Archipelago: Architecture = Building Bridges

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Distribution

1 Introduction

This paper belongs to the 10 minute presentation given at the ICT architecture 1999 conference in Amsterdam on november 18 and 19, in the session "Plaatsbepaling", positioning in English.

A longer paper "Positioning the System Architecture Process" [2] is published in the proceedings of the conference.

2 Archipelago, the kingdom of islands

The world of product development consists of many disjunct isles of know how, purposes ideas, technologies etcetera. Most people are happy to stay on their own island, unaware of the existence of other islands.

Most engineers have never seen a customer, the operational project pressure of today takes all the available time and more, inhibiting thinking in more tactical
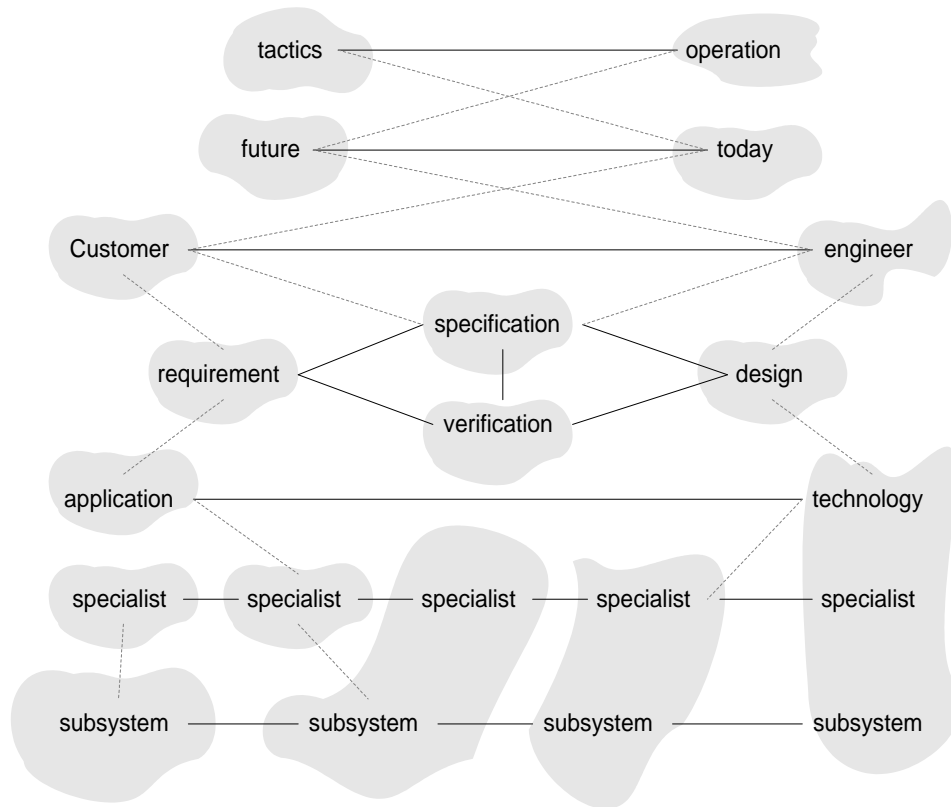
Figure 1: Archipelago, isolated islands connected by the bridges built by the architect

terms about the future. Specialists use thier jargon to communicate, unable to understand the vernicular of other disciplines.

The **Architecture Process** is **building bridges** between all these isles. Figure 1 shows part of the Archipelago and the bridges being build by the architect.

3   Process Maps

The business can be simplified to 4 processes, as shown in figure 2.

System Architecture bridges the Policy and Planning Process ("Financial Management") and the Product Creation Process ("Tomorrow's Cashflow Generation").

This is detailed one step further in figure 3 which clearly shows the System Architecture Process as bridge between Policy and Planning and Product Creation, while it bridges within the Product Creation Process many more subprocesses.
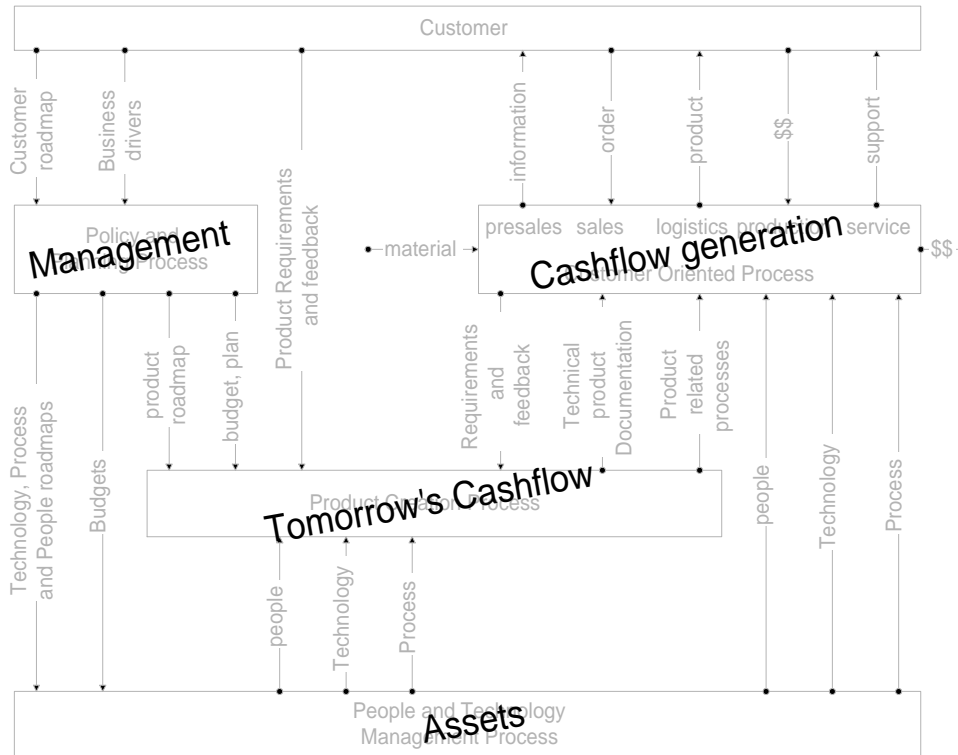
Figure 2: Decomposition of the business in 4 main processes, characterized by their financial meaning

4   The Gaudí project

The Gaudí project has the following goals:

- Consolidate existing System Architecture Methods

- Make the System Architecture art more accessible

- Enable the education of (future) System Architects

These goals are realized according to a indicative masterplan, see figure 4. The contents of the project will cover all aspects which are covered by the system architect, as outlined in [1] which explains figure 5.

The process which will be followed is derived from the open source software development:

- frequent releases

- early accessibility (in infancy stage)

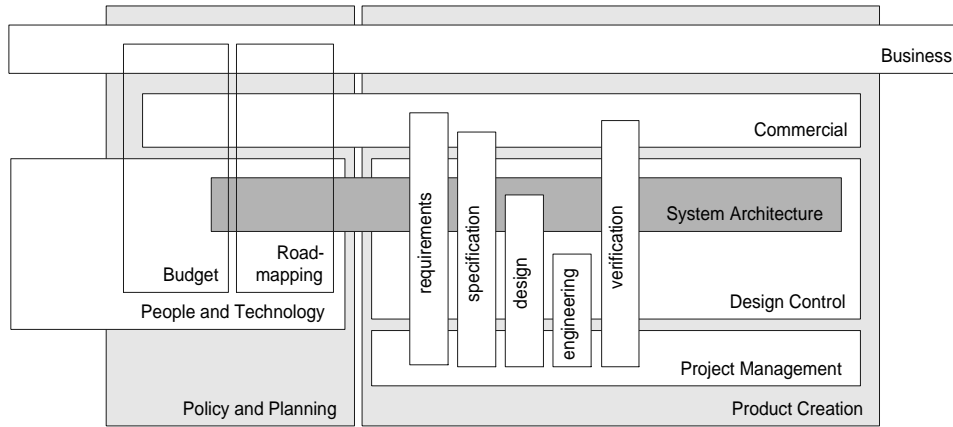- encouragement of further distribution

Figure 3: More detailed map of the System Architecture Process and its neighbourhood
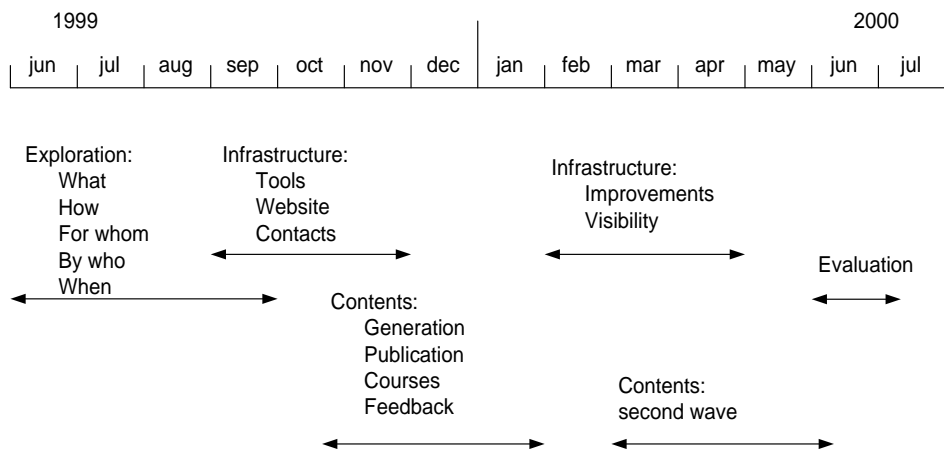

Figure 4: Indicative Masterplan of the Gaudi project

- aimed at maximum feedback

References

[1] Gerrit Muller. The arisal of the system architect. URL: http://www.extra.research.philips.com/natlab/sysarch/index.html, 1999.

[2] Gerrit Muller. Positioning the system architecture process. URL: http://www.extra.research.philips.com/natlab/sysarch/index.html, 1999.

[3] Gerrit Muller. The system architecture homepage. URL: http://www.extra.research.philips.com/natlab/sysarch/index.html, 1999.

Figure 5: Growpath of a System Architect

History
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- Under construction, no change log yet.