

Liberating the Essence from the Burden of the Whole: A Renaissance in Lean Thinking

Dr Ivar Jacobson
with Ian Spence



A Renaissance in Lean Thinking



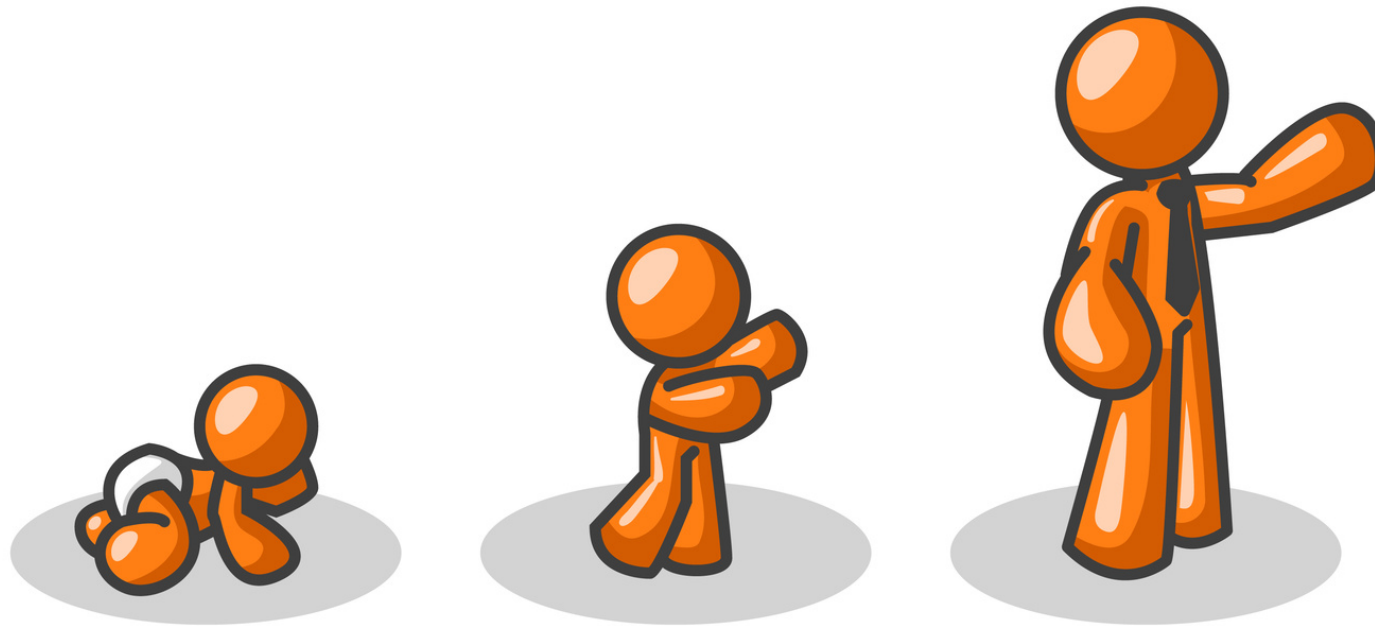
"In every block of marble I see a statue as plain as though it stood before me, shaped and perfect in attitude and action. I have only to hew away the rough walls that imprison the lovely apparition to reveal it to the other eyes as mine see it."—Michelangelo

It's more than finding the statue.....



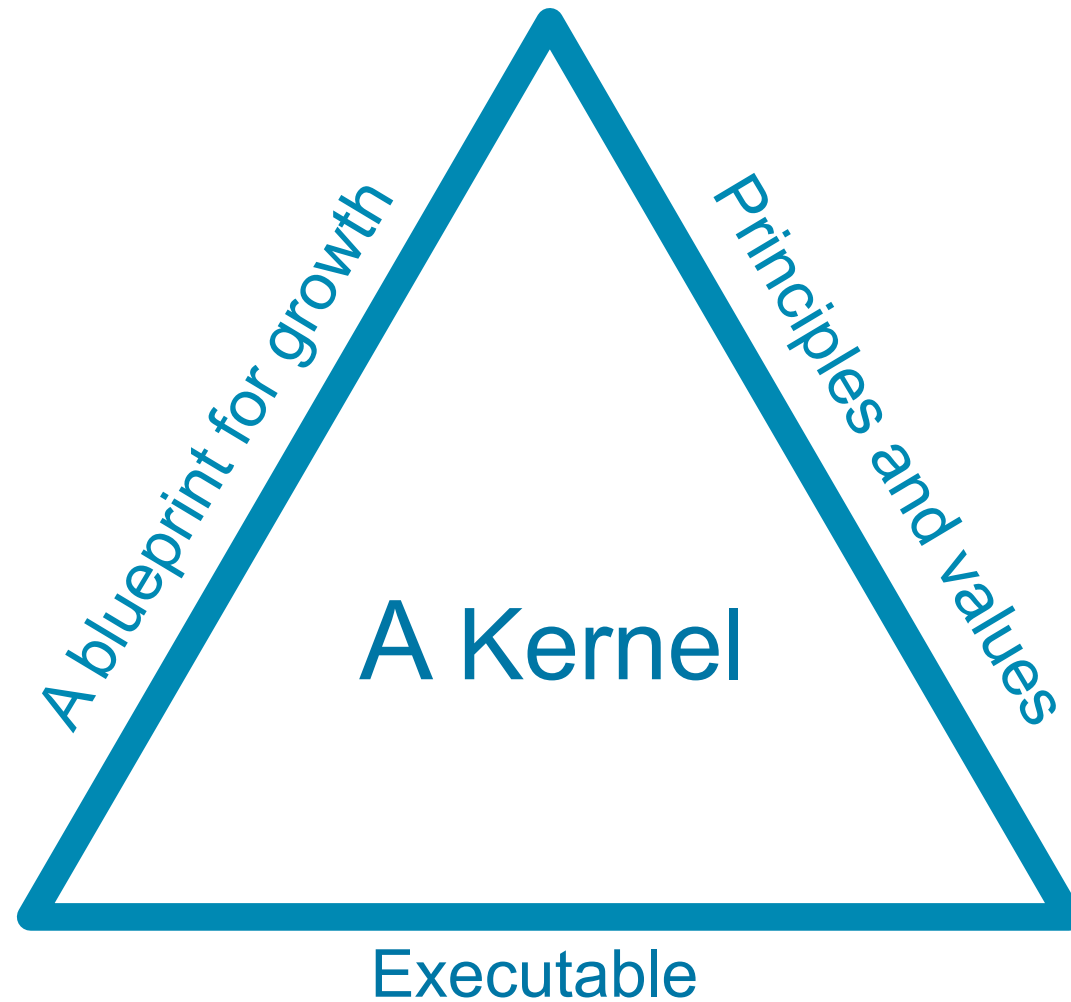
It is capturing the essence.

That allows our desired system to grow...

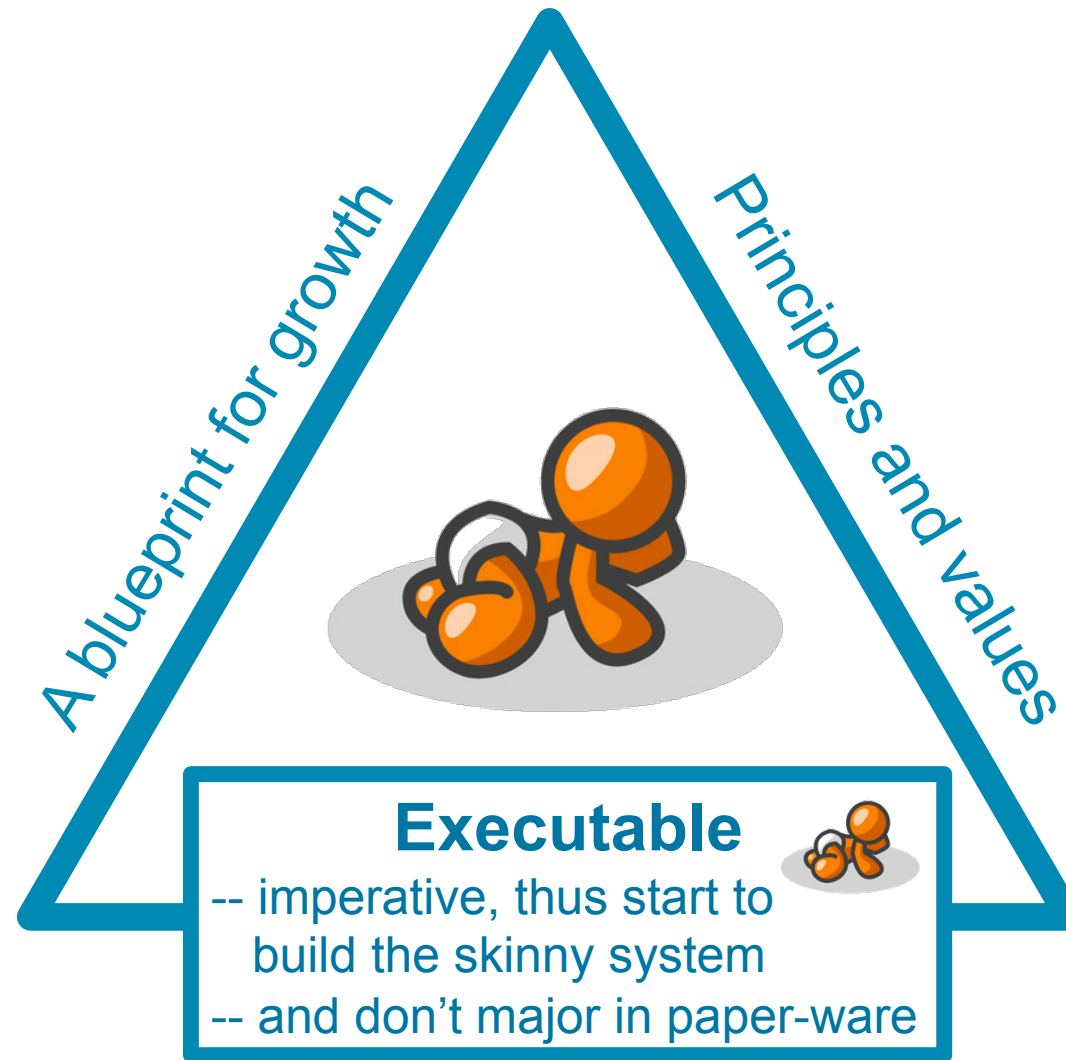


...and evolve.

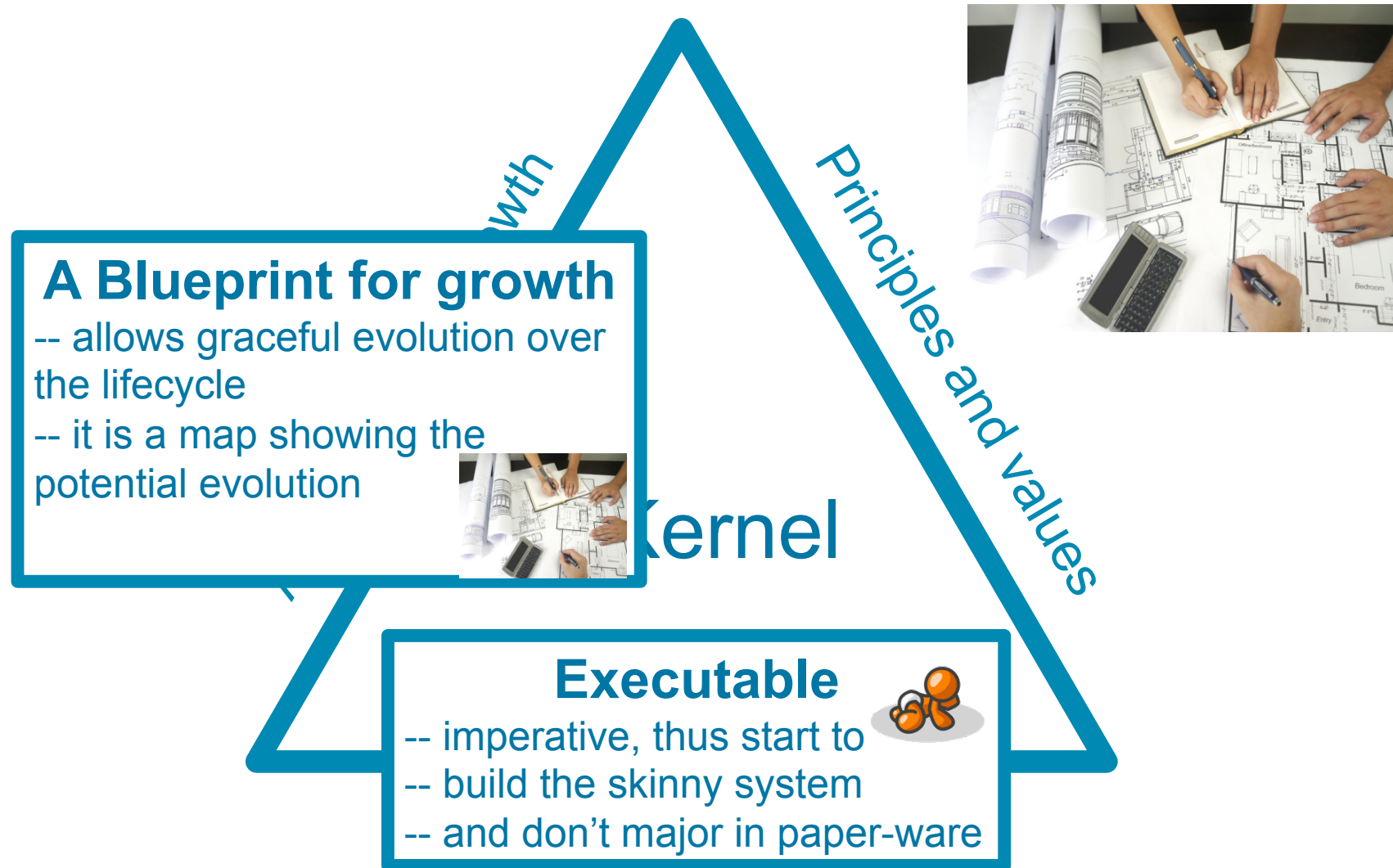
The Essence must be manifest in something concrete:



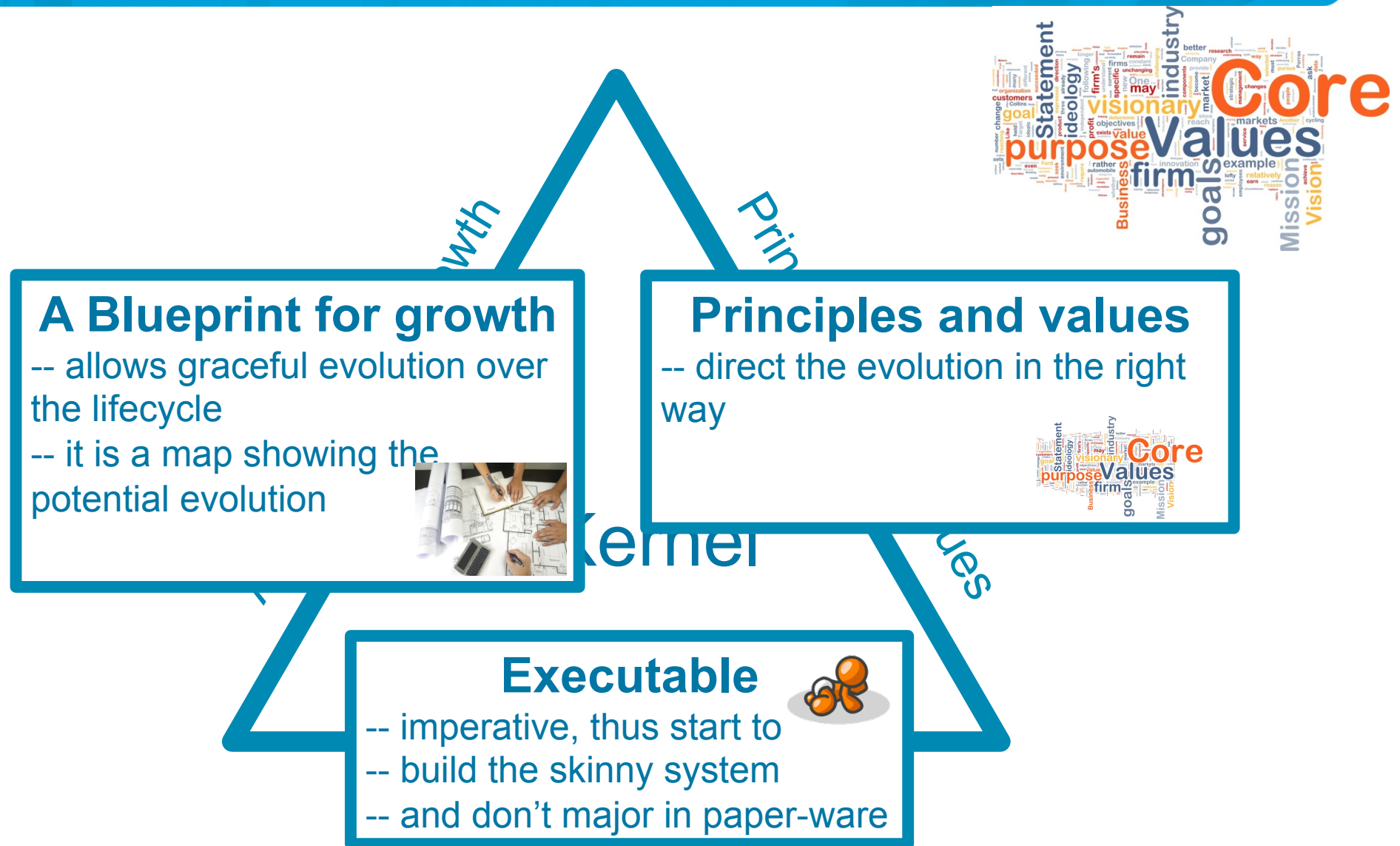
So we need an executable starting point



We also need a blueprint for growth?



And principles and values?



Make sure the end result is still small and focused....



...so small that we can call it a kernel.

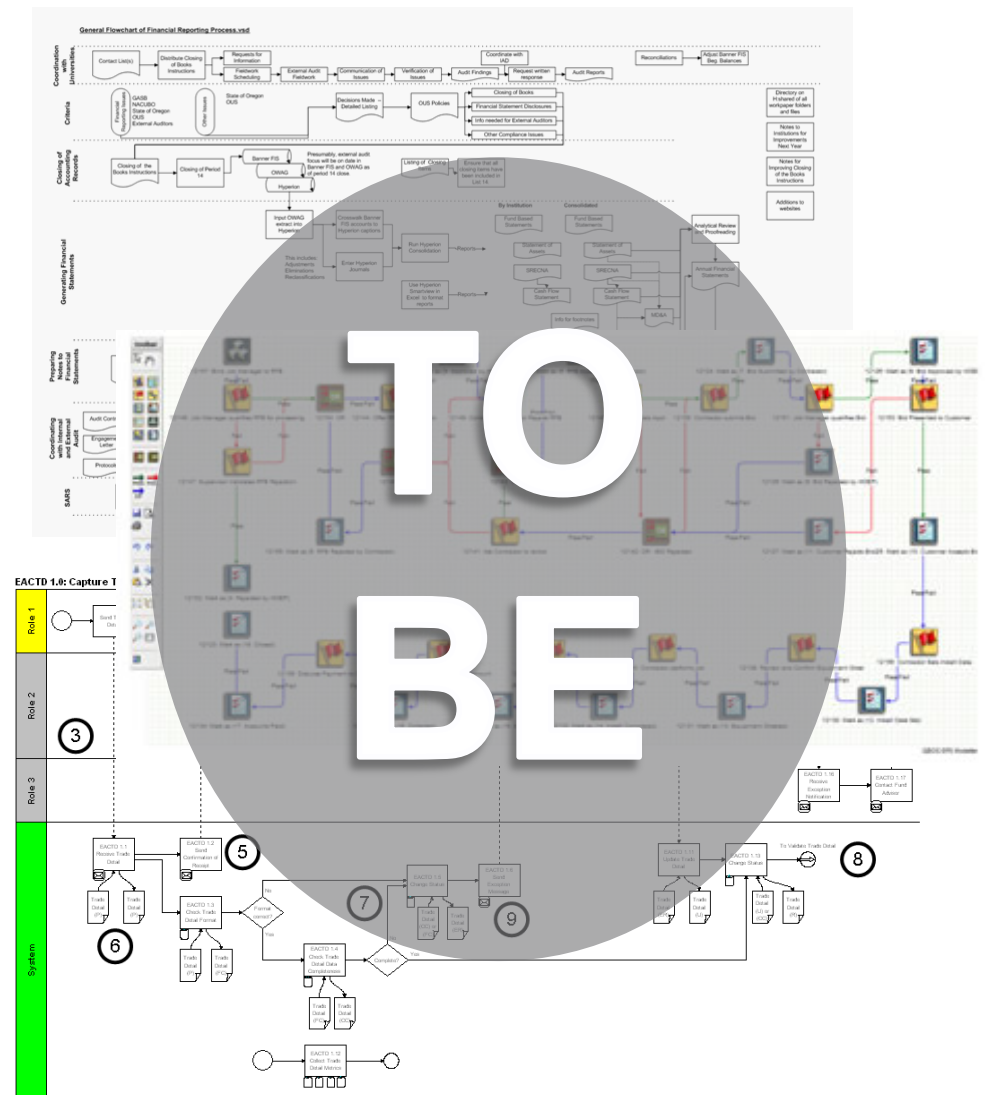
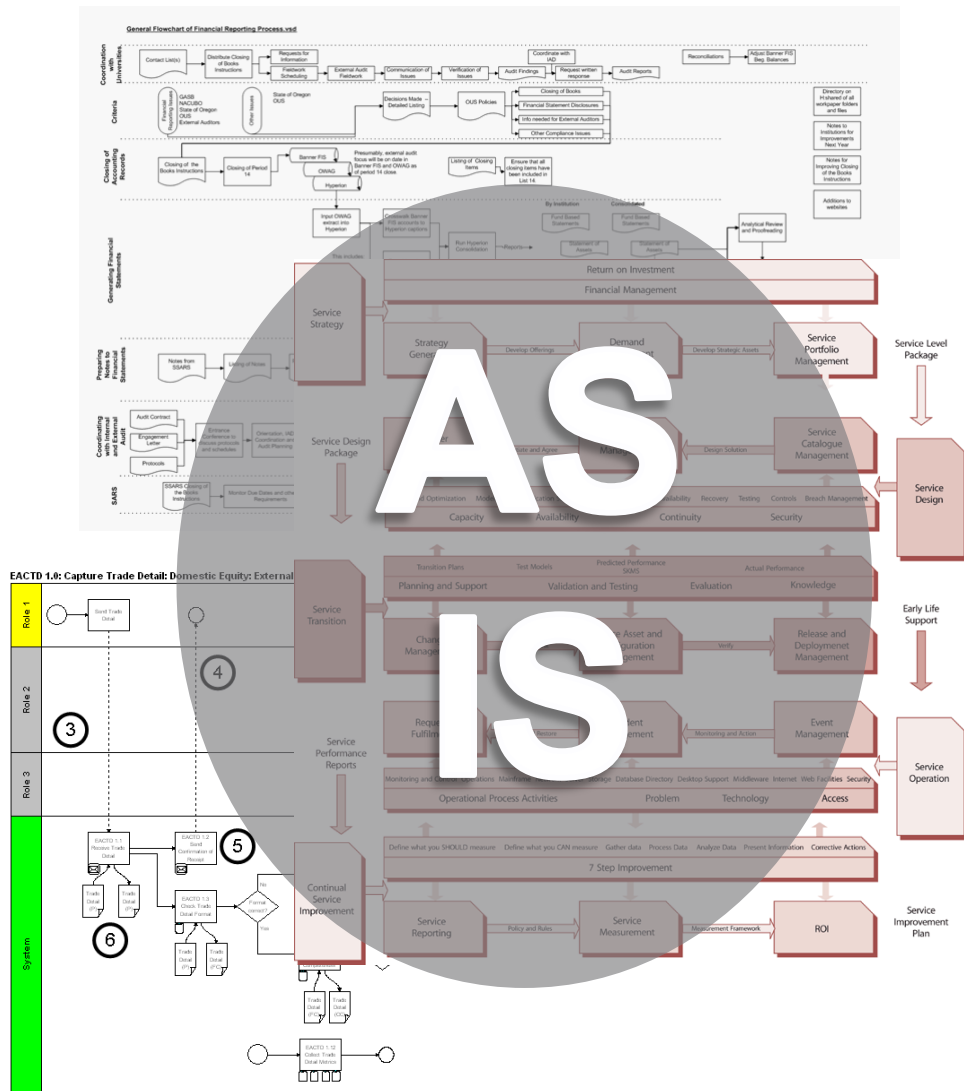
Agenda

- Applying the Kernel Idea
 - Simplifying and focusing business models
 - Building Software Products
 - Re-engineering your way of working
- Wrap Up - A Renaissance in Lean Thinking

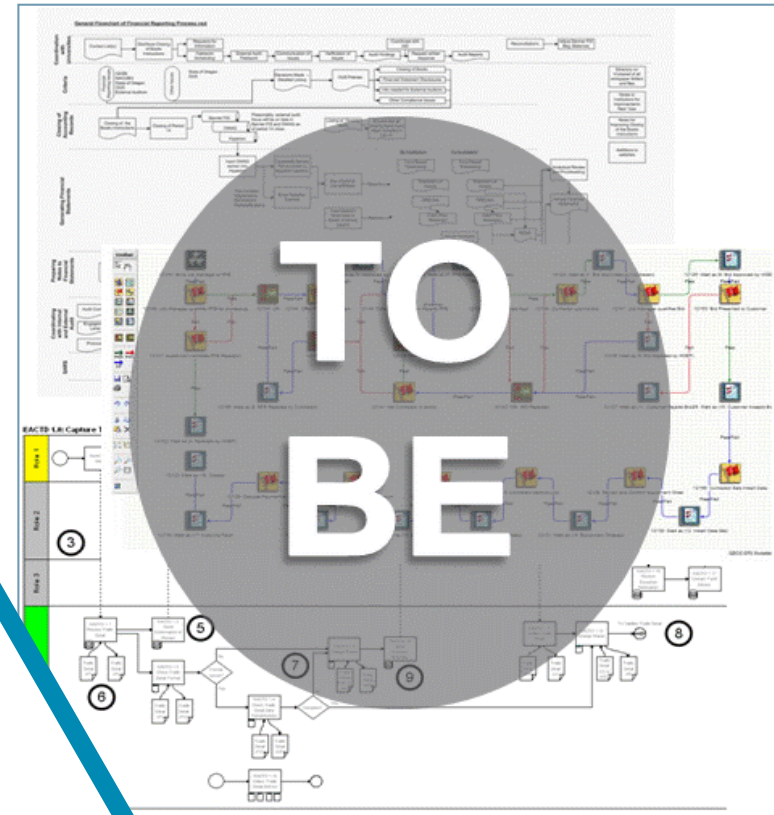
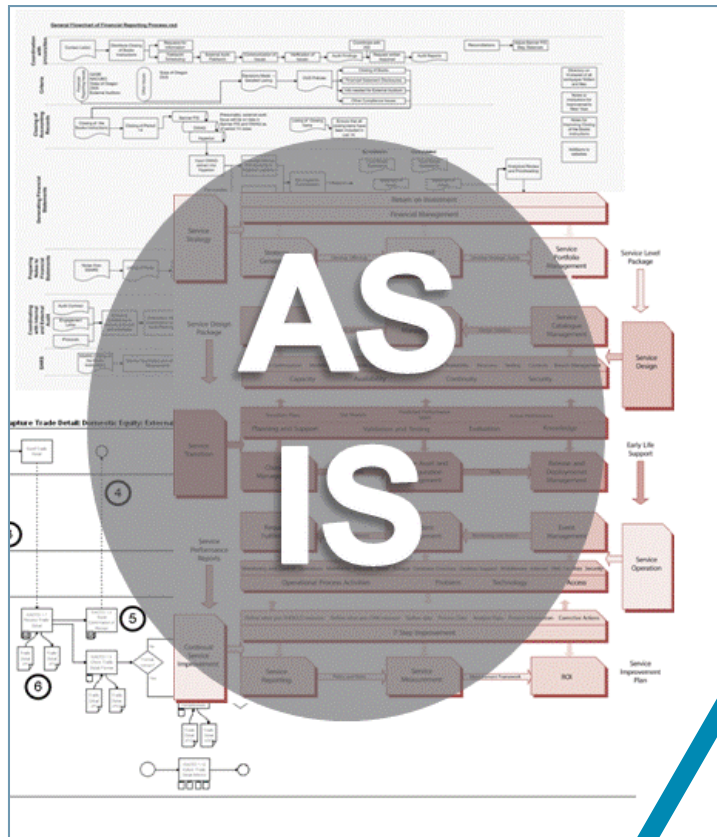
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- Applying the Kernel Idea
 - **Simplifying and focusing business models**
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 - Re-engineering processes/methods
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Typical business modeling

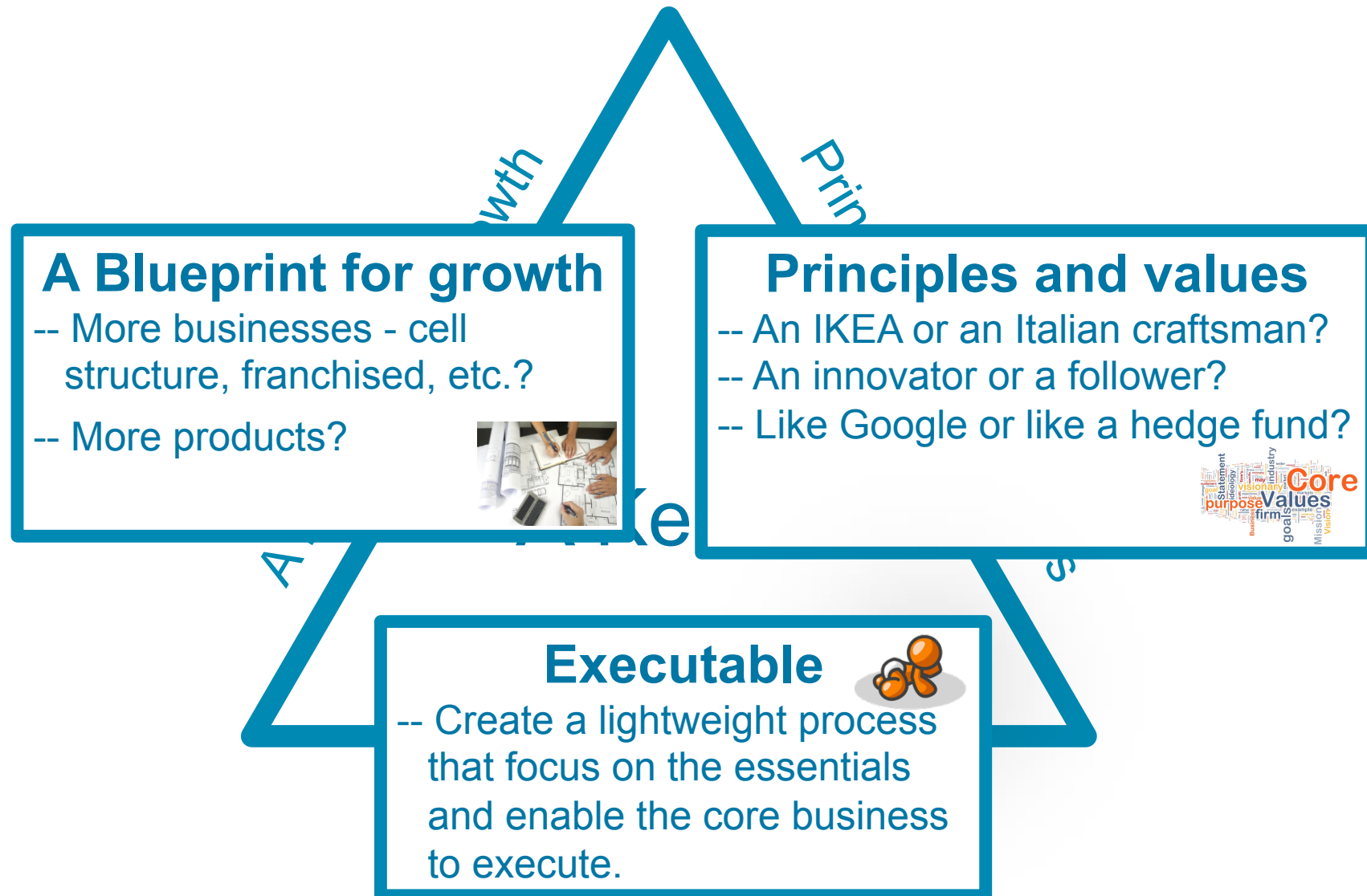


New business modeling



Find
the kernel
and enable the
future

What is your core business?



Put your kernel into action

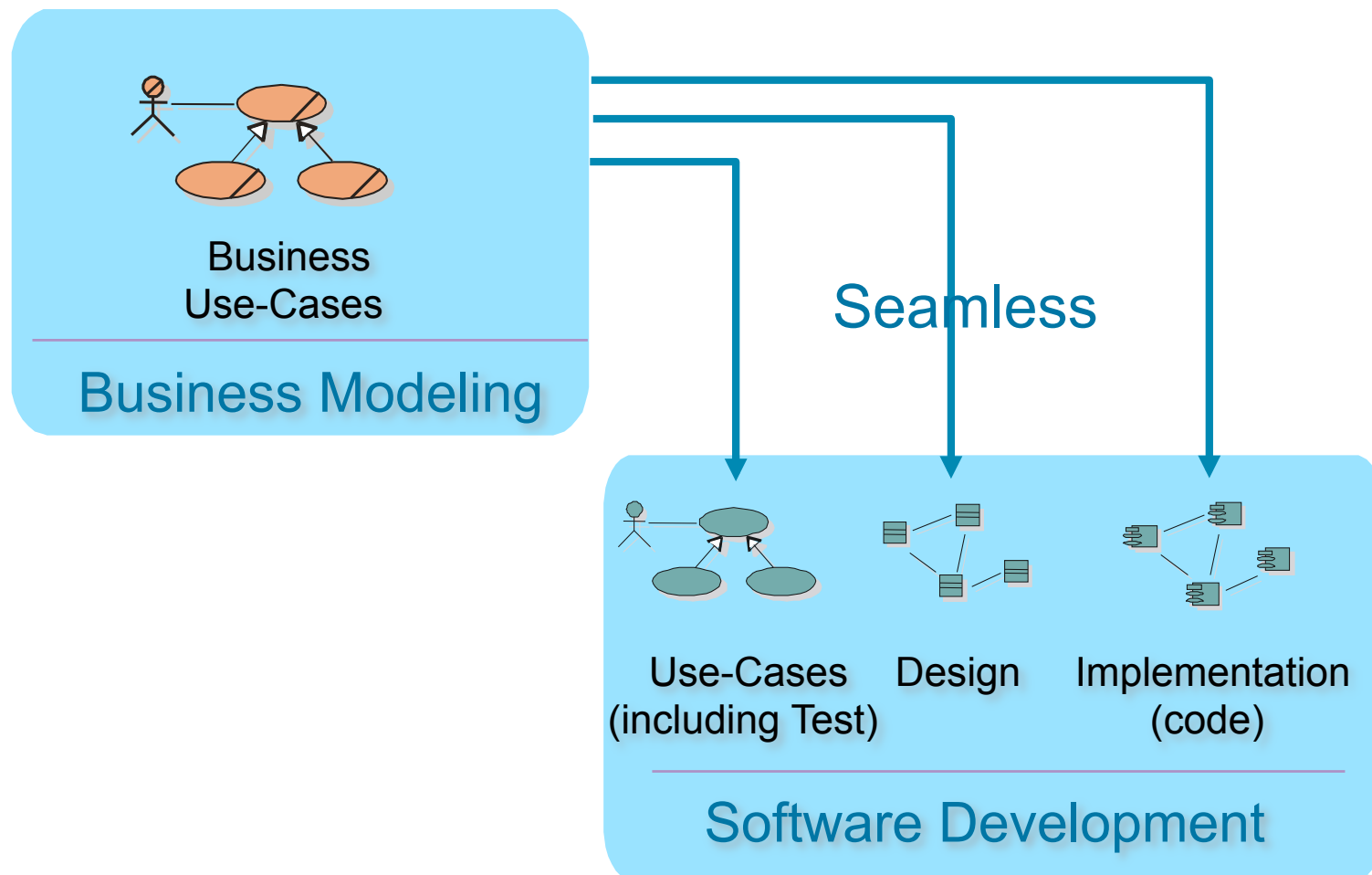
Empower people to fill in the gaps.



Start lean and stay lean.

The Software is the Business – develop your IT alongside developing your Business

- One slice at the time – iteration by iteration

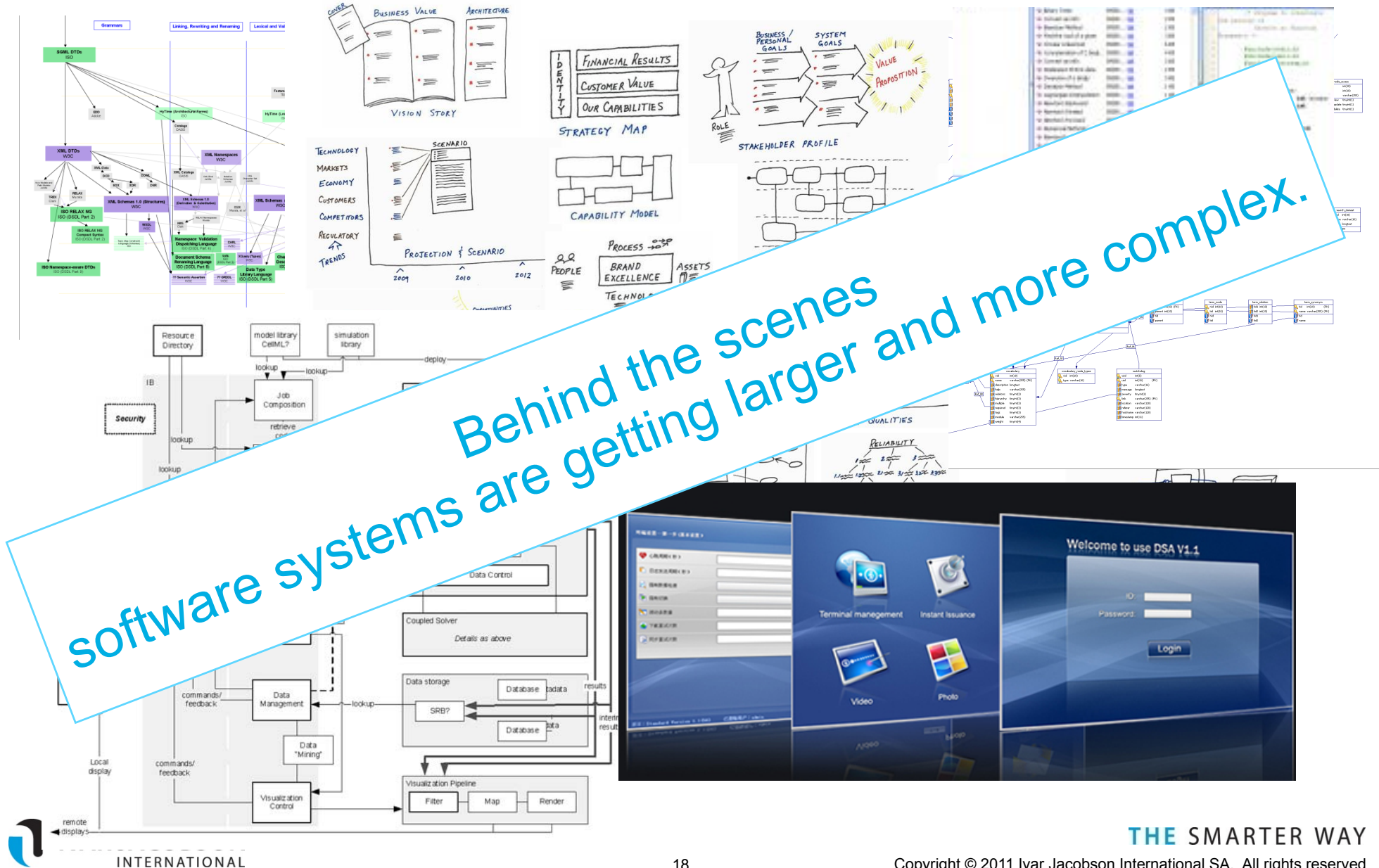


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Applying the kernel idea to software systems

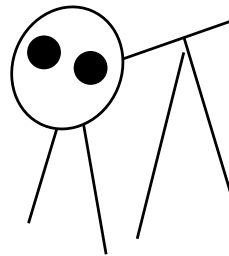
Architecture and the essence of an application system



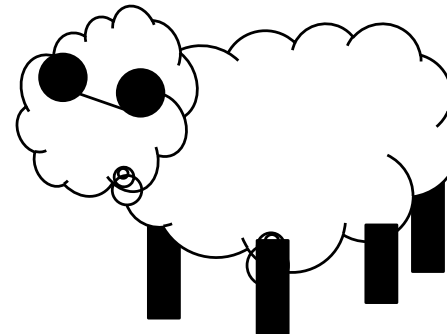
Start from a minimal executable system and grow the application from its kernel



- Build a skinny system to demonstrate that you have eliminated all critical risks
- Add more capabilities on top of that skinny system



Skinny System



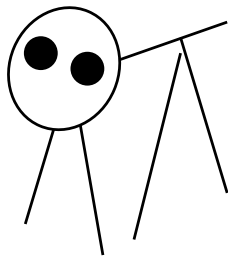
Full Fledged System

Think big, build in many steps

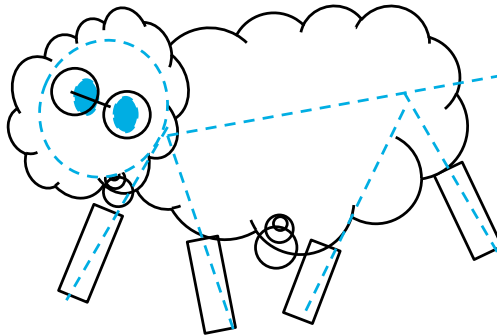
Maintain an architectural blueprint to shape the system and ensure everyone is on the same page



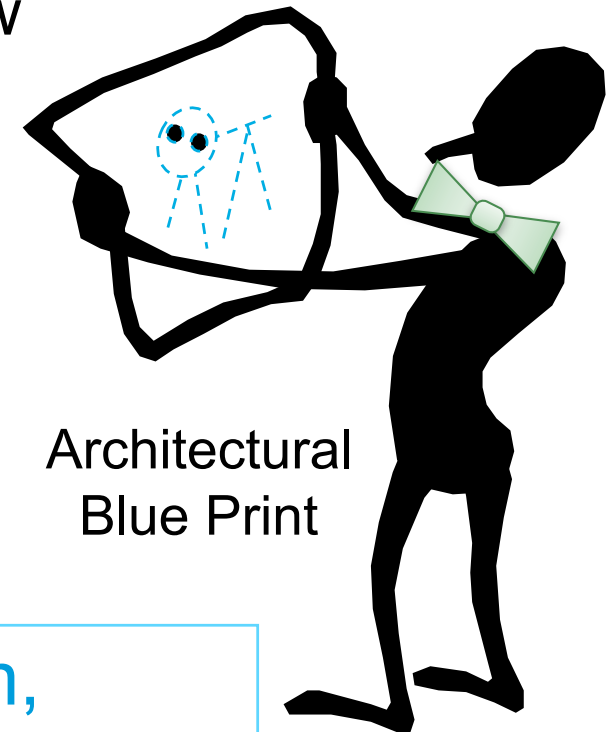
- An architecture without executable code is a hallucination
- Executable code without an architecture is ????
- Focus on the skinny system:
 - whilst understanding how it will grow



Skinny System



Full Fledged System



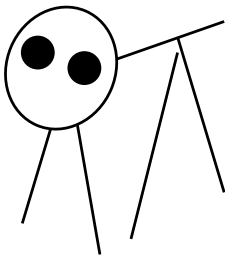
Architectural
Blue Print

Start to build a skinny system,
add muscles in later steps

Stick to your principles whilst allowing the system and its architecture to evolve



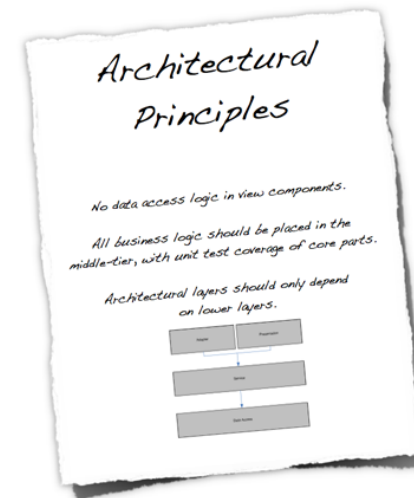
- An architecture is more than a schematic
- Good architectures establish the principles for the evolution of the system



Skinny System



Architectural
Blue Print



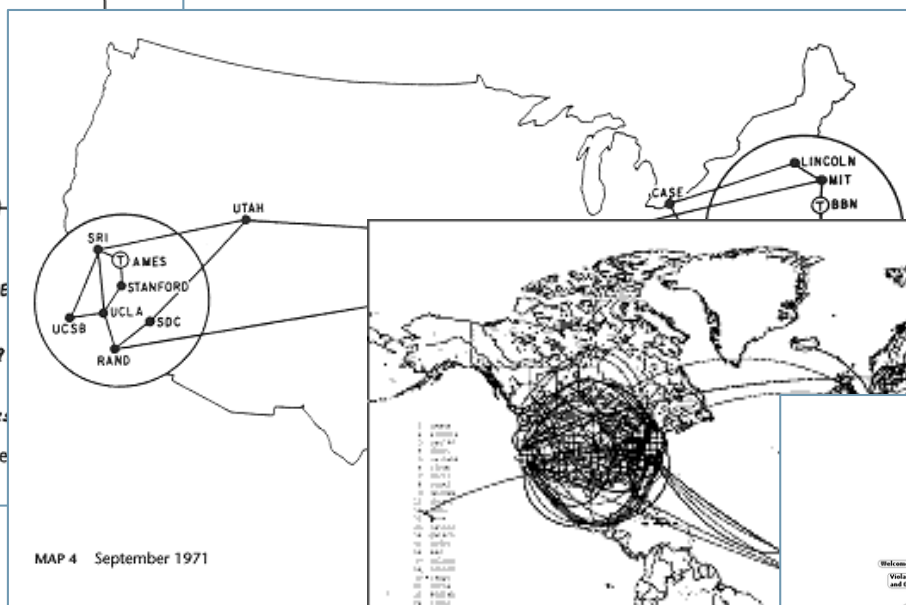
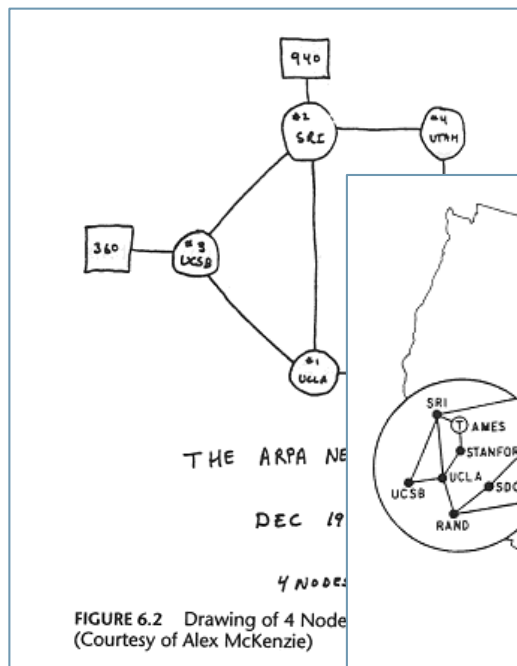
Architectural
Principles

Understanding the architectural principles
allows the architecture to evolve.

From Arpanet to the Internet

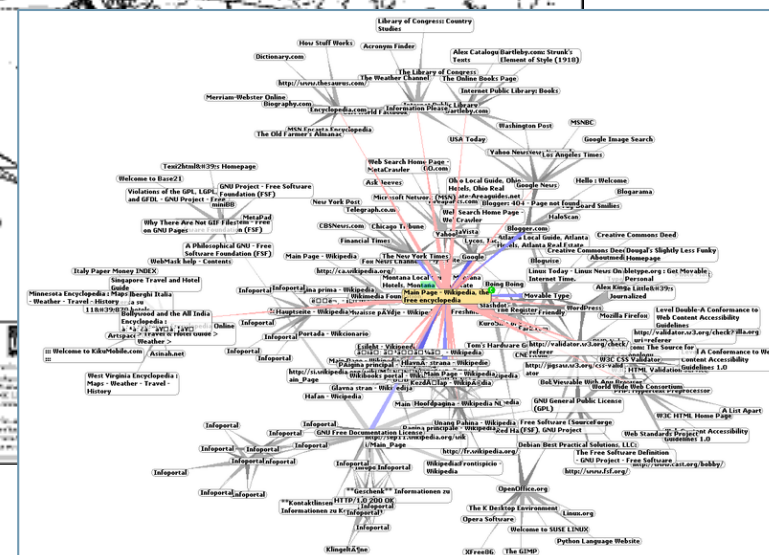
“The Internet and its architecture have grown in evolutionary fashion from modest beginnings, rather than from a Grand Plan.”

Tim Berners Lee provided the blueprint in 1990: The “WorldWideWeb” a “web” of “hypertext documents” to be viewed by “browsers” using a client–server architecture.



Some internet architectural values:

- Connectivity for all
- User empowerment
- Freedom of information
- Intelligence is end-to-end not centralized



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Being in the software development business

Everyone of us knows how to
develop **our** software,
but as a community we have **no**
widely accepted common ground

A CASE FOR ACTION STATEMENT



- Software engineering is gravely hampered today by immature practices. Specific problems include:
 - The prevalence of fads more typical of fashion industry than of an engineering discipline.
 - The lack of a sound, widely accepted theoretical basis.
 - The huge number of methods and method variants, with differences little understood and artificially magnified.
 - The lack of credible experimental evaluation and validation.
 - The split between industry practice and academic research.

CASE FOR ACTION STATEMENT cont'd



- We support a process to refund software engineering based on a solid theory, proven principles and best practices that:
 - Include a **kernel** of widely-agreed elements, extensible for specific uses
 - Addresses both technology and people issues
 - Are supported by industry, academia, researchers and users
 - Support extension in the face of changing requirements and technology

This is the Grand Vision

CASE FOR ACTION STATEMENT cont'd



- We support a process to refound software engineering based on a solid theory, proven principles and best practices that:
 - Include a **kernel** of widely-agreed elements extensible for specific

Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.

technology

Antoine de Saint-Exupery
French writer (1900 - 1944)

This is the Grand Vision

A Key Principle: Agile in working with methods

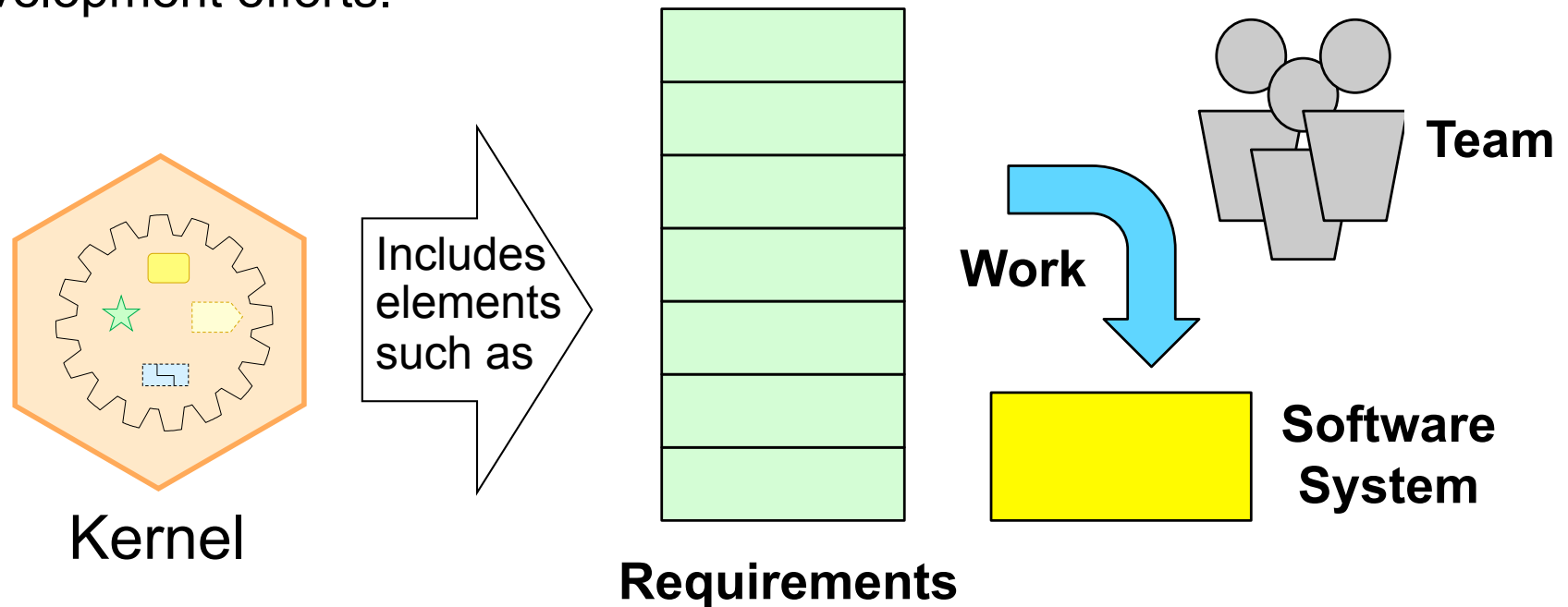


- **Empower the practitioner.** The method used by the team should be relevant to every team member.
- **Empower the team.** The most appropriate method emerges from the team itself.
- **Evolve the method.** The best method to start from is the one the team already has. Focus on the essentials.

The Kernel presents a standard blueprint for software development



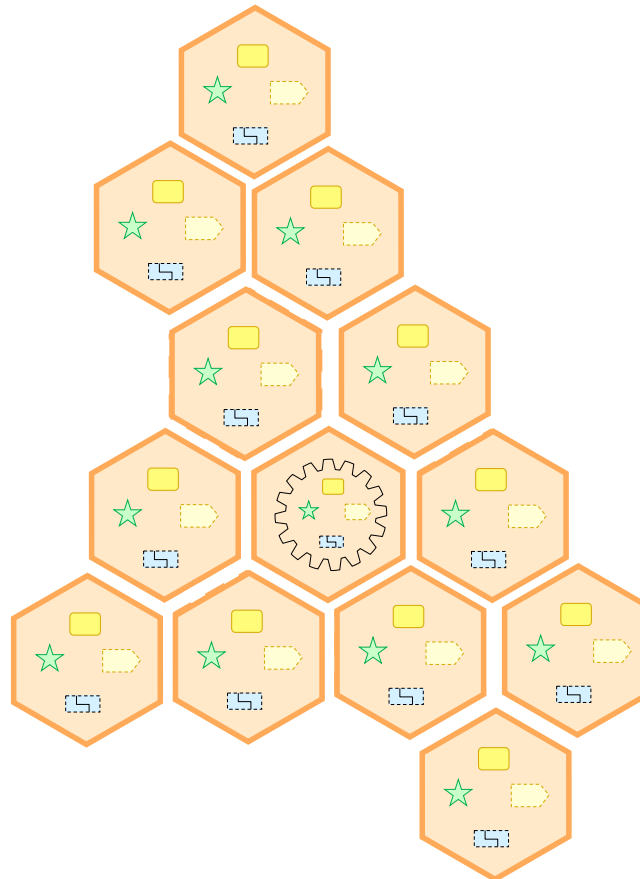
- The Kernel should be harvested from a large number of methods
- The Kernel is practice and method agnostic.
- The Kernel includes elements which are universal for all software development efforts.



The Kernel includes the essence of software engineering

Surely software development can't be that complicated

The Kernel provides a skinny system



Most importantly the kernel is result-focused to make it executable...



☐ **Requirements**

Conceived

Bounded

Coherent

Sufficient

Satisfactory

Fulfilled

- Good Requirements meets real needs
- Good Requirements has clear scope
- Good Requirements are coherent and well organized
- Good Requirements help drive development

☐ **Requirements**

Conceived

• Need for system agreed by initial stakeholders

• Users and customers identified

• Expected benefit of system agreed

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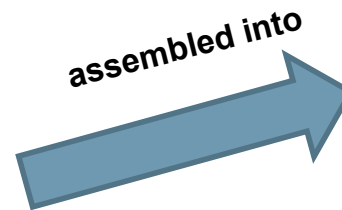
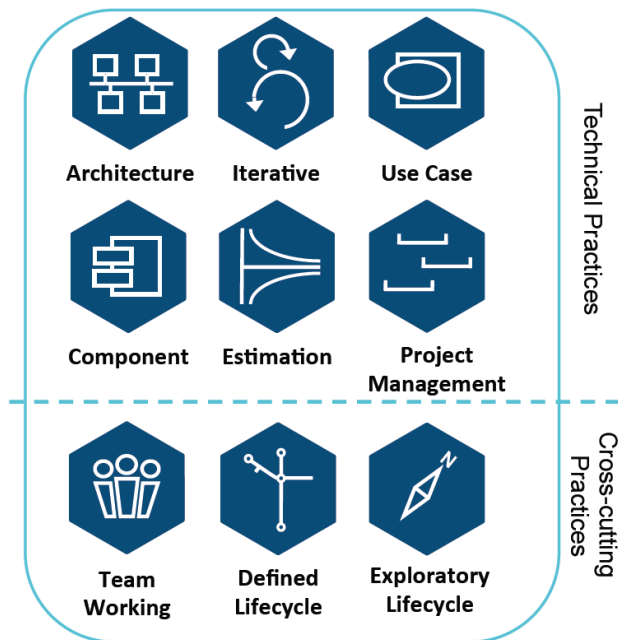
Each state defines an extensible check list.

...and help you understand progress, targets and project health

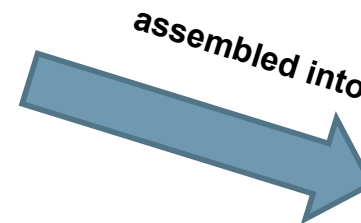
Re-engineering your software process: Rule Financial



The Sector Specialists



Defined Method



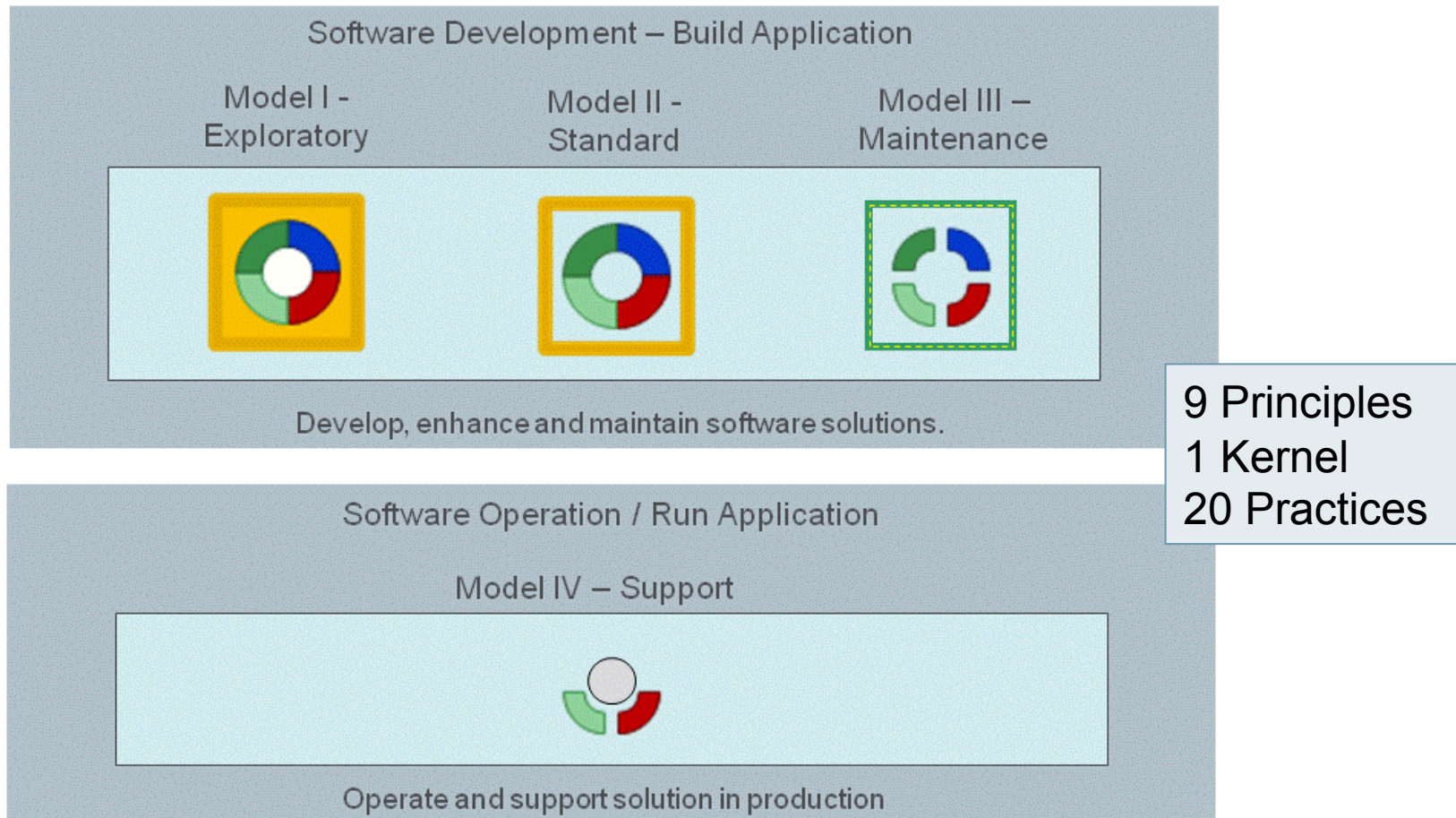
Exploratory Method



Project: rulebook™

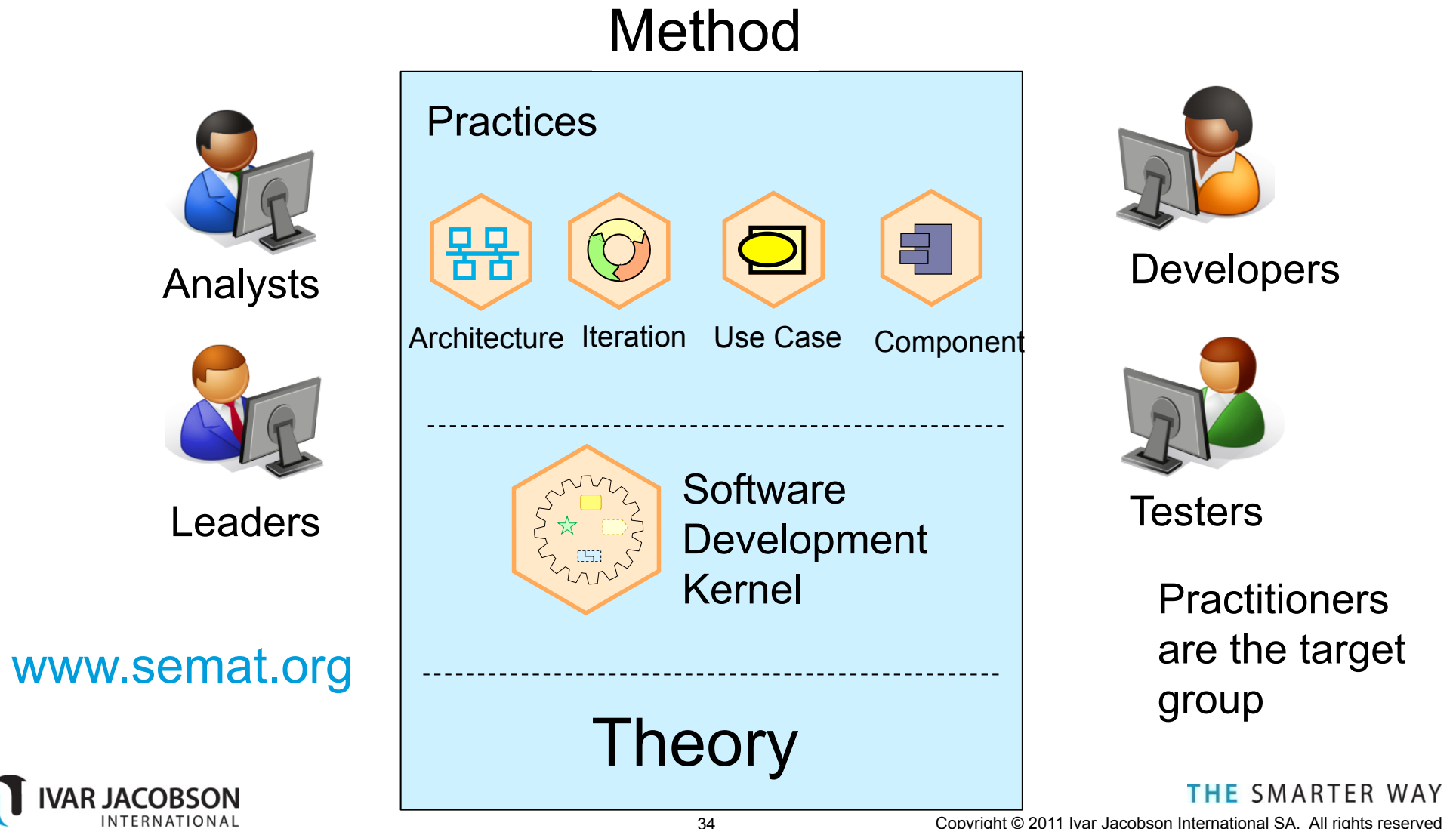
- a flexible set of lean and agile practices leading to lightweight processes, tuned to meet your needs (see www.rulefinancial.com).

Re-engineering your software process: MunichRE



Introducing SEMAT: SOFTWARE ENGINEERING METHOD AND THEORY

- The Semat solution in a nutshell



The kernel has many other uses

All geared to helping teams be more successful



To plan your moves



To avoid problems

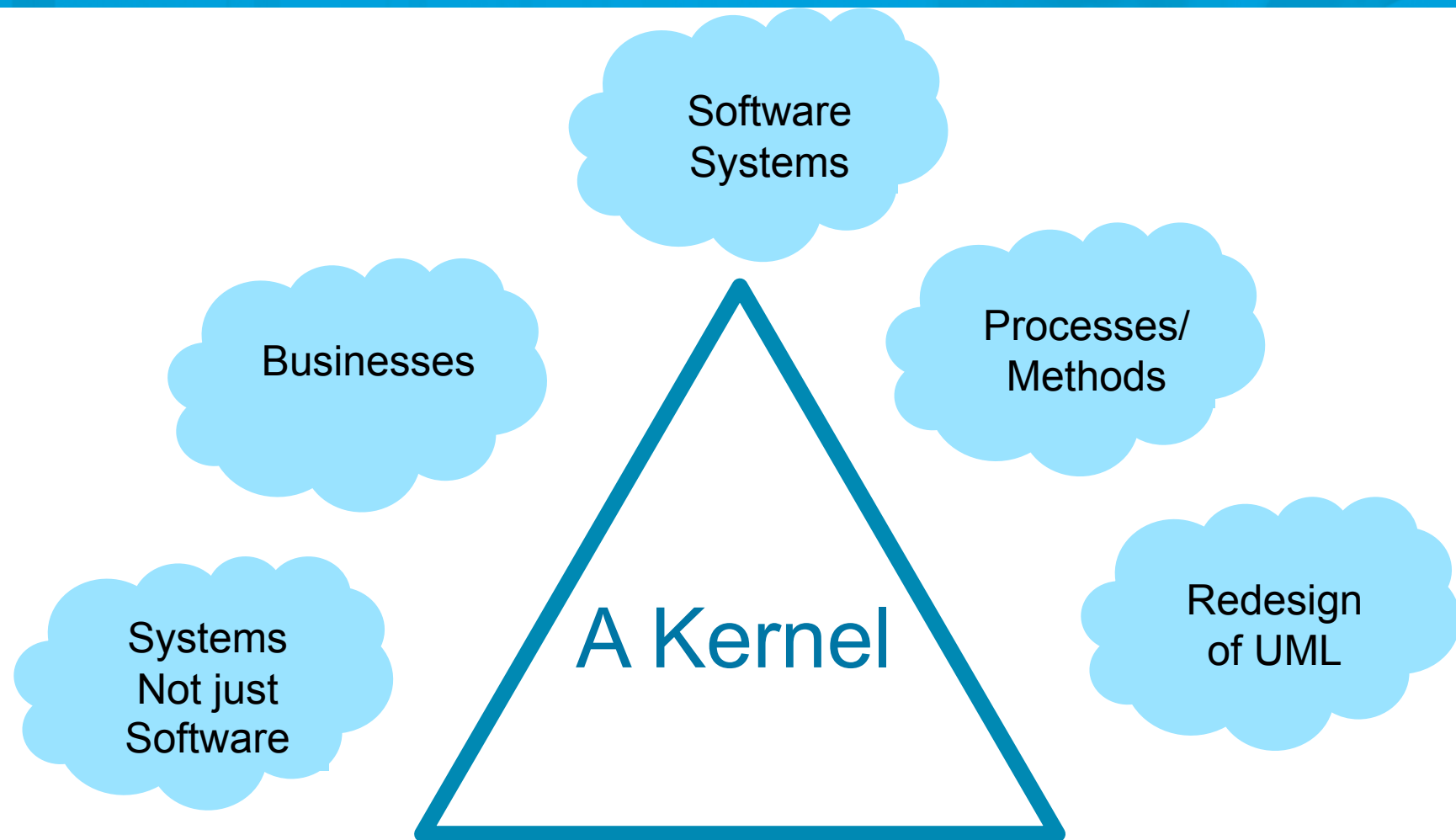


To bring people together

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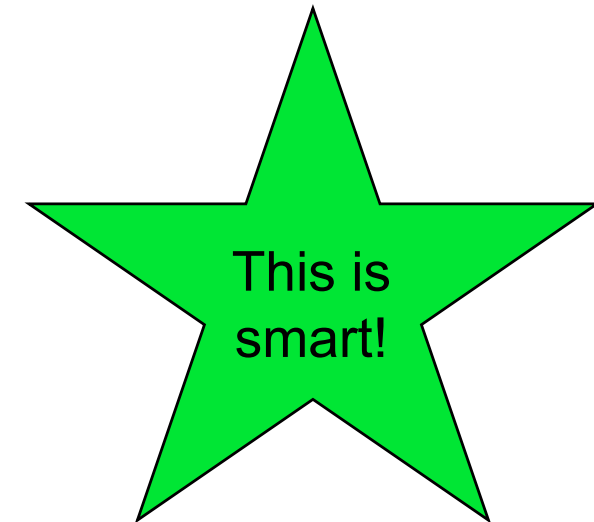
The Kernel idea is a Generally Applicable Pattern



Part of the Renaissance in Lean Thinking

The Kernel Pattern is part of the Renaissance in Lean Thinking

“Liberating the Essence from the Burden of the Whole”



“Things should be done as simple as possible –
but no simpler”
Albert Einstein



Contact me at ivar@ivarjacobson.com

Questions

Thank You

For questions, feel free to contact me at

ivar@ivarjacobson.com

White papers and other resources can be downloaded from

www.ivarjacobson.com

Analogies:

Inside every large language is a small language struggling to get out...
—Igarashi, Pierce, and Wadler (1999)

Inside every large program is a small program struggling to get out...
—Tony Hoare, Efficient Production of Large Programs (1970)

*I'm fat, but I'm thin inside.
Has it ever struck you that there's a thin man inside every fat man?*
—George Orwell, Coming Up For Air (1939)

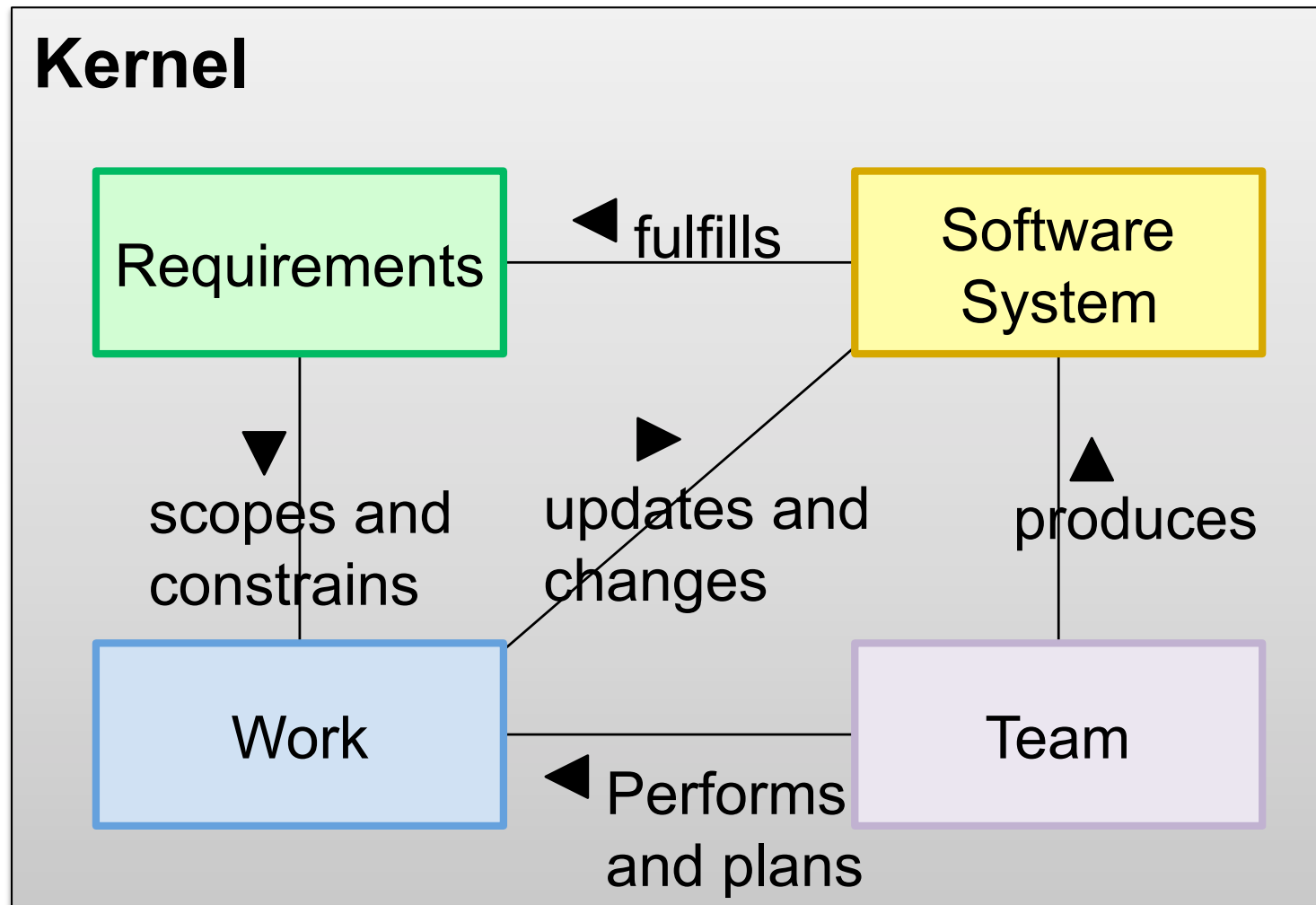
Michelangelo (attributed) “I am freeing the statue from the block”.
Paraphrasing him: “We are freeing the kernel from the methods”.

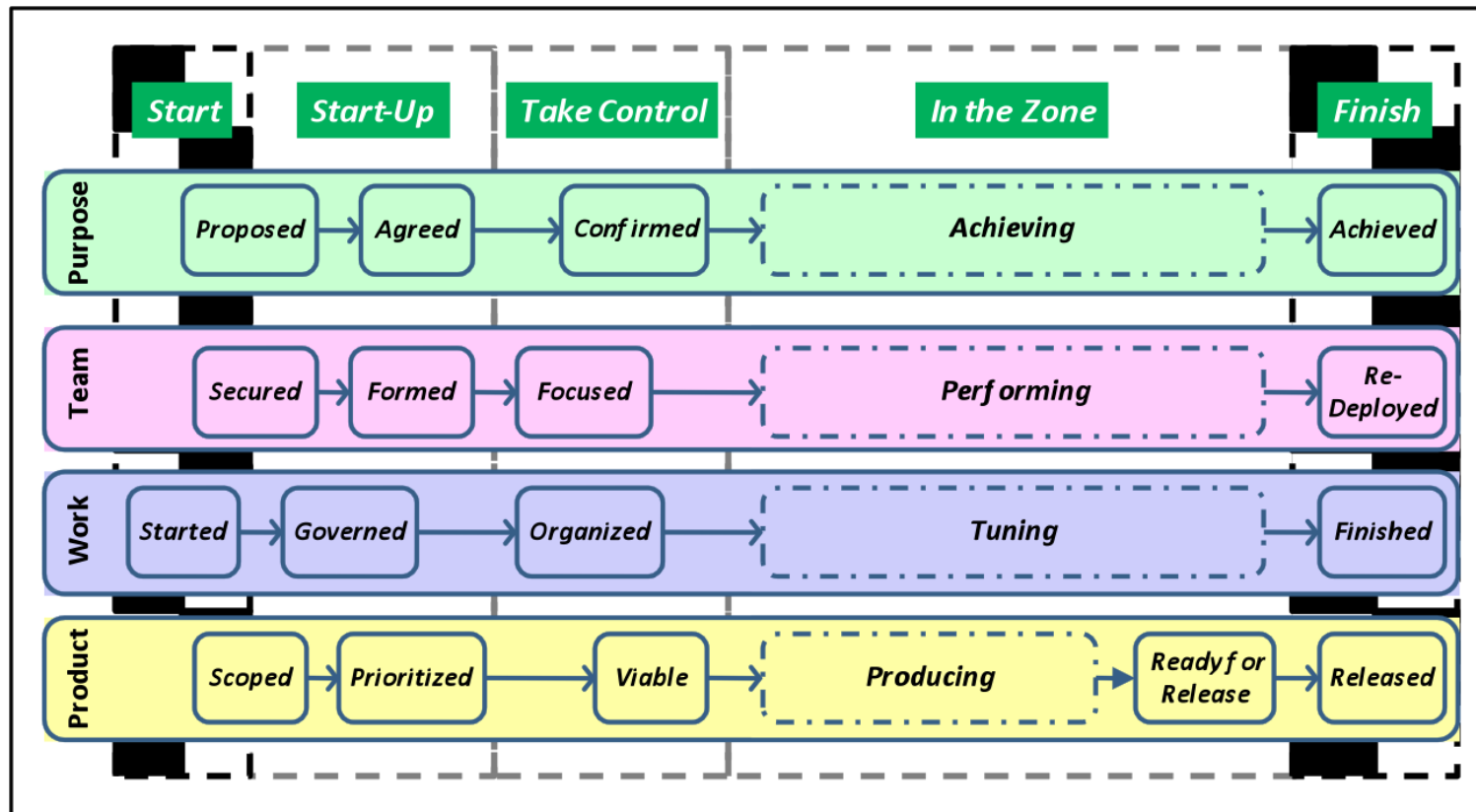
Because the alternative....



What is in the Kernel

- The kernel is very small and light – say about 20 elements. Here some:





Principles

- Inspect and adapt
- Eliminate waste
- As simple as possible....
- Separation of concerns
- Enable innovation and creativity

Principles and Values

Related to the result

- **Separation of Concern**
- Quality
- Simplicity
- Theory
- Realism and scalability
- Justification
- Falsifiability
- Forward-looking perspective
- Modularity
- Self-improvement

Related to how we work

- **Agile in working with methods**
- Openness
- Fairness
- Objectivity
- Timeliness

Separation of Concerns – some examples

1. We separate **the practitioners' view and the method engineers' view**. Through extensions the result will also support method engineers efficiently *without complicating* its usage for the practitioners.
2. We separate **the essentials from the non-essentials**, such as key guidance from detailed guidance, or explicit knowledge from tacit knowledge.
3. We separate the generalized definitions of terms from specialized definition details, allowing for the inclusion, rather than the exclusion of earlier work on methods.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_concerns