systems of the future.

"...How can future systems, which are likely to be a billion lines of code, be built reliably if we can't even get today's systems right?"

Intended outcomes:

- ULS System Research Agenda
- program proposal
- collaborative research network

About the Effort

Funded by the Army (ASA ALT)

Created and led by the SEI

*Staffing: 9 member SEI team
13 member expert panel*

Duration: one year (04/05 -- 05/06)



Expert Panel

Gregory Abowd

Georgia Institute of Technology

Peter Neumann

SRI International Computer Science Laboratory

Carliss Baldwin

Harvard Business School

Douglas Schmidt

Vanderbilt University

Mary Shaw

Carnegie Mellon University

Bob Balzer

Teknowledge Corporation

Richard P. Gabriel

Sun Microsystems

Dan Siewiorek

Carnegie Mellon University

Gregor Kiczales

University of British Columbia

Kevin Sullivan

University of Virginia

Ali Mili

New Jersey Institute of Technology

John Lehoczky

Carnegie Mellon University

Jack Whalen

PARC



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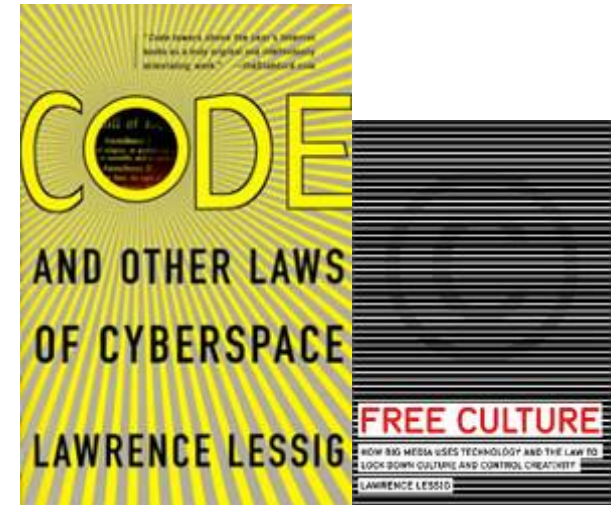
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The Journey



Inspiration: Open Source and Cooperative Communities

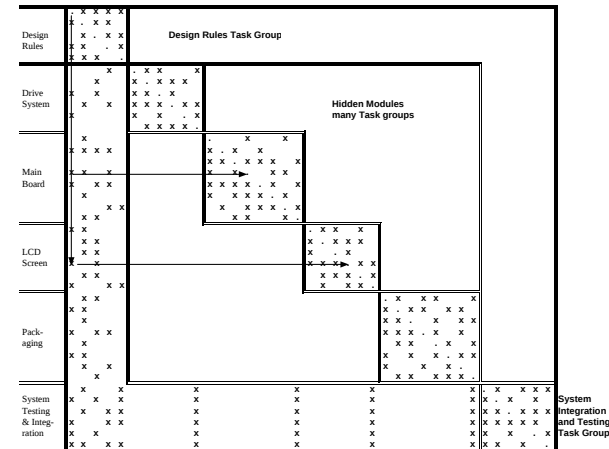


More Inspiration

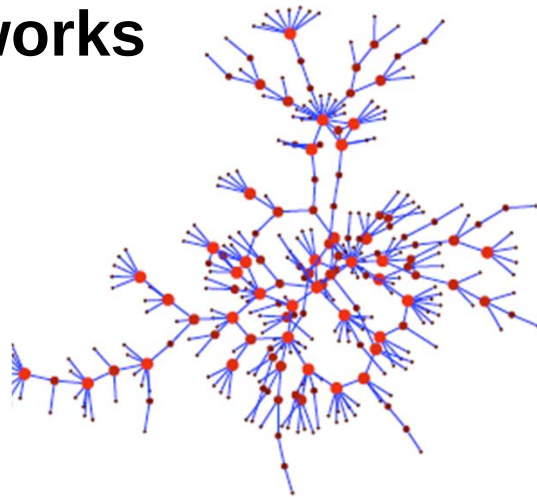
Game Theory

A GAME THEORY ①	A GAME THEORY ②	A GAME THEORY ③	A GAME THEORY ④
			
Oskar Morgenstern 1902 – 1977	John von Neumann 1903 – 1957	John F. Nash Jr. *1928	Reinhard Selten *1930
Monograph #Monographs Marginal Rate of Preference Public Perspective Indicator Productivity Potential Index Expected Utility	9.4 0.0 1.8 24.0 1.0	9.4 0.0 1.8 24.0 1.0	9.4 0.0 1.8 24.0 1.0

Economics



Networks



Statistical Mechanics



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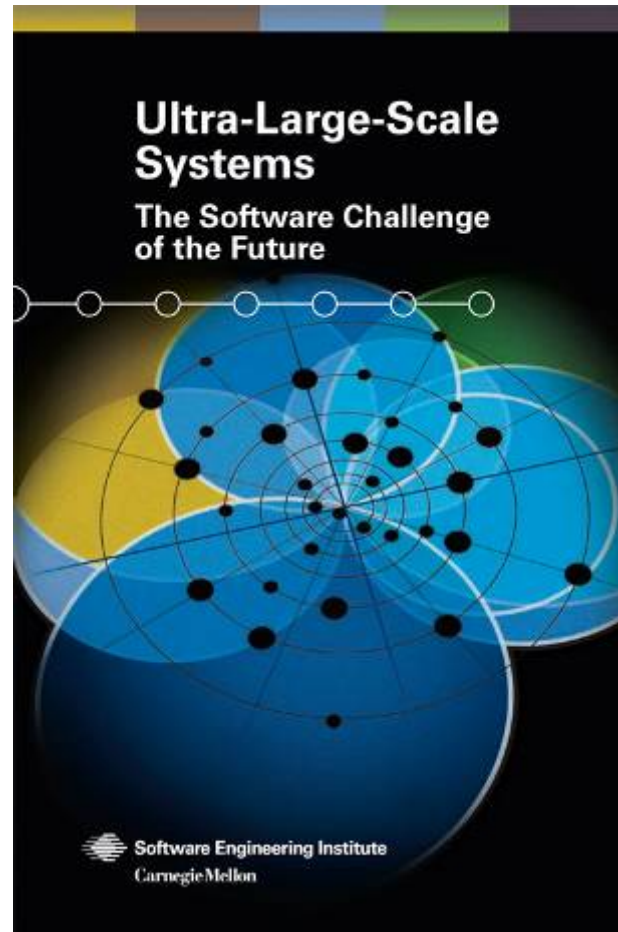
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ULS Systems Research Study Report



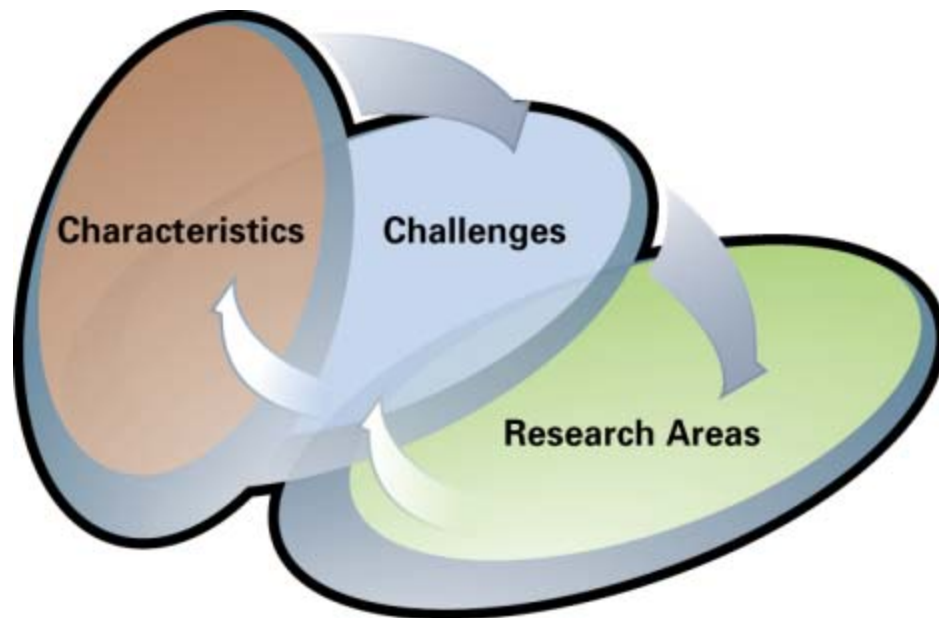
<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/uls/>



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ULS Systems Research Agenda



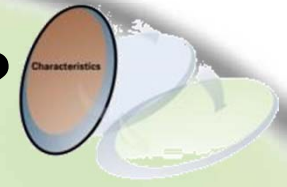
Describes

- the characteristics of ULS systems
- the associated challenges
- promising research areas and topics

Is based on a new perspective needed to address the problems associated with ultra-large-scale systems.



What Is an Ultra-Large-Scale (ULS) System?



A ULS System has unprecedented scale in some of these dimensions:

- lines of code
- amount of data stored, accessed, manipulated, and refined
- number of connections and interdependencies
- number of hardware elements
- number of computational elements
- number of system purposes and user perception of these purposes
- number of routine processes, interactions, and “emergent behaviors”
- number of (overlapping) policy domains and enforceable mechanisms
- number of people involved in some way
-

ULS systems are interdependent webs of software-reliant systems, people, policies, cultures, and economics.



Consequences of Scale



Characteristics of ULS systems arise because of their scale.

- Decentralization
- Inherently conflicting, unknowable, and diverse requirements
- Continuous evolution and deployment
- Heterogeneous, inconsistent, and changing elements
- Erosion of the people/system boundary
- Normal failures
- New paradigms for acquisition and policy



Approaches to Software Development



The Engineering Perspective



The Agile Perspective



A New Perspective is Required

“The older is not always a reliable model for the newer, the smaller for the larger, or the simpler for the more complex...Making something greater than any existing thing necessarily involves going beyond experience.”



Henry Petroski

Pushing the Limits: New Adventures in Engineering



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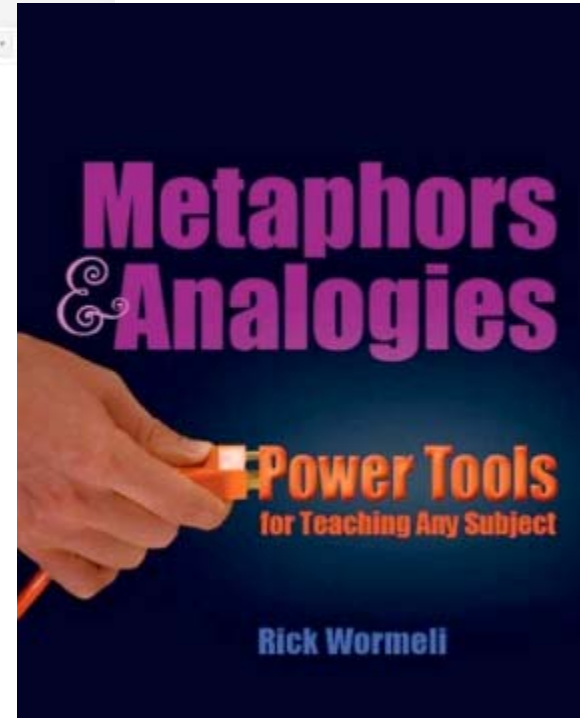
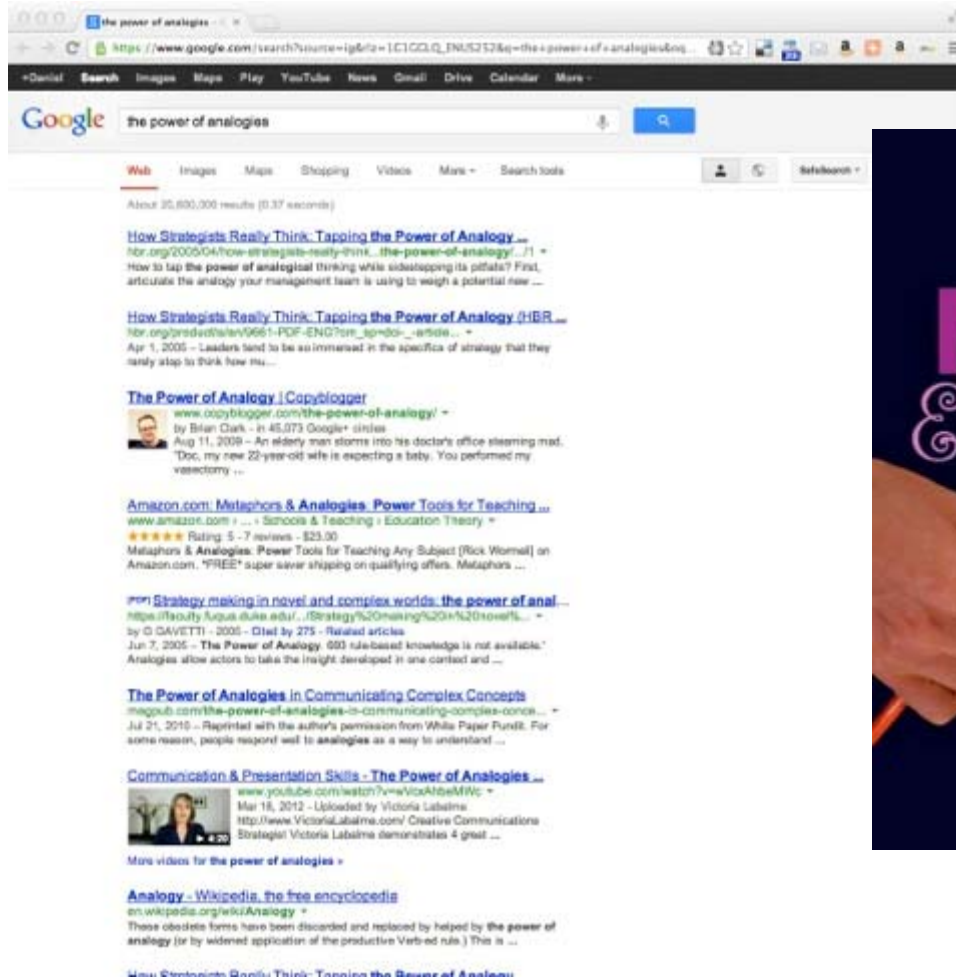
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Analogies are Useful



Think Cities not Buildings



“Cities are places of massive information flows, networks, and conduits, and myriad transitory information exchanges.”
Howard Rheingold: *Smart Mobs*



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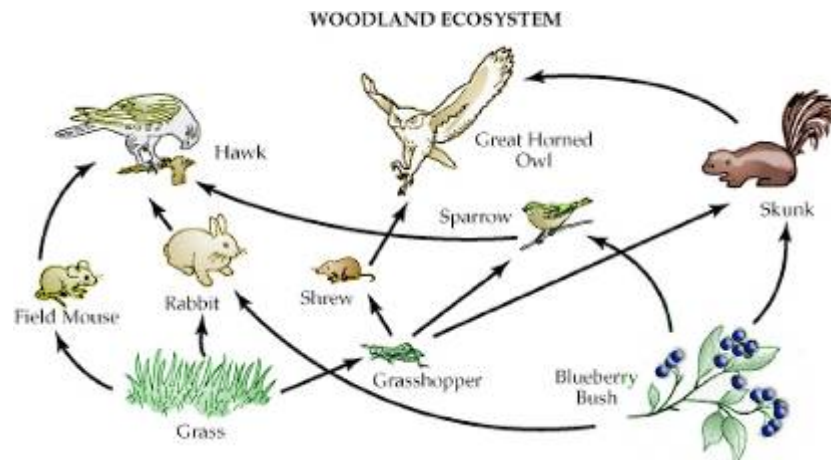
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Think Ecosystem



Diverse users with complex networked dependencies and intrinsic adaptive behavior

Has:

- Robustness mechanisms: achieving stability in the presence of disruption
- Measures of health: diversity, population trends, other key indicators

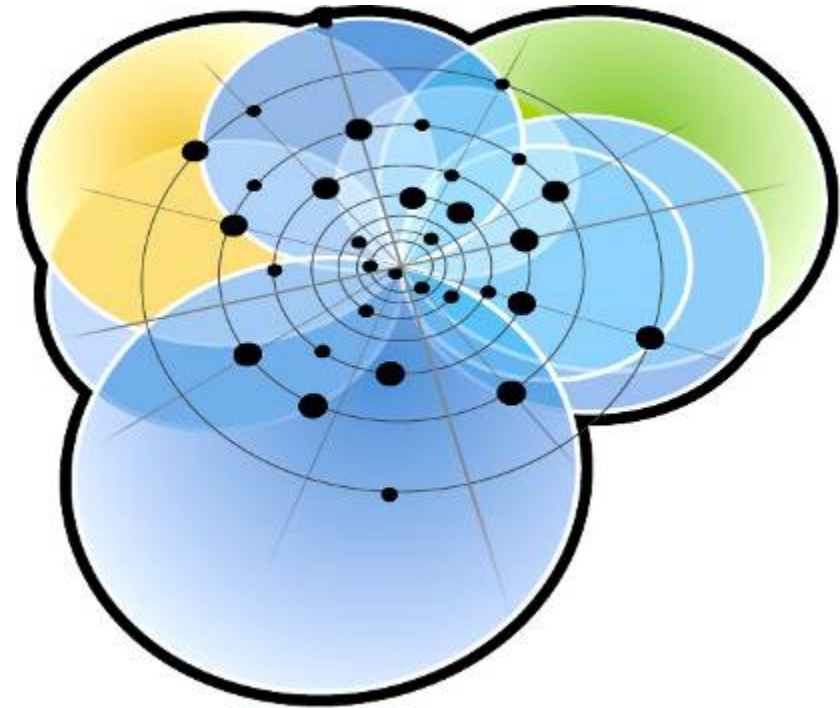


Think Socio-Technical Ecosystems

Socio-technical ecosystems

include people, organizations, and technologies at all levels with significant and often competing interdependencies.

- dynamic communities
- interaction between and among all entities – roles, responsibilities, and information flows
- competition for resources
- rules, incentives, and adaptation



Challenges

ULS systems will present challenges in three broad areas:

- Design and evolution
- Orchestration and control
- Monitoring and assessment



“There are challenges associated with ULS systems that today’s perspectives are very unlikely to be able to address.”



Research Portfolio

6.1 Human Interaction

6.2 Computational Emergence

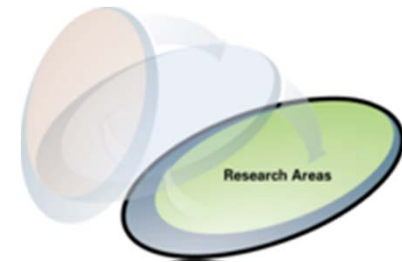
6.3 Design

6.4 Computational Engineering

6.5 Adaptive System Infrastructure

6.6 Adaptable and Predictable System Quality

6.7 Policy, Acquisition, and Management



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What We Learned

There is an unstoppable trend toward increasing scale in many systems important to our society.

Scale changes everything.

These changes undermine the assumptions we routinely make in traditional software engineering approaches.

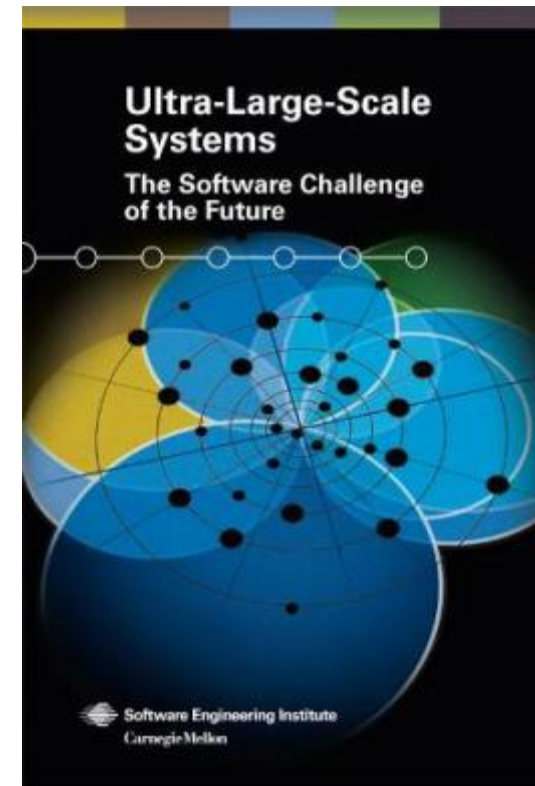
Manifestations of scale and its attendant complexity arise in many disciplines, and can be understood as a phenomenon in its own right.

New, interdisciplinary perspective and new research in building ultra-large-scale systems is long overdue.



Our Assertion

“Fundamental gaps in our current understanding of software and its development at the scale of ULS systems present profound impediments to the achievement of mission objectives. These gaps are strategic, not tactical. They are unlikely to be addressed by incremental research in established categories. We require a broad new conception of both the nature of such systems and new ideas for how to develop them.”



Early Post-Study Observations

- We never suggested that all systems of the future will be ULS systems. Clearly, they won't be.
- What you call it (system of systems, ULS system, complex net-centric system) is really unimportant.
- It is important that ULS system characteristics are recognized.
- Systems engineering does not have all the answers.
- Not having a research area on network security was a lightning rod.
- The research identified in the ULS system study has a positive impact on systems that are not ULS.



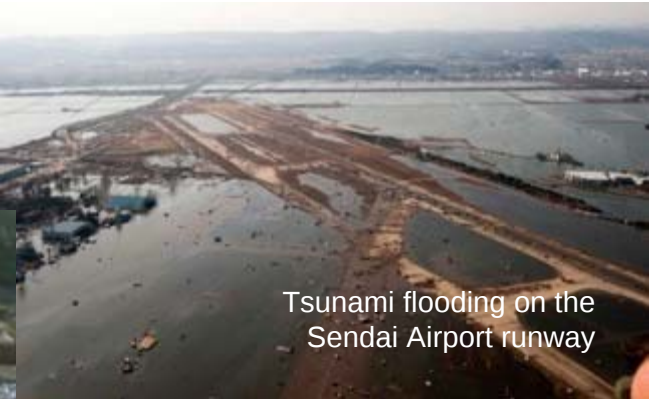
Seven Years Later



Since Then



Demonstrators in Cairo's Tahrir Square on February 8, 2011



Tsunami flooding on the Sendai Airport runway



Taylor Swift Dominates Billboard Music Awards With 8 Wins (May 2013)



Societal Problems

Climate change and the environment

Powering our civilization

Disease, epidemics, and health care

Livable megacities

Safety and security

Transportation



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Software is Ubiquitous and Often Transparent



Software-Reliant Systems: What HAS Changed?

Increased connectivity

Challenges

- scale and complexity
- decentralization and distribution
- “big data”
- increased operational tempo
- mismatched ecosystem tempos
- vulnerability
- collective action
- disruptive and emerging technologies



More Fuel for Scale



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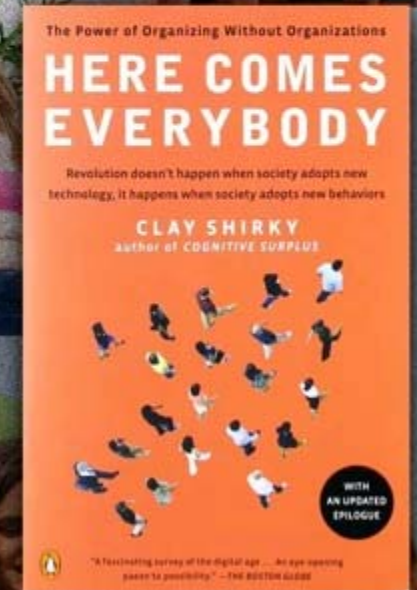
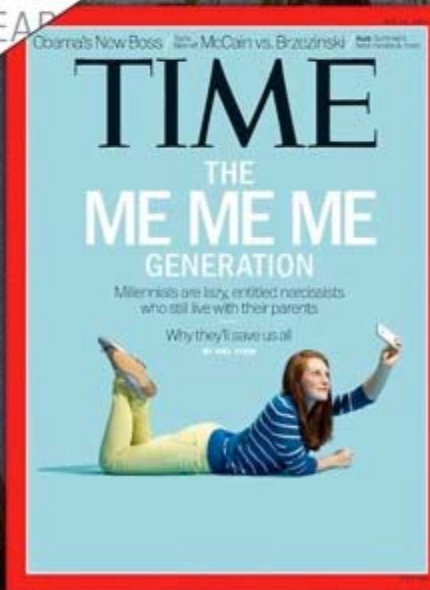
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Our Milieu

HEADLINES

// CYBERSECURITY STARTS IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH TOMORROW'S HIRES
CISPA CYBERSECURITY BILL BACKERS HOPE SECOND TIME'S A CHAMP
WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE CYBERSECURITY SKILLS SHORTAGE?
WHAT COMES AFTER THE CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY?
GOVERNMENT TO SHARE CYBER SECURITY INFORMATION WITH
TOP US ADMIRAL PUTS CYBER SECURITY ON THE NAVY
JS INVESTMENT IN CYBER-SECURITY EQUAL TO NUCLEAR
GLOBAL CYBER DEFENSE EXPERTS TAKE ON HACK
AIR FORCE HACKERS WIN NSA'S 13TH ANNUAL CY
CURTIS LEVINSON, UNITED STATES CYBER
JAPAN, U.S. CONCLUDE 1ST DIALOGUE ON
ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT TO SHARE CYBER-VULN
INCREASE COOPERATION TO
NEW SOFTWARE SPOTS, IS
CARS' INTERNET CONN
KERALA GETS FIVE N
HACKING SKILL
RECENT BANK
TYFONE
FIREM
EC

MILLENNIAL GENERATION



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The “Crowd”



GitHub

match.com

DARPA BAA 11-64: Social Media in Strategic Communication (SMISC)

Research to investigate innovative approaches that enable revolutionary advances in science, devices, or systems for strategies to:

1. Detect, classify, measure and track the (a) formation, development and spread of ideas and concepts (memes), and (b) purposeful or deceptive messaging and misinformation.
2. Recognize persuasion campaign structures and influence operations across social media sites and communities.
3. Identify participants and intent, and measure effects of persuasion campaigns.
4. Counter messaging of detected adversary influence operations.



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Some ULS Systems Buzz

~21,266 downloads and hardcopy

75+ citations in refereed publications

Presentations

Workshops

Blog, journal, and twitter references

Initiatives and degree programs



Health IT as an Ultra Large-Scale System

Dr. Doug Fridsma

Chief Science Office and Director
Office of Science and Technology
Office of National Coordinator
US Health and Human Services

Health IT Buzz

February 21, 2013

<http://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/electronic-health-and-medical-records/healthcare-building-interoperable-health-system-tough/>



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More Buzz



Ultralarge Systems: Redefining Software Engineering?

Greg Goth

March/April 2008 IEEE Software

although the ULSS report focused on challenges faced by the United States Department of Defense in engineering software intensive systems, “its description of how the fundamental principles of software design will change in a global economy ... is finding wide appeal.”



Managing Scale and Agility: Transformational Architecture for the Smart Grid

Wayne Longcore

SATURN 2010

“We are creating the first true instantiation of a high-functioning Ultra-Large-Scale System—the Smart Grid.”

Notes on ultra-large-scale systems

<http://blog.johnrooksby.org/post/132967033/notes-on-ultra-large-scale-systems>

John Rooksby

University of Glasgow



“True to national stereotypes the Americans were asking *how can we build the biggest systems in the world?* The British were asking *how can we stop screwing up when we try to build the biggest systems in the world?*”



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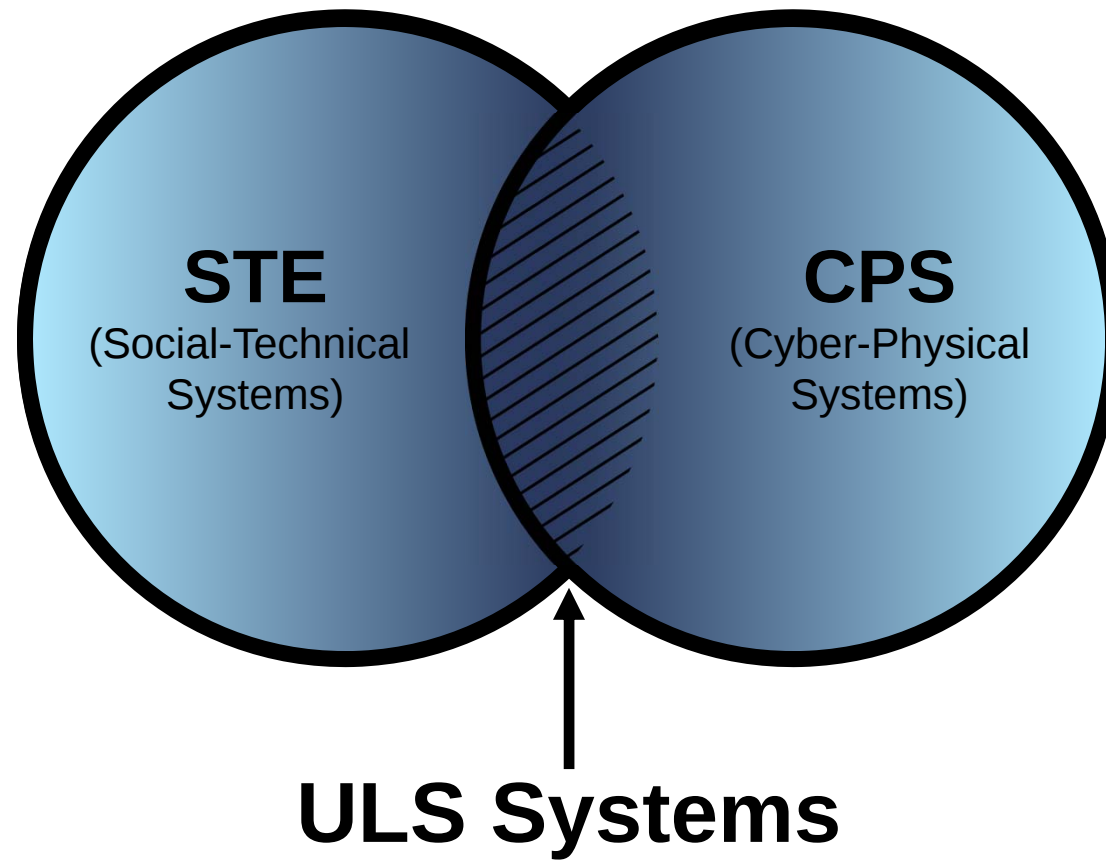
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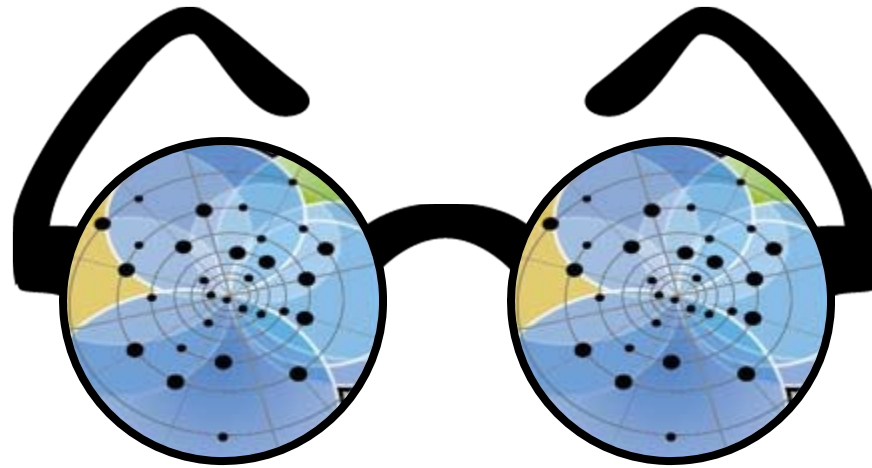
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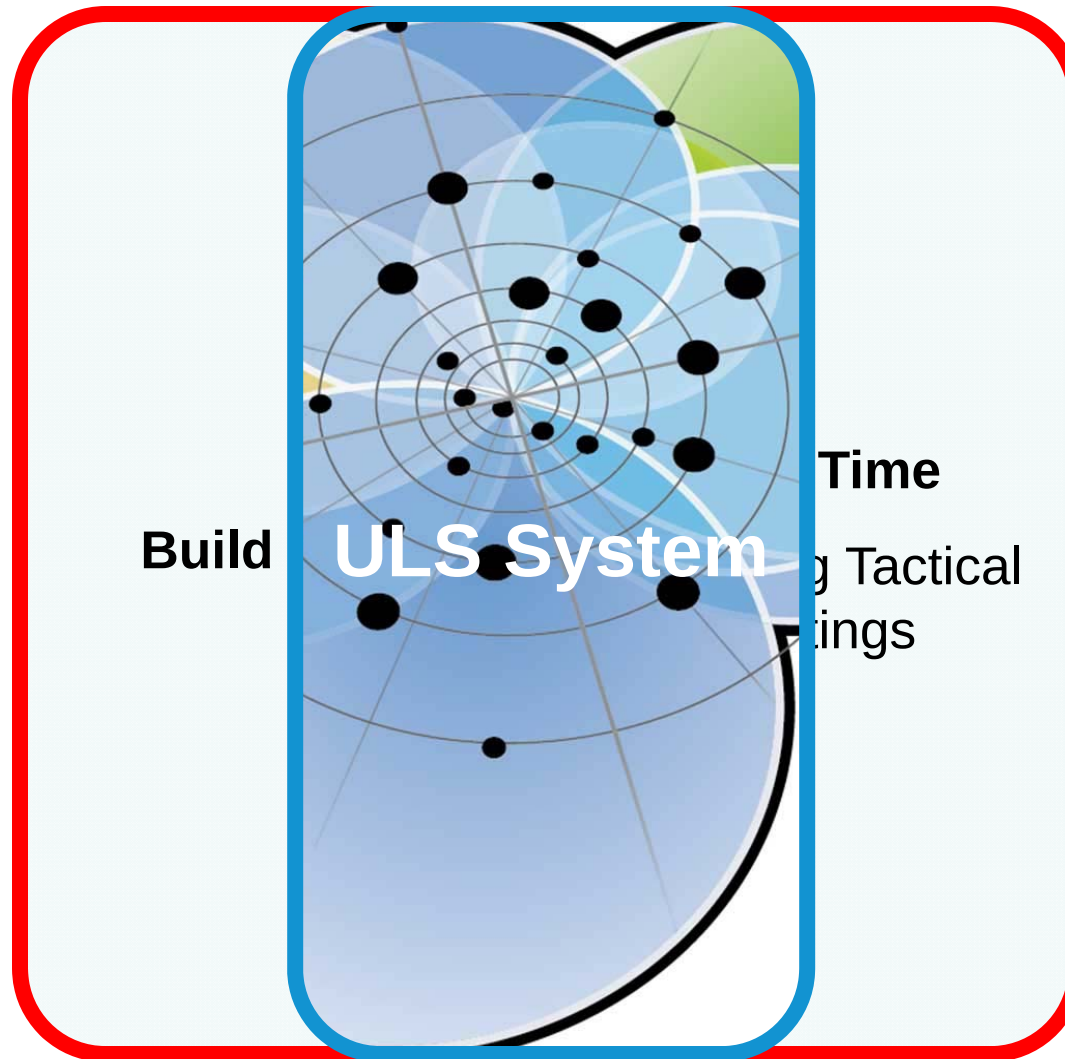
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Upon Reflection



ULS System Perspective



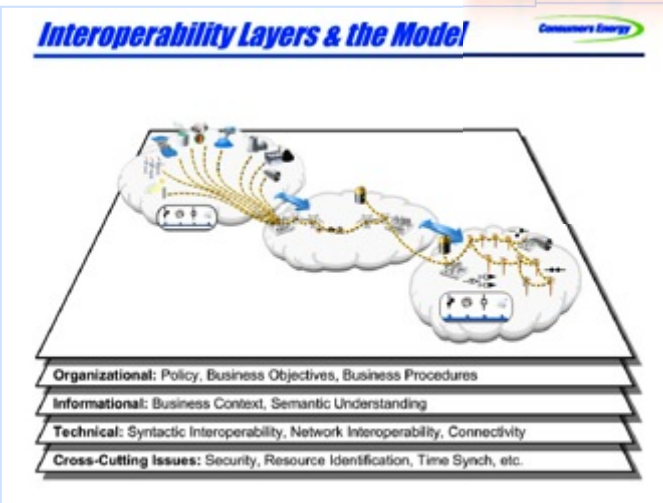
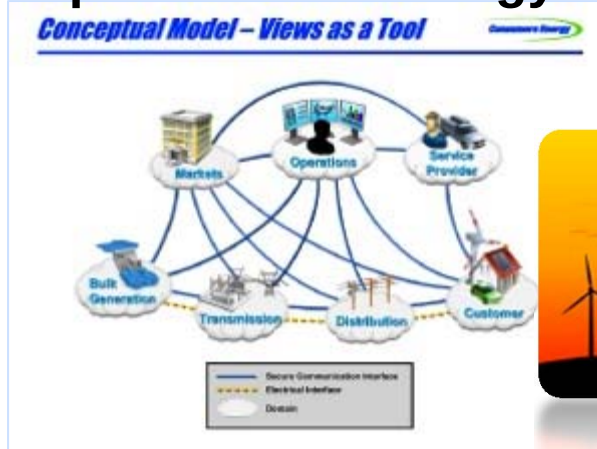




Selected Experiences with Systems at Scale: Nibbling at the Edges



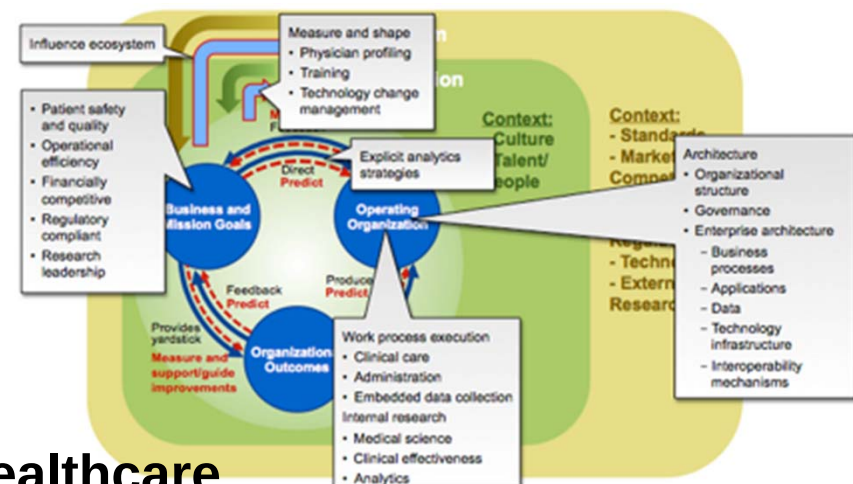
Department of Energy: Smart Grid



Diagrams courtesy of
Wayne Longcore
Consumers Energy



The eXtreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) enhances the productivity of scientists and engineers.



Healthcare Analytics



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Smart Grid – A ULS System



Conceptual Model – Views as a Tool

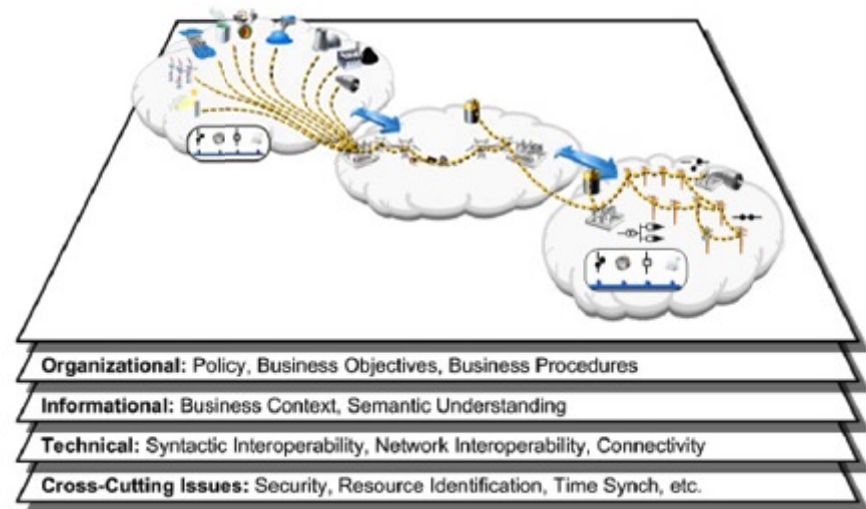
Consumers Energy



*Diagrams courtesy of
Wayne Longcore
Consumers Energy*

Interoperability Layers & the Model

Consumers Energy





Specific Problem and Technical Approach

Problem

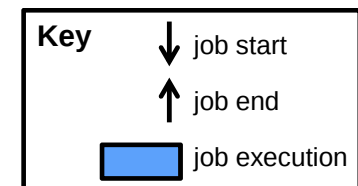
Create a capability to discover if an intruder is executing foreign code in the systems running US critical infrastructure (e.g., Stuxnet).

Approach

Exploit known performance characteristics of critical devices (*timing profiles*) and monitor run-time behavior for deviations.

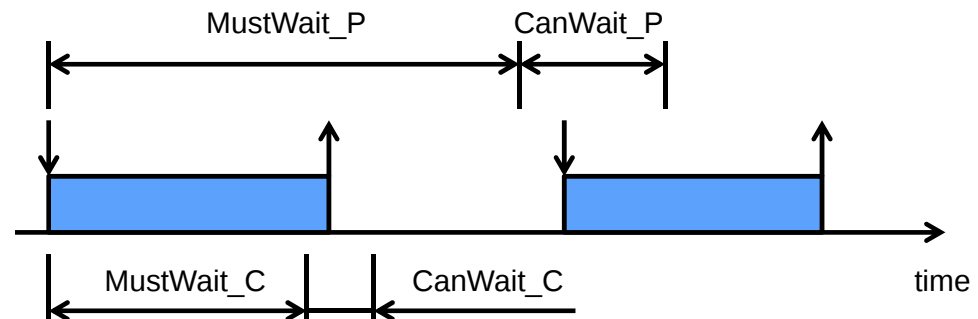
Intelligent Electronic Devices (devices deployed to control field equipment) exhibit several desirable characteristics

- are real-time systems
- are deployed in known, stable configurations
- react to a reasonably small number of kinds of stimulus



A timing violation occurs when

- job execution is too short or too long
- job release period is too short or too long



Broader ULS System Impact

The expansion of communication among diverse devices being seen in the Smart Grid is also happening in other ULS systems and raises the same concerns for a capability to detect this class of intrusions.

Other real-time systems with knowable timing profiles where the technique could be used to enhance intrusion detection include

- sensors
- fire control systems
- vehicle and engine controllers
- avionics systems
- ..





The eXtreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) enhances the productivity of scientists and engineers.

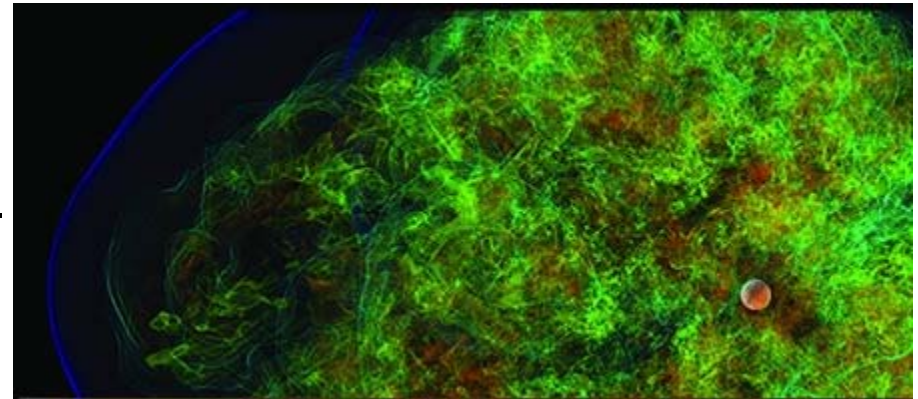


XSEDE is the framework for a national cyber-infrastructure ecosystem, serving as a platform for multiscale cyber-infrastructure integration for scientific collaboration.





XSEDE's innovative, open standards-based architecture facilitates an unparalleled level of integration.



Enabling this architecture are XSEDE's professional systems engineering approach and technology insertion efforts, which ensure robustness and security while continuously incorporating new technologies.





Technical problem: XSEDE needs well-defined software development and software management practices across the XSEDE partner network before it can embrace practices more appropriate for a socio-technical ecosystem.

Approach:

- Identify and coach XSEDE community in adopting a variant of architecture-centric practices suitable for their collaborative ecosystem
- Apply automated text and social network analyses to data gathered from XSEDE with the goal of providing automated infrastructure support for ensuring that the right people get the right information at the right time.

Impact: Enabling the evolution of the nation's scientific computing grid via architecture-centered practices and serving as an exemplar for socio-technical ecosystems.



Healthcare Analytics

Problem: Define healthcare analytics from technical and organizational perspectives needed to achieve intelligent healthcare.

Healthcare Infrastructure



Approach: Define an analytics framework.



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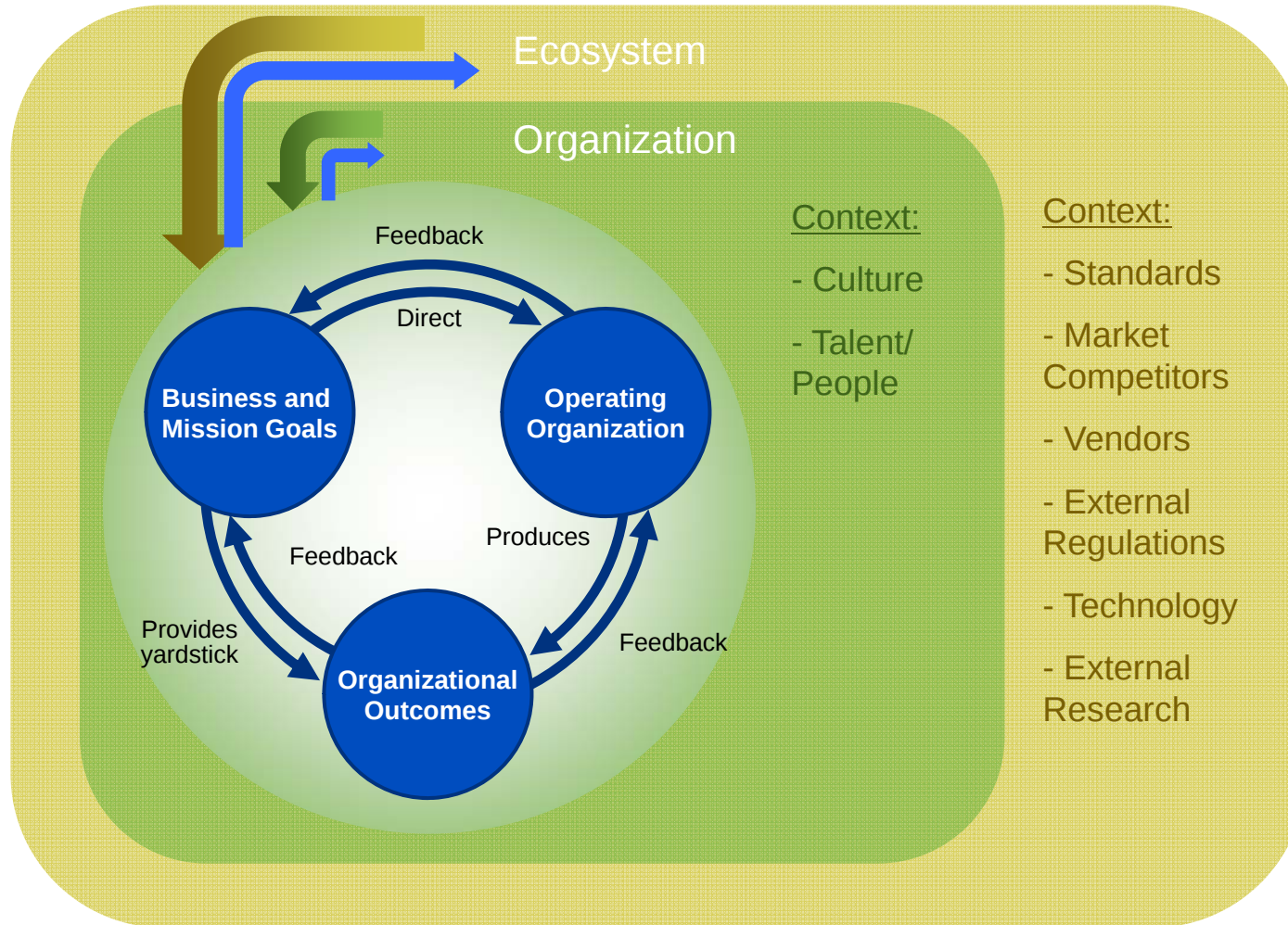
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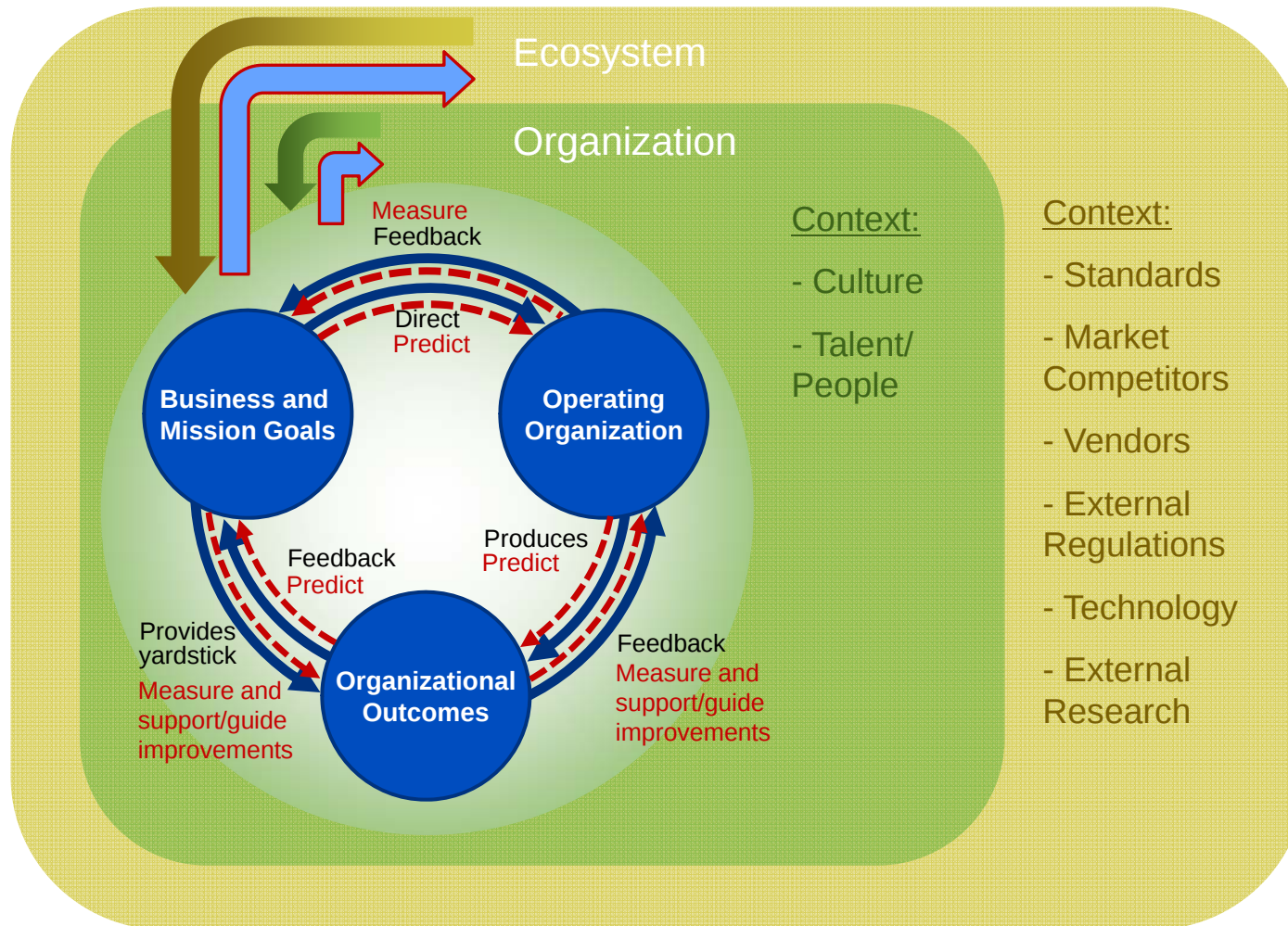
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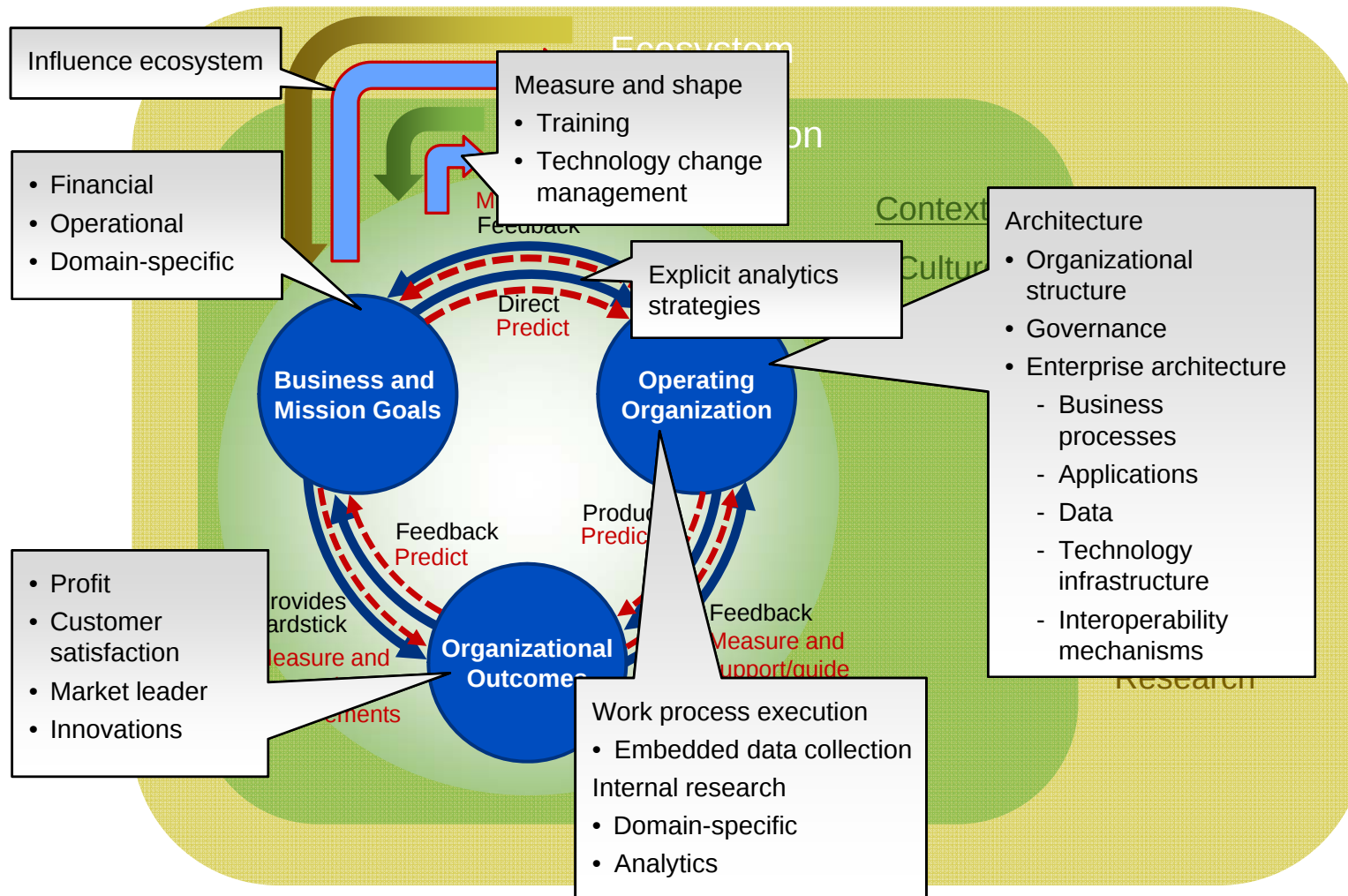
Organizational Dynamics



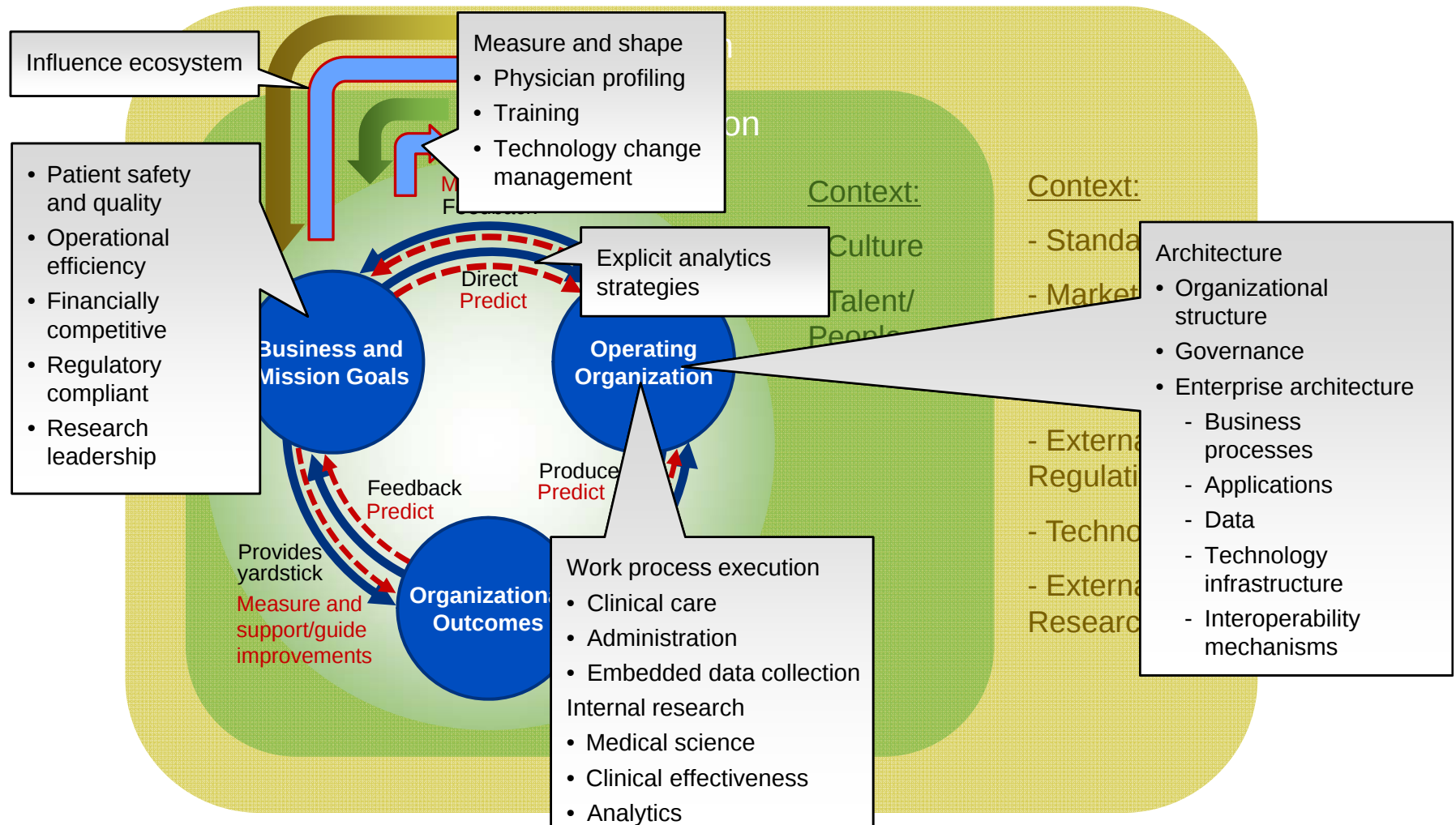
Adding Analytics



Best in Class Analytics Organizations: Learning Organizations



Best in Class Healthcare Analytics Organizations: Learning Organizations





Selected ULS-Systems-Related Research



Sample Published Work

Contextual Design
Collaboration and Coordination in
Large-Scale Socio-technical
Ecosystems
Social Network Analysis
James Herbsleb et al, Carnegie Mellon
University

Ecosystem Modeling
John McGregor et al, Clemson University

Machine Learning
Socio Linguistics
Natural Language Processing

Crowdsourcing Requirements
Stakeholder Analysis

Data Intelligence
Data Privacy
Data Heterogeneity

Self* computing
Self-Coordinating Systems
Self-Adaptive Systems
Dynamic Adaptive Systems
Complex Adaptive Systems
Architecture Mechanisms for Diagnosis and
Adaptation
SEAMS Community and others

Architecting ULS Systems
End-User Architecting
Middleware for ULS Systems
Domain-Specific Engineering
Model-based Approaches to ULS Systems
Multi-Product Lines
Multi-Sided Markets
Data-Intensive Large-Scale Systems
Cloud Computing in the ULS Space

NOTE: References at the end



Domain Specific Work



Climate Modeling
NASA JPL
Climate Informatics
Steve Easterbrook,
University of Toronto



Financial Markets
Dave Cliff,
University of Bristol

Disaster Management

Martin Griss,
Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley



Intelligent Transportation
Intel
University of Taiwan



Intelligent River®
Clemson University



Health Information Systems
Kevin Sullivan,
University of Virginia



Software Defect Analysis in Smart Grid Applications
M. Ancaari,
Norwegian University of Science and Technology



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Does Scale Really Matter?: ULS Systems Seven Years Later

Linda Northrop: May 24, 2013

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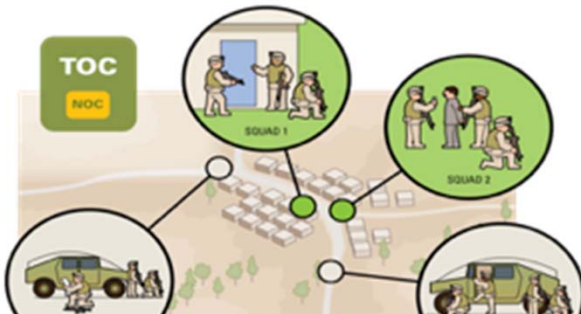
62



Selected SEI Research Targeted at ULS Systems: More Nibbling



Some SEI Research In ULS Systems



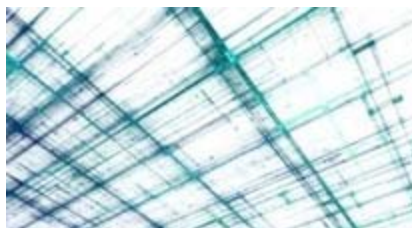
Socio-Adaptive Systems Using Computational Mechanism Design and Adaptive QoS



High-Confidence Cyber-Physical Systems



Edge-Enabled Tactical Systems



Architecture in ULS Systems Context



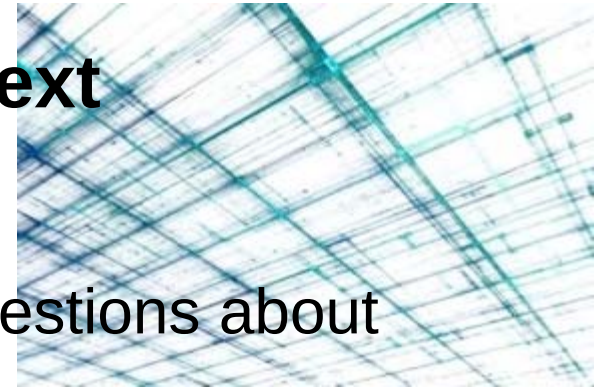
Augmented and Virtual Actors for Threat Abatement Readiness



Concurrent Crowdsourcing of Requirements and Architectures for Socio-Technical Infrastructure Improvement



Architecture in ULS System Context



ULS system characteristics inspire key questions about systems at scale.

- What new quality attributes arise due to scale?
- What types of analyses are required to understand and design systems with these characteristics?
- What new architecture design principles needed?
 - E.g., synergy of concerns instead of separation of concerns?
- What are the associated architectural tactics, patterns, mechanisms?
- What types of analyses and design strategies are needed to design all levels of systems at scale?
 - E.g., population dynamics, connectedness/communication
- And what expertise is required for this design?



Edge-Enabled Tactical Systems (EETS)

Investigates architectures and technologies that adapt new generations of mobile devices and sensors to support humans operating in demanding edge environments



Mobile technologies can enhance the manner in which people operate in tactical environments

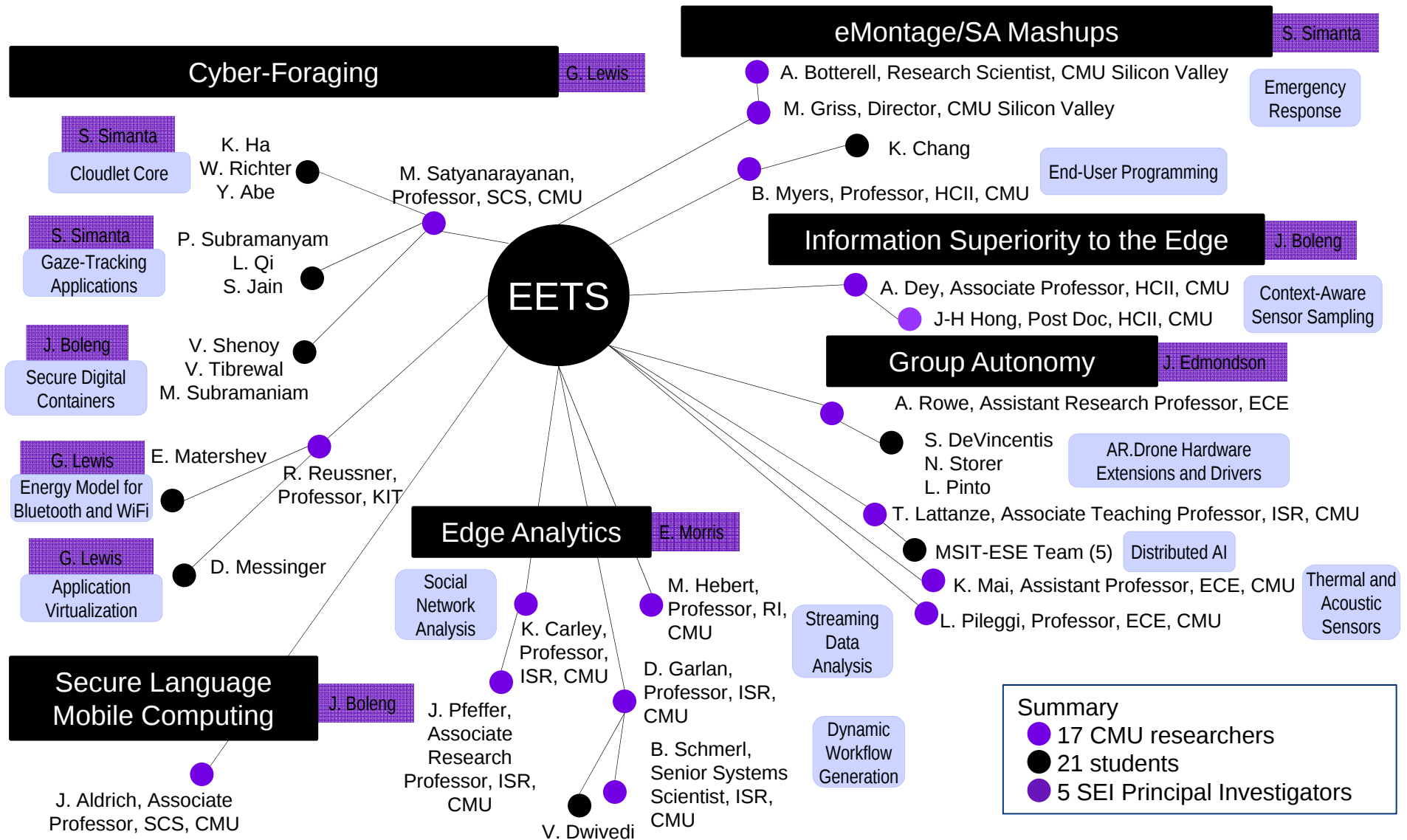
- Local data caching with reach back when available
- Cyber-foraging to enhance handheld and sensor device capabilities
- Flexible deployment and rapid adaptation for new missions
- Context-aware computing to reduce cognitive load and conserve resources
- Local, edge analytics to provide rapid data analysis
- Increased use of autonomy (drones, robots, sensors)



What architectures and technologies support soldiers and other edge users in customizing systems to unique needs, finding information that matters, and to continue processing in uncertain computing environments?



SEI and Broader Carnegie Mellon Collaboration





Reflection: The Future is Here



So, Where Are We?

The report has been widely distributed via the web and hard copy.

Relevant research is being conducted all over the world.

The confluence of new technology is making ULS systems today.

- with a profound impact on the way society is structured and how society behaves
- substantial engineering challenges are becoming widely recognized if still poorly understood.
 - reliance on *autonomous* behavior
 - increased interaction and interdependence of socio-technical ecosystems
 - increased tempo of change across the spectrum of human behavior – driven by human demand

There is a wide range of technical and non-technical perspectives and approaches that can be brought to bear.



Climate Change (term used by David West at Code Freeze 2013)

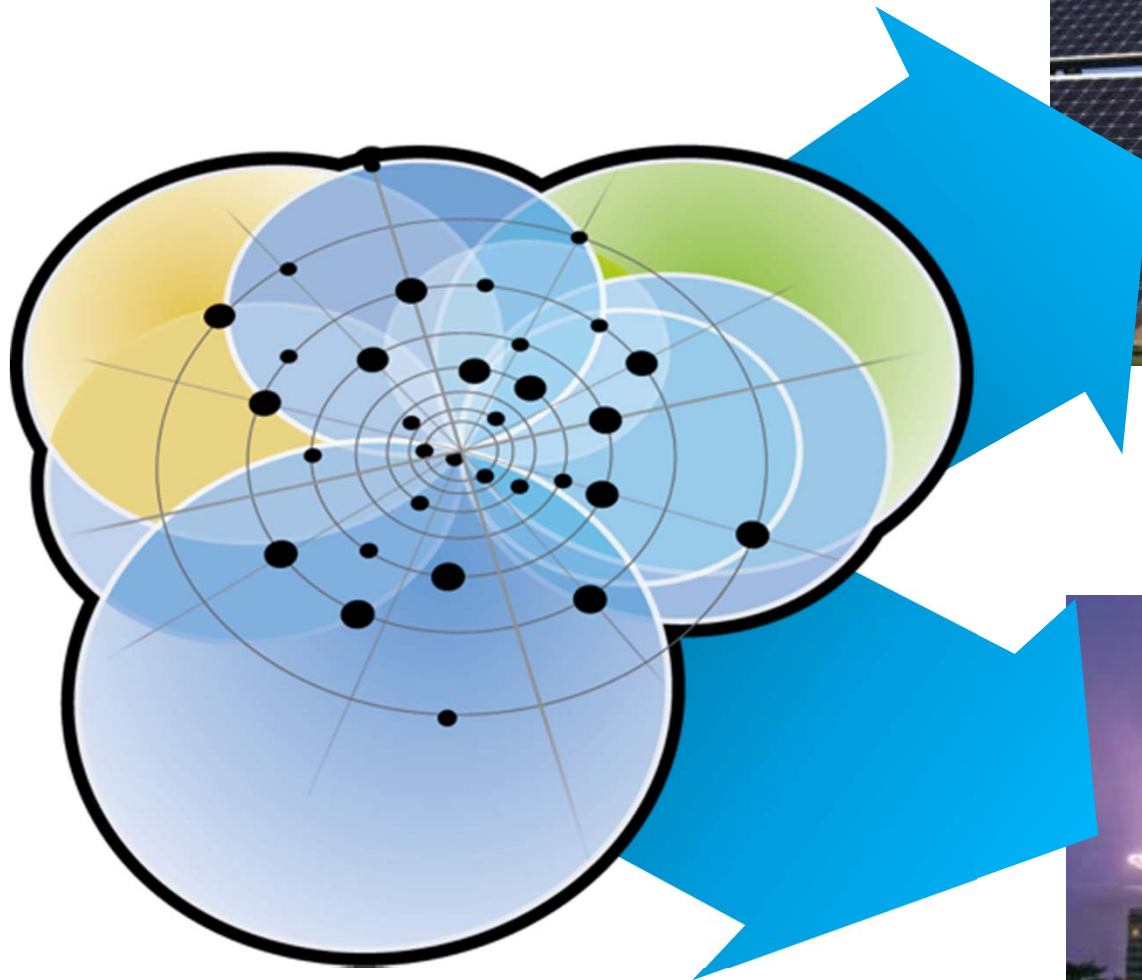
Characteristics of ULS systems arise because of their scale.

- Decentralization
- Inherently conflicting, unknowable, and diverse requirements
- Continuous evolution and deployment
- Heterogeneous, inconsistent, and changing elements
- Erosion of the people/system boundary
- Normal failures
- New paradigms for acquisition and policy

These are real.



Opportunities and Threats



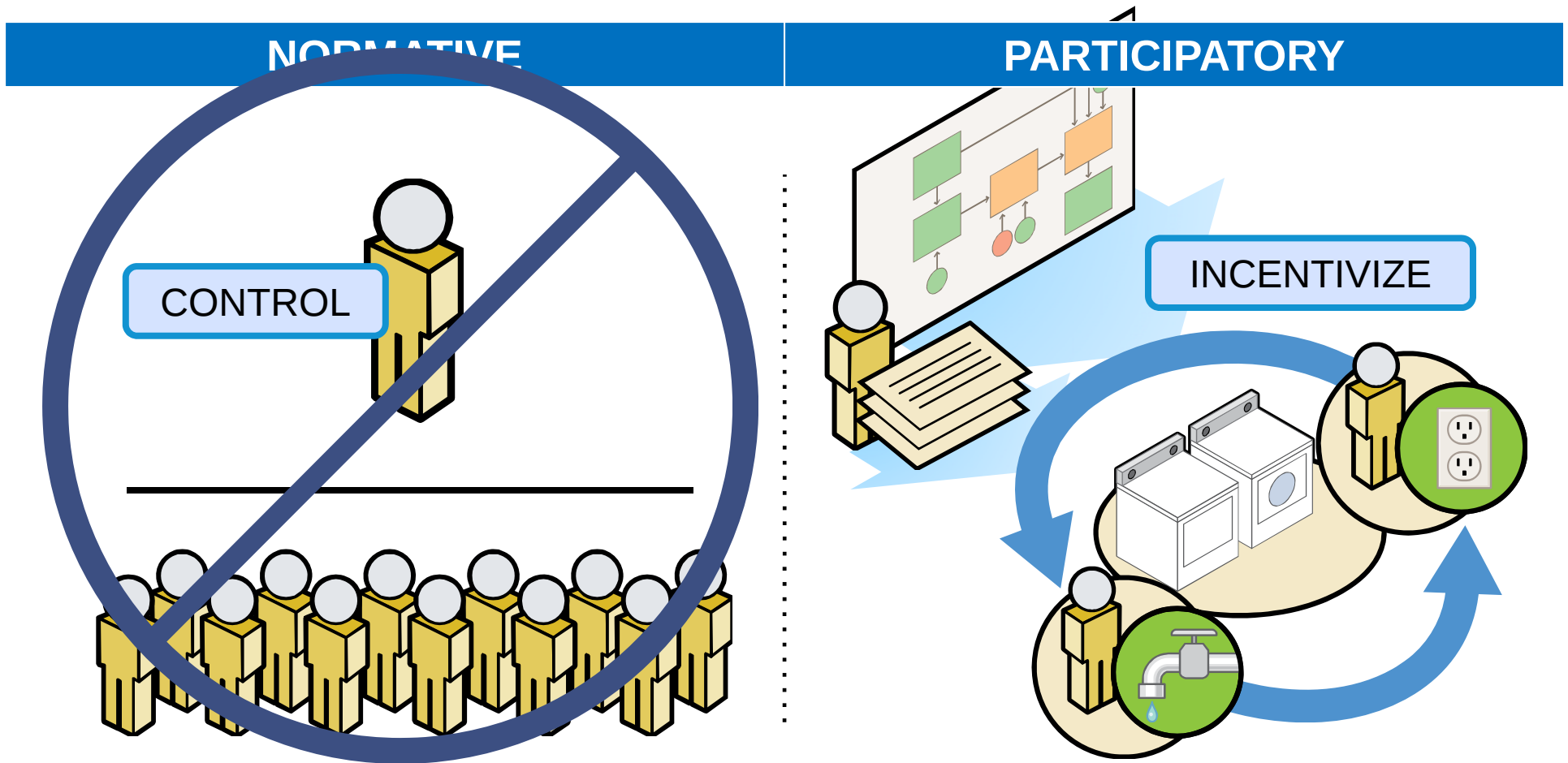
Opportunity



Threat



Implications for How We Do Our Work



SYSTEMS MUST BE: Responsible | Responsive | Adaptive - SO MUST WE

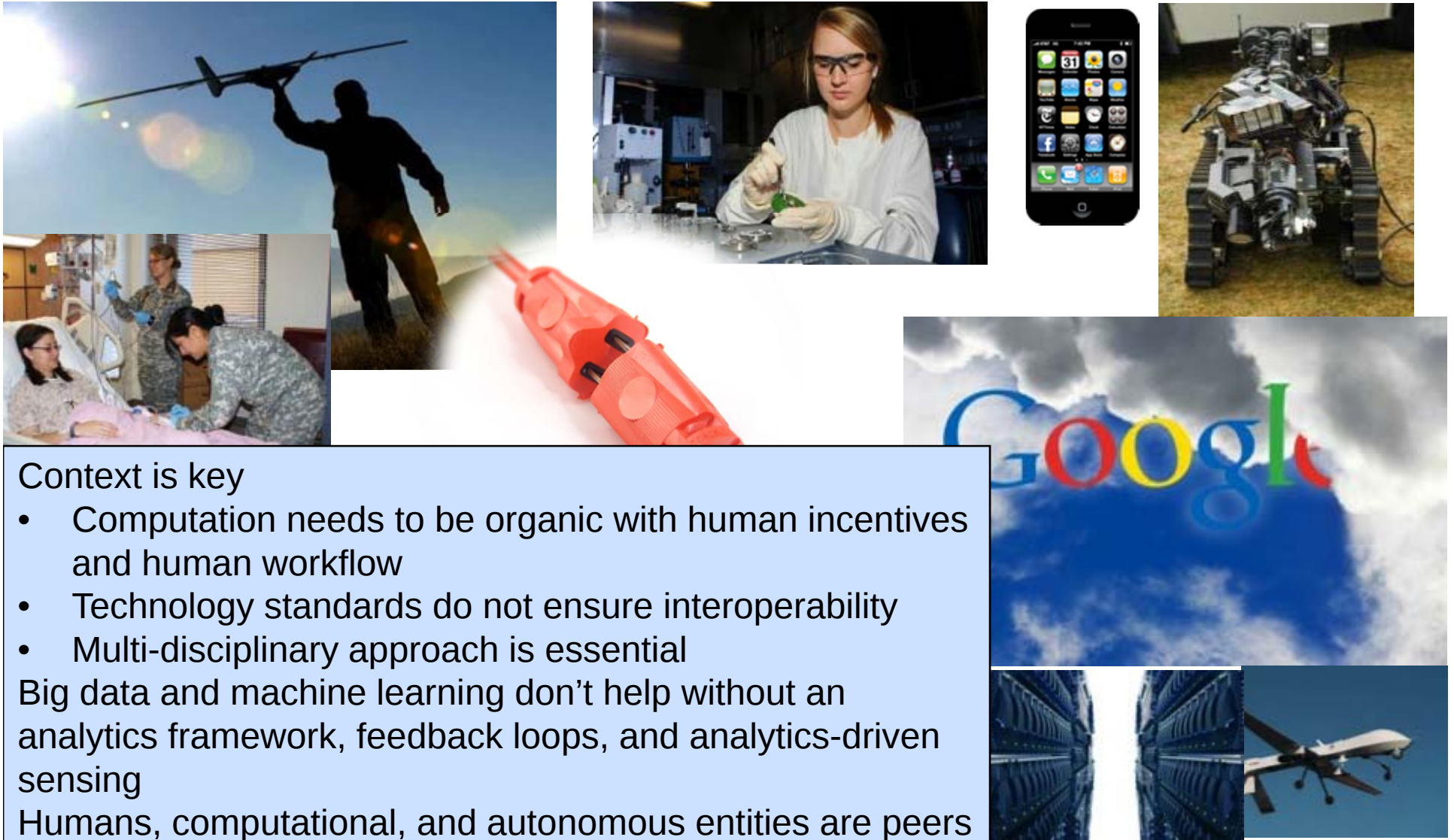


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Putting Technology to Work: a Few Take Aways



Context is key

- Computation needs to be organic with human incentives and human workflow
- Technology standards do not ensure interoperability
- Multi-disciplinary approach is essential

Big data and machine learning don't help without an analytics framework, feedback loops, and analytics-driven sensing

Humans, computational, and autonomous entities are peers



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Research Progress – My Assessment

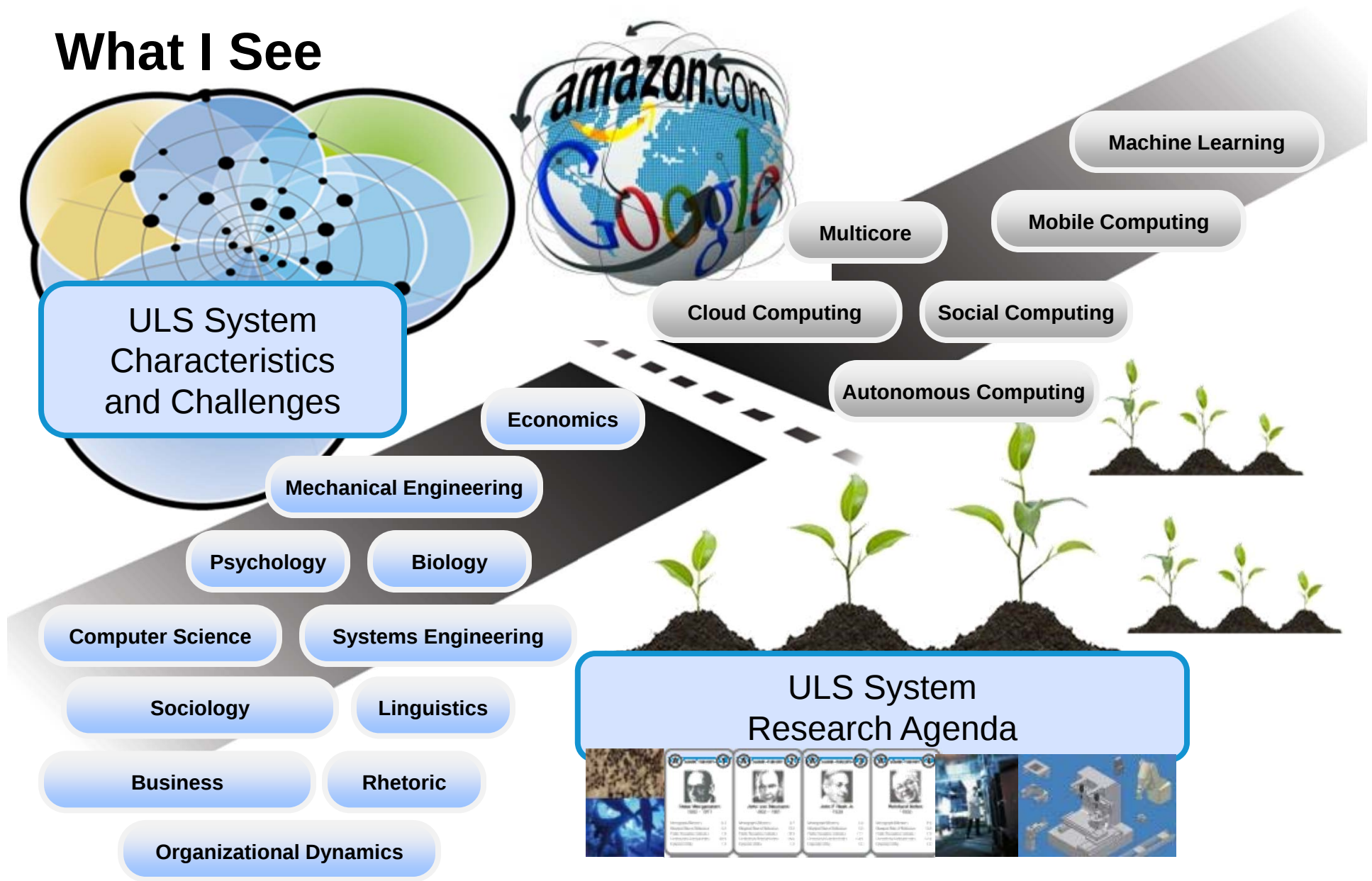
- ✓6.1 Human Interaction
- ✓6.2 Computational Emergence
- ✓6.3 Design
- ✓6.4 Computational Engineering
- ✓6.5 Adaptive System Infrastructure
- ✓6.6 Adaptable and Predictable System Quality
- ✓6.7 Policy, Acquisition, and Management

Progress has been made on all these fronts and others.

And yet...there is a fast growing gap between our research and reality.



What I See



Summing It Up

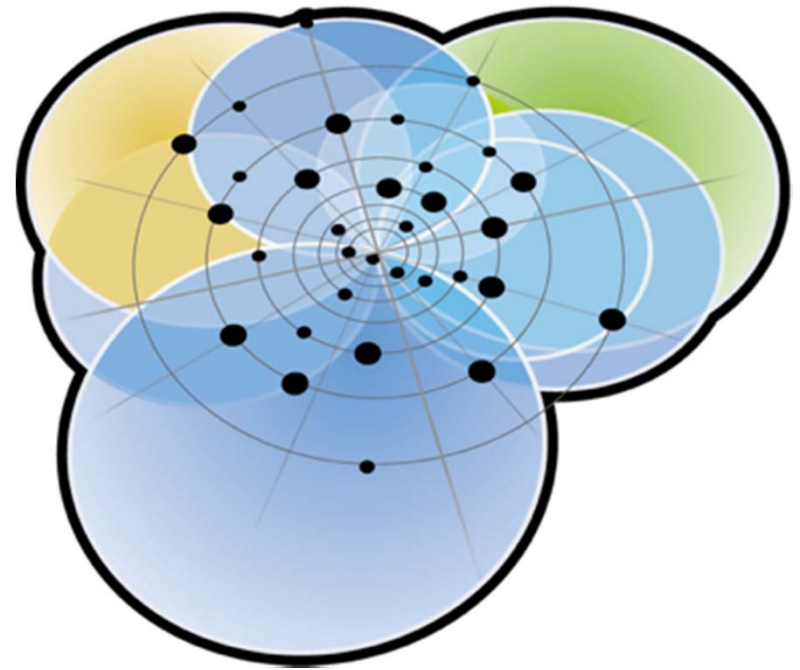
Scale Matters

- ULS systems are in our midst and the changes to our social fabric and institutions are significant.
- In hindsight, we were probably too conservative in our report.
- Recent technologies have exacerbated the pace of scale growth – allowing us to transcend time and space.
- There are great opportunities.



Food for Thought

- Is our research a match?
- Do we have the right incentives and mindset for the needed multi-disciplinary approach?
- Will we, the software engineering research community, make a difference?



Thanks To Many Who Made The Study Possible

Report Author Team:

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thank you



Interaction



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Does Scale Really Matter?: ULS Systems Seven Years Later

Linda Northrop: May 24, 2013

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