

Agile and architecture

(finally friends after 15 years)



Simon Brown
@simonbrown

coding
(the)
architecture

Software Architecture

for Developers

Volume 1

Technical leadership by `coding`, coaching,
collaboration and just enough up front design

Simon Brown

coding
(the)
architecture

Software Architecture

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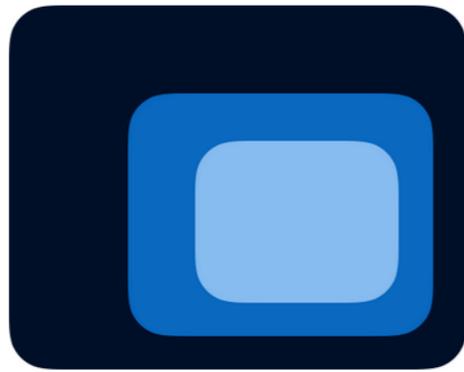
Volume 2

Visualise, document and explore
your software architecture

Simon Brown

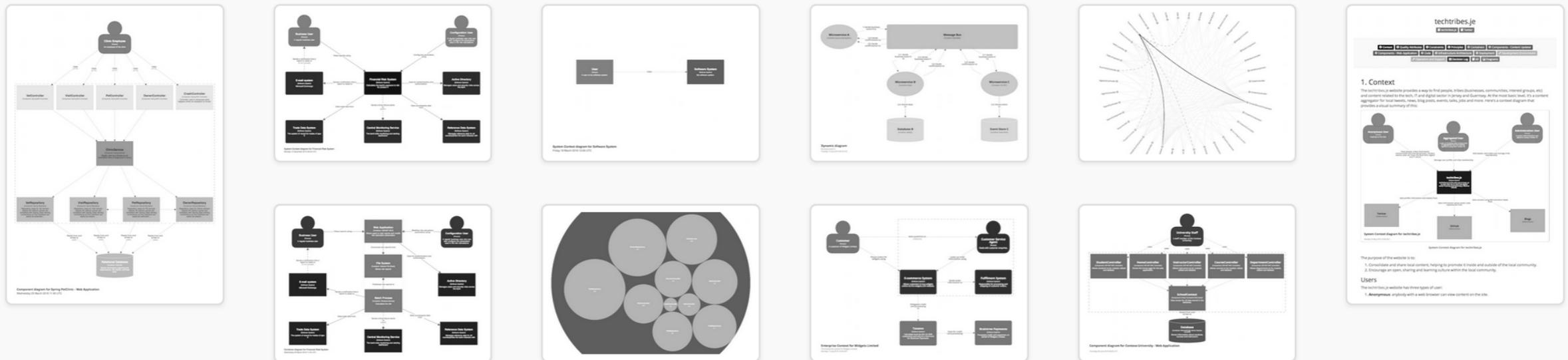
I help software teams understand
software architecture,
technical leadership and
the balance with agility





Structurizr

Visualise, document and explore your software architecture



[> Structurizr Express](#)

Create software architecture diagrams using text with Structurizr Express - free, no sign up required.

Visualise, document and explore your software architecture

(use promotional code "ASAS 2016" before 30th Sept to get 3 months of the Standard Plan for free)

Structured Programming

(Software Craftsmanship v1.0)

“Waterfall”

*time spent early in the
software production
cycle can reduce costs
at later stages*

Wikipedia

A “structured approach”
with an emphasis on
comprehensive
documentation

SSADM

(Structured Systems Analysis
and Design Method)

*a systems approach to
the analysis and design
of information systems*

Wikipedia

Long feedback loops
often resulted in the wrong
thing being delivered

Iterative and incremental development

RUP

(Rational Unified Process)

Roles and artifacts

Rapid Application Development

(“prototype-driven design”)

Agile

Manifesto for Agile Software Development

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it.
Through this work we have come to value:

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
Working software over comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
Responding to change over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

Kent Beck
Mike Beedle
Arie van Bennekum
Alistair Cockburn
Ward Cunningham
Martin Fowler

James Grenning
Jim Highsmith
Andrew Hunt
Ron Jeffries
Jon Kern
Brian Marick

Robert C. Martin
Steve Mellor
Ken Schwaber
Jeff Sutherland
Dave Thomas

The conflict between agile and architecture

1. A conflict in team structure



Dedicated
software architect

Single point of responsibility for
the technical aspects of the
software project

VS



Everybody is a
software architect

Joint responsibility for the
technical aspects of the
software project

Big up front design
and analysis paralysis

Waterfall

UML

I'm a

software
architect



Ivory Tower

PowerPoint Architect

Architecture Astronaut

Software development is not a relay sport

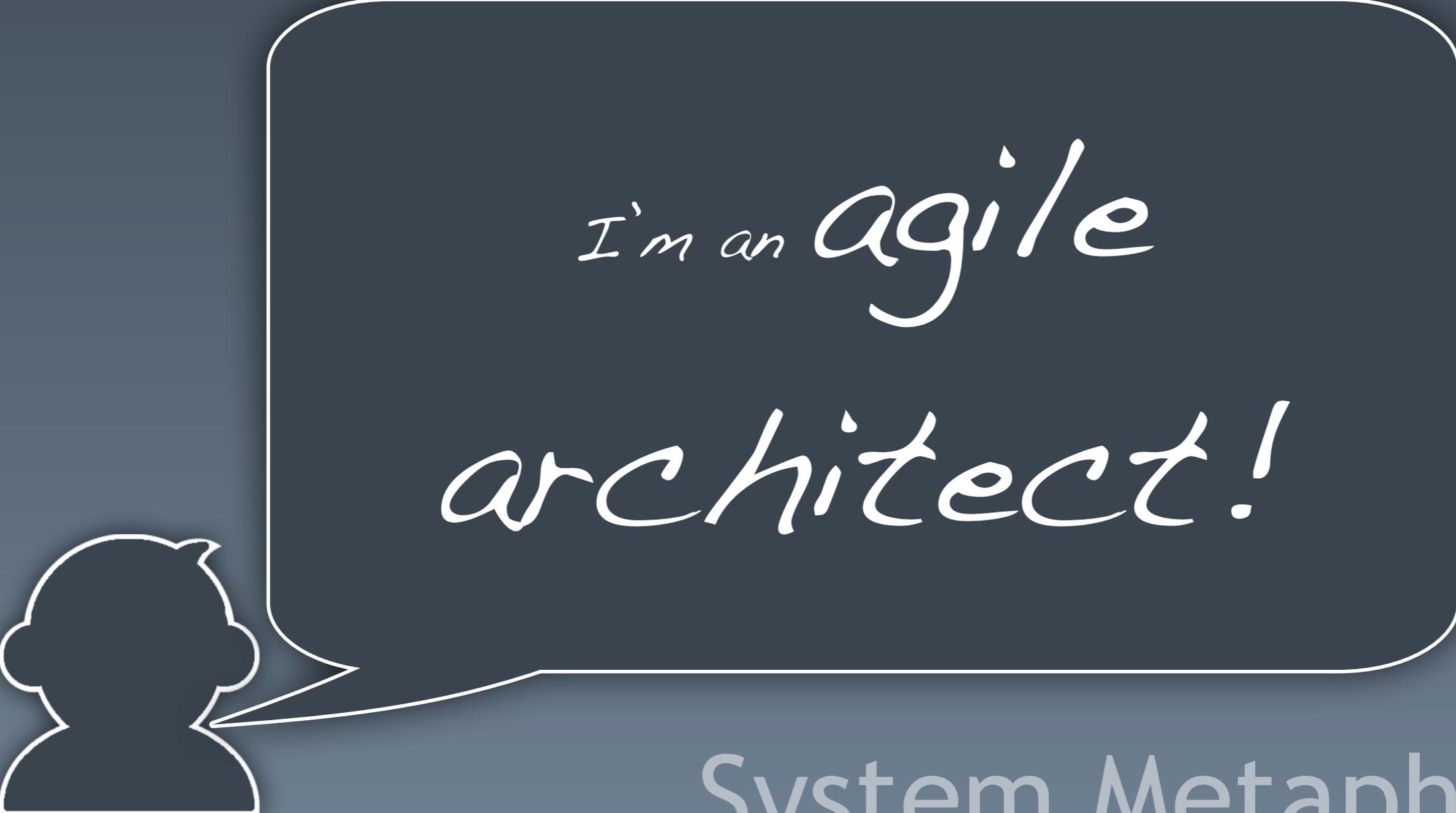


AaaS ... architecture as a service

Evolutionary Architecture
and Emergent Design

Defer until the
last responsible
moment

YAGNI



*I'm an agile
architect!*

System Metaphor

Refactoring

Spikes, stripes and tracers

*The best architectures,
requirements, and
designs emerge from
self-organizing teams.*

Principle 11 of the Manifesto for Agile Software Development

Architects?

*We don't need no
stinkin' architects!*



Developer



Developer



Developer



Developer



Developer



*Small, self-organising teams
of generalising specialists,
often where everybody is
jointly responsible*

2. A conflict in process



VS

```
/// <summary>
/// Represents the behaviour behind the ...
/// </summary>
public class SomeWizard : AbstractWizard
{
    private DomainObject _object;
    private WizardPage _page;
    private WizardController _controller;

    public SomeWizard()
    {
    }

    ...
}
```

Evolutionary
architecture

Big up front design

Requirements capture, analysis
and design complete before
coding starts

The architecture evolves
secondary to the value created
by early regular releases of
working software

Historically there's been
a tendency towards

big design

up front

The conflict relates to the desired

approach

Moving fast, embracing
change, delivering value
early, getting feedback

vs

Understanding everything up
front, defining a blueprint for
the team to “follow”

Responding
to change

over

following a plan



No

design up front

Evolutionary
architecture

We don't need
software architecture;

we do

TDD



Agile software team

Last
responsible
moment

*Are we allowed to
do up front design
if we're agile?*

“Big design up front
is dumb.

Doing no design up front
is even dumber.”

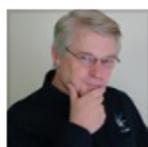
(YOW! Dave Thomas)

What is
“*agile*”?

Moving fast, embracing
change, releasing often,
getting feedback, etc?

Lightweight?

A mindset/culture of
continuous improvement?



Robert Martin

1 hr · 🌐

Nice recounting of the event. I would add that it was Martin Fowler and I working together who came up with the initial invitation list; which Alistair made many additions to. The original email (does anyone still have it?) had the subject line: "Lightweight Process Summit". IIRC.

I went back to snowbird a couple of years ago and snapped this picture of the original meeting room.

<https://www.facebook.com/robertcecilmartin/posts/1503470873001857>



Alistair.Cockburn.us | How I saved Agile and the Rest of the World

This is not about me saving anything. It is to remind you

*Side note about selecting the name 'aglie': I facilitated the name-finding session, so I have a fairly detailed recall of how that went: "Agile", for example, was not a sure winner for a name at any time, "Adaptive" tied it at the final round. We filled pages with brainstormed names. We selected a handful and said why we did **not** like them, odd though that procedure sounds. The dominant meme in that discussion was "I don't want to have to wear pink tights and a tutu when I say it"! We voted down to five, then voted for a winner but found a tie between agile and adaptive, then selected "agile".*

<http://alistair.cockburn.us/How+I+saved+Agile+and+the+rest+of+the+world>

My son, who is now in the workforce full-time as a software developer, asked me what “agile software development” is supposed to mean, in a nutshell. I said it meant taking a step, assessing the outcome, learning from that outcome, adjusting our practices, and then taking the next step. He thought that made sense.

Another way to say it is that “agility” basically means an organization has fostered a culture of continual improvement. The alternative is an organization in which people simply learn a defined process and follow it by rote, over and over again. It makes no difference if their process has the word “agile” in its name.

<http://www.leadingagile.com/2016/09/reclaiming-agile/>

*We do Scrum
as described
in the book.*

x over y

Principles behind the Agile Manifesto

We follow these principles:

Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.

Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.

Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.

Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.

Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.

The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.

Working software is the primary measure of progress.

Agile processes promote sustainable development.

*Continuous attention to
technical excellence
and good design
enhances agility.*

Principle 9 of the Manifesto for Agile Software Development

A good
architecture
enables

agility

Agility

is a

quality attribute

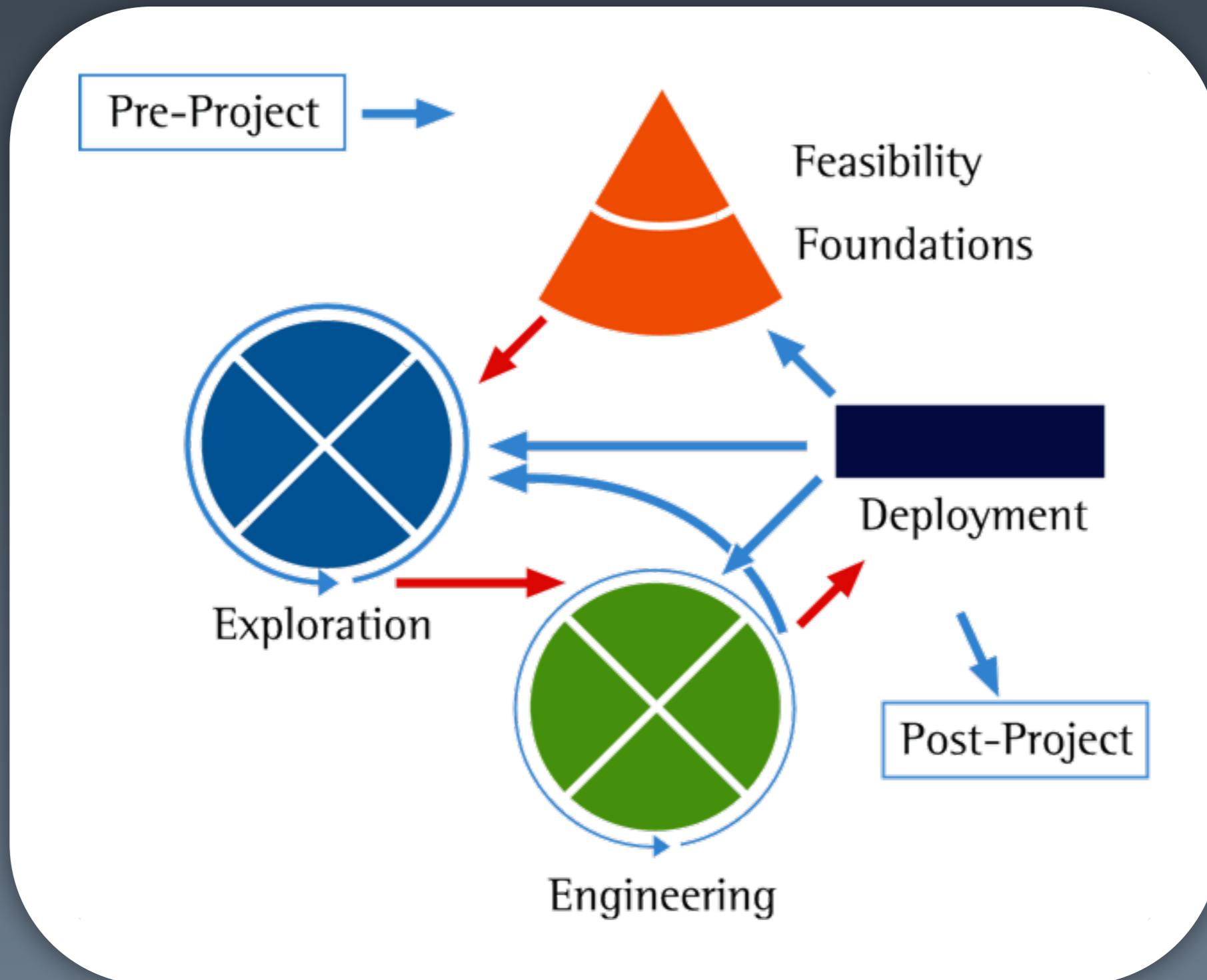
A design
revival?

Beyond Scrum

DSDM Atern

Disciplined Agile Delivery (DAD)

Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe)



“The Atern lifecycle process”

(<https://www.dsdm.org/content/lifecycle>)

*The Foundations phase
is aimed at establishing*

firm and enduring

foundations

for the project.

It's **not** about creating a
perfect end-state or
complete architecture

You need a
starting
point

Detailed
blueprints

VS

*setting a
direction*

Continuous
technical
leadership

Add value,
eliminate waste

Structure

Understand the significant structural elements and how they fit together, based upon the architectural drivers.

Design and decomposition down to containers and components.

Vision

Create and communicate a vision for the team to work with.

Context, container and component diagrams.

Risks

Identify and mitigate the highest priority risks.

Risk-storming and concrete experiments.

Just enough up front design
to create **firm foundations**
for the software **product** and its **delivery**



The role



Just enough
up front design
to create firm
foundations
for the
software product
and its delivery

(structure, vision, risks)



The process

```
/// <summary>  
/// Represents the behaviour behind the ...  
/// </summary>  
public class SomeWizard : AbstractWizard  
{  
    private DomainObject _object;  
    private WizardPage _page;  
    private WizardController _controller;  
  
    public SomeWizard()  
    {  
    }  
  
    ...  
}
```

*we used to do stuff like
this, it worked but we
stopped doing it when
we became agile*

We all came away impressed with the practical, agile approach to software architecture. I'm going to push that we adopt most of these practices as a baseline...

Is agile and software
craftsmanship
enough?

Software craftsmanship is an approach to software development that emphasizes the coding skills of the software developers themselves.

Wikipedia

Clean
code

Are we optimising
the wrong thing?

Agility needs a starting point, yet many software teams don't seem to have

a sufficient
toolbox of
practices

How do you
design
software?

*we use a
whiteboard*

*we draw boxes
that represent
components*

*we use our
experience*

Decomposition (computer science)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Decomposition in **computer science**, also known as **factoring**, is breaking a complex problem or system into parts that are easier to conceive, understand, program, and maintain.

Contents [hide]

- Overview
- Decomposition topics
 - Decomposition paradigm
 - Decomposition diagram
- See also
- References
- External links

Overview [[edit](#)]

There are different types of decomposition defined in computer sciences:

- In **structured programming**, *algorithmic decomposition* breaks a process down into well-defined steps.
- Structured analysis** breaks down a software system from the system context level to system functions and data entities as described by **Tom DeMarco**.^[1]
- Object-oriented decomposition*, on the other hand, breaks a large system down into progressively smaller classes or objects that are responsible for some part of the problem domain.
- According to **Booch**, algorithmic decomposition is a necessary part of object-oriented analysis and design, but object-oriented systems start with and emphasize decomposition into classes.^[2]

Decomposition paradigm [[edit](#)]

A decomposition paradigm in computer programming is a strategy for organizing a program as a number of parts, and it usually implies a specific way to organize a program text. Usually the aim of using a decomposition paradigm is to optimize some metric related to program complexity, for example the modularity of the program or its maintainability.

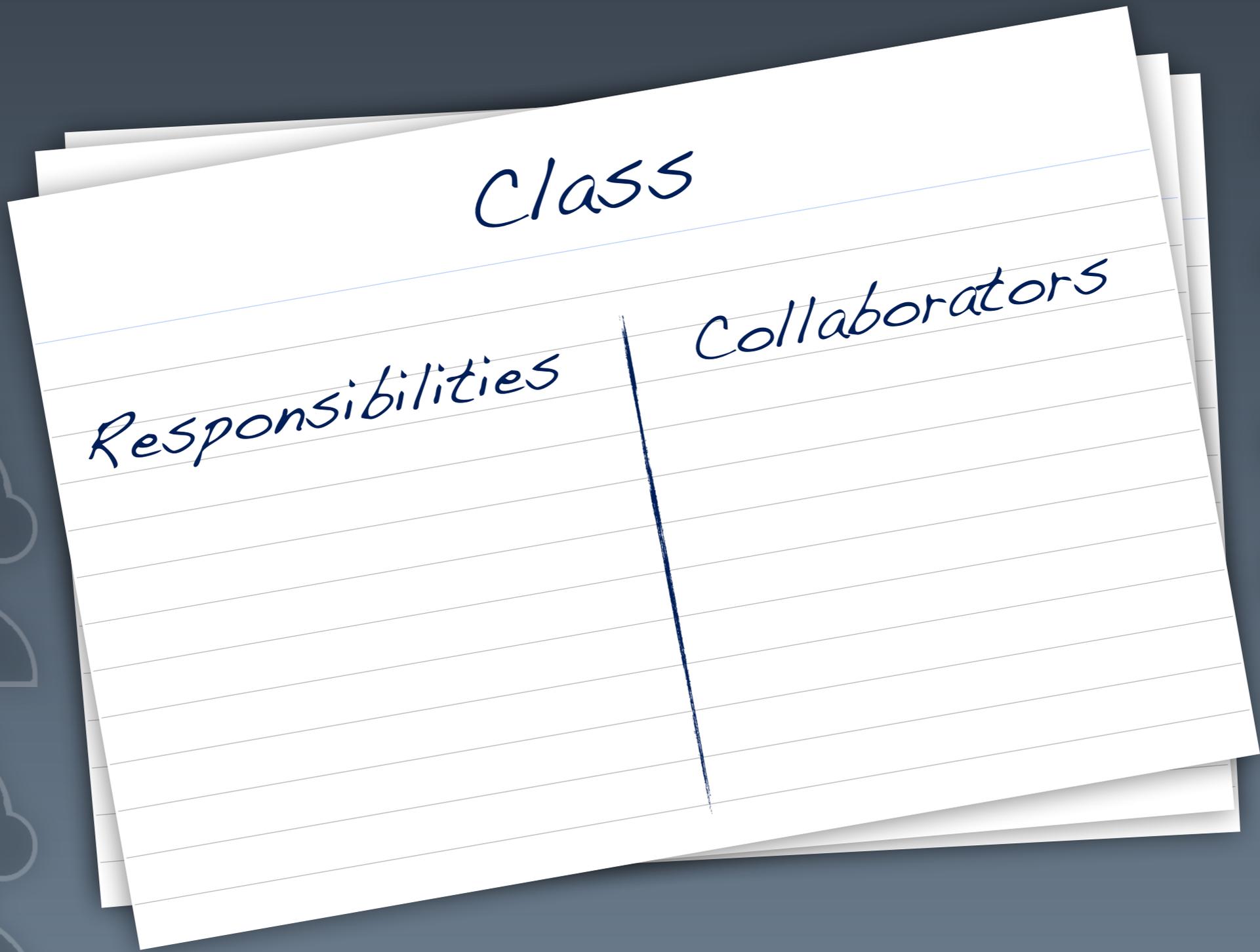
Most decomposition paradigms suggest breaking down a program into parts so as to minimize the static dependencies among those parts, and to maximize the **cohesiveness** of each part. Some popular decomposition paradigms are the procedural, modules, abstract data type and **object oriented** ones.

On the Criteria To Be Used in Decomposing Systems into Modules

D.L. Parnas
Carnegie-Mellon University

Expected Benefits of Modular Programming

The benefits expected of modular programming are: (1) managerial—development time should be shortened because separate groups would work on each module with little need for communication; (2) product flexibility—it should be possible to make drastic changes to one module without a need to change others; (3) comprehensibility—it should be possible to study the system one module at a time. The whole system can therefore be better designed because it is better understood.



Class

Responsibilities

Collaborators

Class-Responsibility-Collaboration

Components

~~Classes,~~

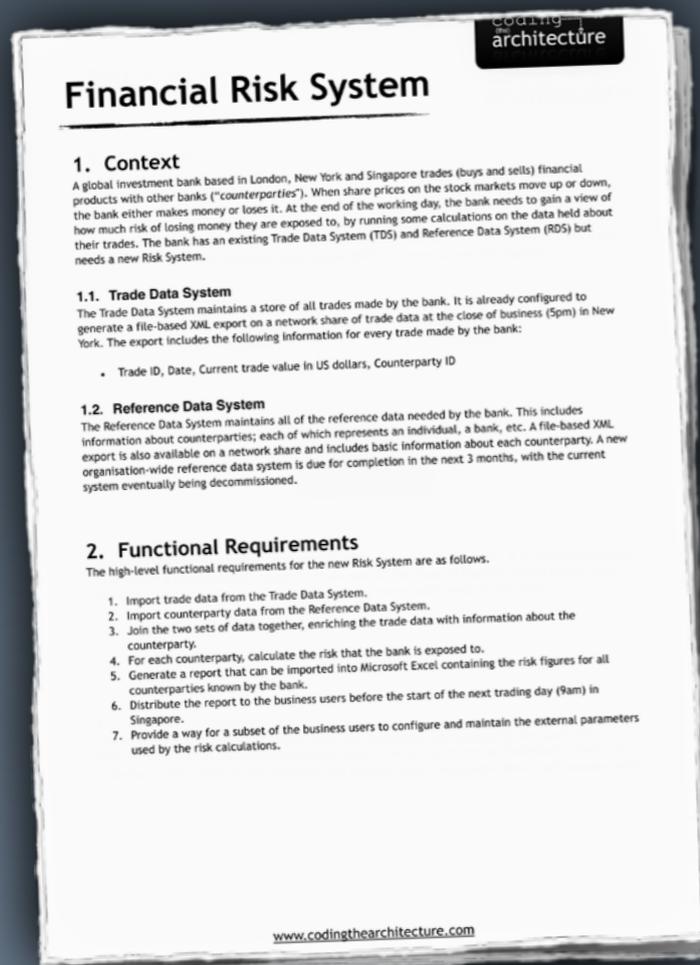
Responsibilities,

Collaborations

During my workshops, often groups draw a visual representation of the requirements and say,

“we’re done,
we’re agile”

“the solution is simple and can be built with any technology”



“we don't want to force a solution on developers”

“it's an implementation detail”

“we follow the ‘last responsible moment’ principle”

“software architecture should be technology independent”

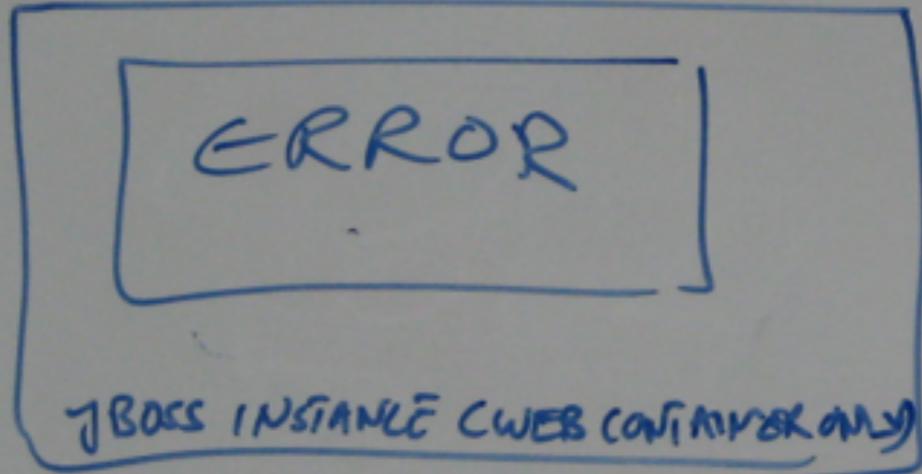
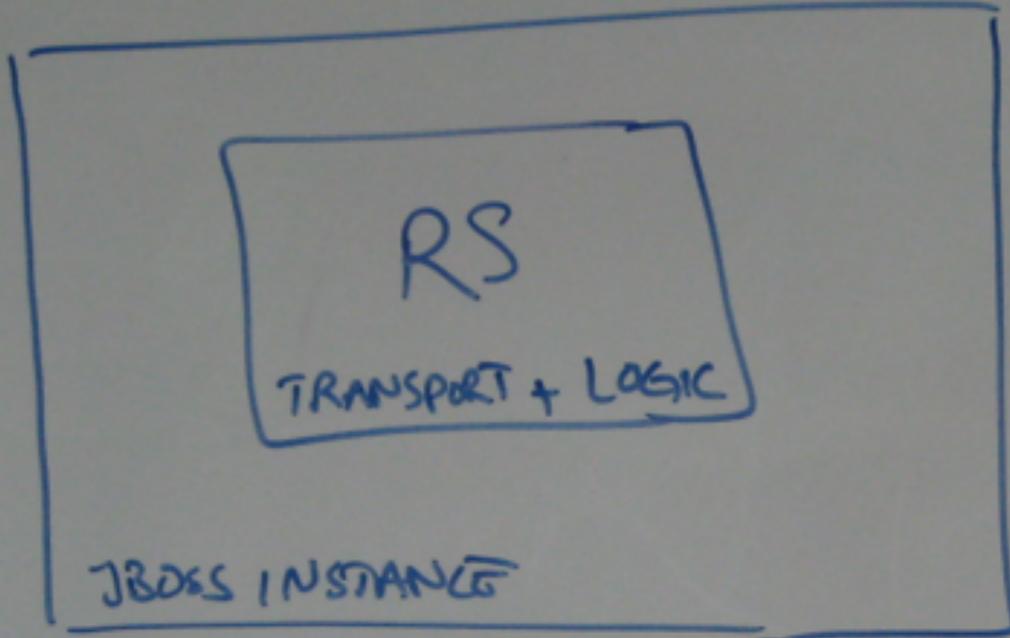
Decoupling
technology choices
is not the same as
deferring them

Technology is

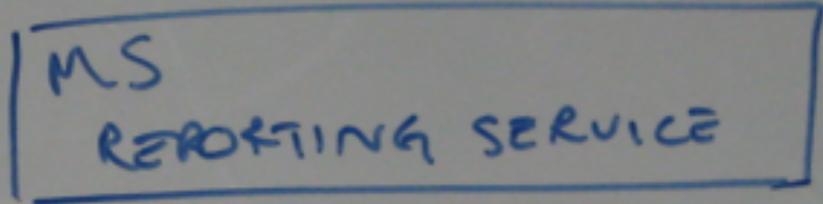
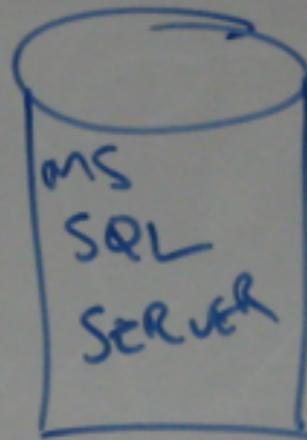
not

an “implementation detail”

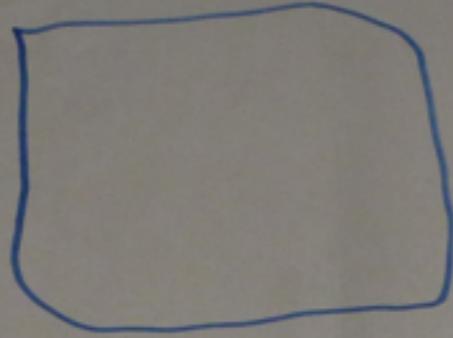
UNIX BOX



WINDOWS BOX



ASP
NET



LOGGING
SERVICE

PARAMETER
MANAGER

RISK
CALCULATION

REPORT
GENERATOR

DATA
IMPORT

AUDITING

VALIDATION

TDS

RDS

~~INTER~~
RISK
DATA

PARAMS

SECURITY

AUDIT

SERVER

FUNCTIONAL VIEW

File Retriever

Scheduler

Auditing

Reference
Archiver

Risk Assessment
Processor

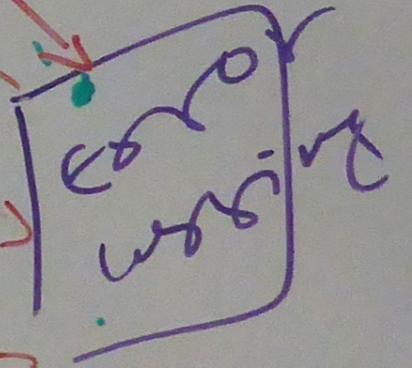
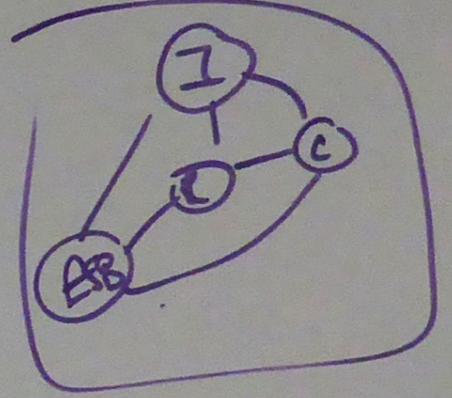
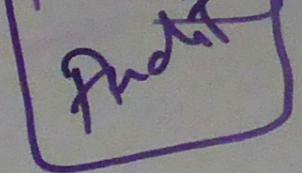
Risk Parameter
Configuration

Trade
Archiver

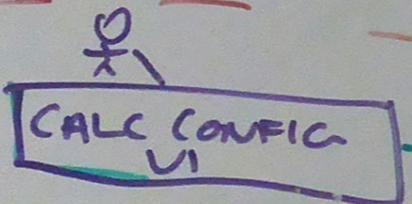
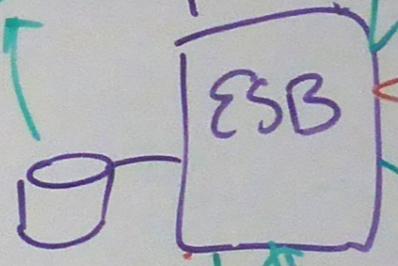
Report
Generator

Report
Distributor

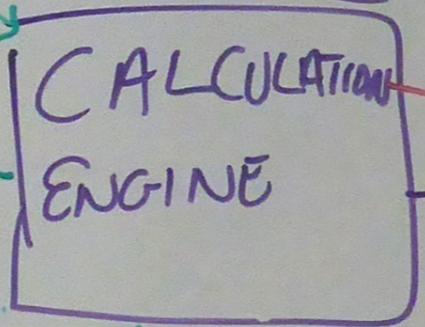
APP SERVER



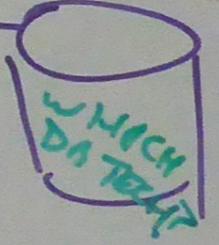
PUBLISHER
Event Store



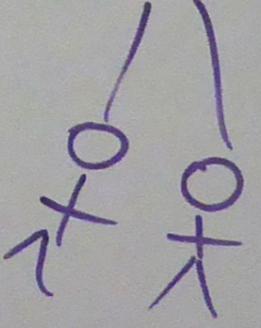
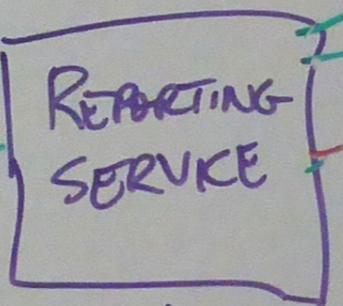
WEB SERVER



APP SERVER



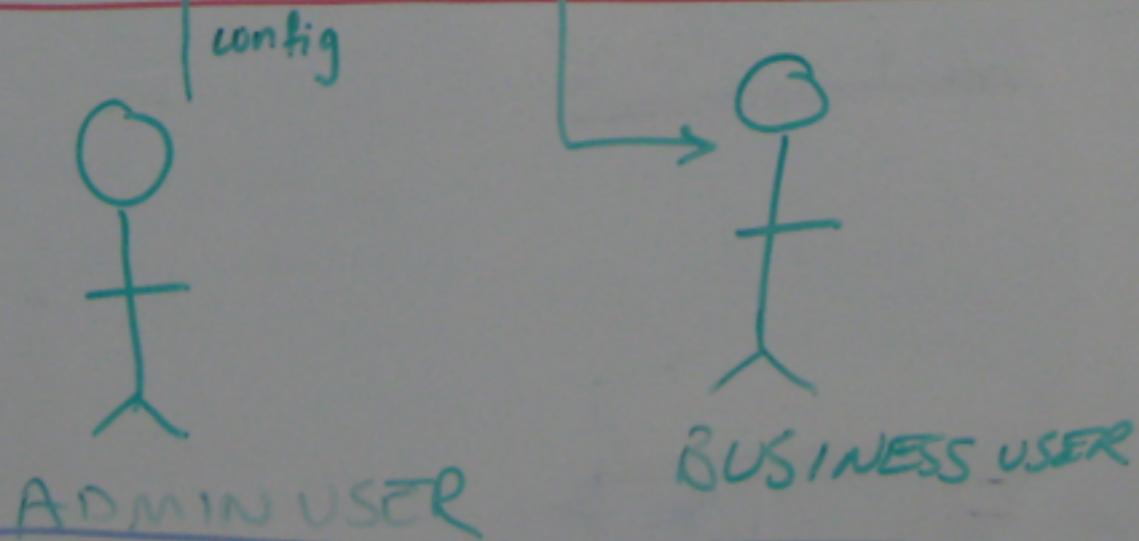
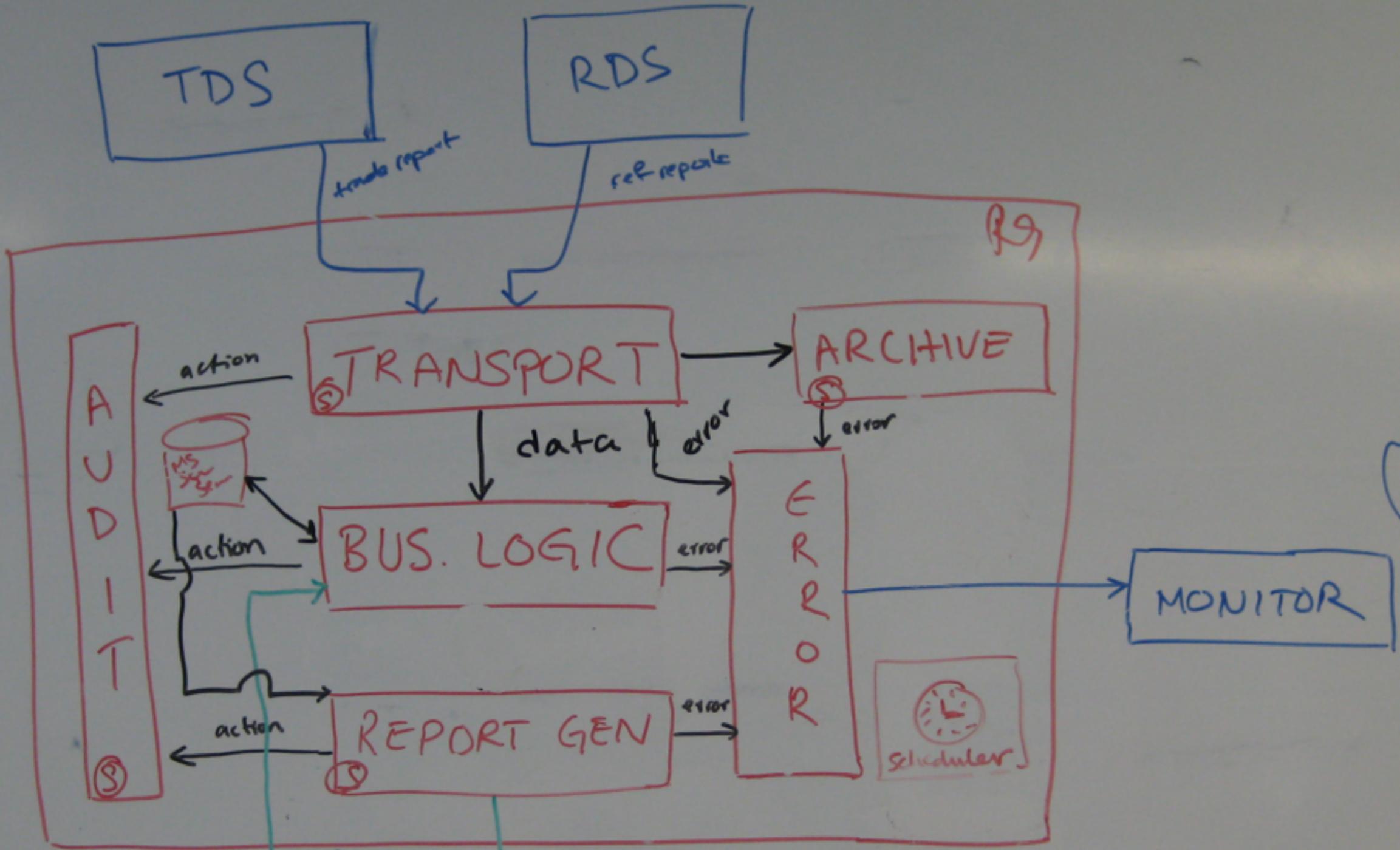
WEB SERVER

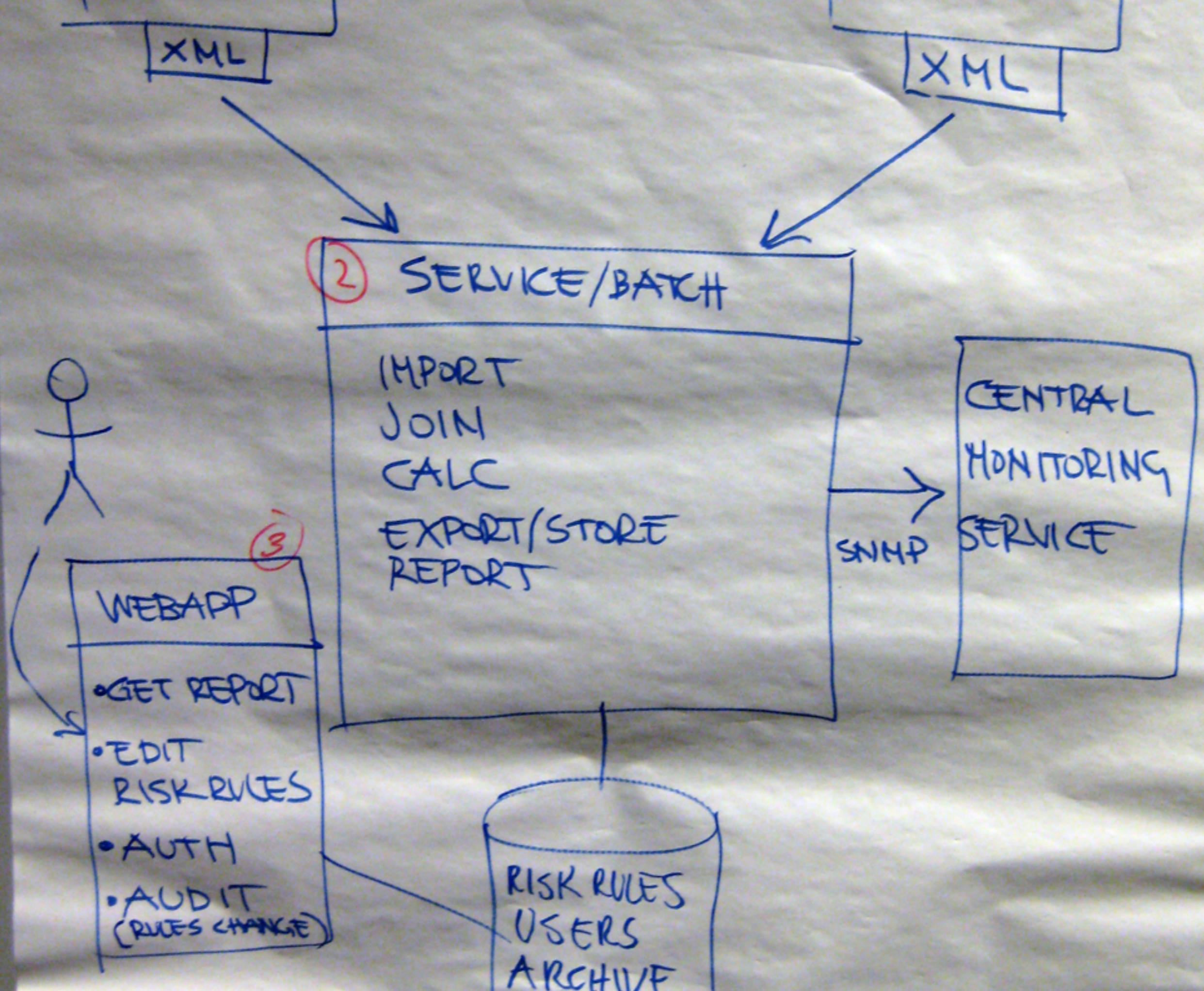


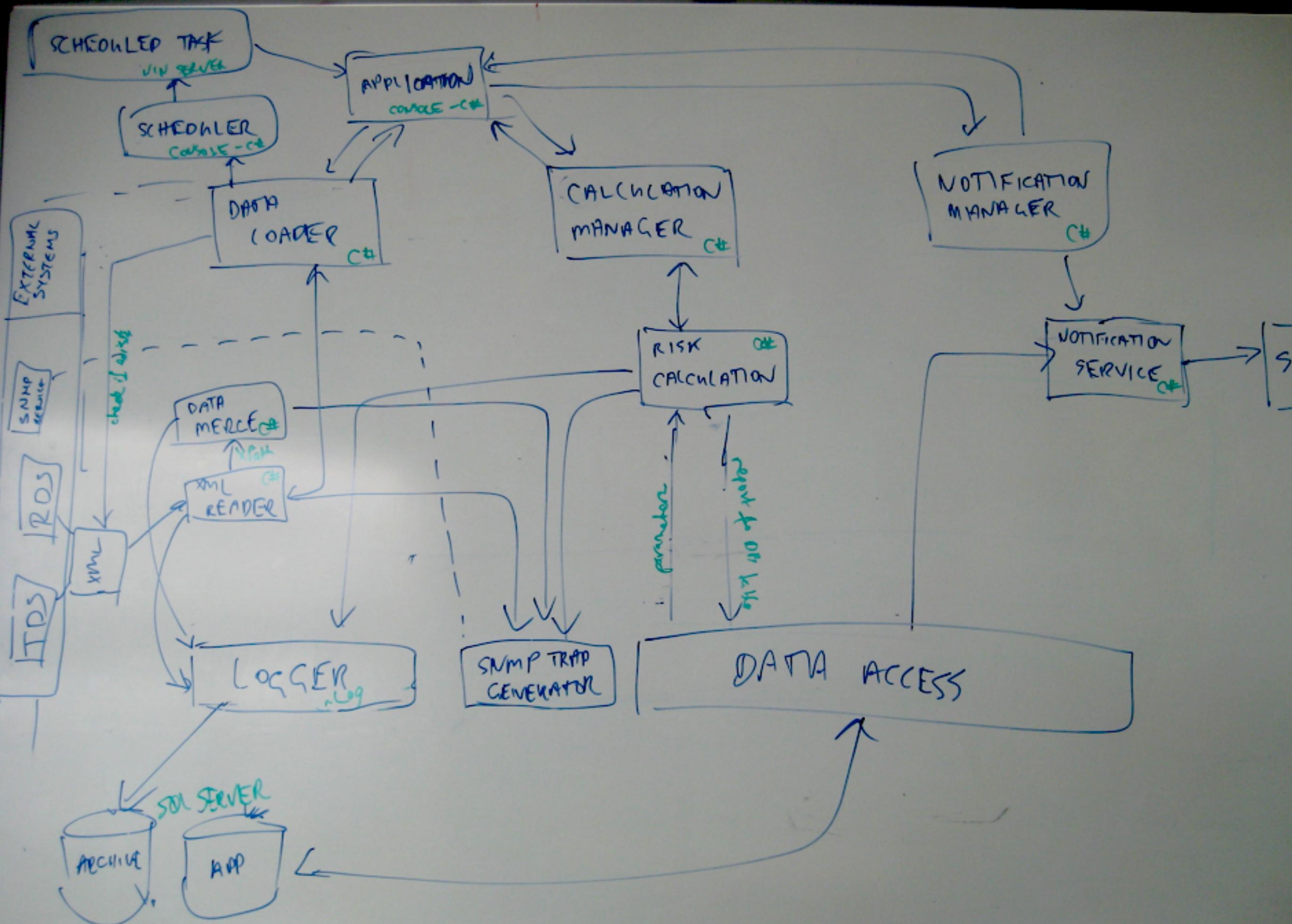
CENTRAL MONITORING SERVICE

4

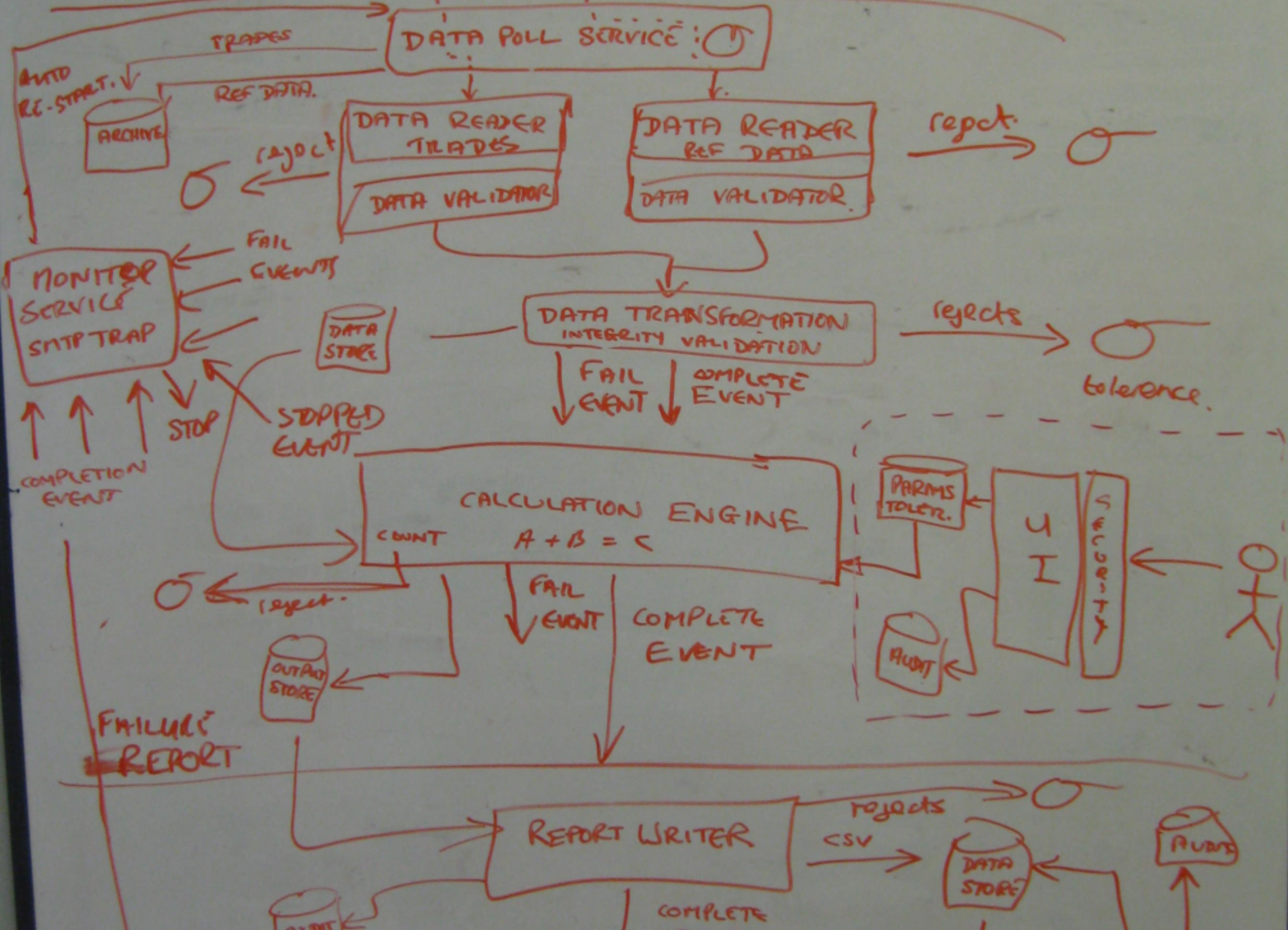
Handwritten notes on sticky notes.

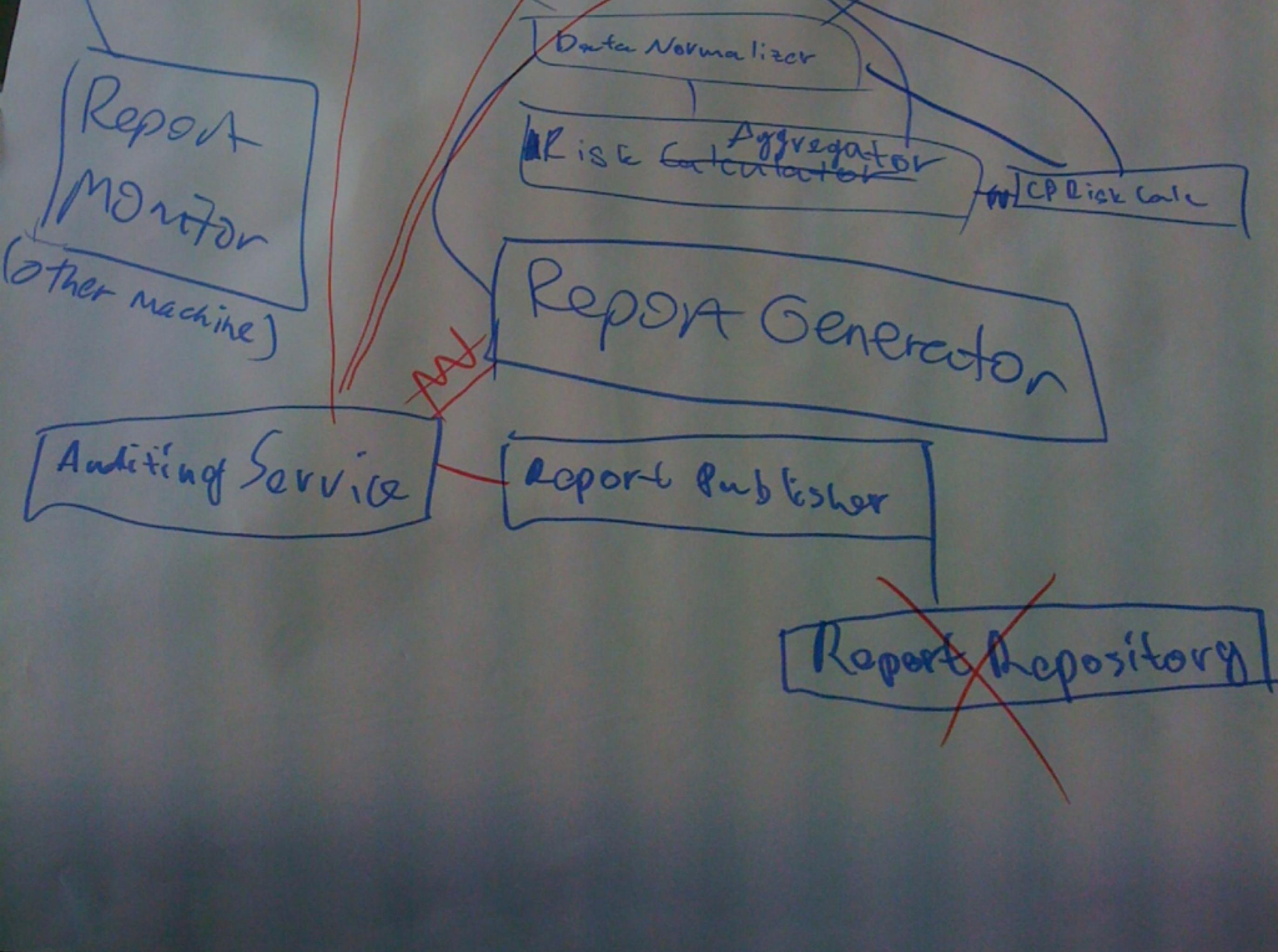




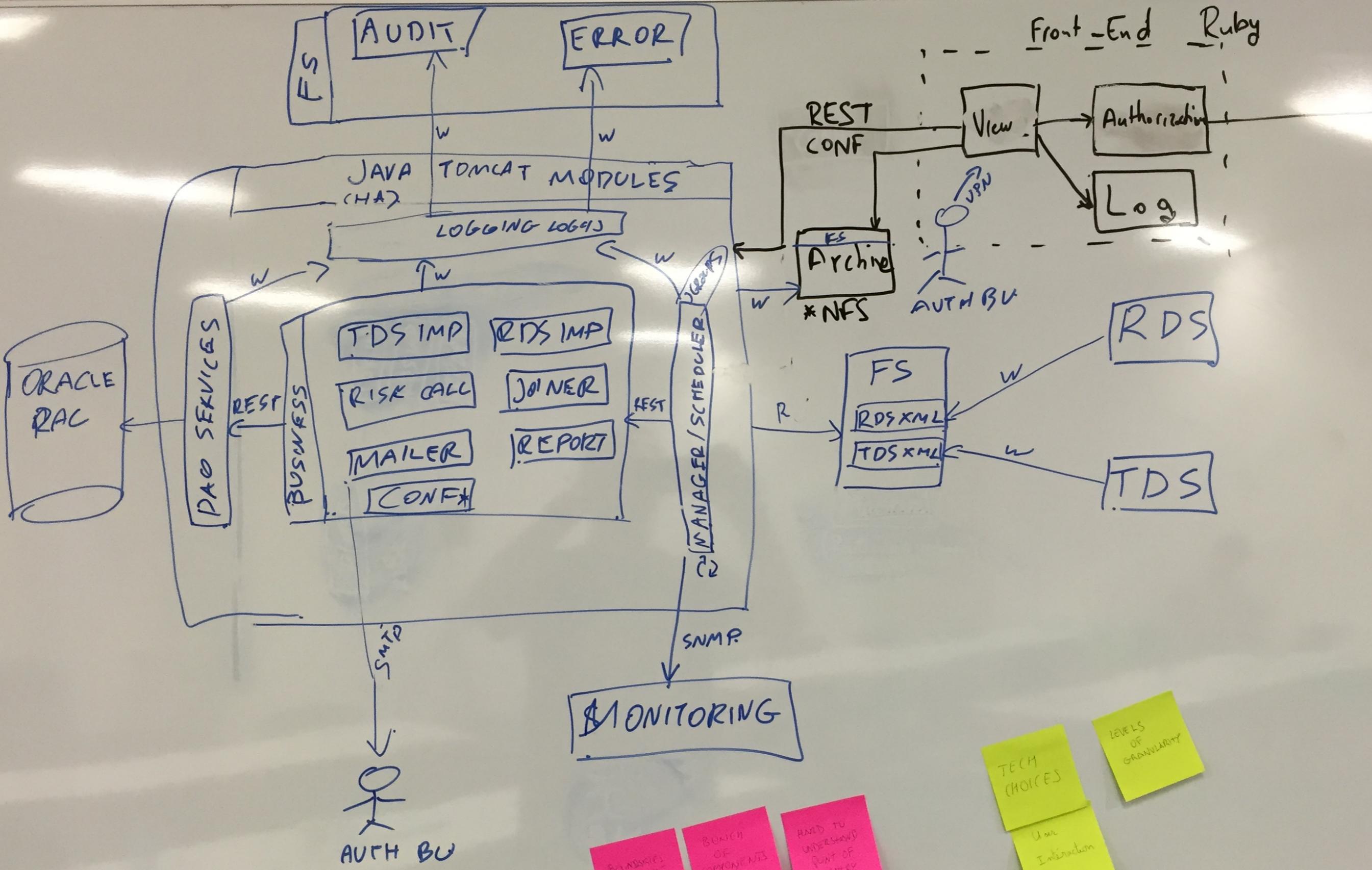


PHYSICAL SECURITY



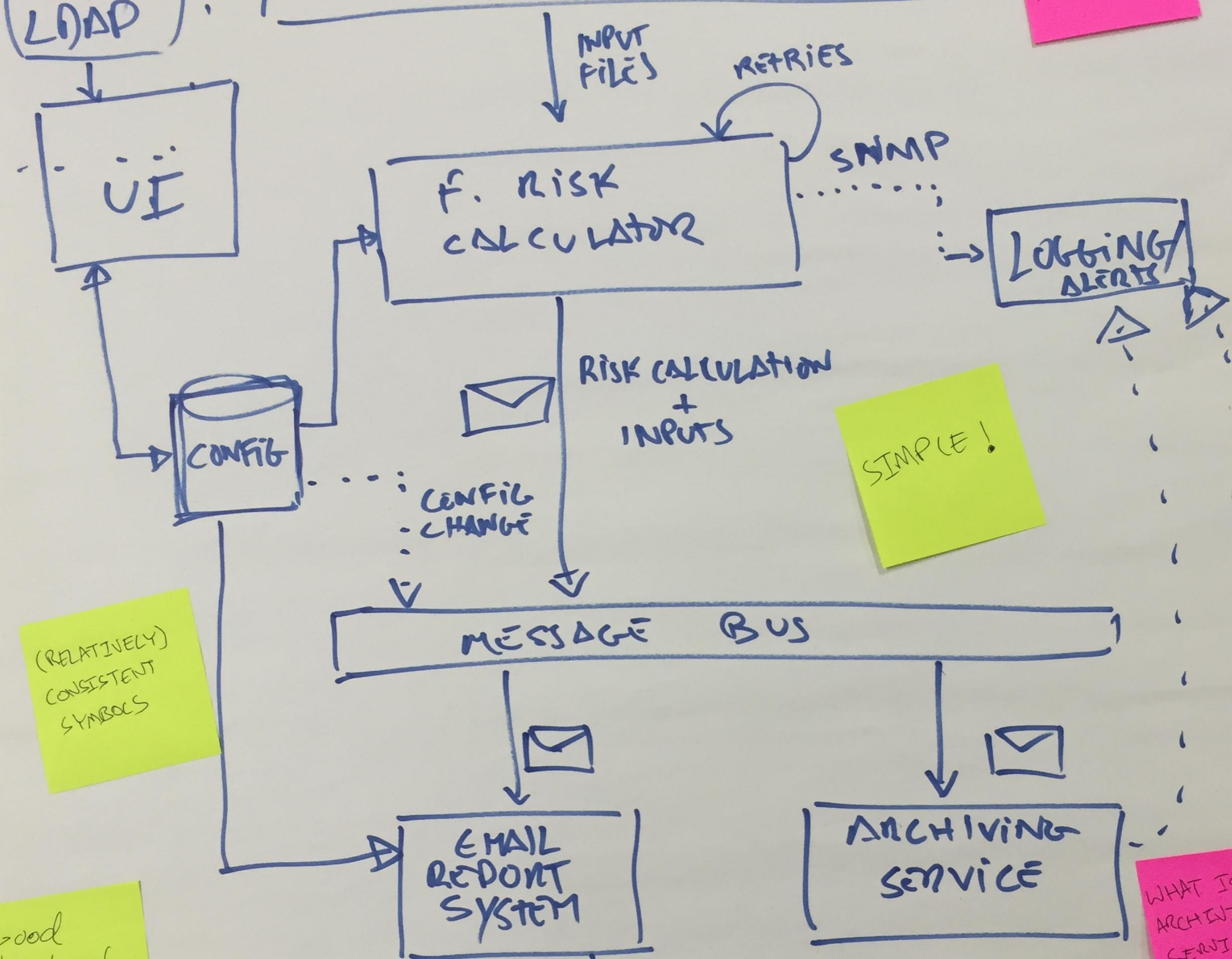






BOUNDARY OF THE SYSTEM
 BUNCH OF COMPONENTS INTERACTIONS
 HARD TO UNDERSTAND POINT OF ENTRY

TECH CHOICES
 User Interaction
 LEVELS OF GRANULARITY



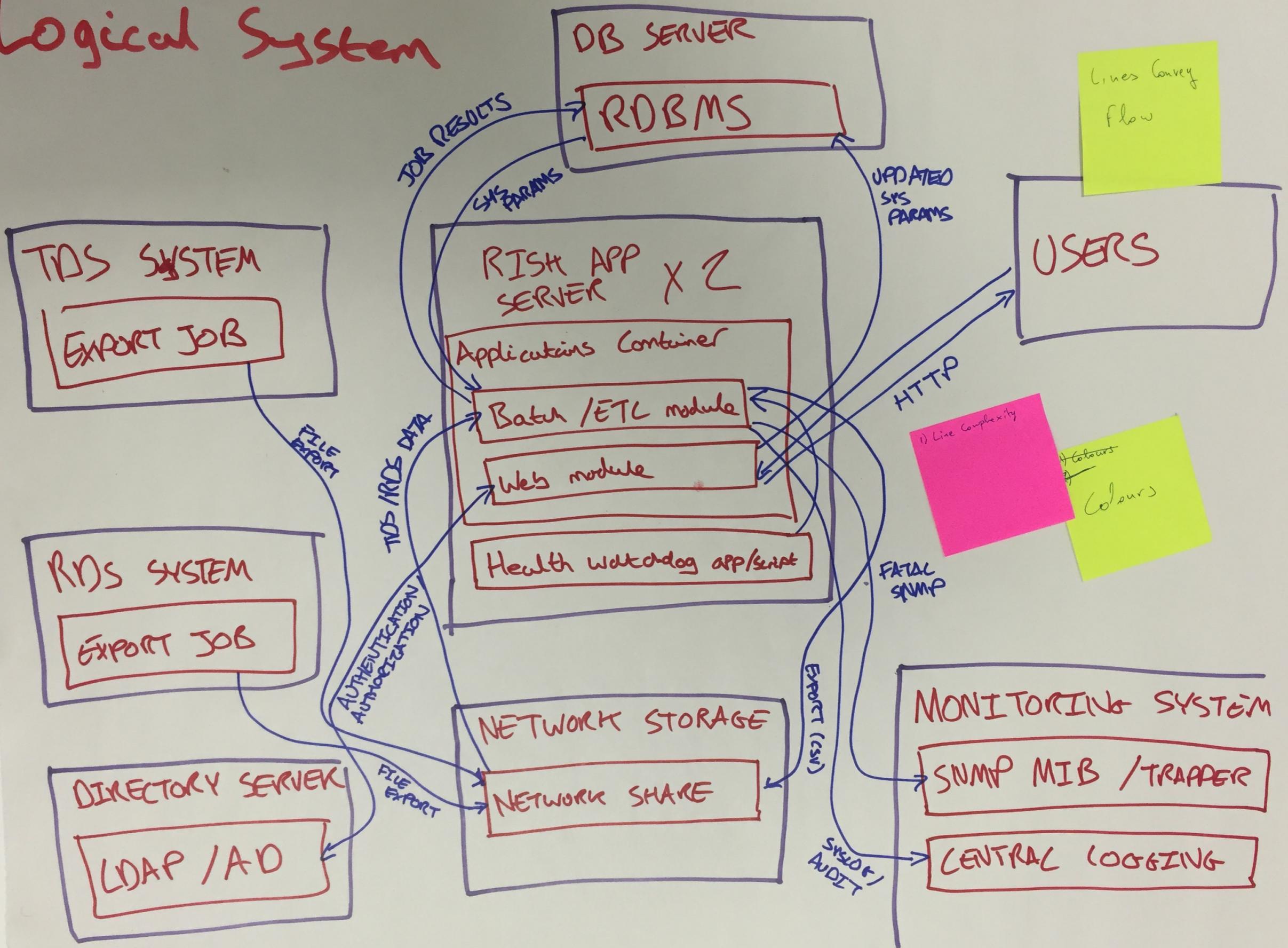
(RELATIVELY) CONSISTENT SYMBOLS

SIMPLE!

Good level of detail

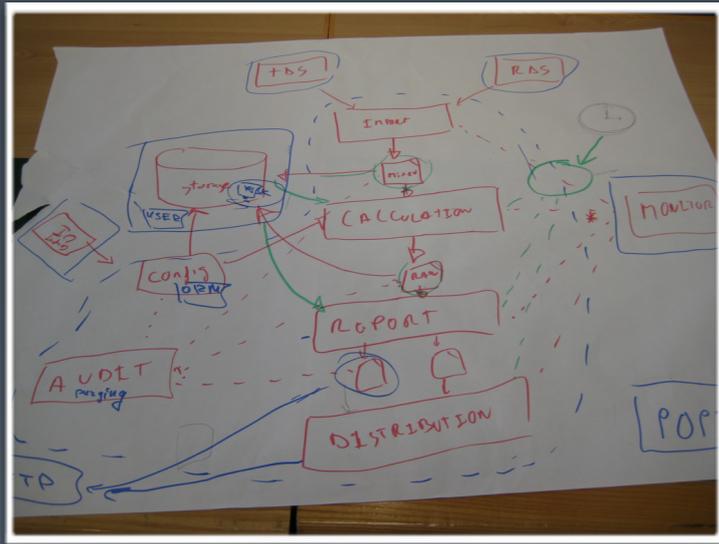
WHAT IS THE ARCHIVING SERVICE ARCHIVING TO?

Logical System



The diagram
isn't self-evident,
but we'll explain it





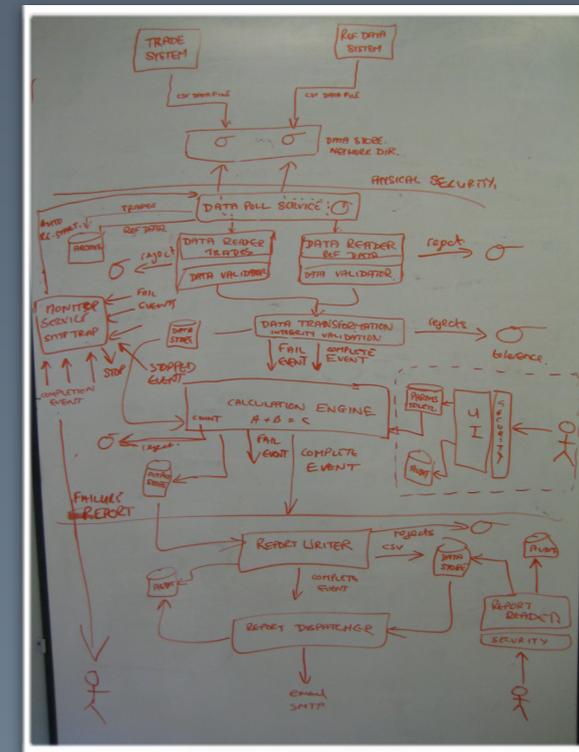
Team 1



Team 1



Team 2



Team 2

What does
colour
mean?

NO ANNOTATION
ON FLOWS

SHOULD USE
MORE
COLORS

Post Its
CAN FALL
OFF

Objects vs
actions

MIXES
DIFFERENT
LEVELS OF
DETAIL

NOT SURE OF
TRANSITION
BETWEEN
DIFFERENT
DIAGRAMS -

CONFLICTING
LEVELS OF
DETAIL IN
PRESENTATION

~~Meaning of different arrows~~
What about
the different
arrows?

What
shapes
mean

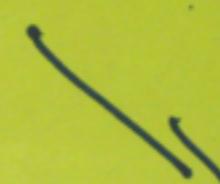
WHY ARE
SOME
LINES
PINK?
what are the pink lines?
- represent (delete/control?)
- clear system boundary!

WHAT DO
THE SHAPE
MEAN?

UML IS GOOD,
BUT NOT
EVERYONE KNOWS
IT

WHAT DO
LINES RE-
PRESENT?
(DATA? CONTROL
DEP.?)

What's the
DB-like
icon?

Not sure 
what this
IS 

DIFFERENT
LEVELS IN
SAME
DIAGRAM

ARE THE
ARROWS THE
RIGHT WAY
ROUND?

Challenging?

Level of detail

↳ where to stop

Who is the audience - different backgrounds

Implementation

- easy to get bogged down in detail

Type of diagrams

Notation

Documenting assumptions

⑦ Challenging

Needed to ask questions / make assumptions

Temptation to focus on detail

↳ when do we stop?

How much detail?

Talked about more than the diagrams

What notation? - boxes
- arrows

⑩ Challenging?

Verifying our own assumptions

Expressing the solution

- communicating it in a clear way

- use of notation

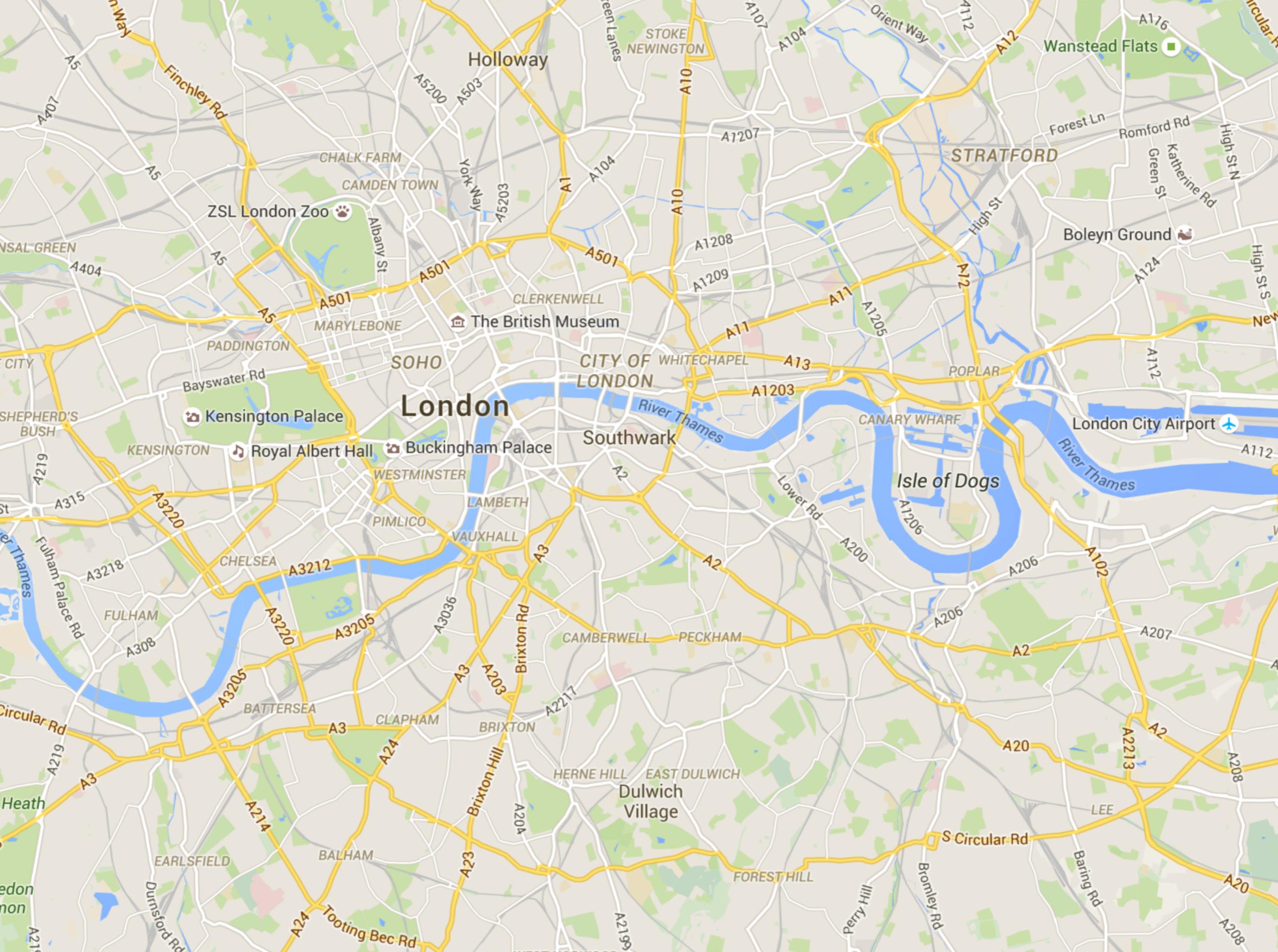
- easy to mix levels of abstraction

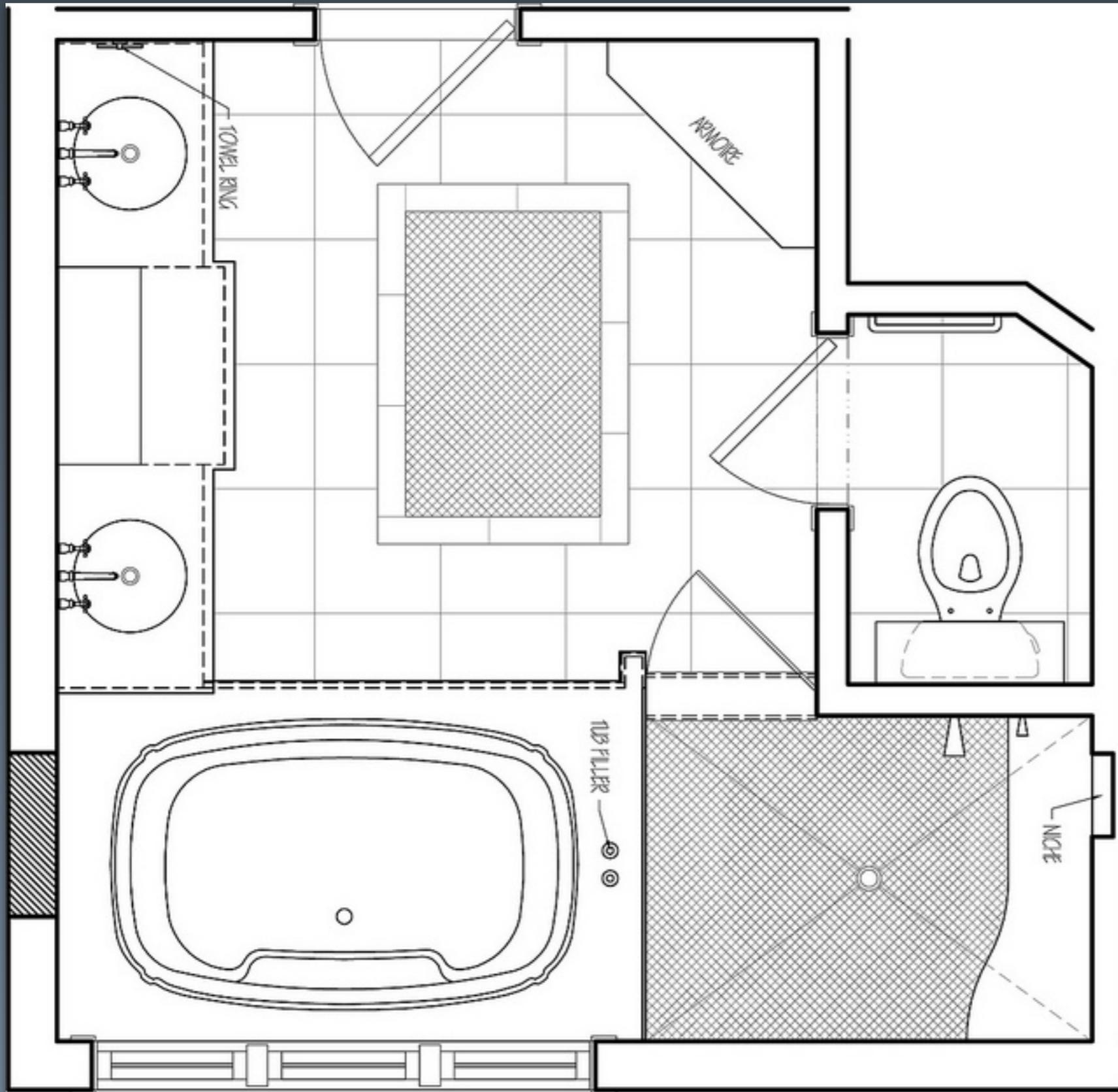
- how much detail?

What's been challenging about the exercise?

Moving fast in the
same direction
requires good
communication

As an industry, **we lack a**
common vocabulary
with which to think about, describe
and communicate software architecture





Floor plans

Circuit diagrams

(pictorial or schematic)

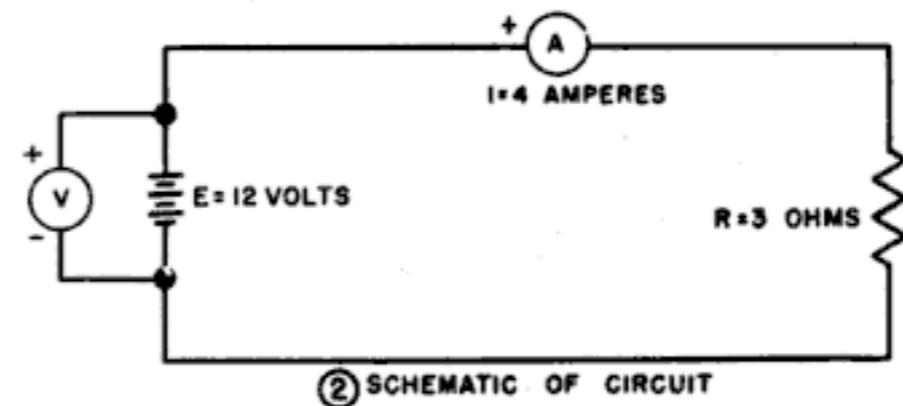
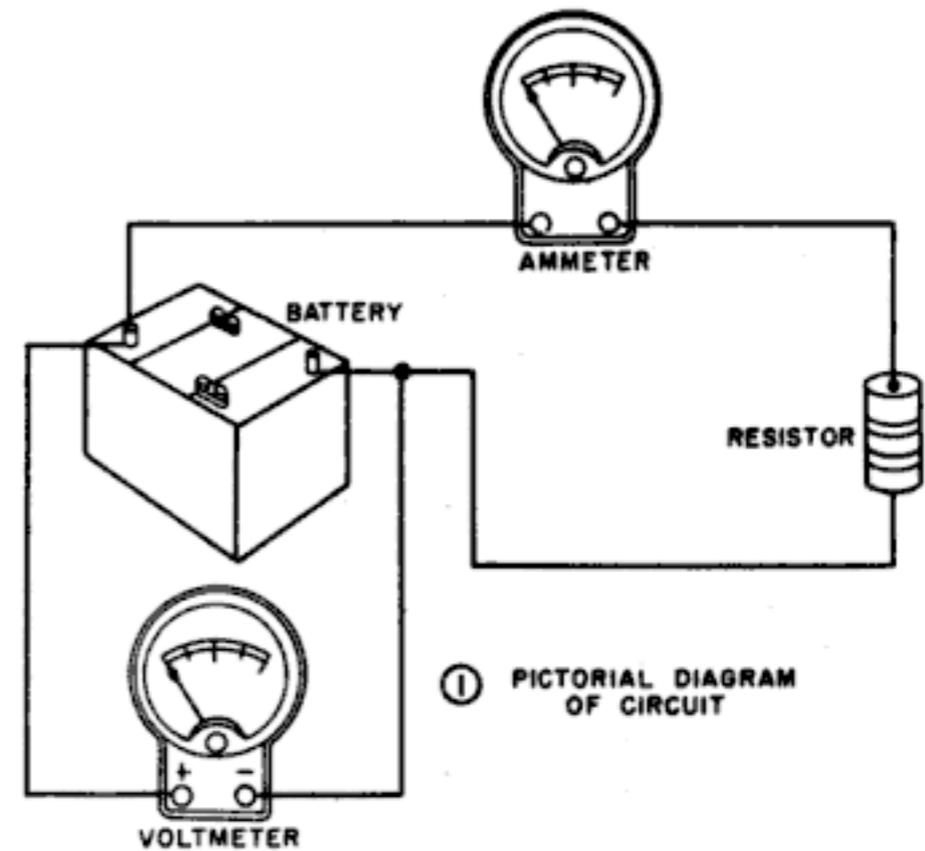
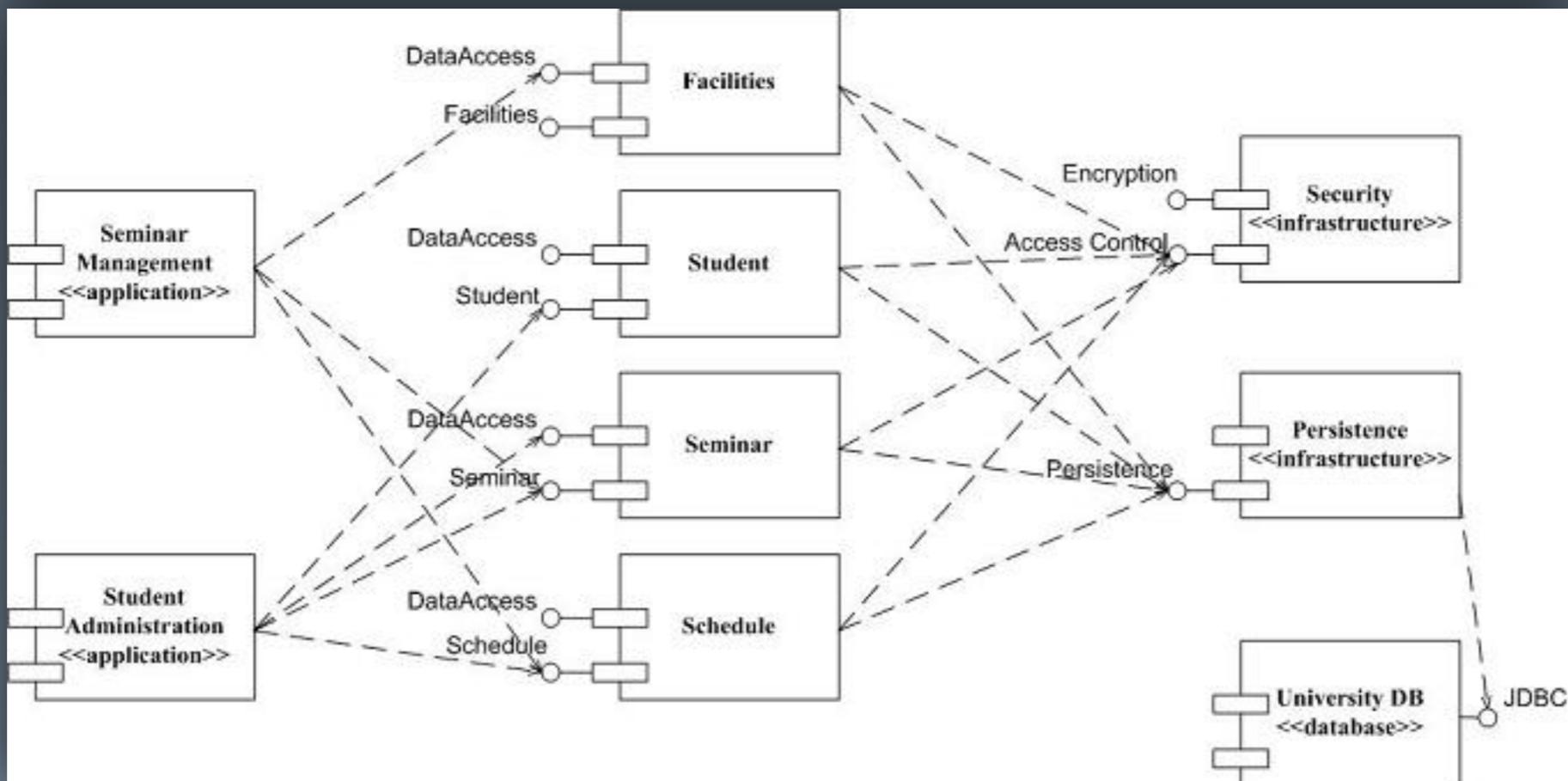
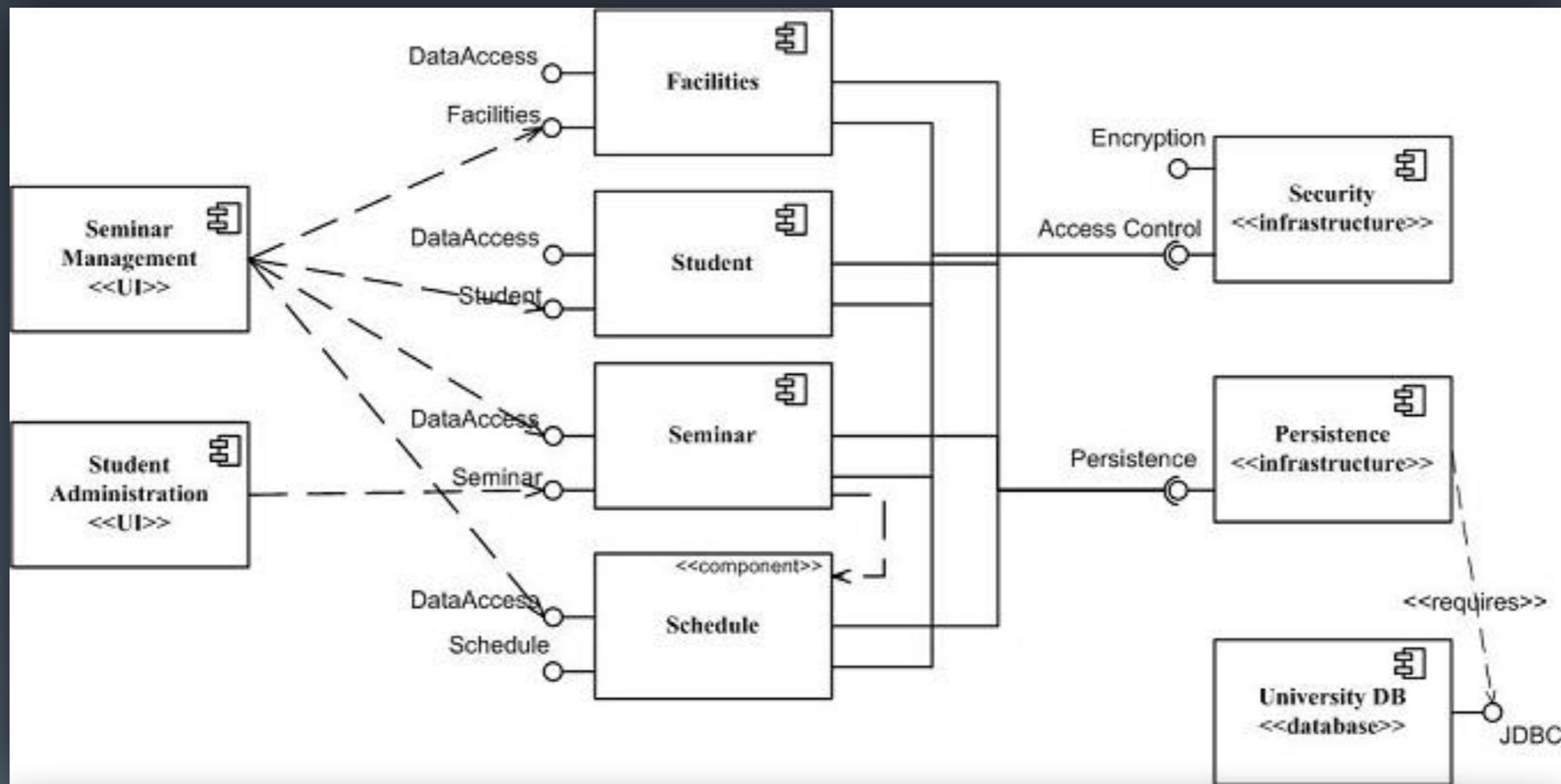
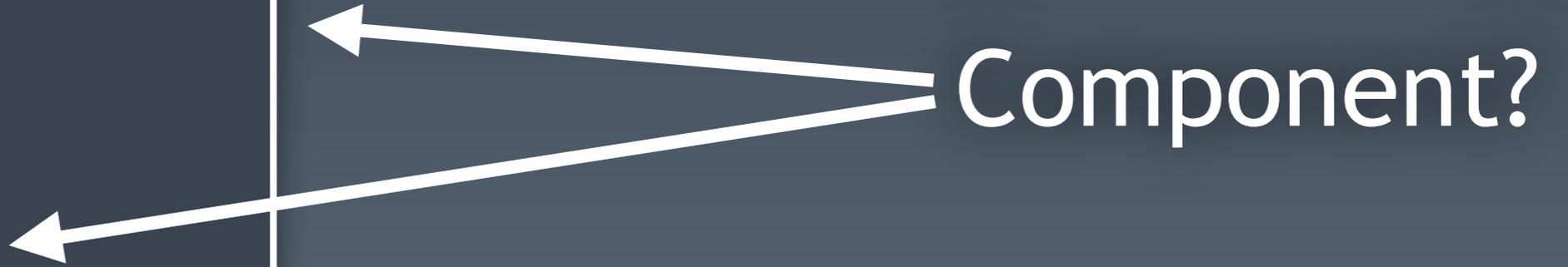
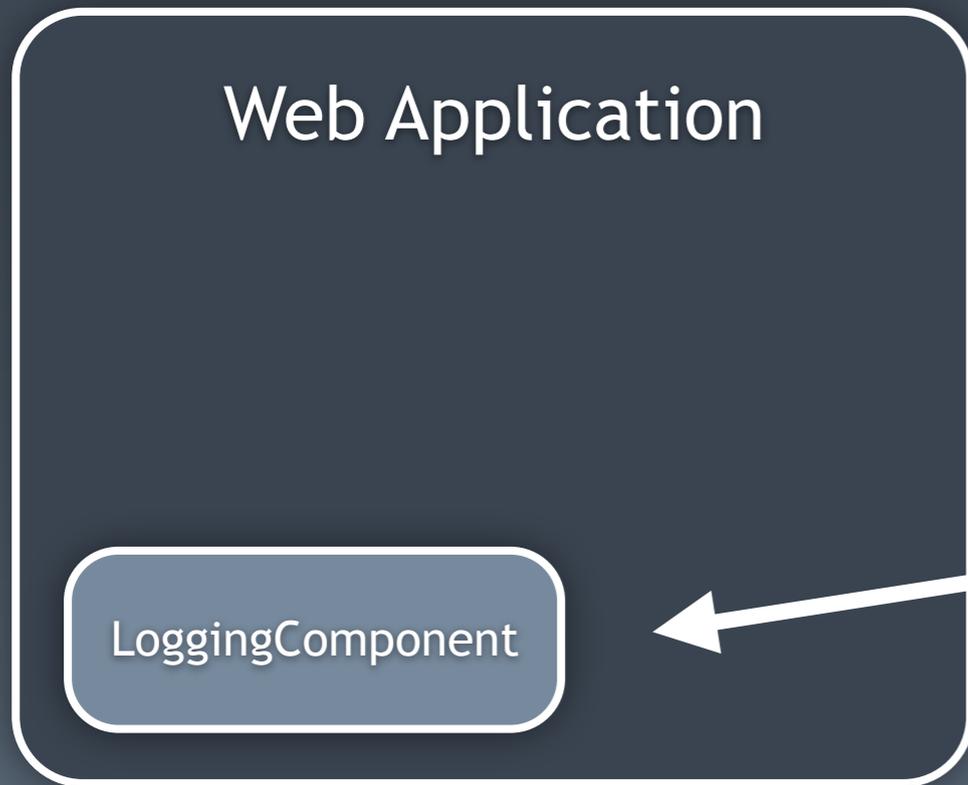


Figure 48. Diagram of a basic circuit.





¹ component

noun | com·po·nent | \kəm-'pō-nənt, 'käm-, kām-'

Simple Definition of COMPONENT

Popularity: Top 30% of words

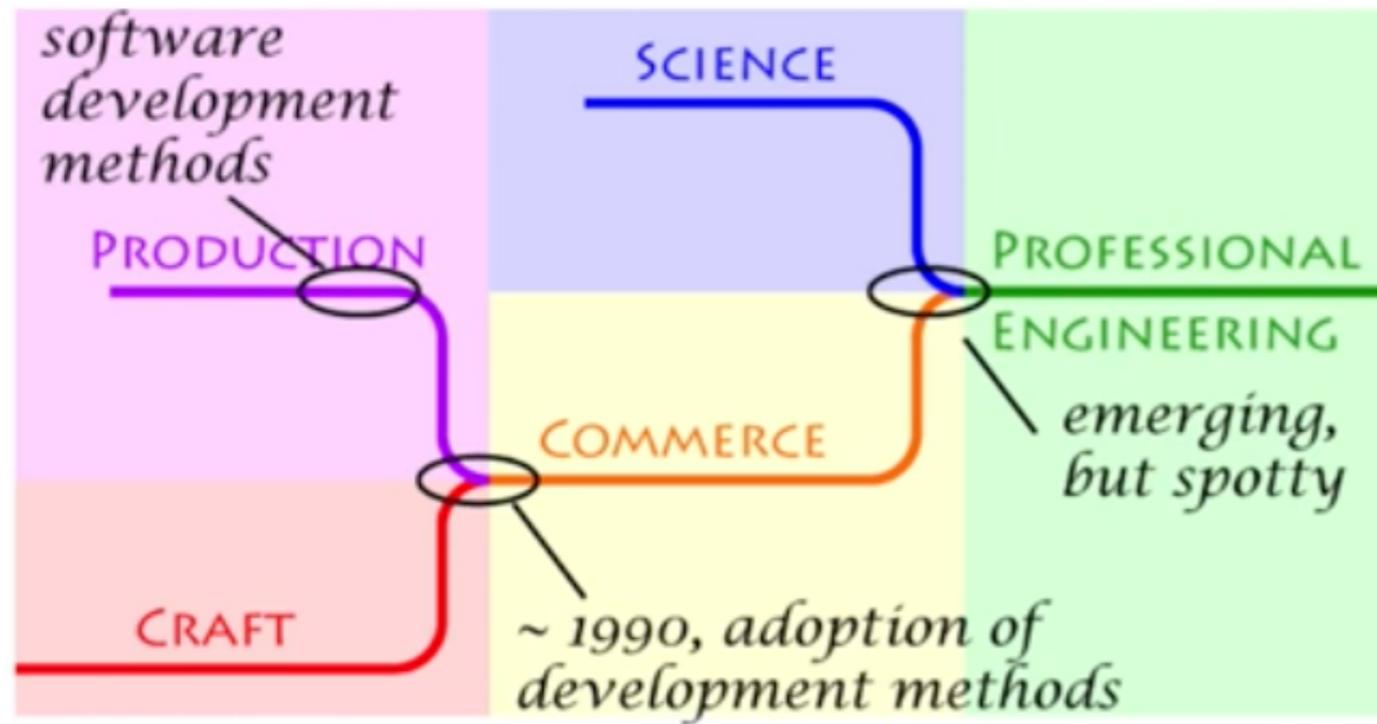
: one of the parts of something (such as a system or mixture) : an important piece of something

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

Ubiquitous language

Software development
is like

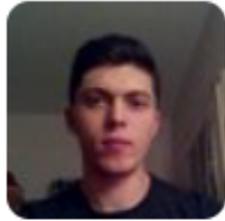
\$ { metaphor }



▶ ⏩ 🔊 45:01 / 54:25

CC ⚙️ 📺 🗉

GOTO 2015 • Progress Toward an Engineering Discipline of Software • Mary Shaw



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I don't know why do we learn about **#SSADM** methodology at the University. It's a very old waterfall technique with unnecessary documentation.

7:48 PM - 15 May 2016



<https://twitter.com/dominikfoldi/status/731919147613949952>

Who is teaching the classics of the pre-*agile* era?



Ensure you understand

the **value** of

the techniques you use

Do whatever works for

you

Let's **learn** from
past **experience**
rather than ignoring it



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