

Agile software architecture

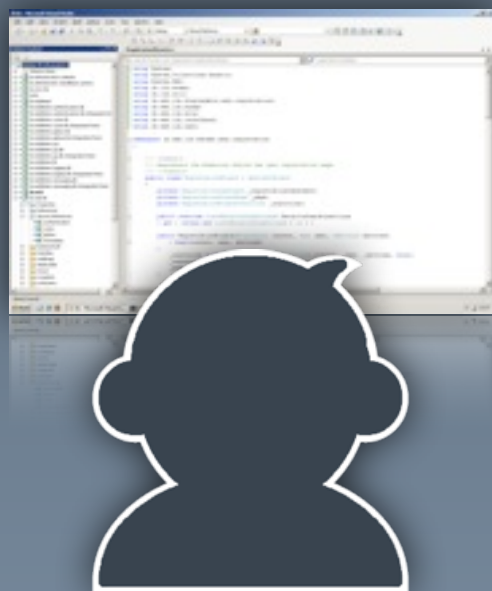
sketches



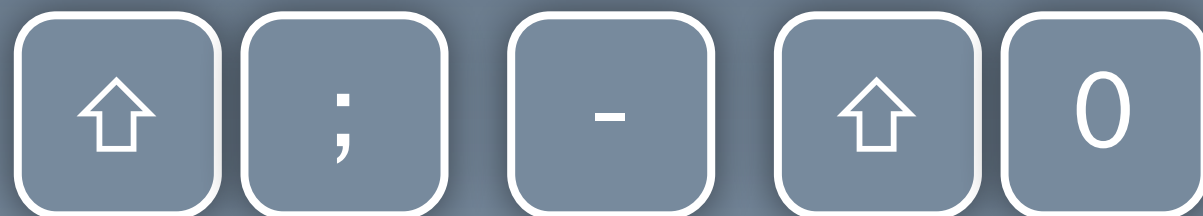
Simon Brown
@simonbrown



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



I code too



Software architecture needs to be more accessible



Training

In-house and public courses



Book

leanpub.com



Speaking

Conferences and user groups

What is architecture?

Requirements

Foundations

Infrastructure
Services

As a noun...

Structure

*The definition of
something in terms of
its components and
interactions*

As a verb...

Vision

*The process of architecting,
making design decisions,
providing guidance, etc*

Architecture vs design

Architecture represents the
significant decisions,
where significance is measured
by **cost of change**.



Grady Booch

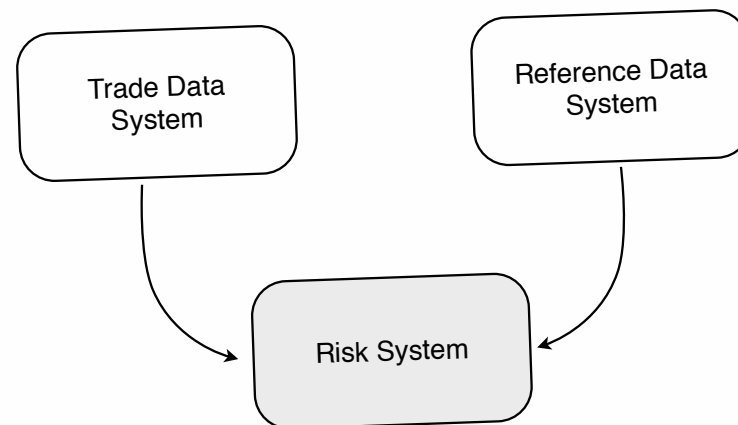
*Can you **refactor**
it in an afternoon?*

Risk System

coding
{the}
architecture

1. Context

A global investment bank based in London, New York and Singapore trades (buys and sells) financial products with other banks (counterparties). When share prices on the stock markets move up or down, the bank either makes money or loses it. At the end of the working day, the bank needs to gain a view of how much risk they are exposed to (e.g. of losing money) by running some calculations on the data held about their trades. The bank has an existing Trade Data System (TDS) and Reference Data System (RDS) but need a new Risk System.



1.1. Trade Data System

The Trade Data System maintains a store of all trades made by the bank. It is already configured to generate a file-based XML export of trade data at the close of business (5pm) in New York. The export includes the following information for every trade made by the bank:

- Trade ID
- Date
- Current trade value in US dollars
- Counterparty ID

1.2. Reference Data System

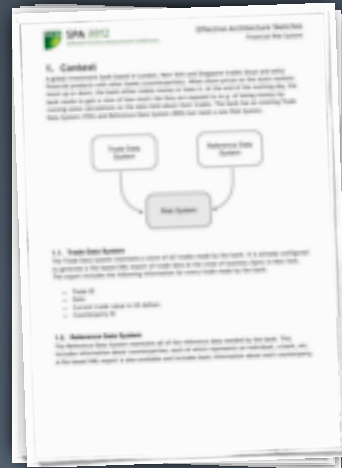
The Reference Data System maintains all of the reference data needed by the bank. This includes information about counterparties; each of which represents an individual, a bank, etc. A file-based XML export is also available and includes basic information about each counterparty.

Financial risk system

Iteration 1 (~90 minutes)



Groups of 2-4

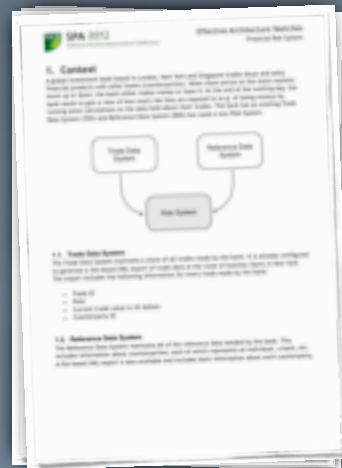


Requirements

Iteration 2 (~90 minutes)



Groups of 2-4



Requirements



Feedback and guidance

What's been **challenging**
about the exercise so far?



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?

People expect to present their designs and therefore

**information is still
stuck in their heads**



Review _{the} diagrams

*3 things we like
about the diagrams*

*3 things we think would
improve the diagrams*



improve

what does
colour
mean?

objects vs
actions

what
shapes
mean

Lack of sheep
hearts, colour etc

NO ANNOTATION
ON FLOWS

SHOULD USE
MORE
COLORS

Post Its
can fall
off

MIXES
DIFFERENT
LEVELS OF
DETAIL

NOT SURE OF
TRANSITION
BETWEEN
DIFFERENT
DIAGRAMS -

CONFLICTING
LEVELS OF
DETAIL IN
PRESENTATION



What about
the different
arrows?

WHY ARE
SOME
LINES
PINK?

WHAT DO
THE SHAPE
MEAN?

UML IS GOOD,
BUT NOT
EVERYONE KNOWS
IT

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

Not sure 
what this
IS 

DIFFERENT
LEVELS IN
SAME
DIAGRAM

ARE THE
ARROWS THE
RIGHT WAY
ROUND?

Who here uses **UML**
on a **regular basis?**



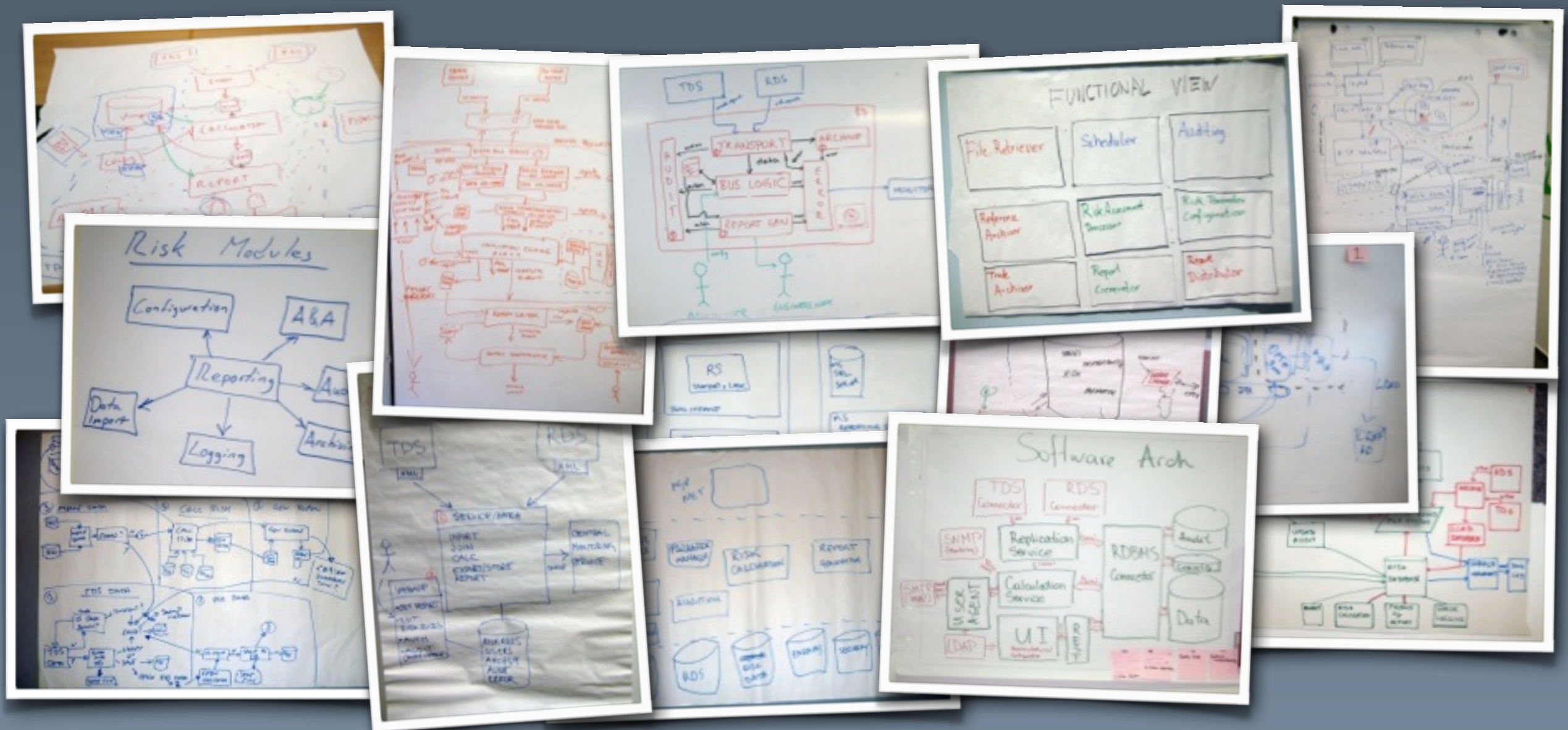


9 out of 10 people
don't use UML

(in my experience)

NOUML

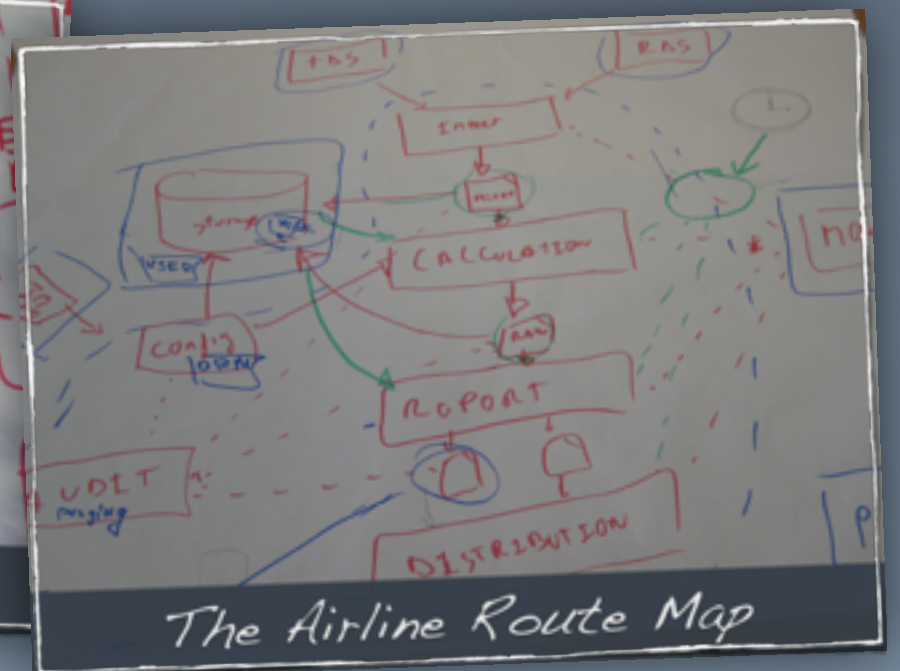
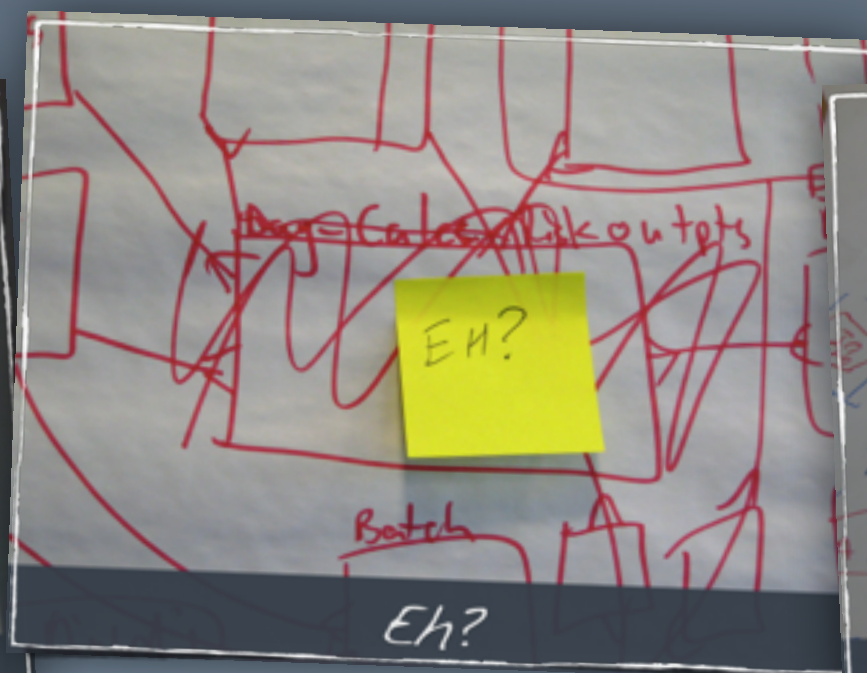
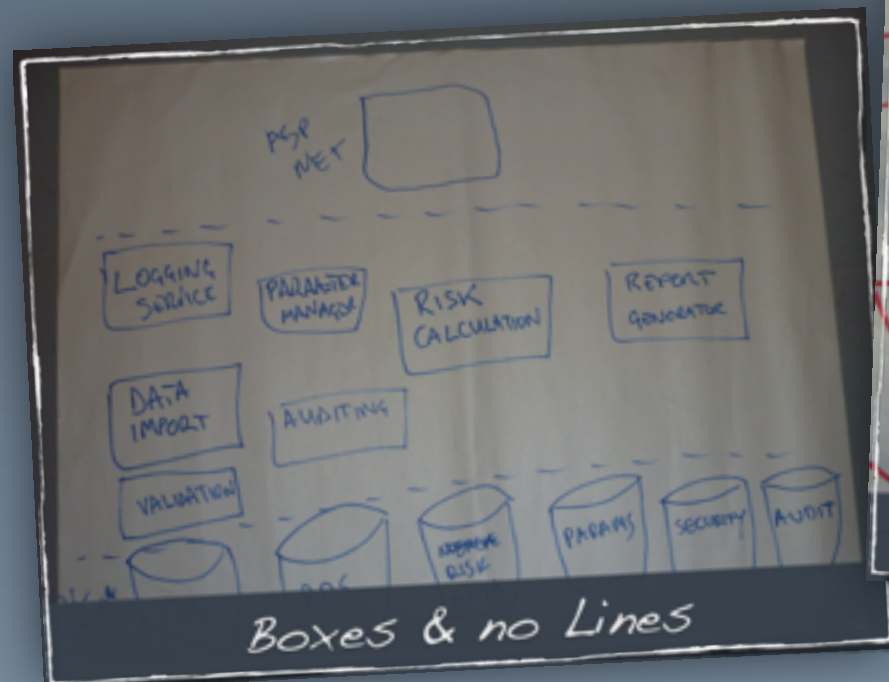
diagrams?



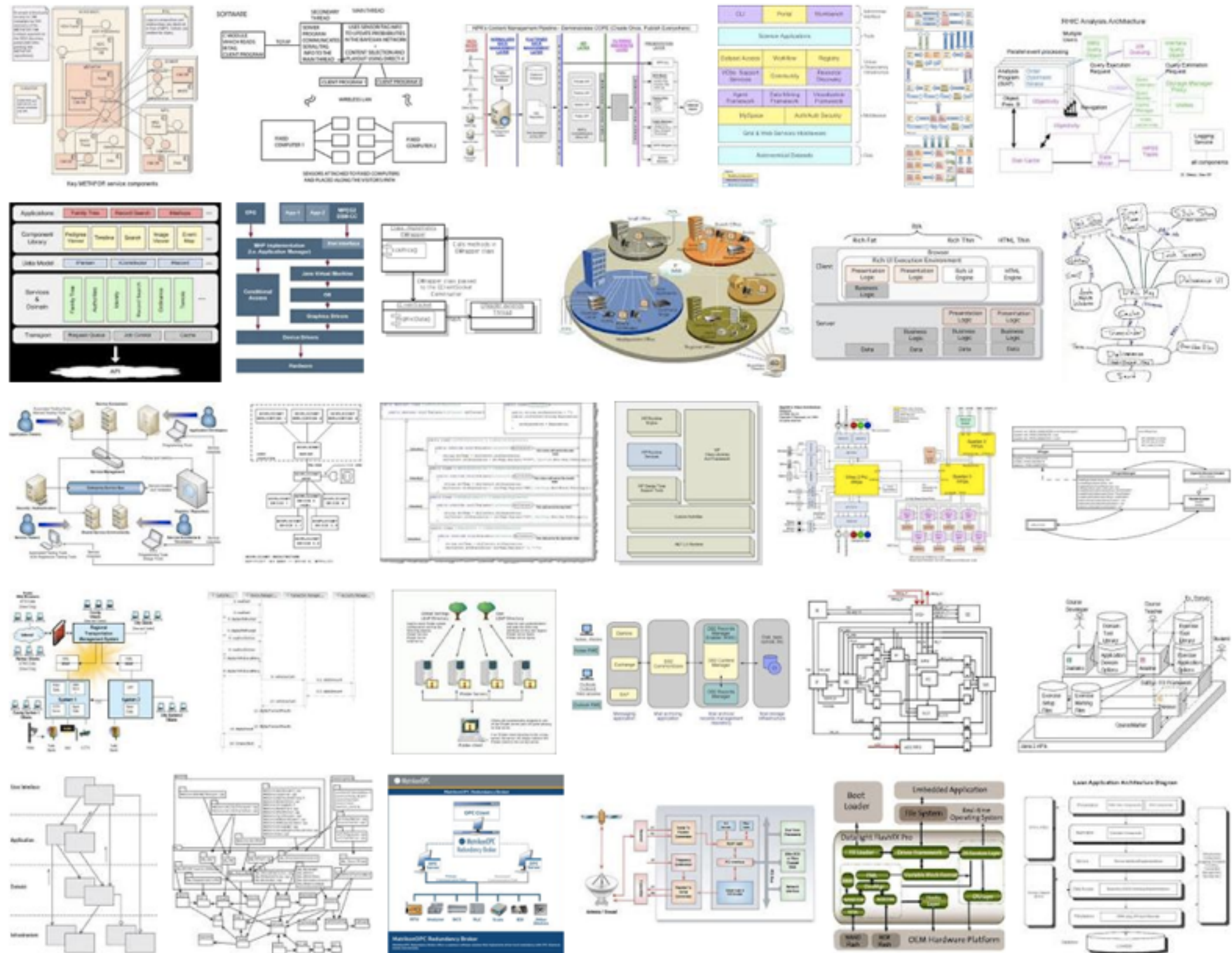
We can visualise our process...

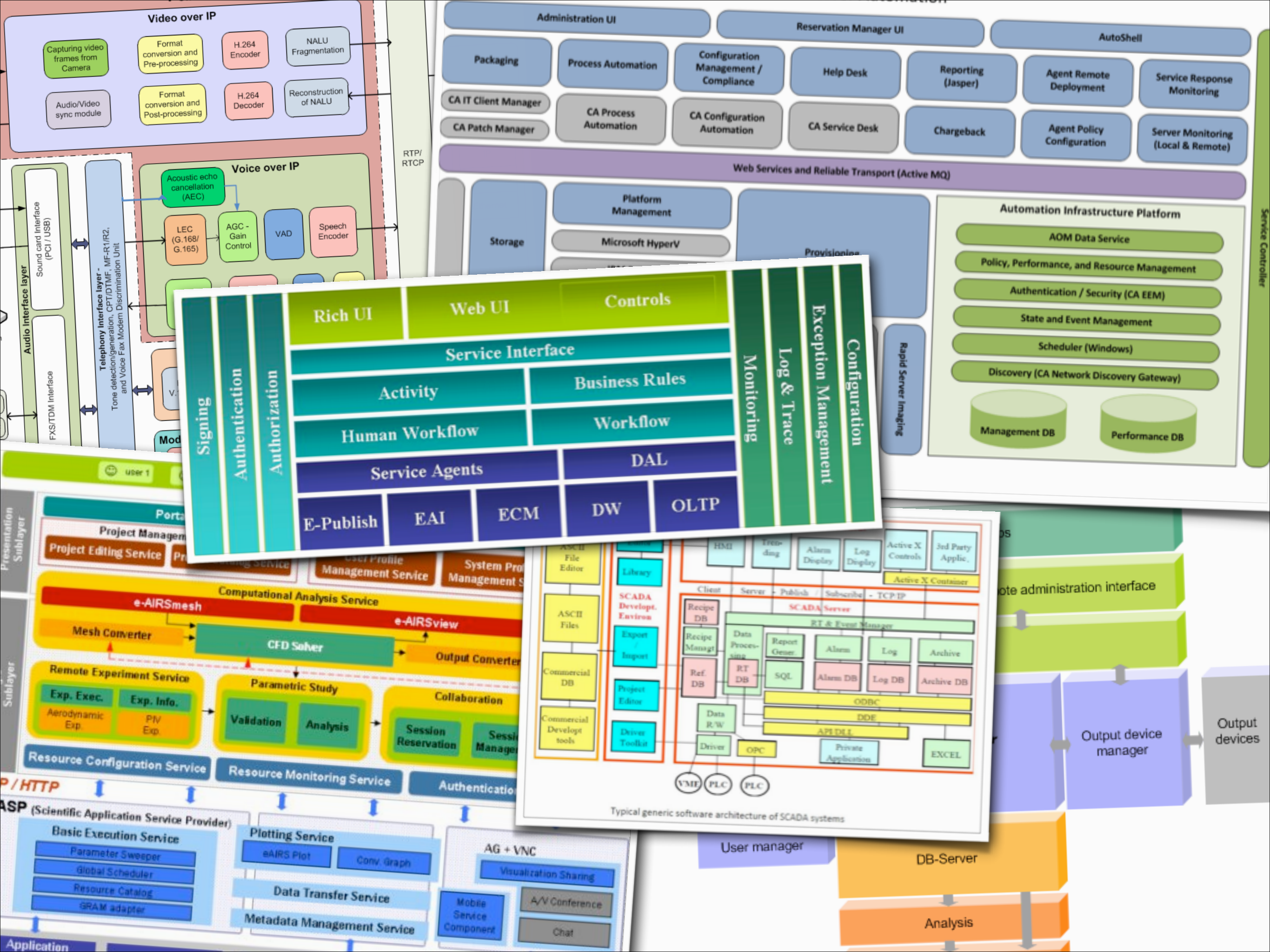


...but **not** our software!



Page 7

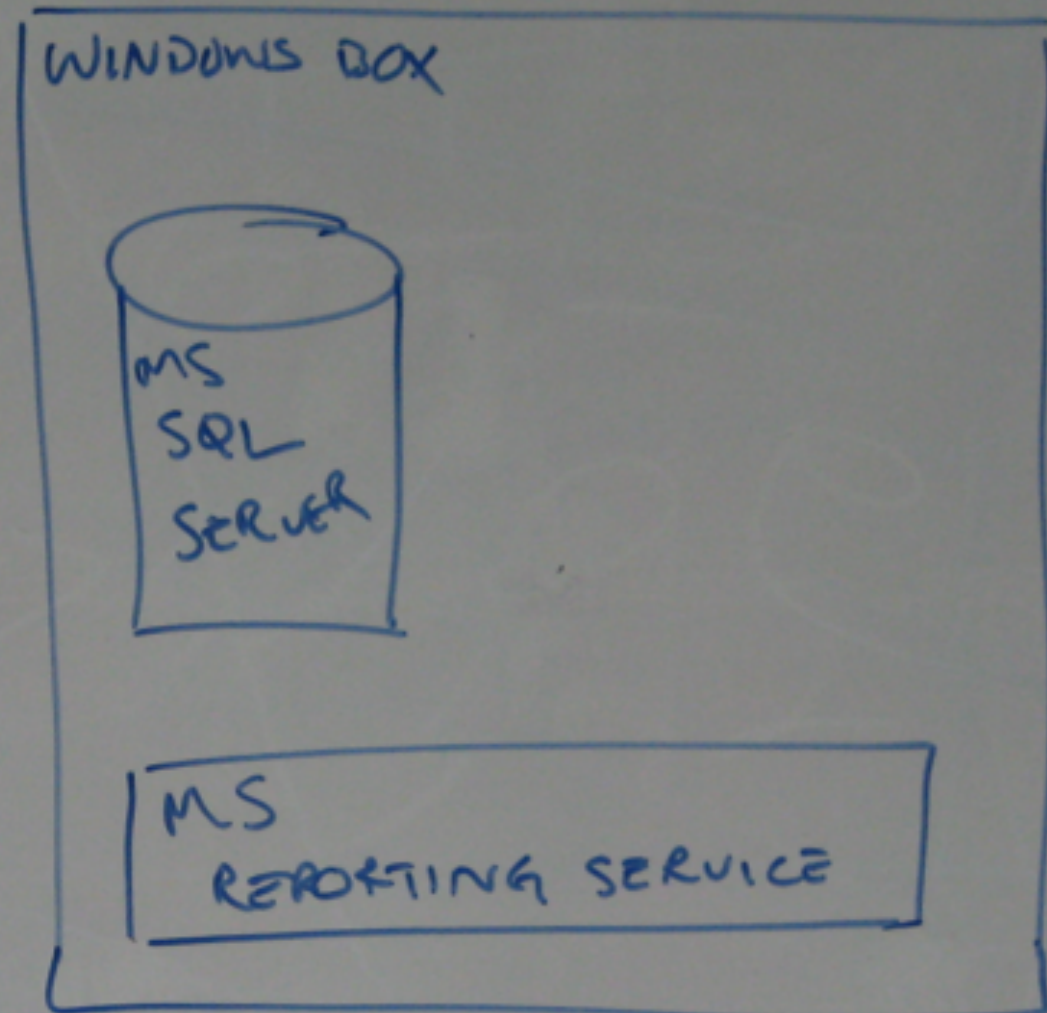
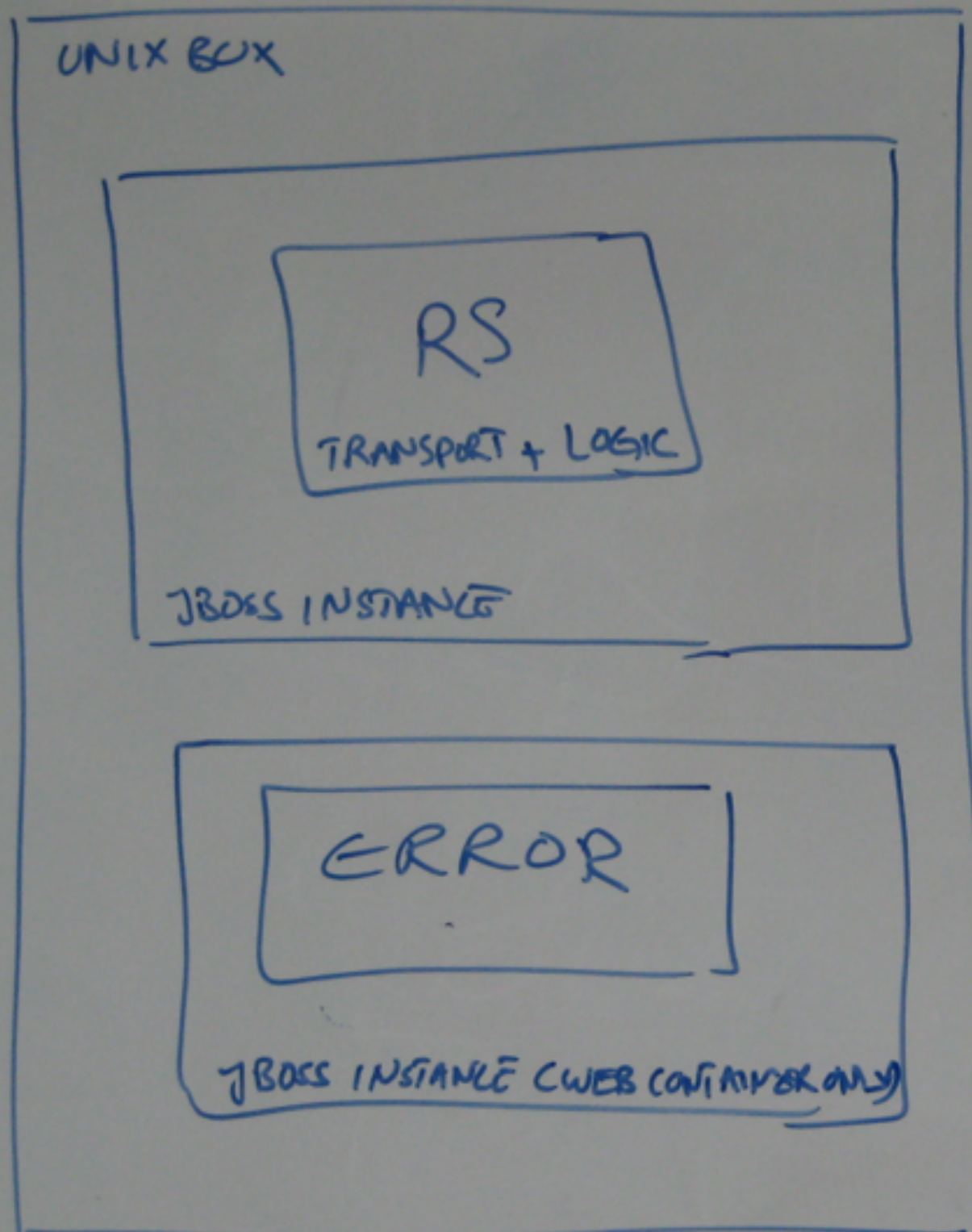




Are these

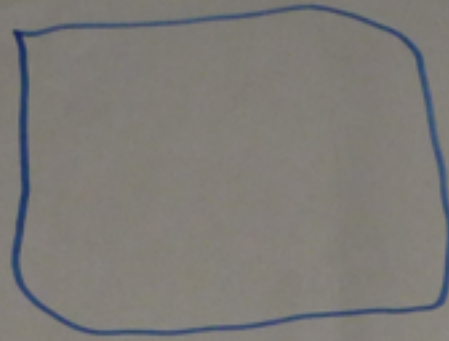
effective

sketches?



The Shopping List

ASP
NET



LOGGING
SERVICE

PARAMETER
MANAGER

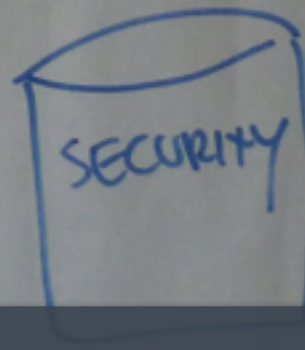
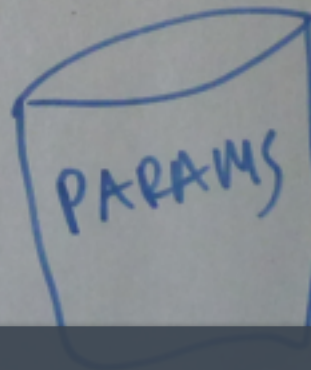
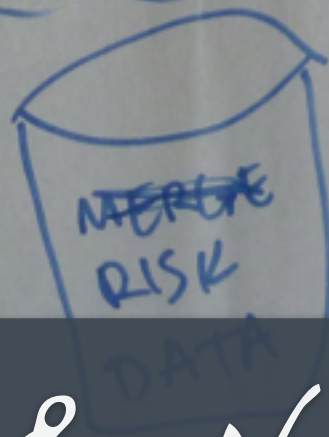
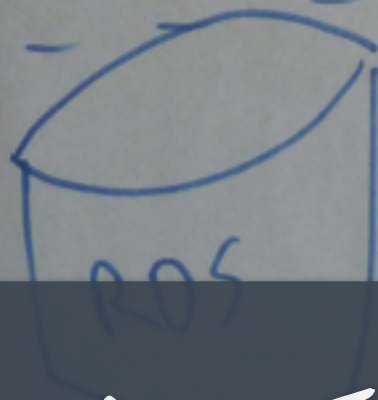
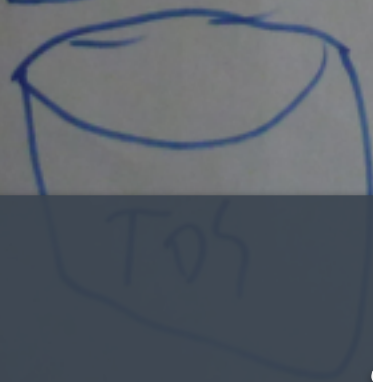
RISK
CALCULATION

REPORT
GENERATOR

DATA
IMPORT

AUDITING

VALIDATION



Boxes & No Lines

FUNCTIONAL VIEW

File Retriever

Scheduler

Auditing

Reference
Archiver

Risk Assessment
Processor

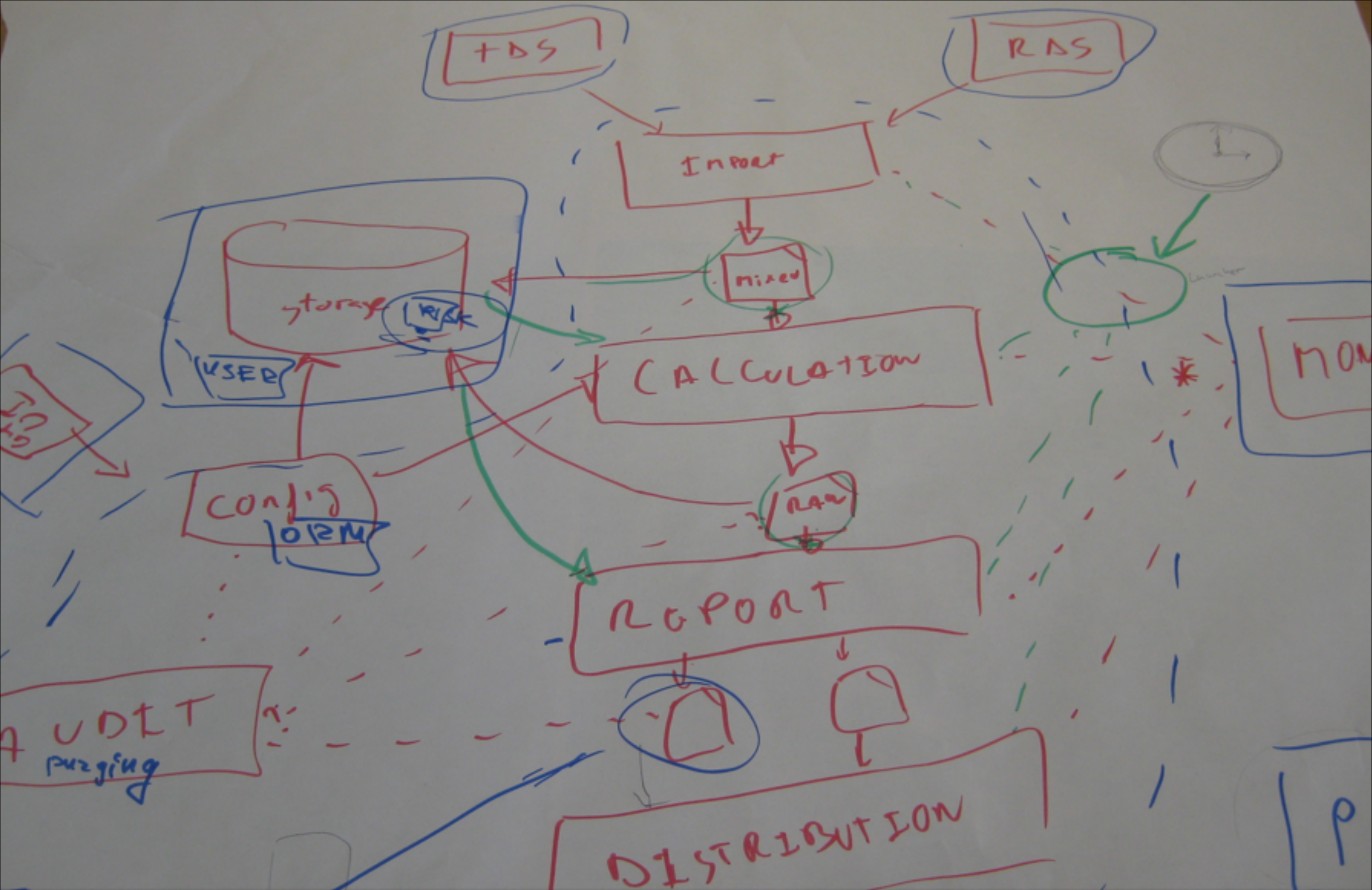
Risk Parameter
Configuration

Trade
Archiver

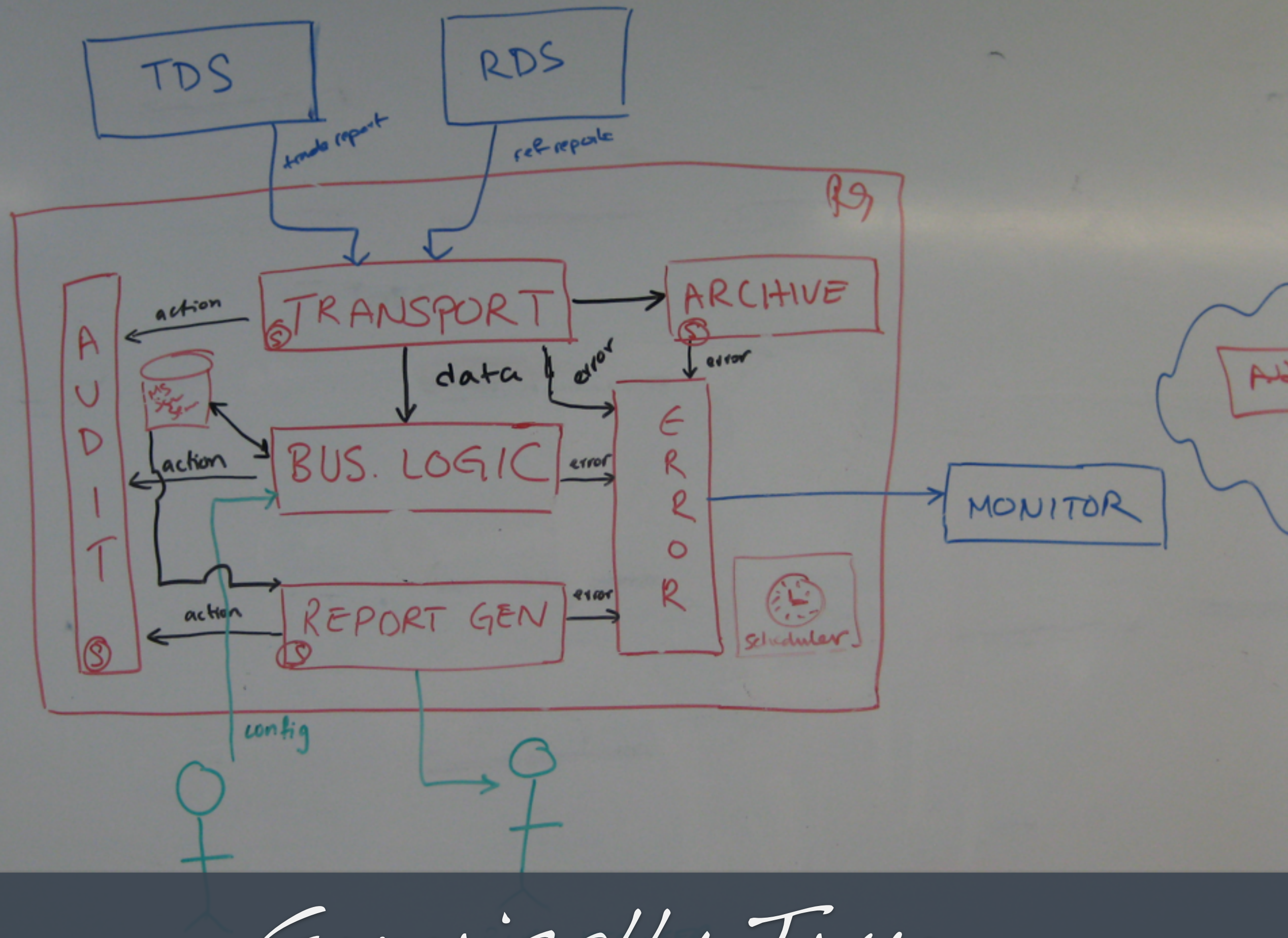
Report
Generator

Report
Distributor

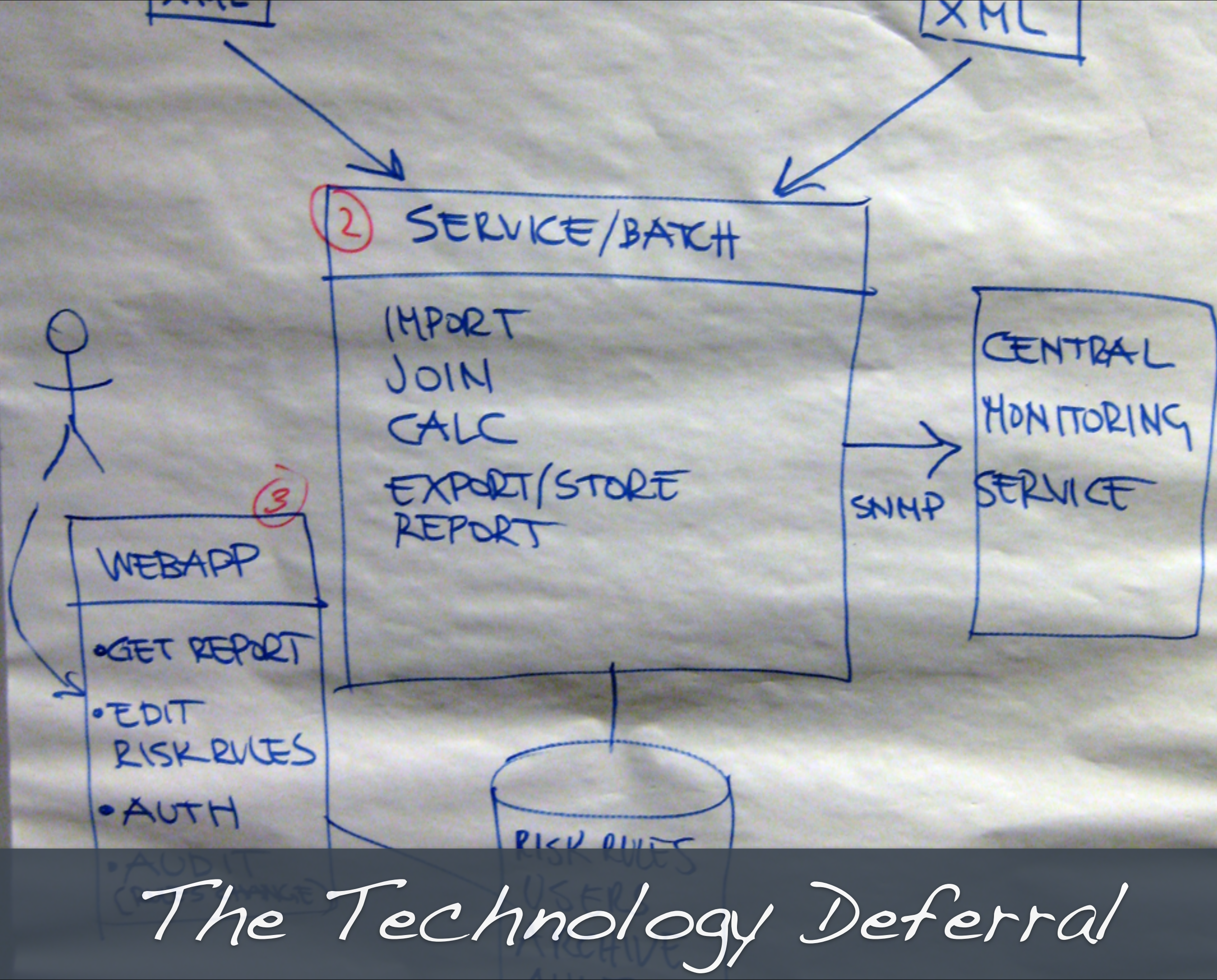
The Functional View



The Airline Route Map



Generically True



The Technology Deferral

Services
(Corporate)

SMTP

Servlet Container

J A A S

report
system

Audit
Service

Risk
Params
Service

HTTP

Central
Monitor
System

SMTP

log4j
xml

unix

risk JAR
Analysis
System

xml
File

NFS

xml
File

DATA JAR
Import
Service

Archive

cron

LDAP

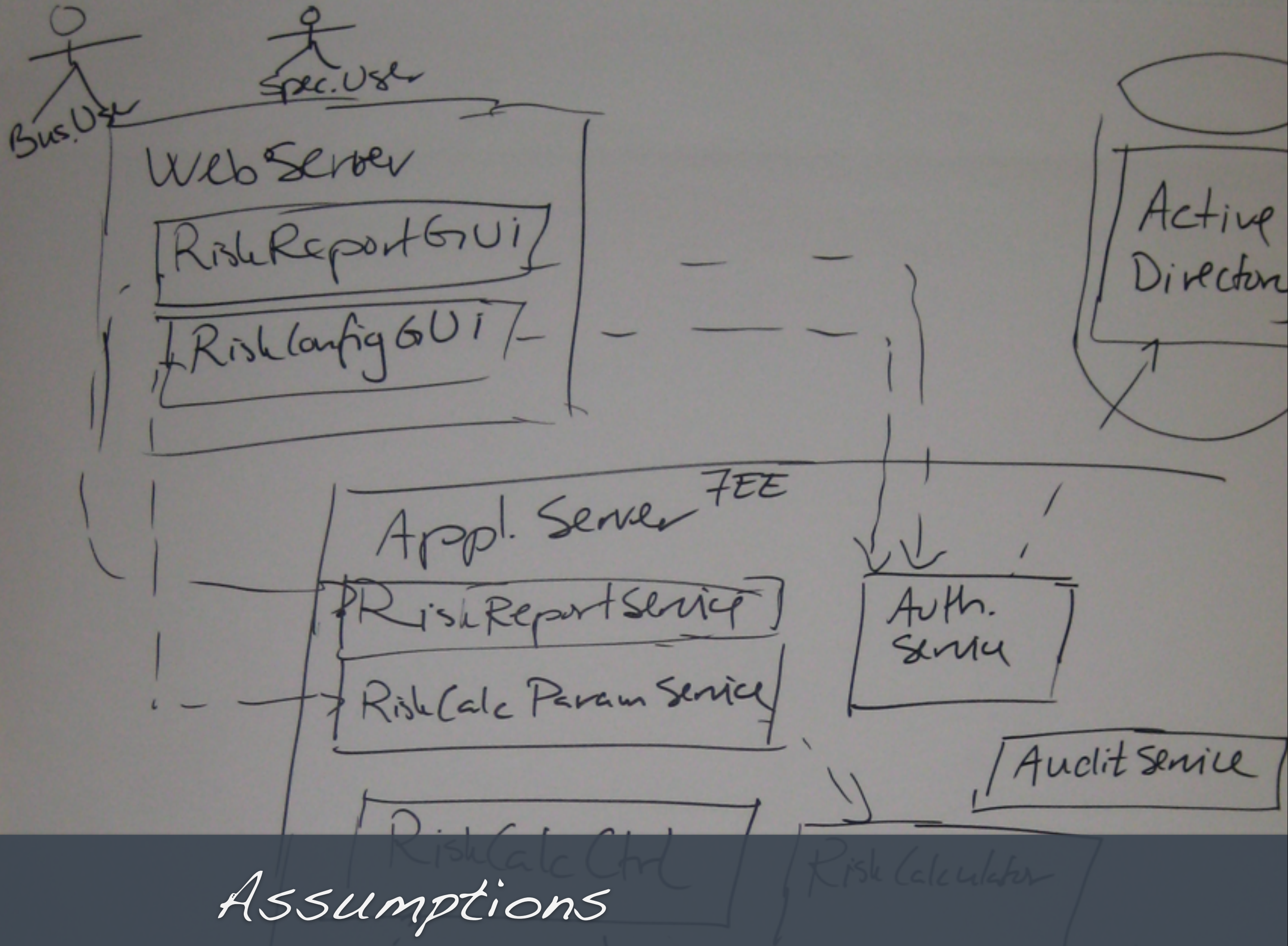
sep

sep

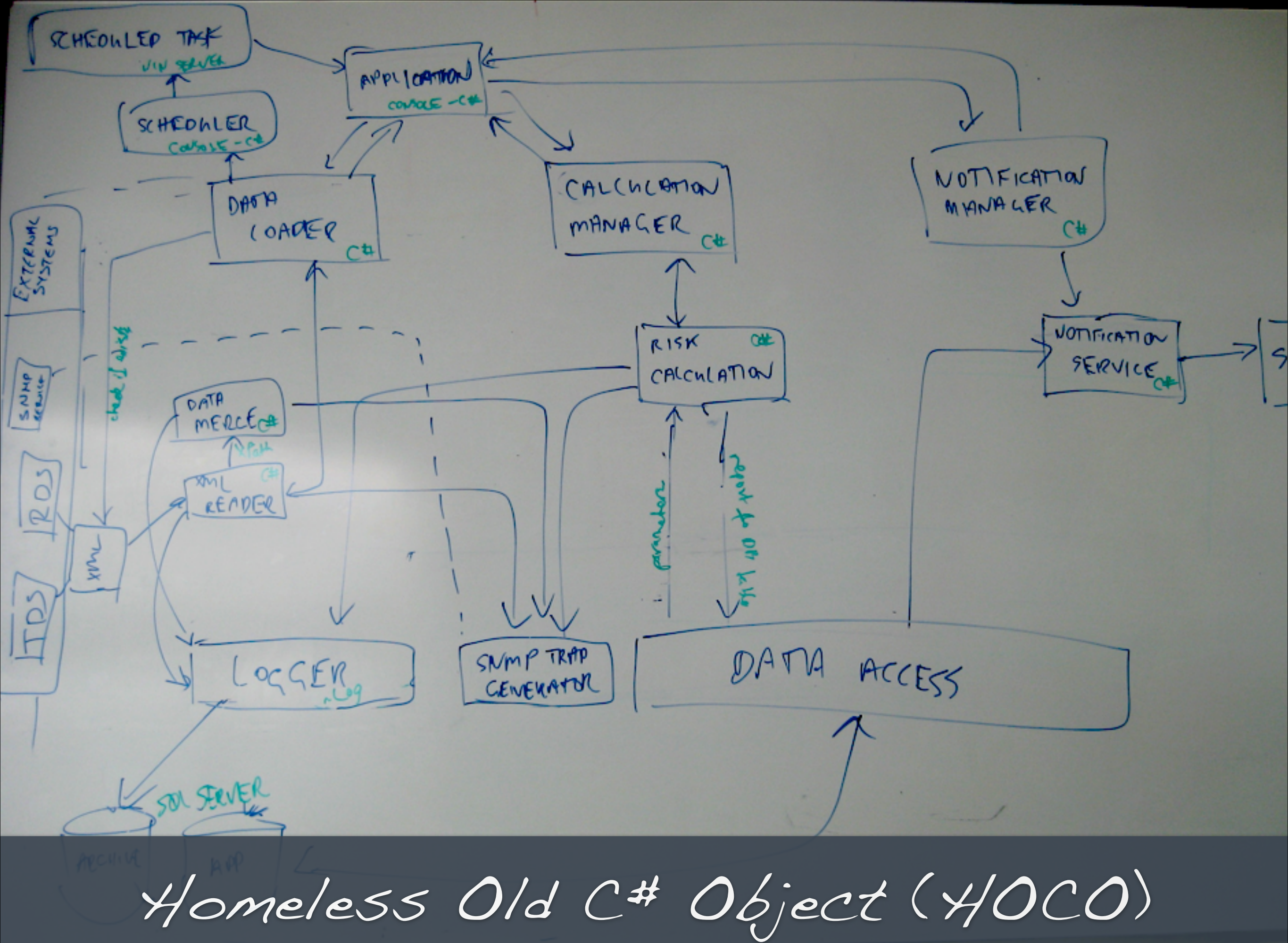
TDS

- backup
- RAID
- writable
only for
process owner

Missing Details

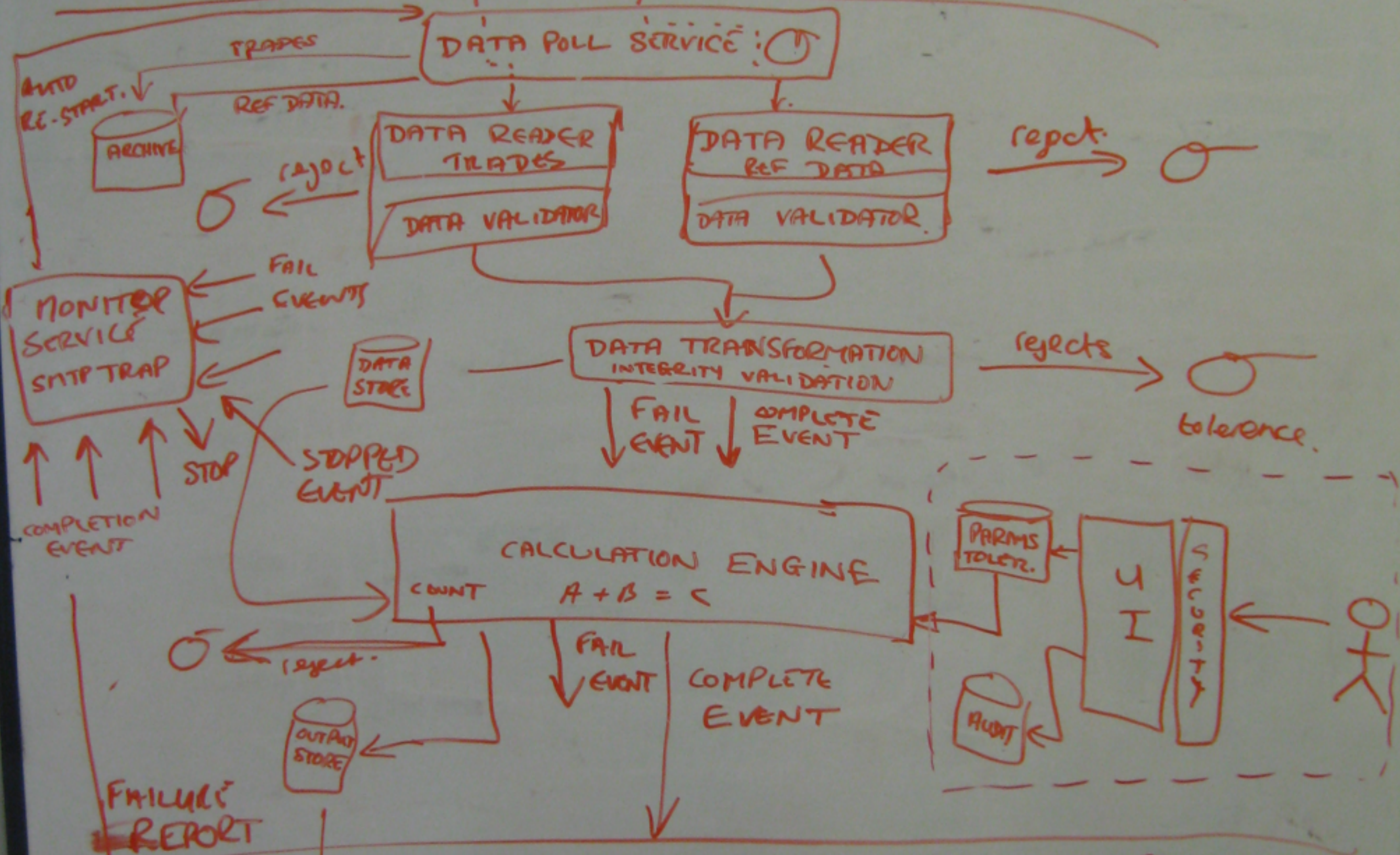


Assumptions

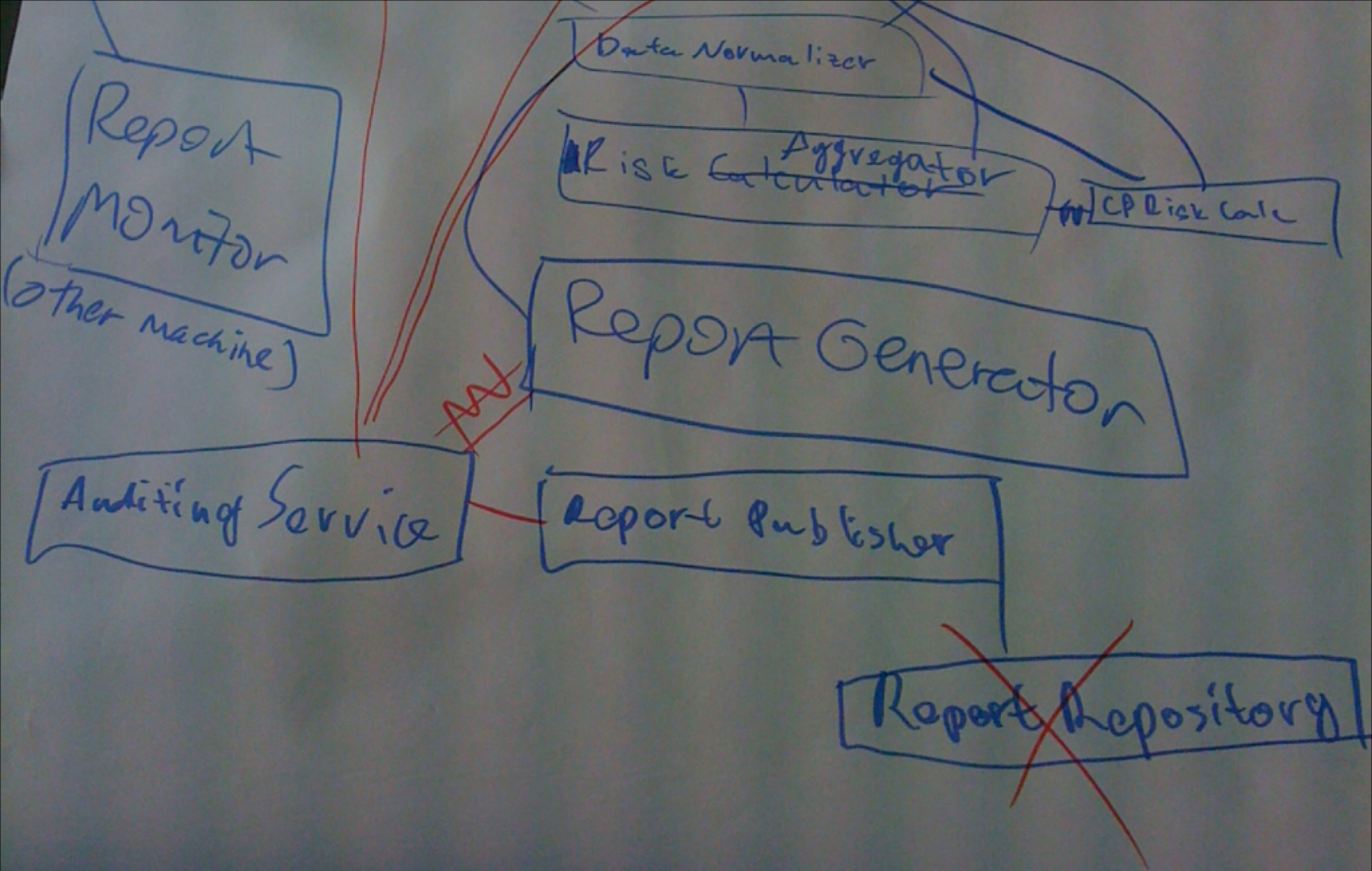


Homeless Old C# Object (HOCO)

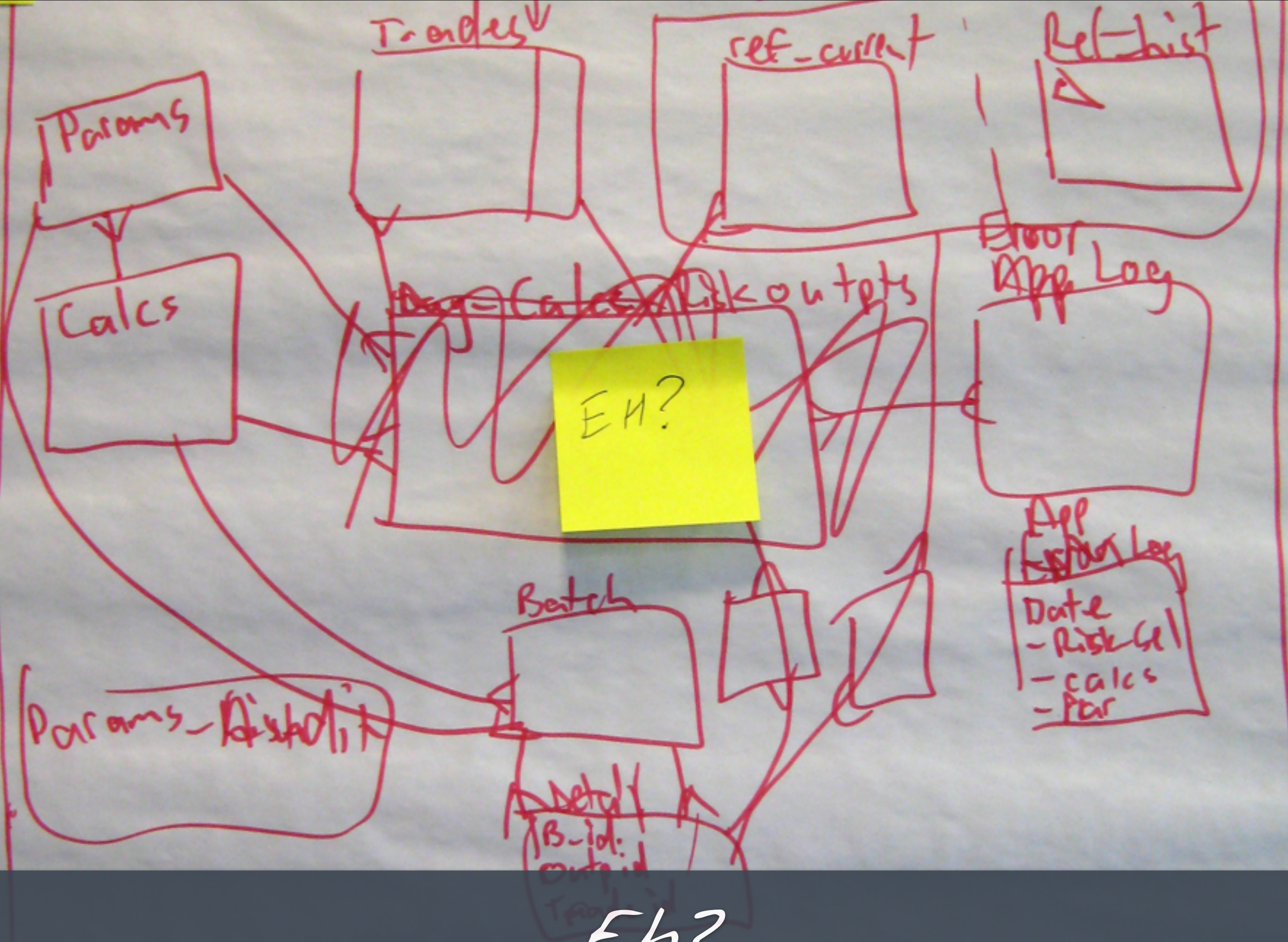
PHYSICAL SECURITY



Choose your own adventure



Should have used a

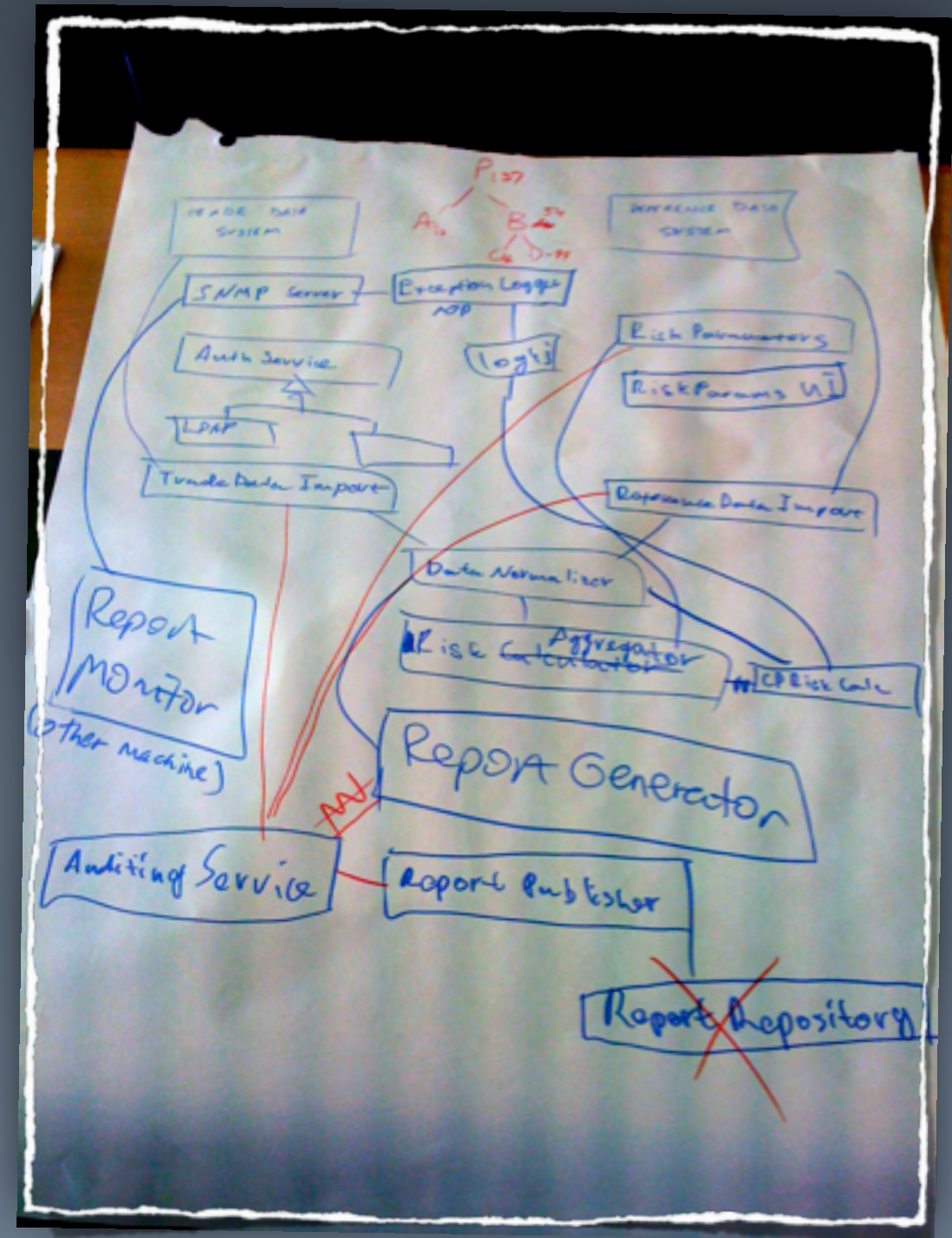


EH?

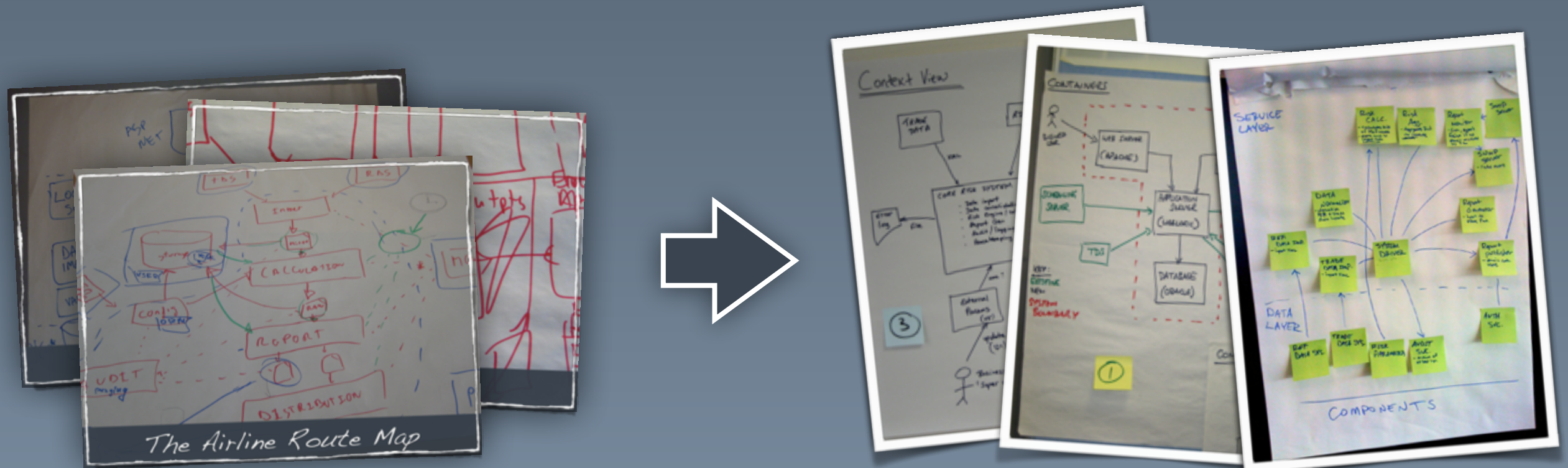


<http://www.flickr.com/photos/codingthearchitecture/sets/>

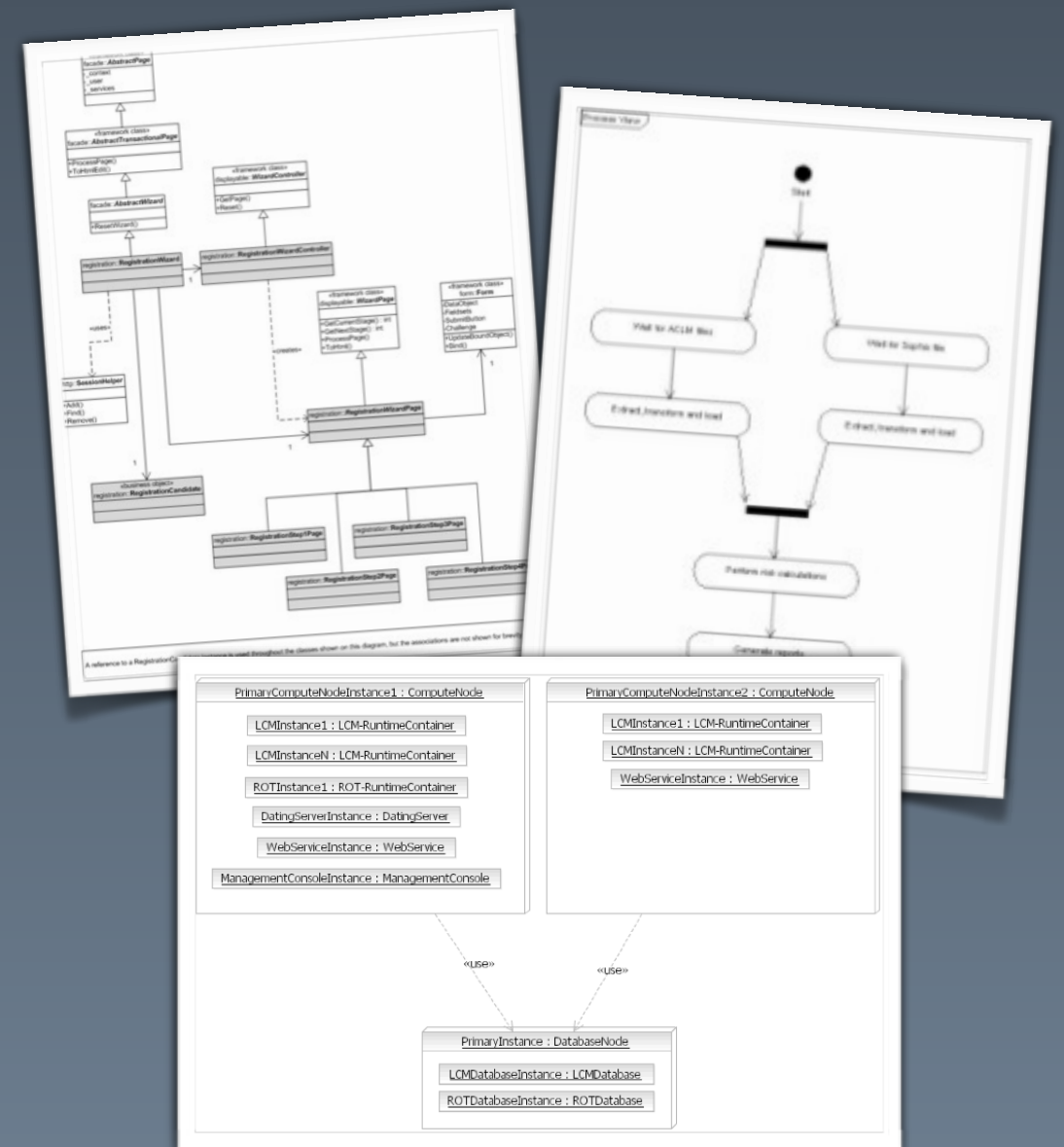
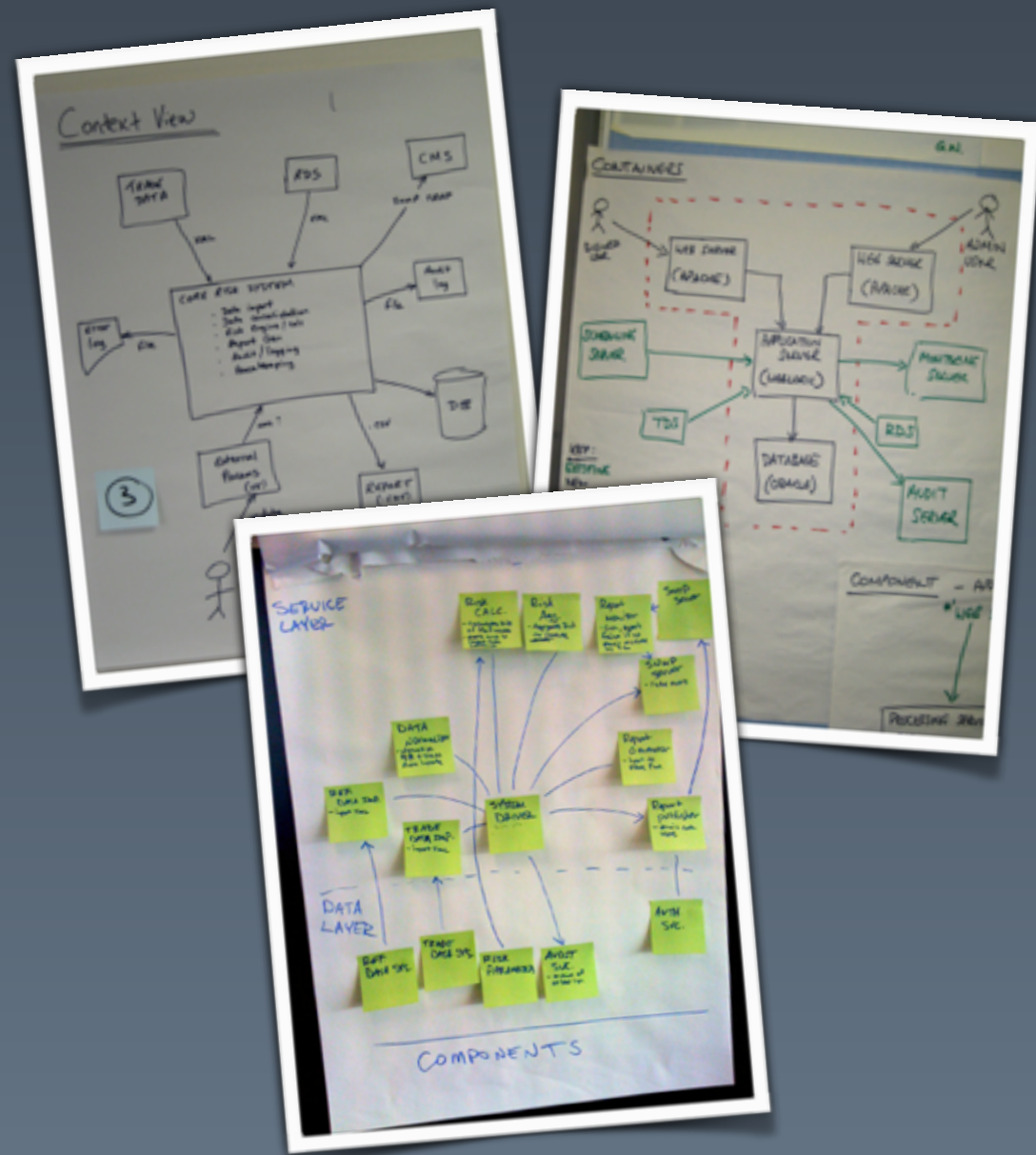
In my experience,
software teams
aren't able to
effectively
visualise the
software
architecture
of their systems



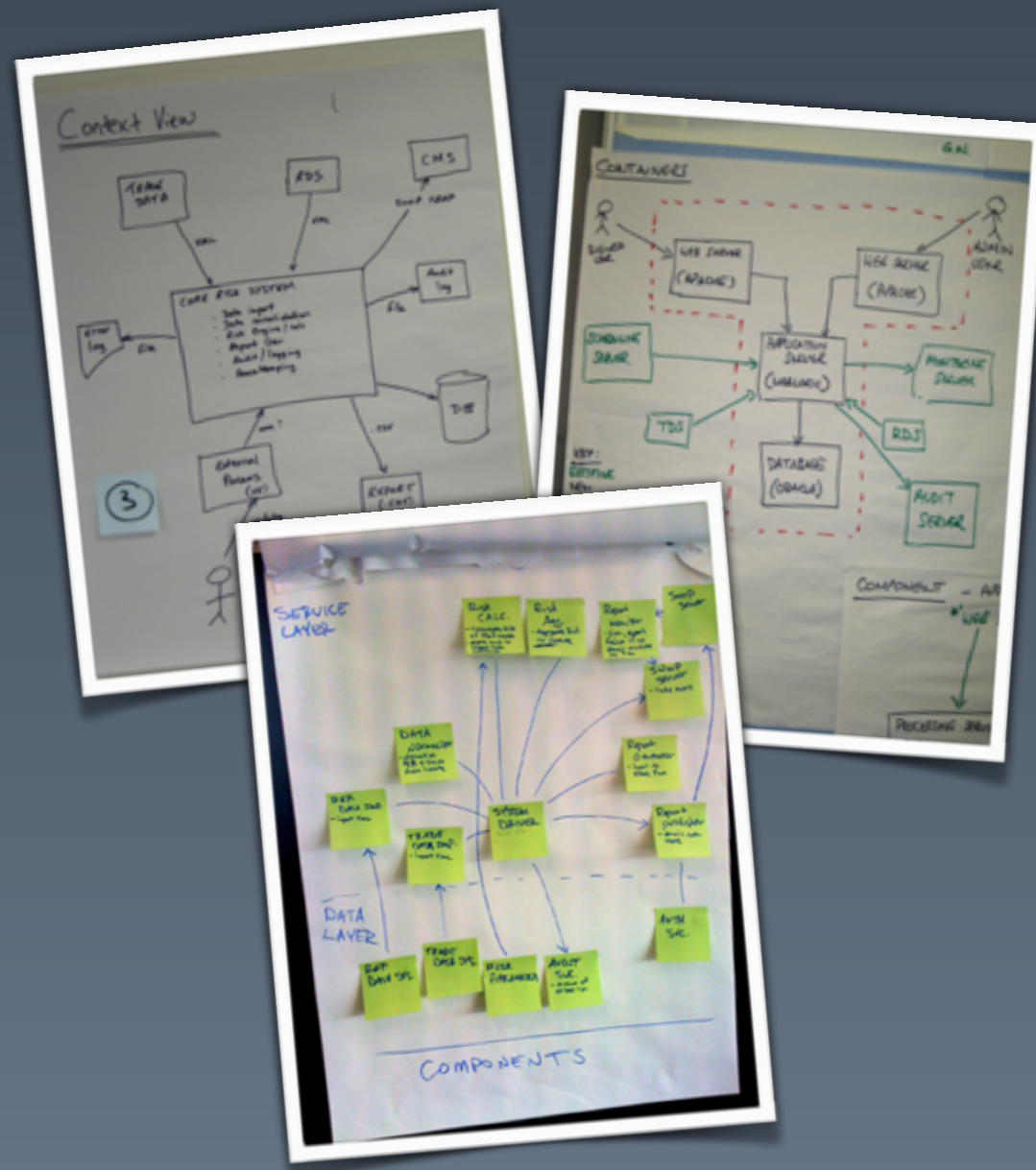
Moving fast (agility) requires good communication



UML tool?



Whiteboard or
flip chart?

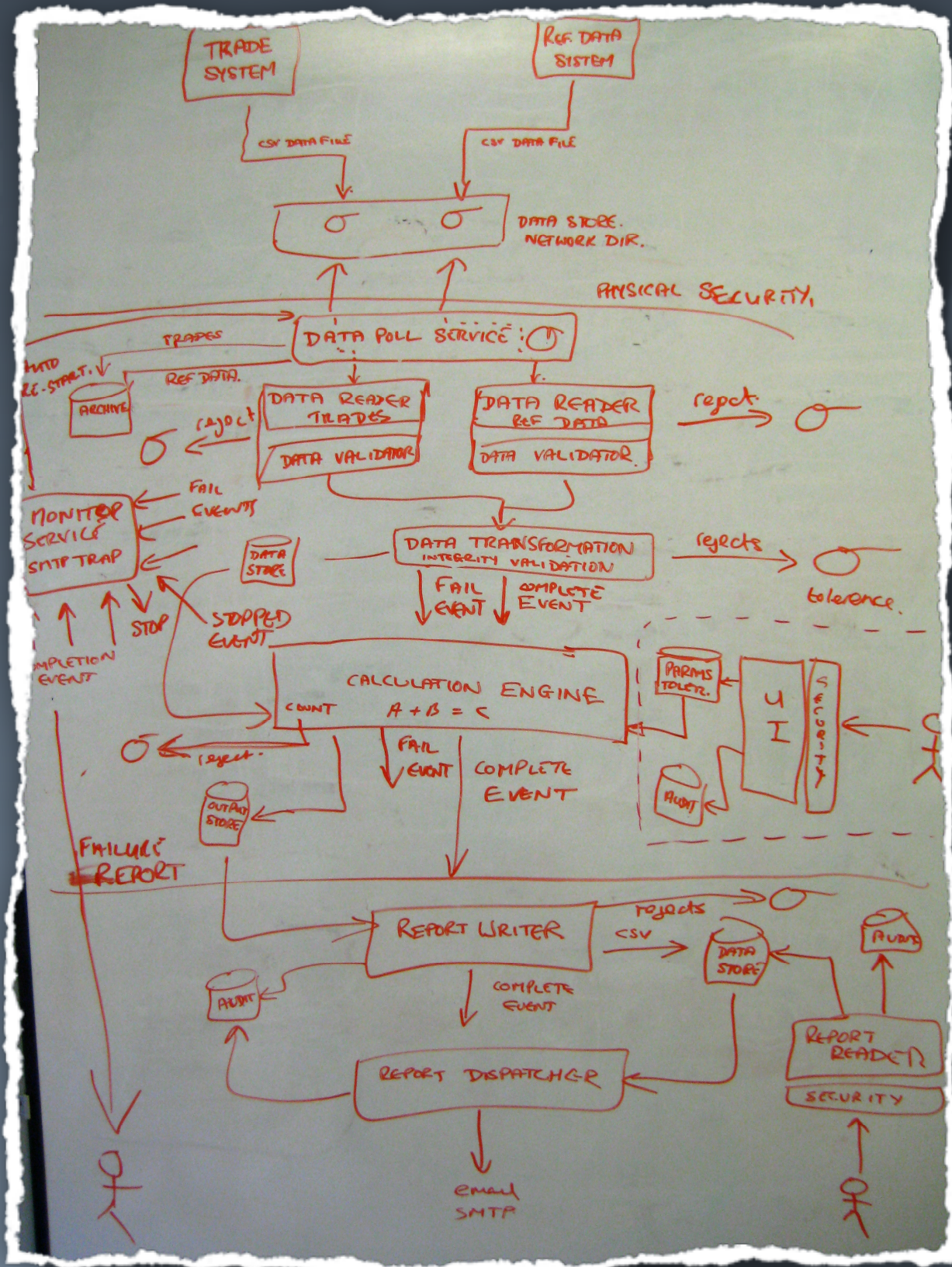


Collaborative design

(e.g. pair architecting)

It's usually difficult to show the entire design on a **single** diagram

Different **views** of the design can be used to manage complexity and highlight different aspects of the solution



Do the **names**
of those views make sense?

Conceptual vs Logical

Process vs Functional

Development vs Physical

Development vs Implementation

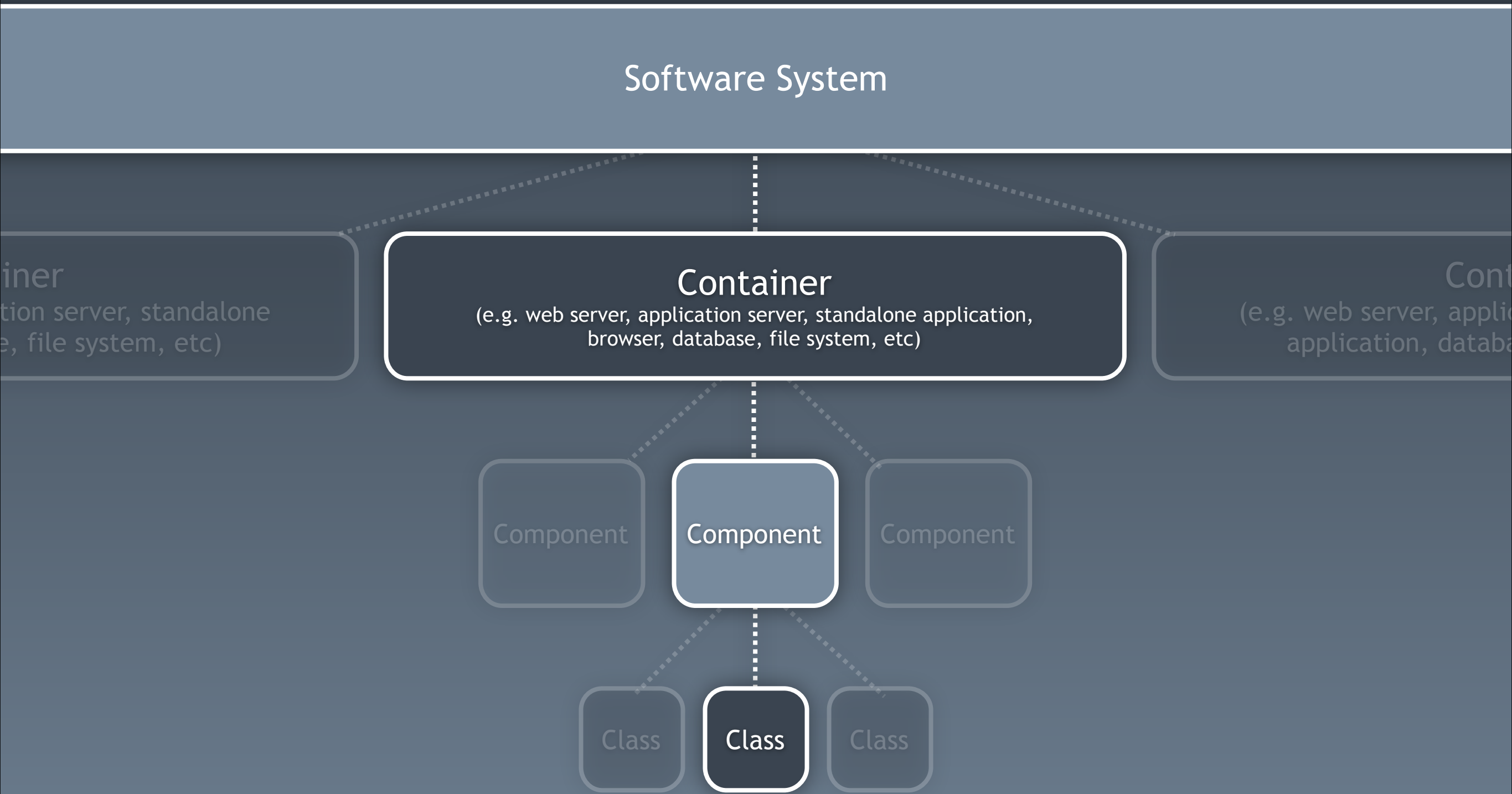
Physical vs Implementation

Physical vs Deployment

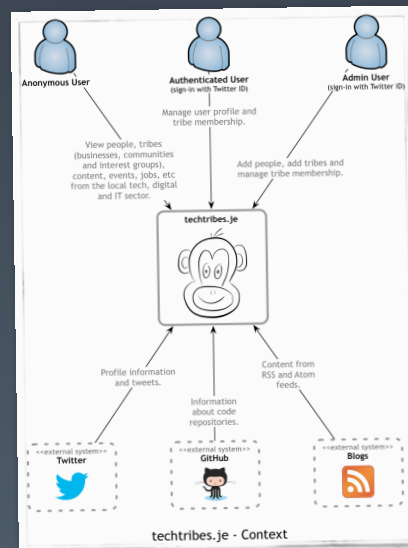
Would you

code

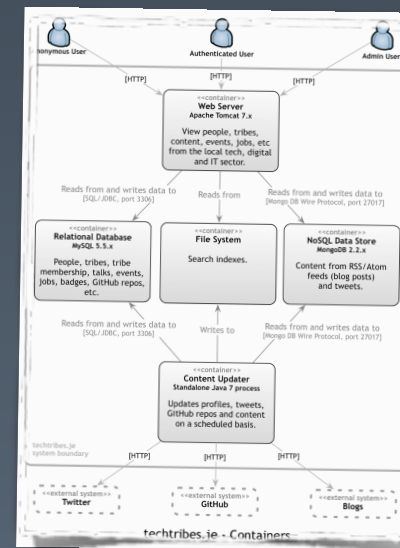
it that way?



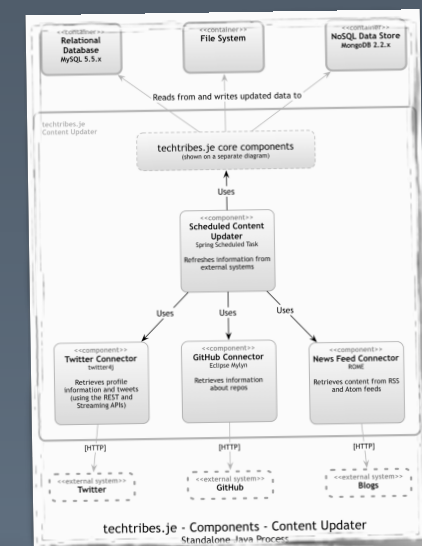
Agree on a simple set of **abstractions** that the whole team can use to communicate



1. Context



2. Containers



3. Components

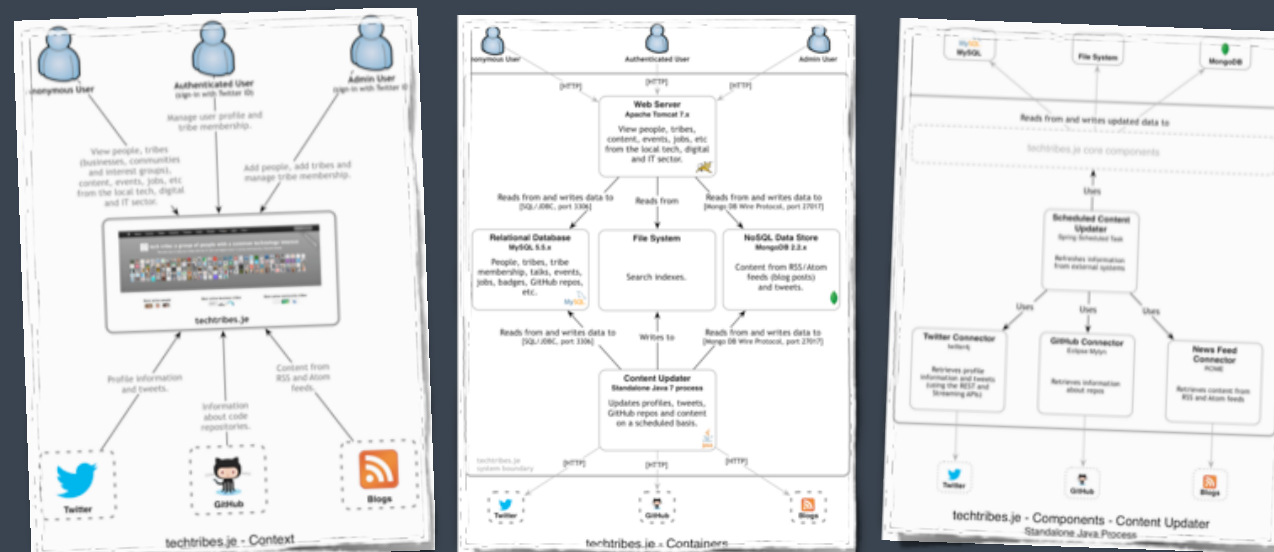
C4



4. Classes

Sequence & collaboration

Process & workflow



Static structure (C4)

Infrastructure

Deployment

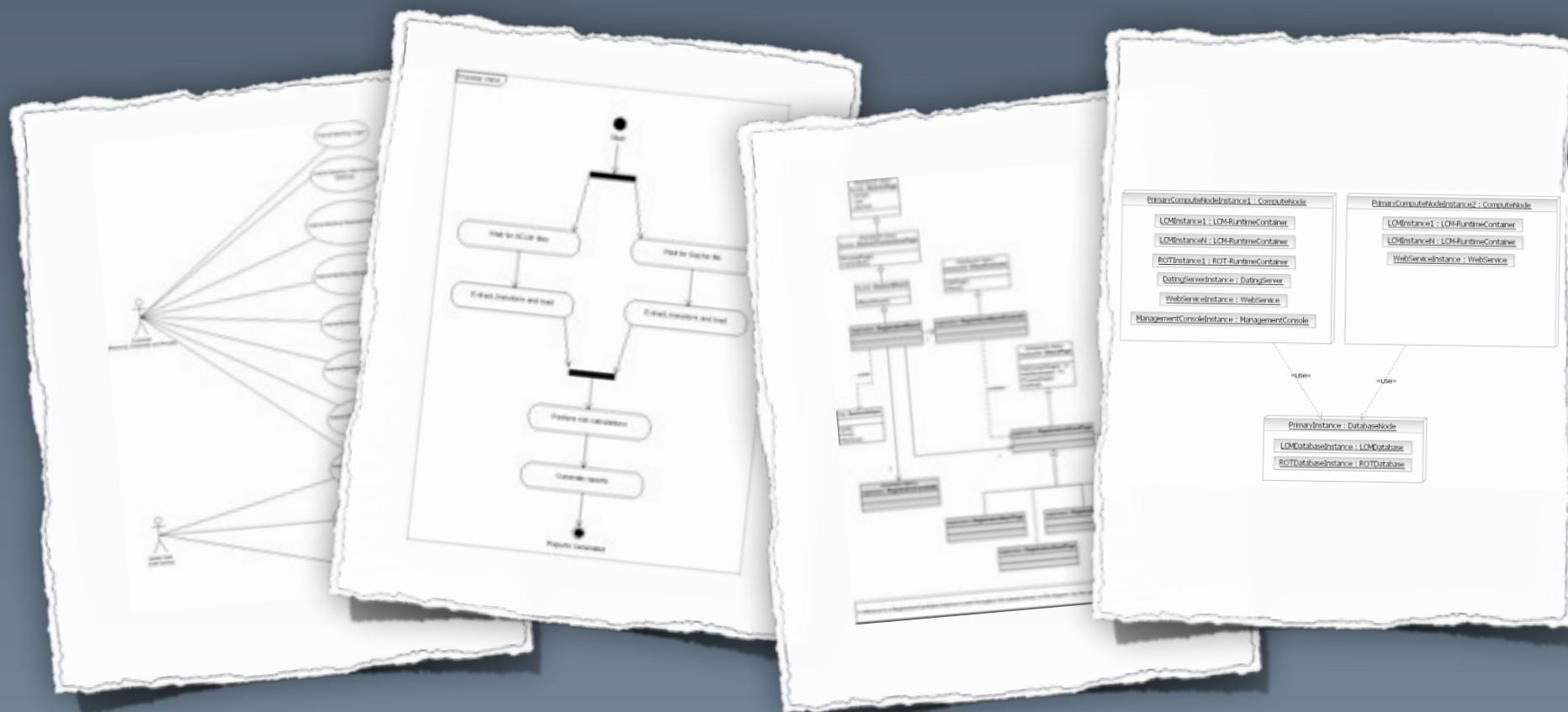
This isn't about
creating a standard

A common set
of abstractions

is more important than
a common notation

I do use UML

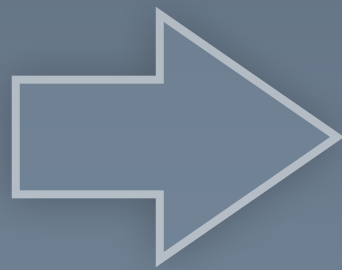
(e.g. activity, class, sequence, collaboration, state)



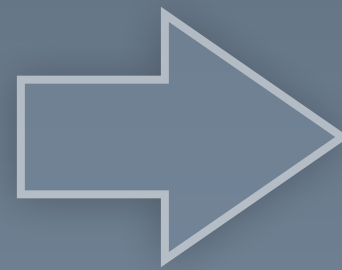
Think about the target audience



Non-technical



Semi-technical



Very technical



News Events Talks Content Tweets Code People Tribes Jobs

Find me people who know about... or Search...

Most active people



Most active business tribes



Most active community tribes



News

C5 Alliance plans Microsoft events in Channel Islands

Channel Island cloud provider, C5 Alliance are organising two breakfast events in both Jersey and Guernsey, named 'Leveraging Microsoft Technologies for Regulatory Compliance'. The breakfast briefings are due to include demonstrations of the latest Microsoft technologies and how they are combined. The briefings will cover Microsoft CRM process driven forms, SharePoint Workflow & Collaboration and SQL Server Data Warehousing technology. C5 Alliance, who work with a number of clients, both financial and...

Posted Today

Jersey residents set to have choice in fibre broadband

Sure customers will soon be able to access Jersey's fibre network following the reaching of an agreement between Sure and JT that finalises the commercial arrangements for access to the network. The agreement means that JT has gone some way to fulfilling the second condition of the eight that were set out in the States of Jersey's funding arrangements for the network, as agreed by the Treasury Minister, Senator Philip Ozouf. "This is excellent news for our broadband customers who have been extremely pati...

Posted Yesterday

Logicalis Group taking over Jersey cloud provider

Logicalis Group, the International IT solutions and managed services provider, has announced the acquisition of Jersey's IConsult Limited, a privately owned Jersey company and provider of desktop and mail hosted solutions to the small medium businesses (SMB) market within the Channel Islands. Through their data facility in Jersey the company services over 800 users on the islands, mainly in the financial and professional services sectors. Their main offering is a hosted desktop solution, using primarily ...

Posted 18 Oct 2013

More...

Local events

2014 2013 2012

Ivan Nikkhoo - Growth Funding

Topics of discussion will be: Growth capital, Funding cycles, Investment decisions plus Valuation and exits. With over 29 years of industry experience in various senior capacities internationally, Ivan is a Managing Director at Siemer & Associates and a...

📧 Pomme d'Or Hotel, St Helier, Jersey
29 Oct 2013 at 17:30

Tech Tribes Talks

The third set of Tech Tribes talks are ready to rock your world! After a very successful July event at the Royal Yacht we've decided to go back for our October talks. We have a great line up of speakers and we take great pleasure in inviting you to atte...

📧 The Royal Yacht, St Helier
24 Oct 2013 at 17:30

The Internet of Everything and Gigabit Jersey

"The Internet of everything" Currently, there are an estimated 10 to 15 billion 'things' connected to the Internet and this is predicted to grow to 50 billion by 2020. How will this change our lives? What infrastructure will we need? What opportu...

📧 The Grand Hotel, St Helier, Jersey
Tomorrow at 17:15

Talks by local speakers

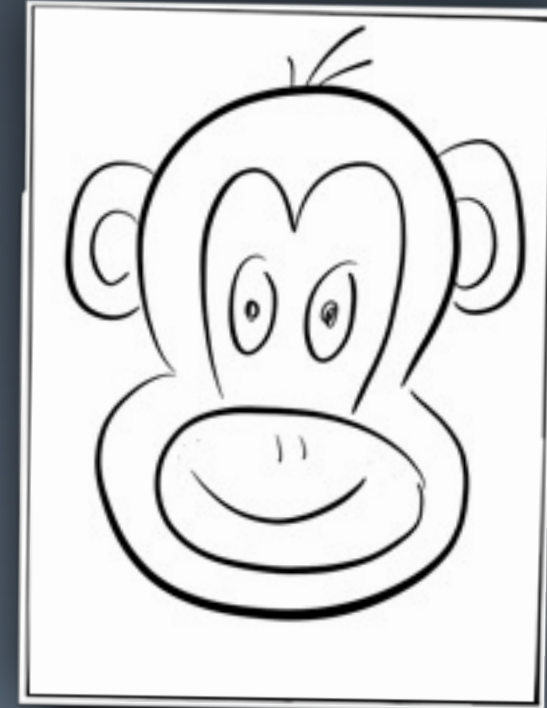
2014 2013 2012

📧 Ted talk

📧 Agile software

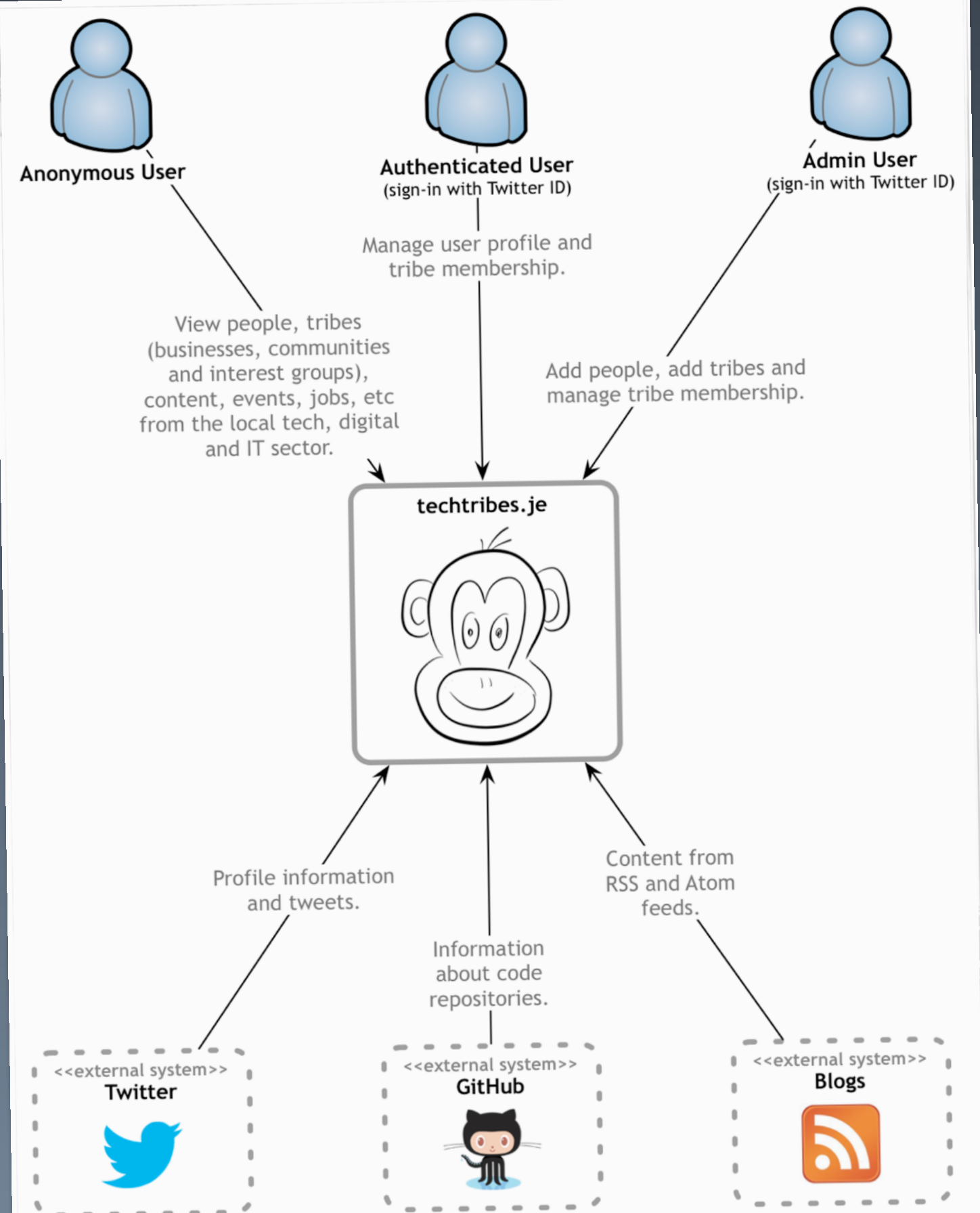
📧 Software architecture and

techtribes.je



Context

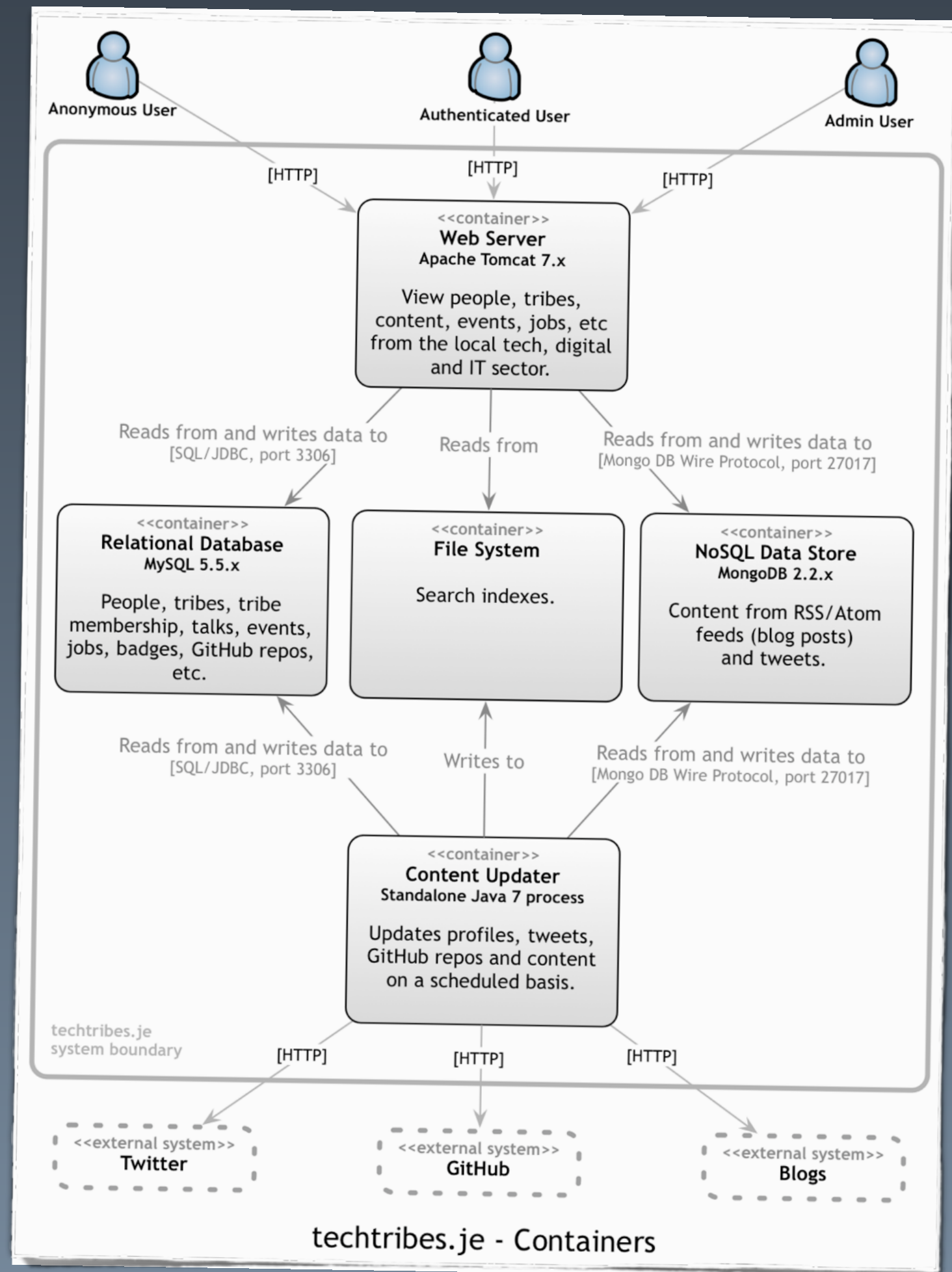
- What are we building?
- Who is using it?
(users, actors, roles, personas, etc)
- How does it fit into the existing IT environment?
(systems, services, etc)



techtribes.je - Context

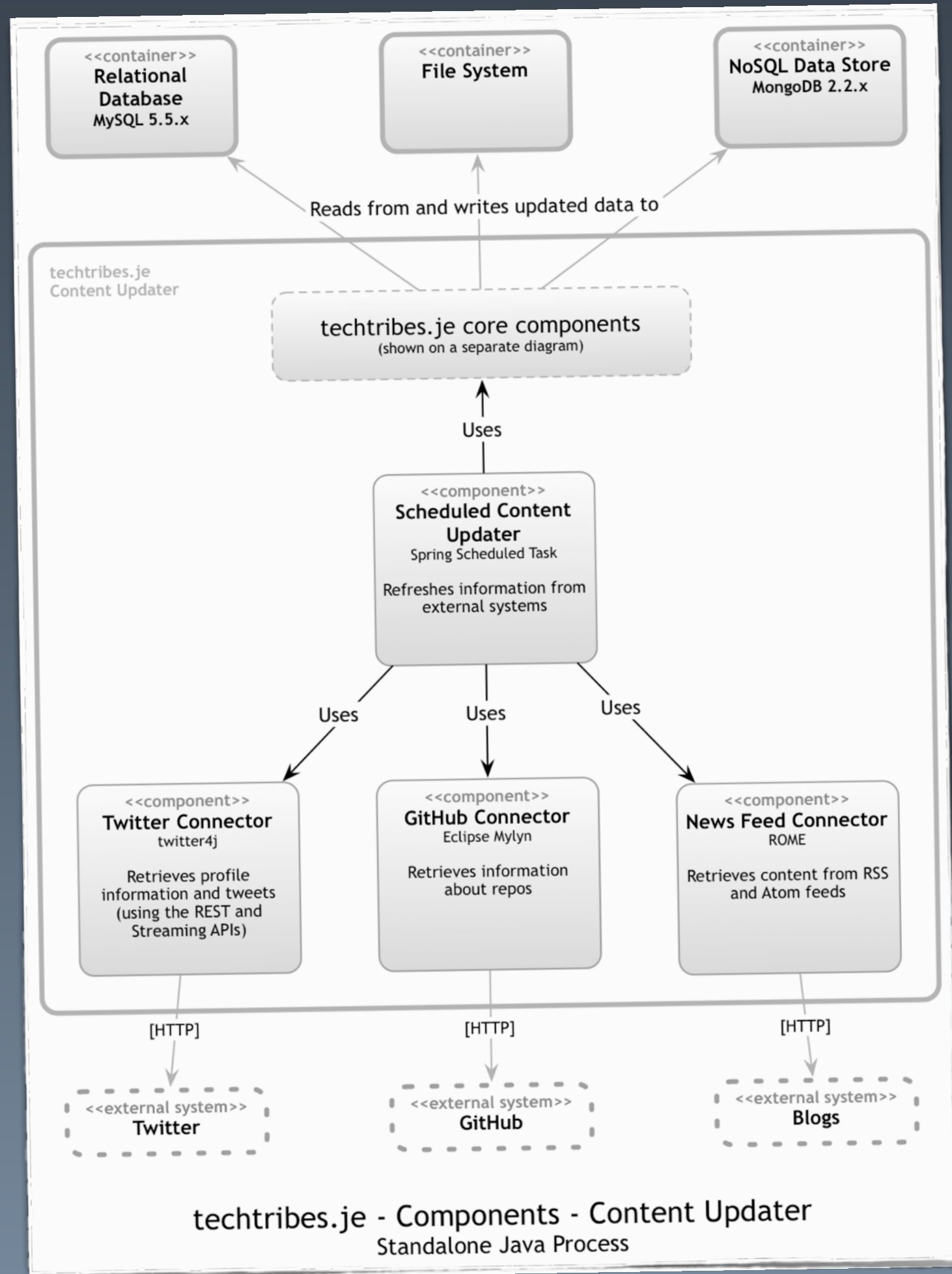
Containers

- What are the high-level technology decisions? (including responsibilities)
- How do containers communicate with one another?
- As a developer, where do I need to write code?

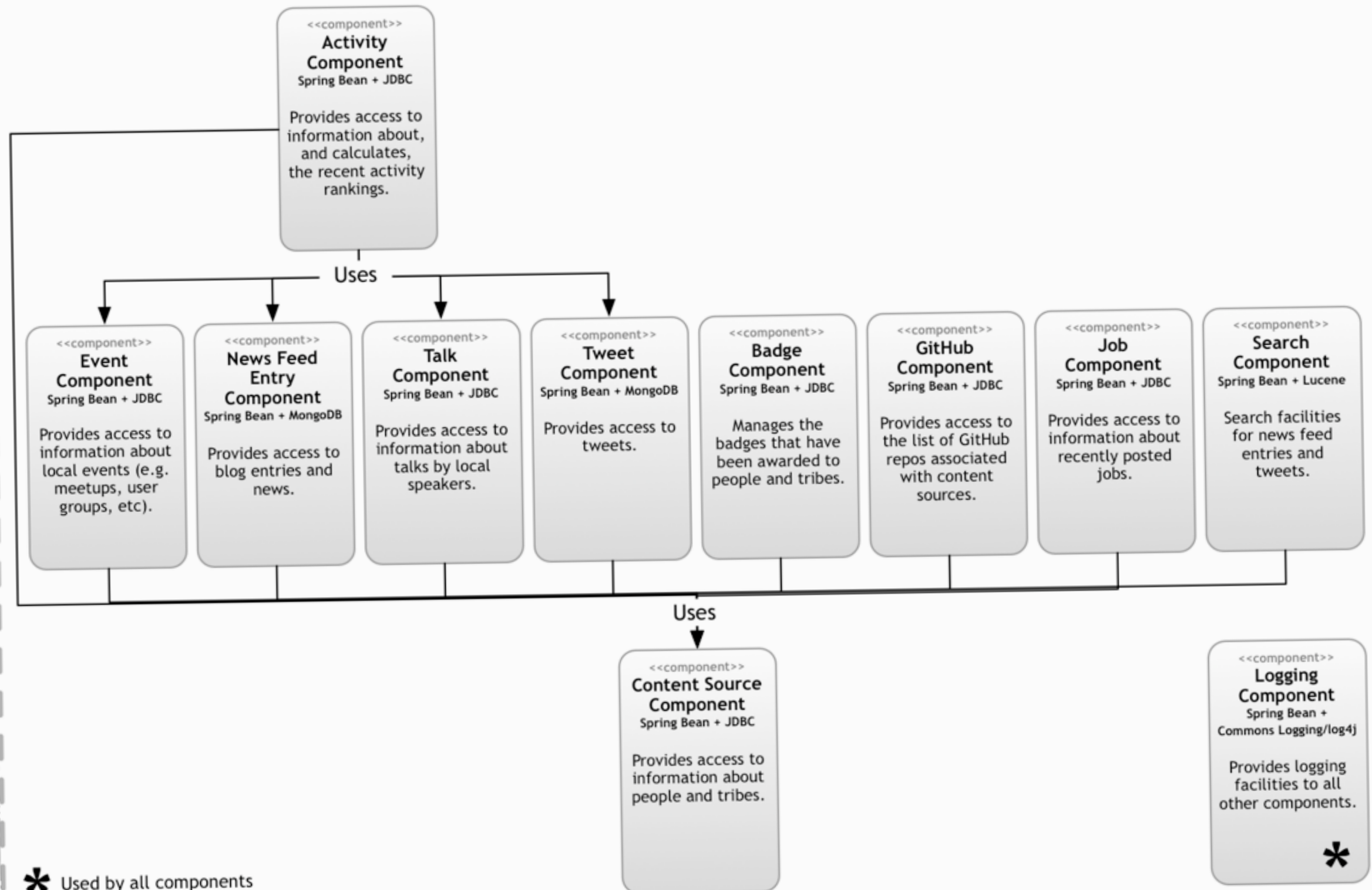


Components

- What components/ services is the container made up of?
- Are the technology choices and responsibilities clear?



Components



Titles

Short and meaningful, numbered if diagram order is important

Lines

Make line style and arrows explicit, add annotations to lines to provide additional information

Layout

Sticky notes and index cards make a great substitute for drawn boxes, especially early on

Labels

Be wary of using acronyms

Colour

Ensure that colour coding is made explicit

Orientation

Users at the top and database at the bottom? Or perhaps “upside-down”?

Shapes

Don't assume that people will understand what different shapes are being used for

Keys

Explain shapes, lines, colours, borders, acronyms, etc

Responsibilities

Adding responsibilities to boxes can provide a nice “at a glance” view (Miller's Law; 7 ± 2)

Some tips for

effective sketches

Use sticky notes or index cards instead of drawing boxes



Trade Data (XML) schemas never change

delivery + 1yr storage user app

XML (cost change)

processing (posting + schema)

Risk Engine (Calc)

both inputs + calc results

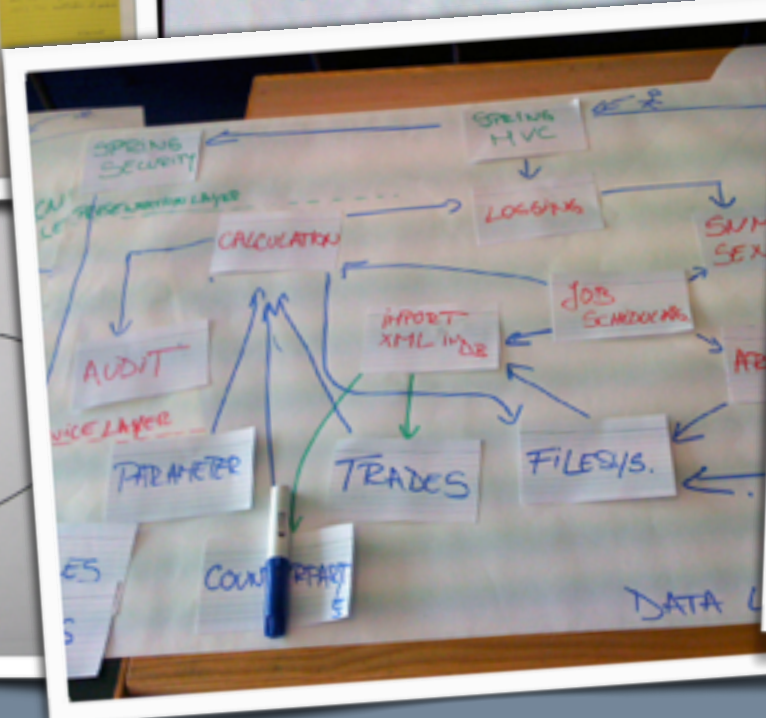
Persistence ORACLE

persisted?

Monitoring + Alerts

Error Reports?

report gen.



Checklist

- ☐ I can see the solution from multiple levels of abstraction
- ☐ I understand the big picture (context)
- ☐ I understand the logical containers
- ☐ I understand the major components used to satisfy the important user stories/features
- ☐ I understand the notation, colour coding, etc used on the diagrams
- ☐ I can see the traceability between diagrams
- ☐ I understand the major technology decisions
- ☐ I understand the implementation strategy (frameworks, libraries, APIs, etc)

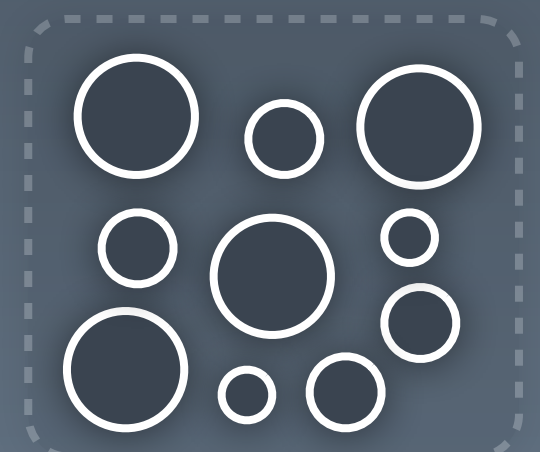
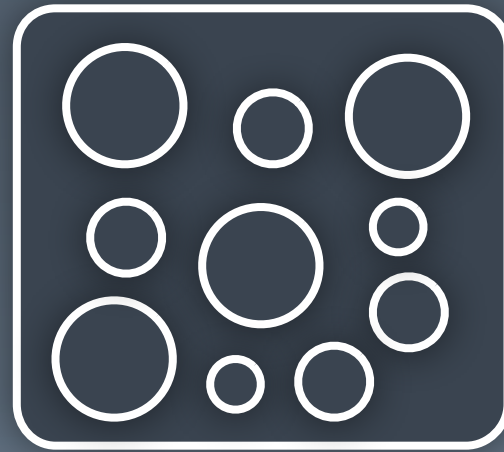
*How would you
code it?*

Sketches
in context

A good
architecture
enables
agility

*Monolithic
architecture*

*Service-based
architecture*
(SOA, micro-services, etc)



Something in between
(components)

Effective sketches

are an excellent way to

communicate

software architecture

*During the design process
and retrospectively*

Every
software developer
should know how to

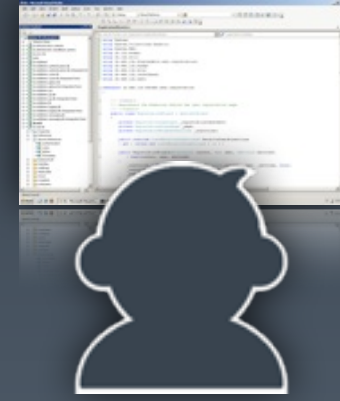
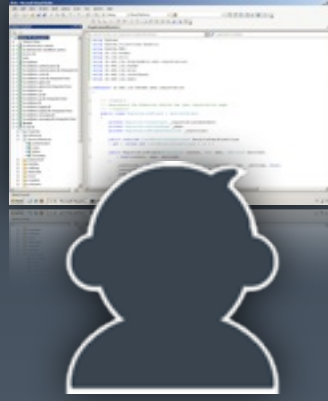
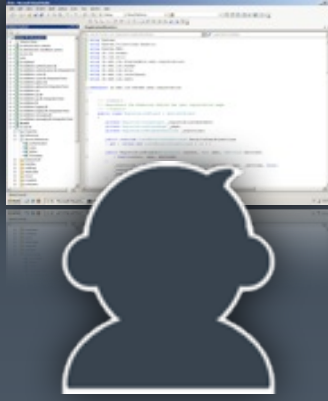
sketch



Architecture sketching

assists with having
better conversations



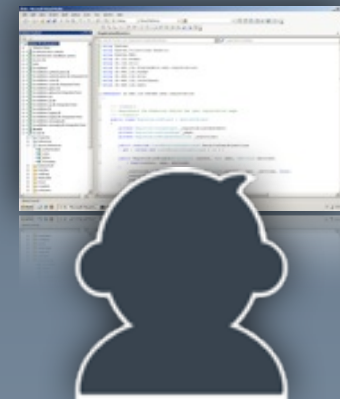
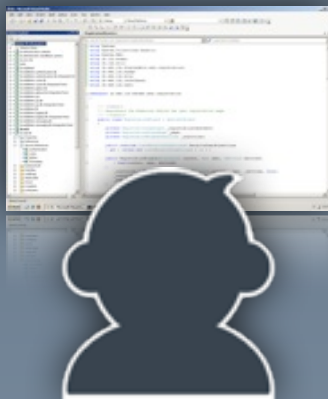


Architecture sketching

assists with

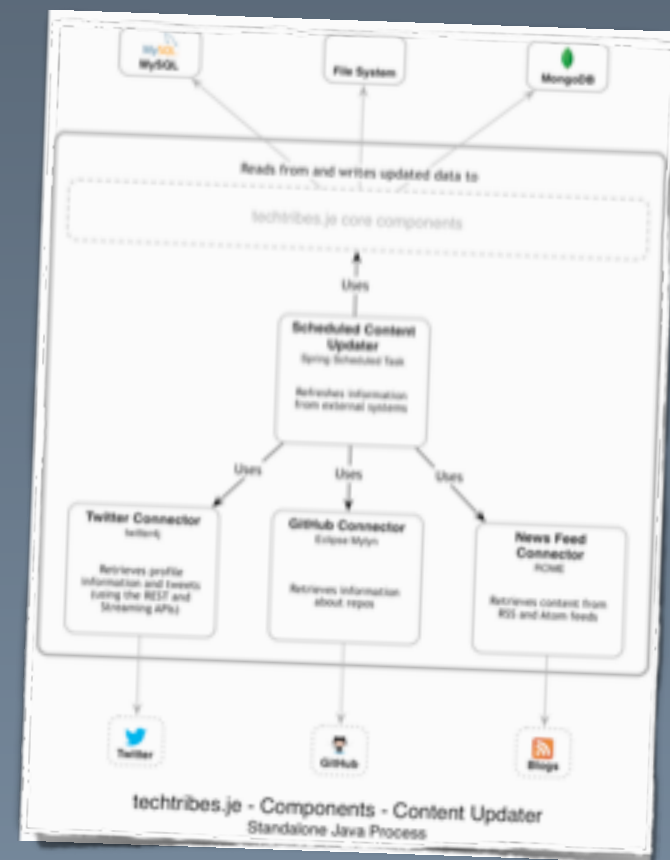
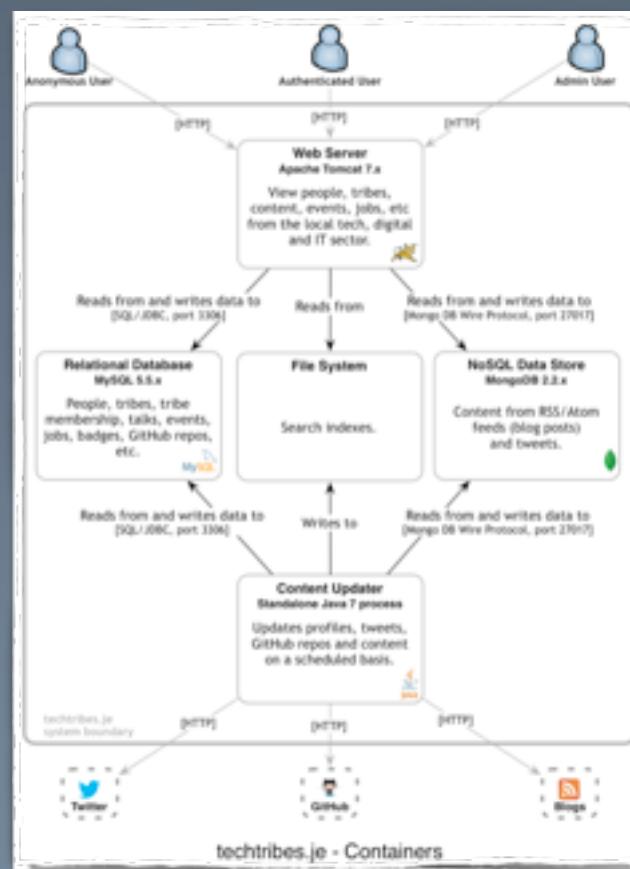
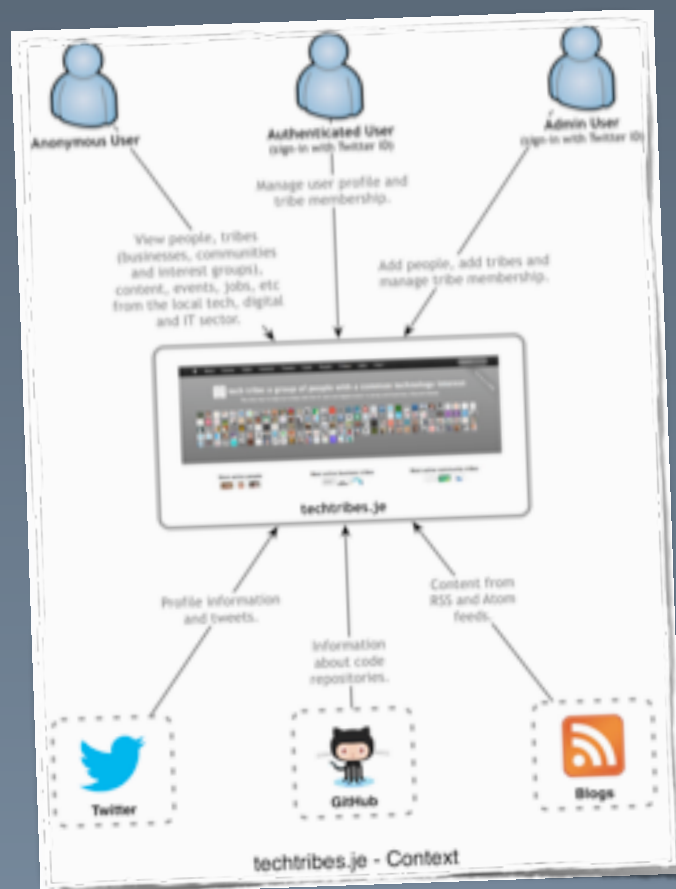
collective ownership

of the code



Pictures

are the simplest form of documentation

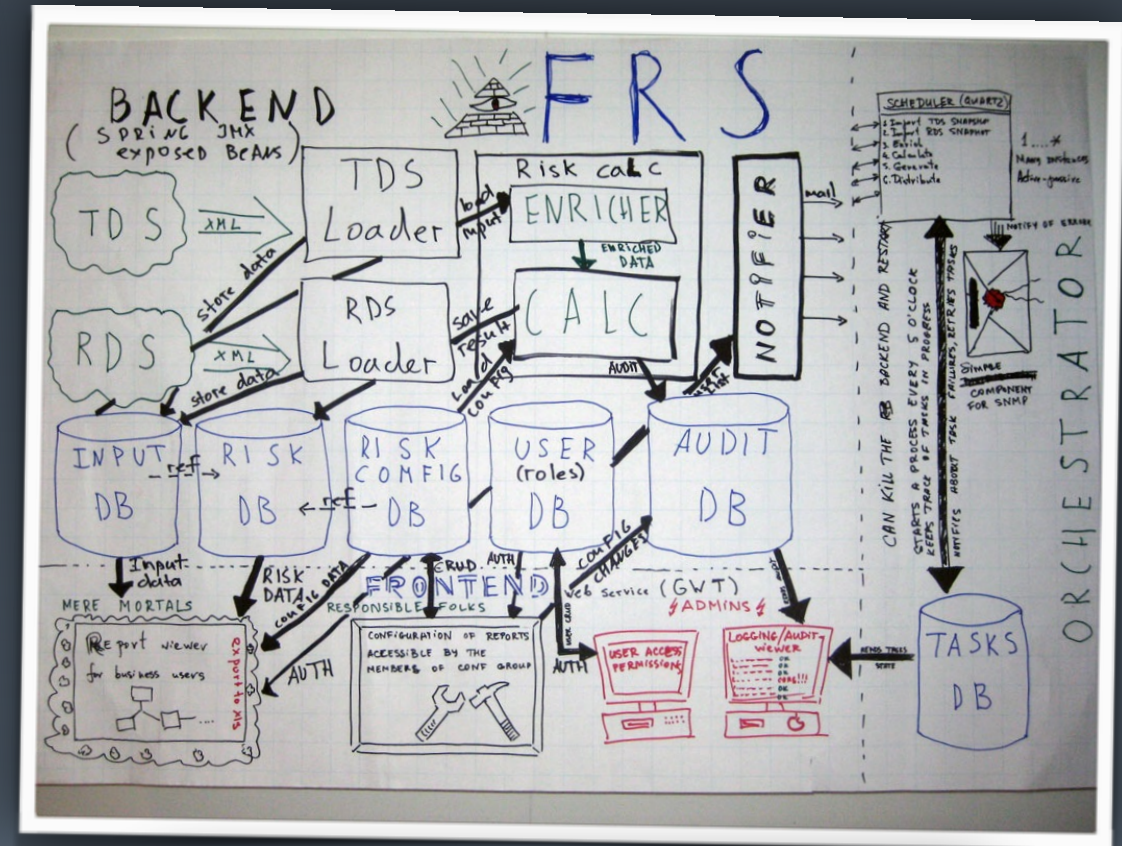
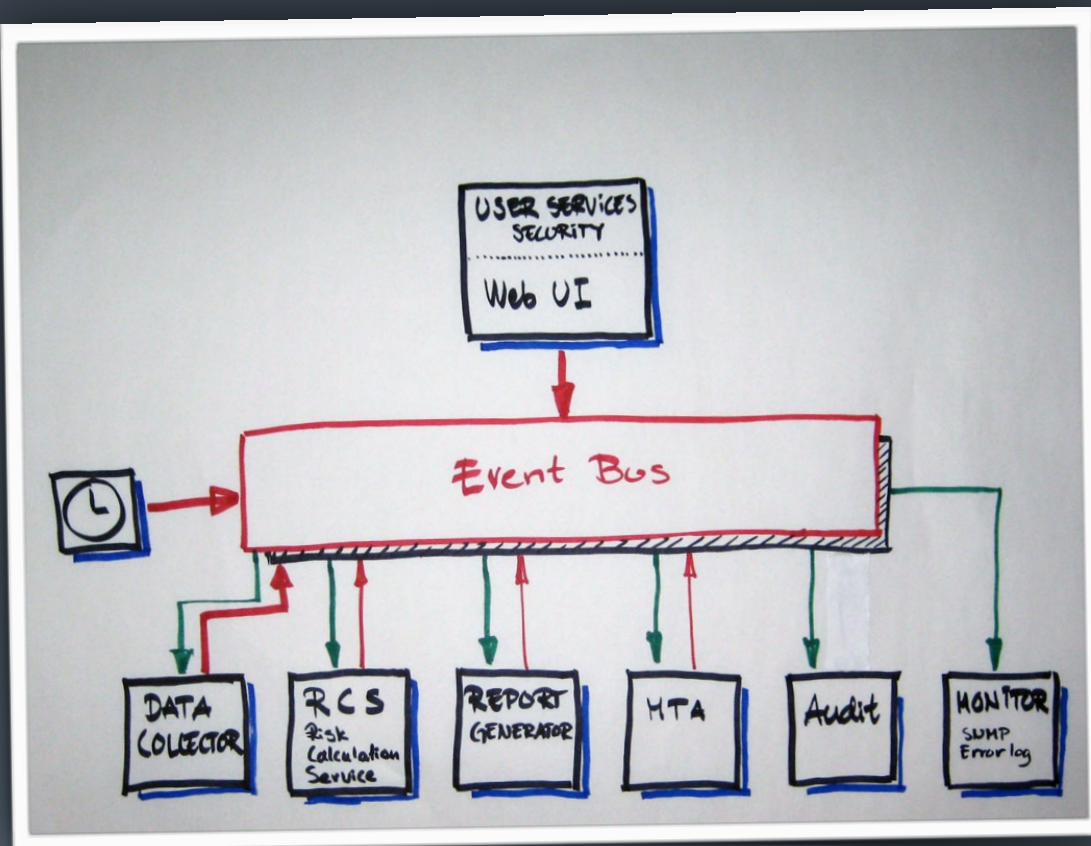


Architecture sketches

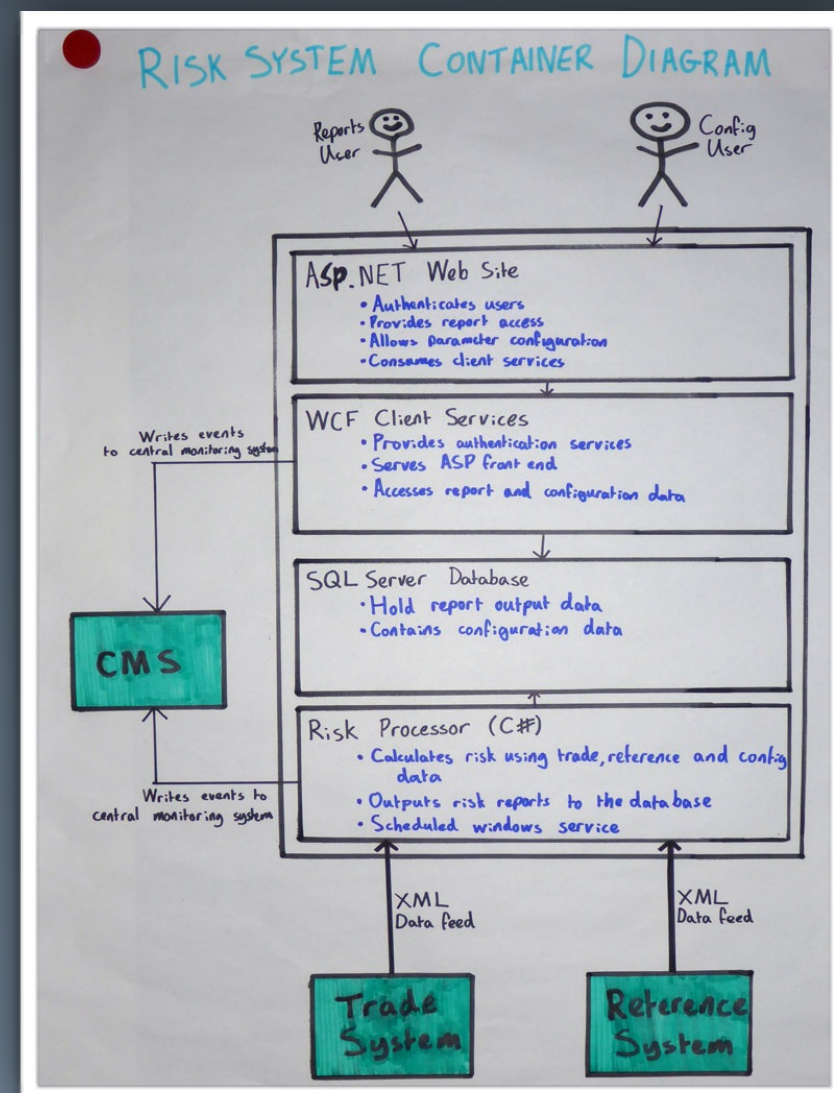
are not

comprehensive

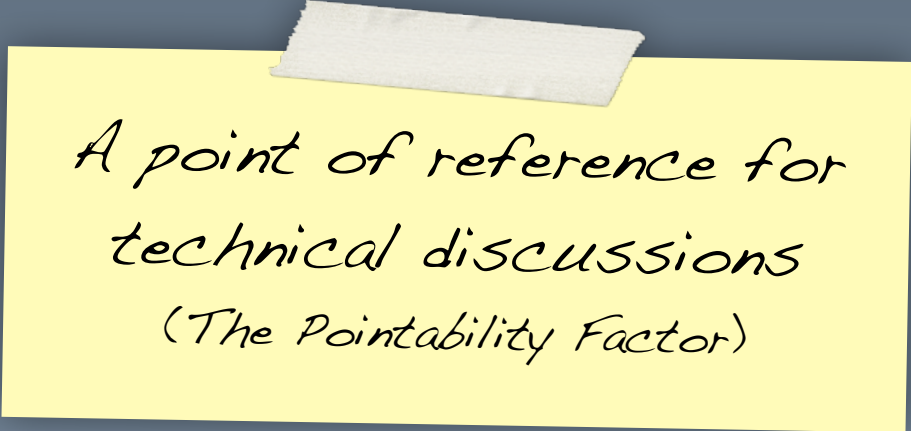
models



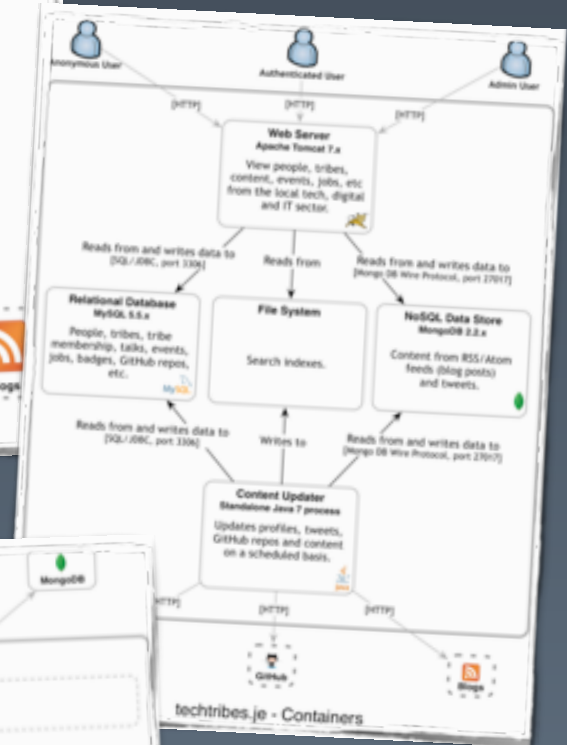
Architecture
sketches
are not art
(although they can be!)



Leave your
sketches
on the wall



*A point of reference for
technical discussions
(The Pointability Factor)*



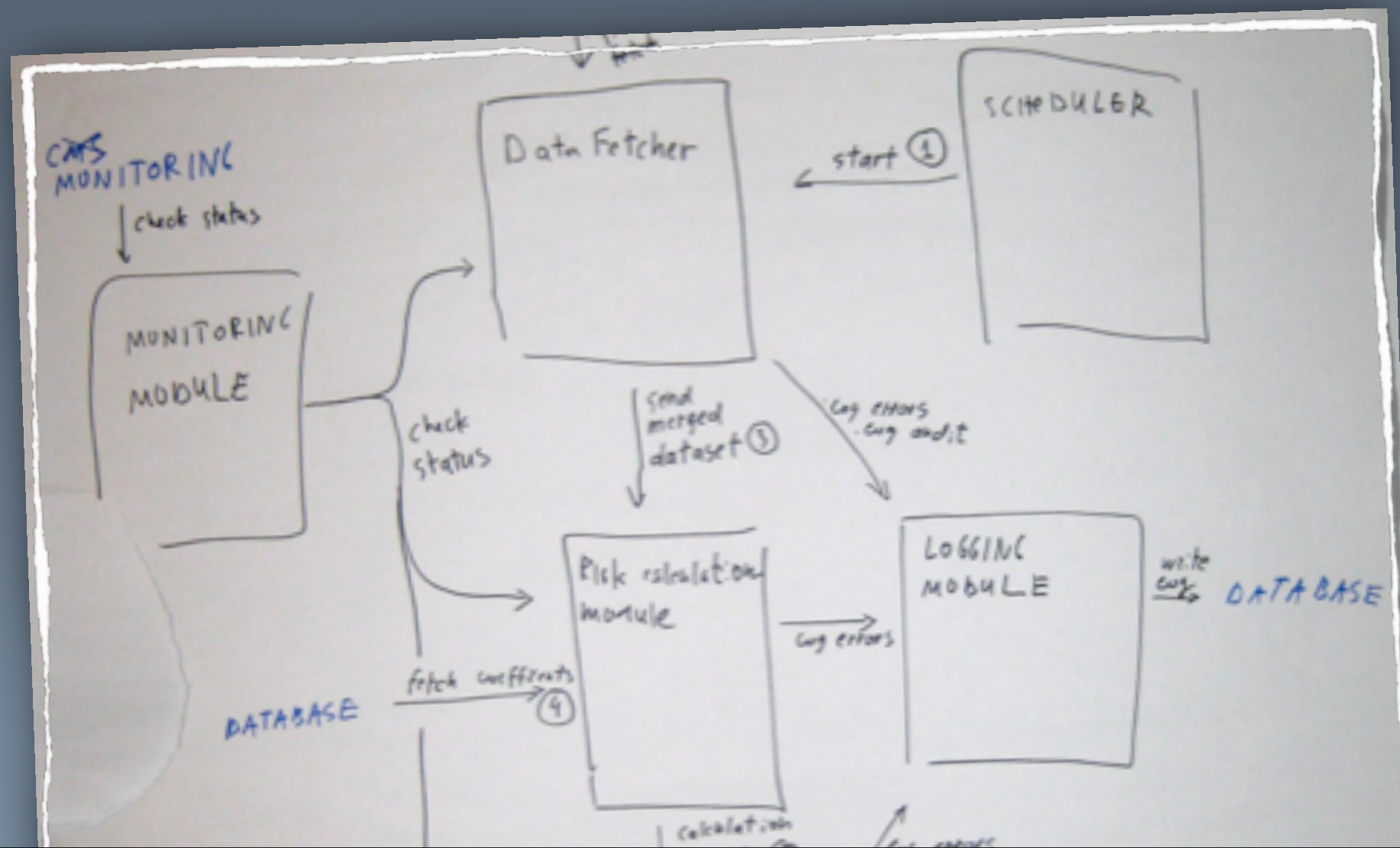
Sketches are maps
that help a team navigate a complex codebase

Do whatever works for

you

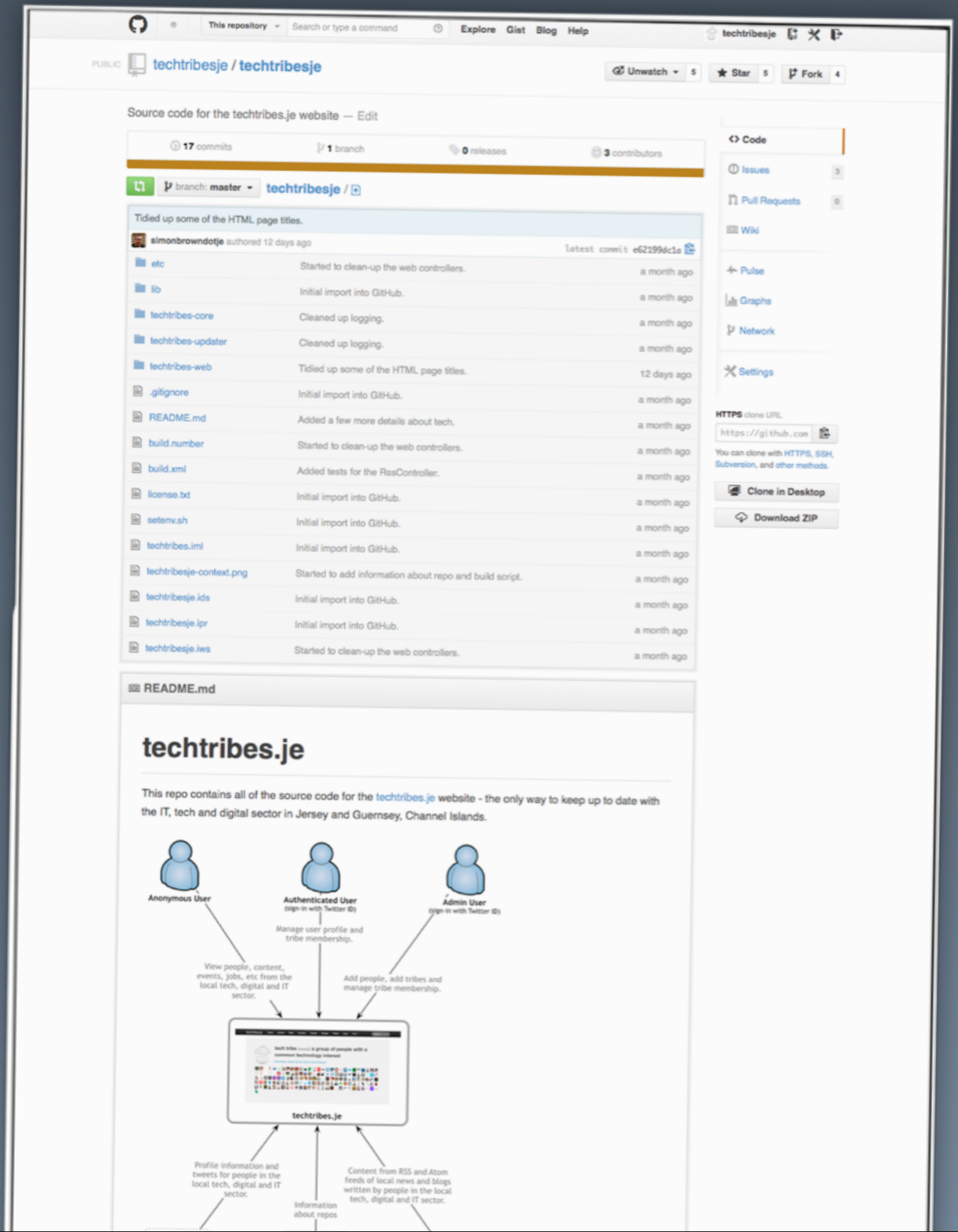
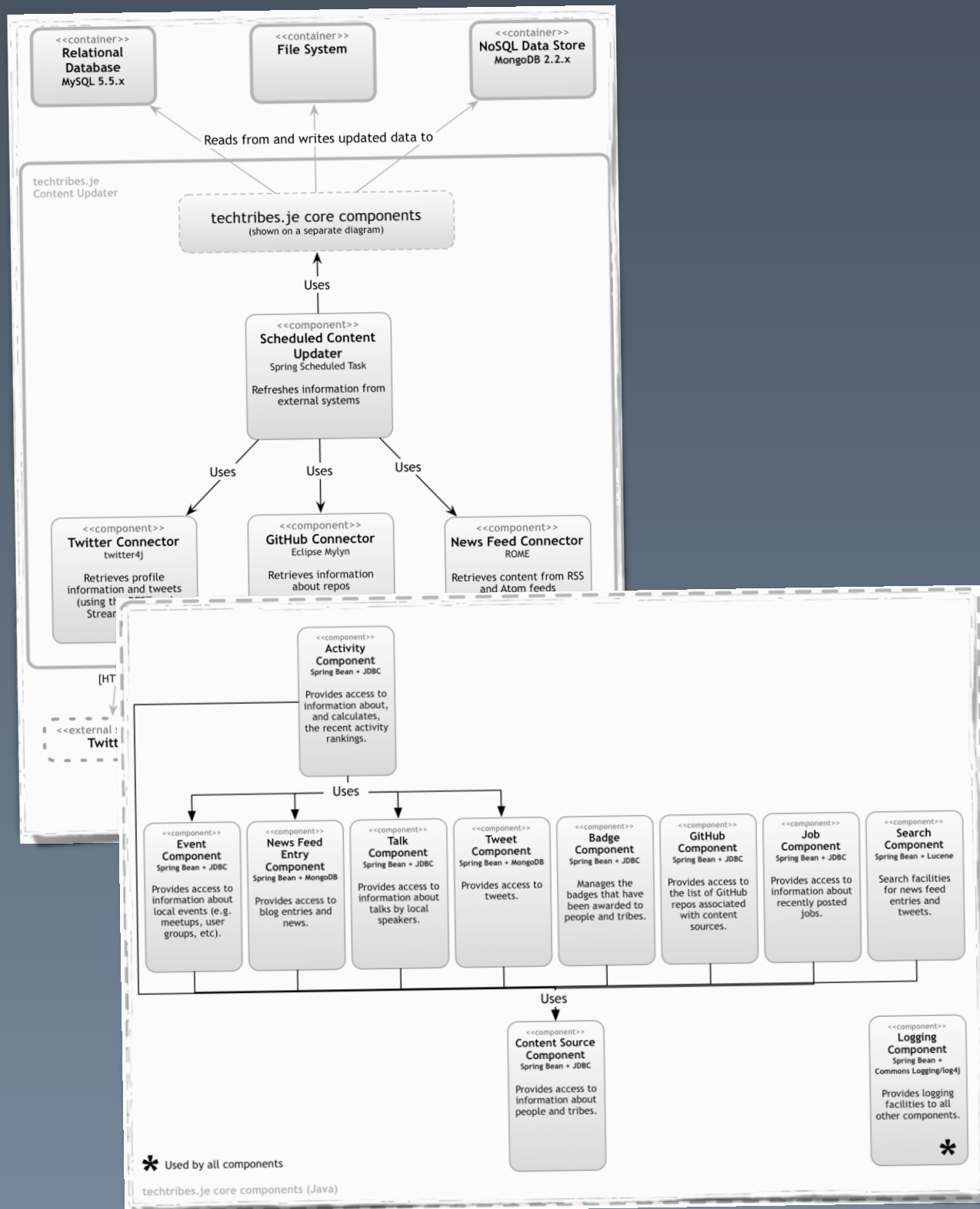
Abstraction

is about reducing detail
rather than creating a different representation



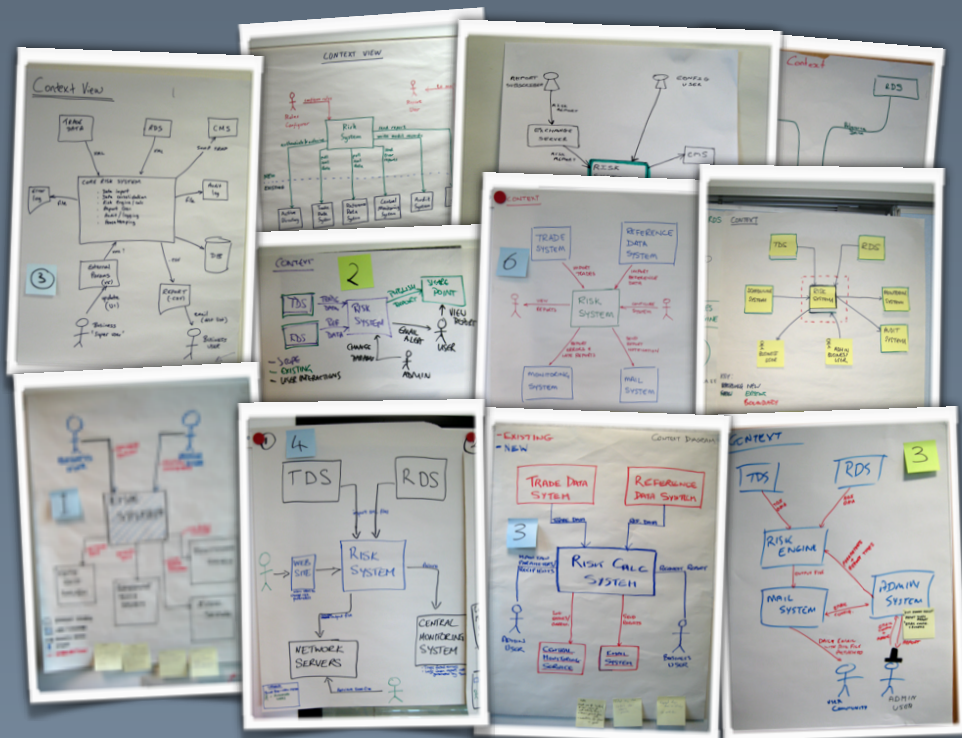
Does your code reflect the
abstractions
that you think about?

Does your code reflect the abstractions that appear on your software architecture diagrams?



Thanks

and happy sketching!



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