

Lost in Translation?: Multiple lenses in Business Analysis

A Five Word Framework for Business Analysis

Presented to the Open Group, London, 28th April 2009 by Nigel Green

Abstract

Many of us can recall a time when a distinction was made between the hardware and software supporting the business and the information used by the business – there was a clear difference **between IT**, to describe the former, **and IS** to describe the latter. This distinction is all but lost and along with it, **the art of non-technical, behaviour-focused and outcome-driven, Business Analysis**.

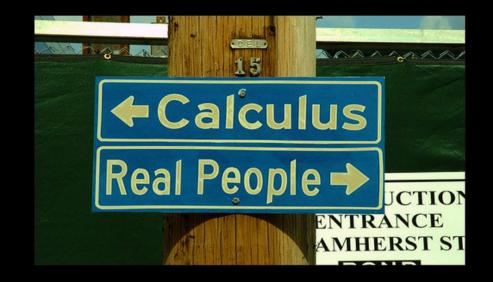
What's needed is a **business-natural language** that moves the focus away from any technologies and towards business behaviour – as expressed in values, policies, real world events and any type of information being exchanged. Such a language helps focus discussion on the **key outcome-affecting aspects rather than functional detail**. An example of such a language is called VPEC-T (Also known as "The 5D Lens"), after its five dimensions; **Values, Policies, Events, Content and Trust**. It provides a simple and quick way expressing requirements that feeds and augments existing methods.

This session will explain how and why VPEC-T was developed and examples of how requirements analysis benefits from this approach.

the art of non-technical, behaviour-focused and outcome-driven, Business Analysis

using business-natural language

Values, Policies, Events, Content and Trust



Improving Business/IT communication

If I'd asked my customers what they wanted, they'd have said a faster horse

Henry Ford

we need to find SIMPLE ways

... to show business value of:



.. and focus on use rather than inner workings

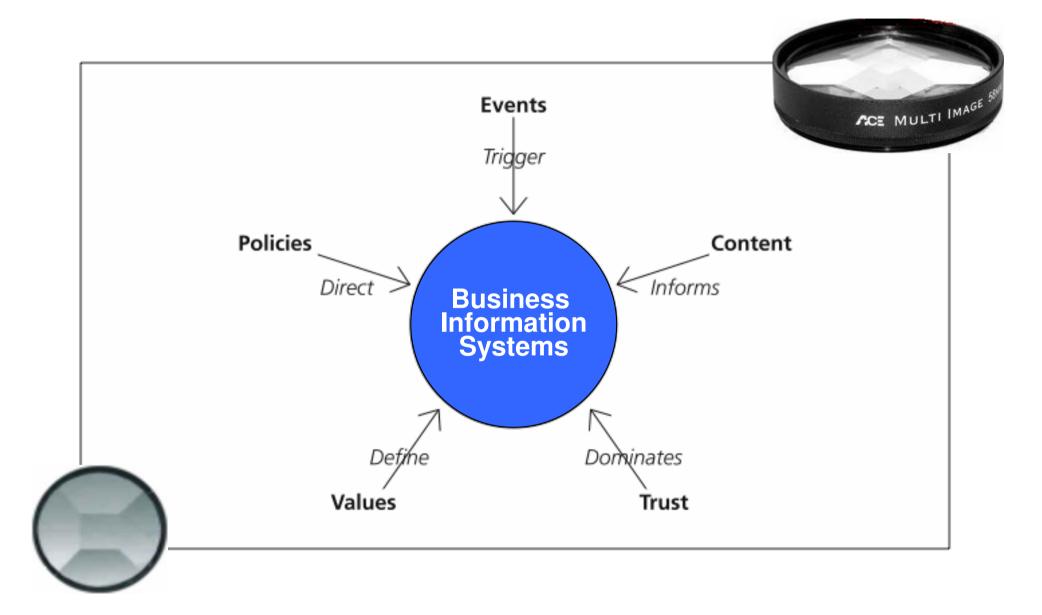


Why and What before How

Using only FIVE words...

Values **Policies Events** Content Trust

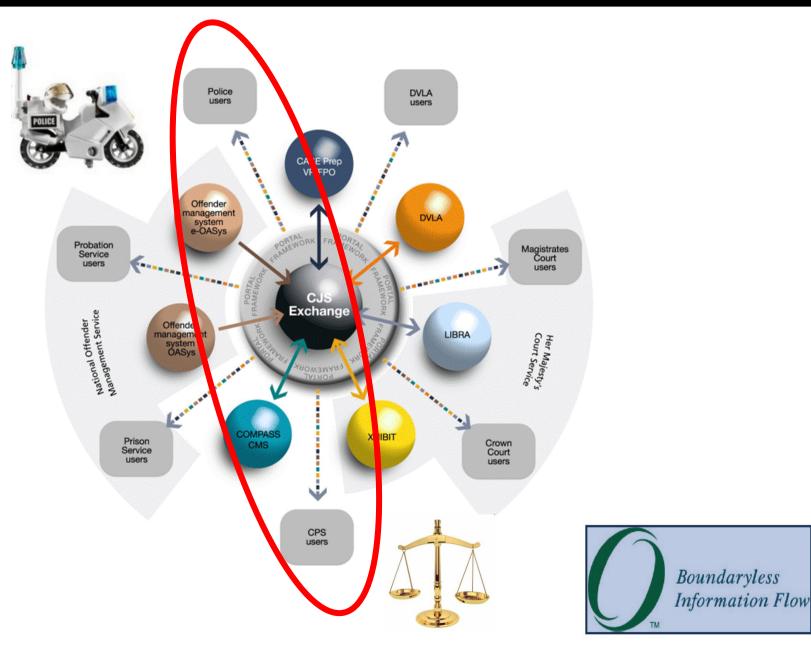
A '5D Lens' to look at Information Systems



Here's THREE stories...

A story of joined-up Criminal Justice (Why Values & Trust Matter)

The UK Criminal Justice Department's Exchange



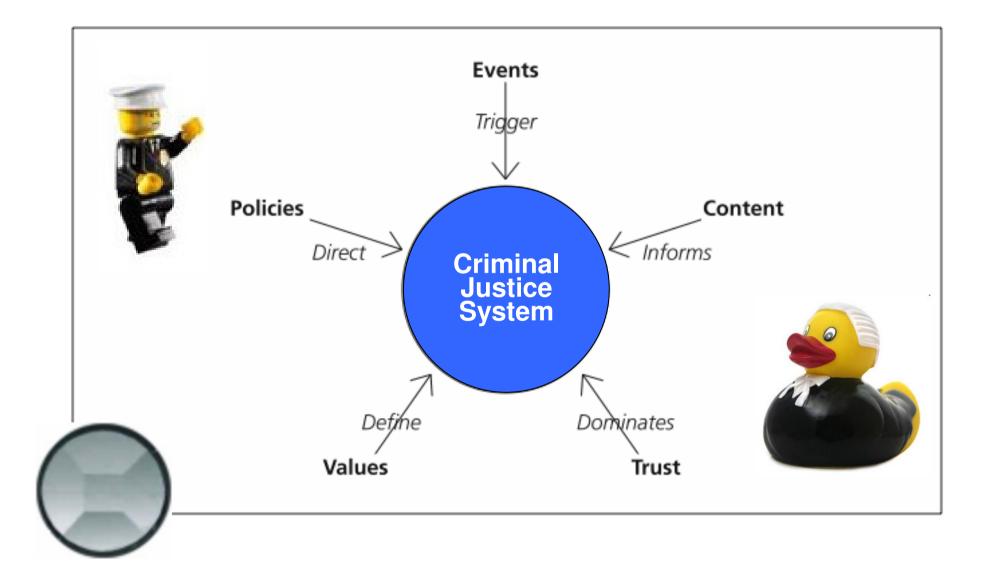
a misalignment of values



and lack of trust..



This challenge is gave birth to the '5D Lens'



We learnt:

A Policy-Event-Content analysis pattern taken from Supply Chain Logistics could be applied to the information flows between government departments

> Business people found it easy describe Day-In-The-Life stories around Events, Policies & Content

Important aspects of the Requirement set had been left undocumented: The Values and Trust aspects of the Information System should be explored early to avoid costly failures.

A story of a dis-integrated *(disintegrating)* bank

(Why organisational behaviour matters)

the stove-pipe bank



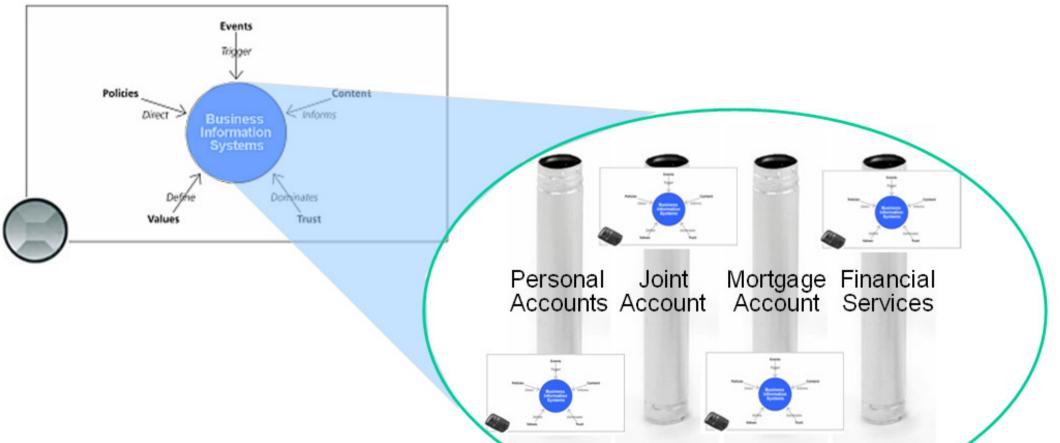


Personal Joint Mortgage Financial Accounts Account Account Services

A Business Process & Information Systems Log Jam

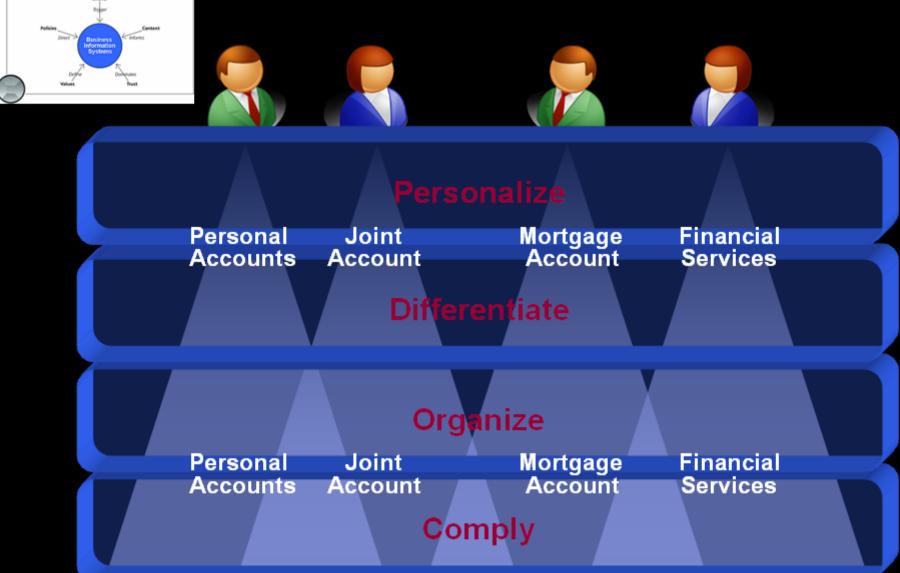


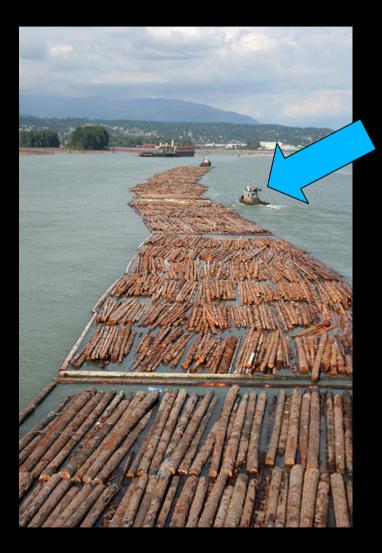
5D Lens on each pipe & the whole bank



Highlighting the differing values & trust issues between the pipes and agreeing policies, events and content across business led to...

...a customer focused & integrated multi-channel bank





http://www.flickr.com/photos/hisgett/220279395/

We learnt:

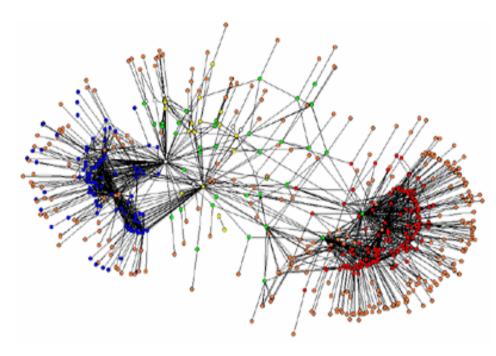
The framework could be applied to the Financial Sector and was applied by colleagues with very little 'VPEC-T training'

Use of the framework was extended to become an architectural 'style' – much like REST only focused on real-world operational needs.

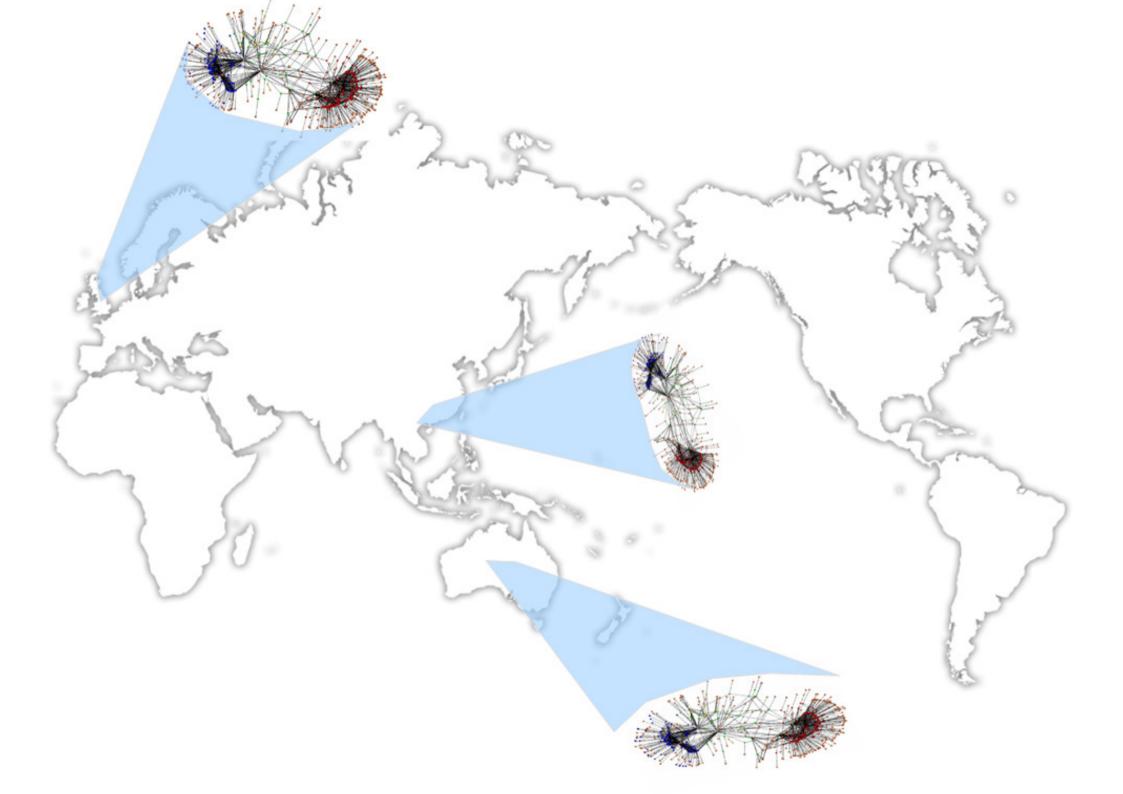
The bank's IT department found themselves a new role as Change Enablers. They were the heroes of the day!

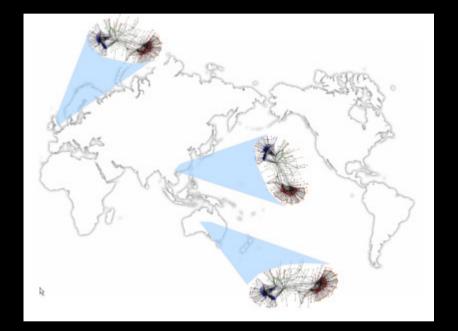
The story of behaviour-led IS Strategy in a Global Transportation Company

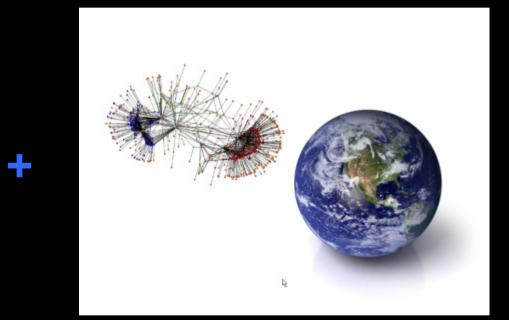
(how much should be dictated from the centre in a post major M&A context?)

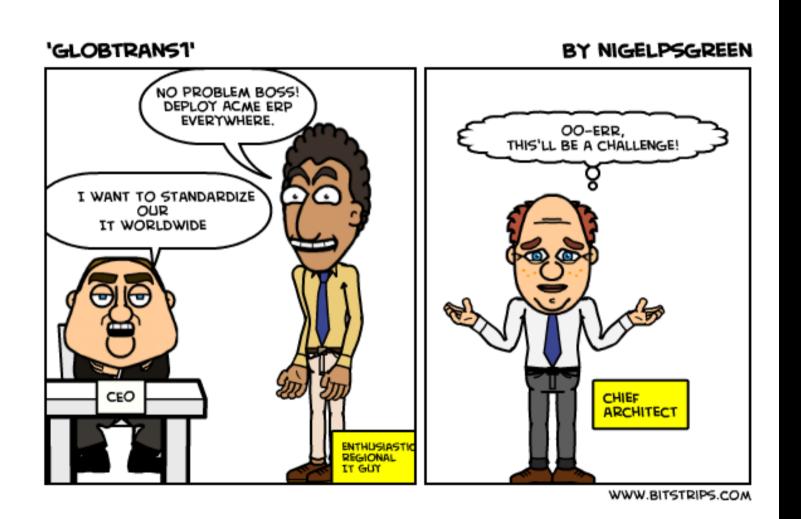






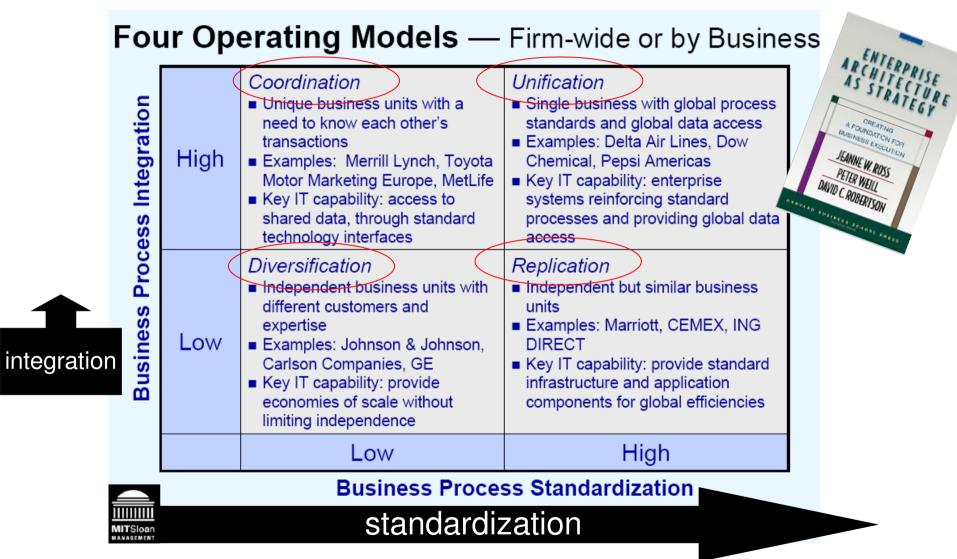




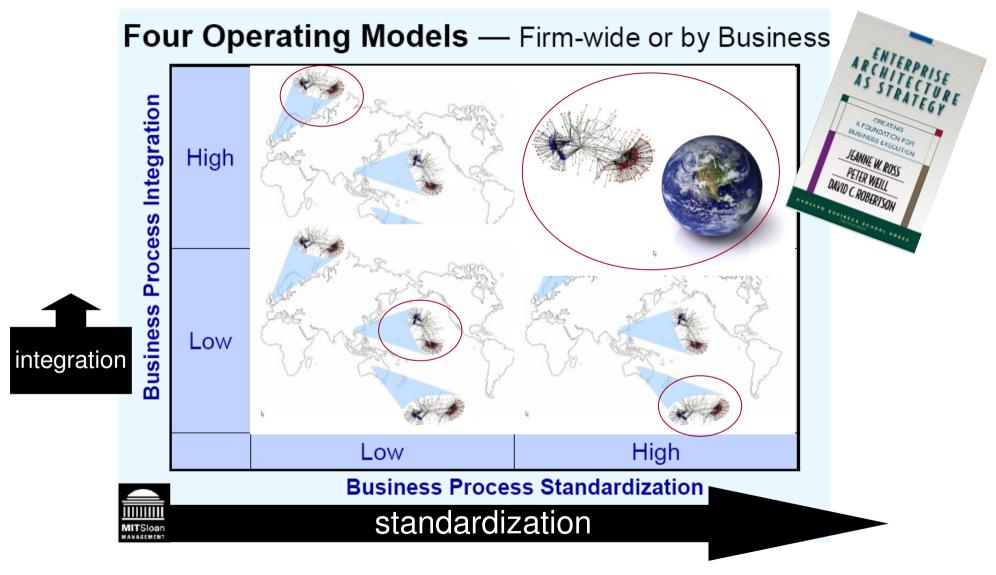


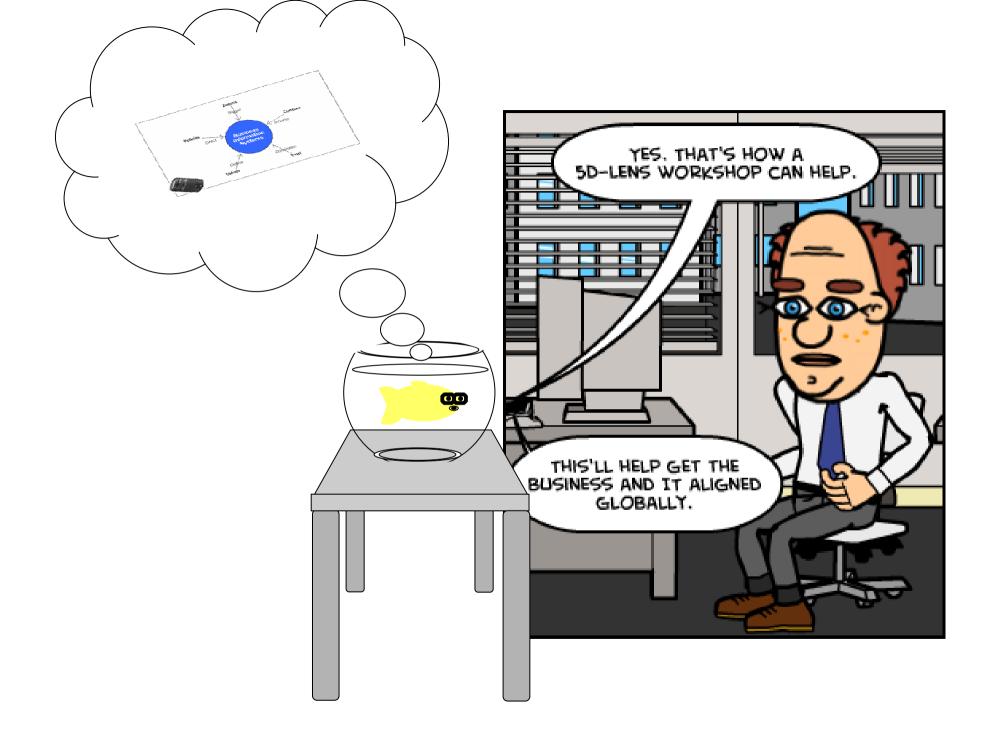


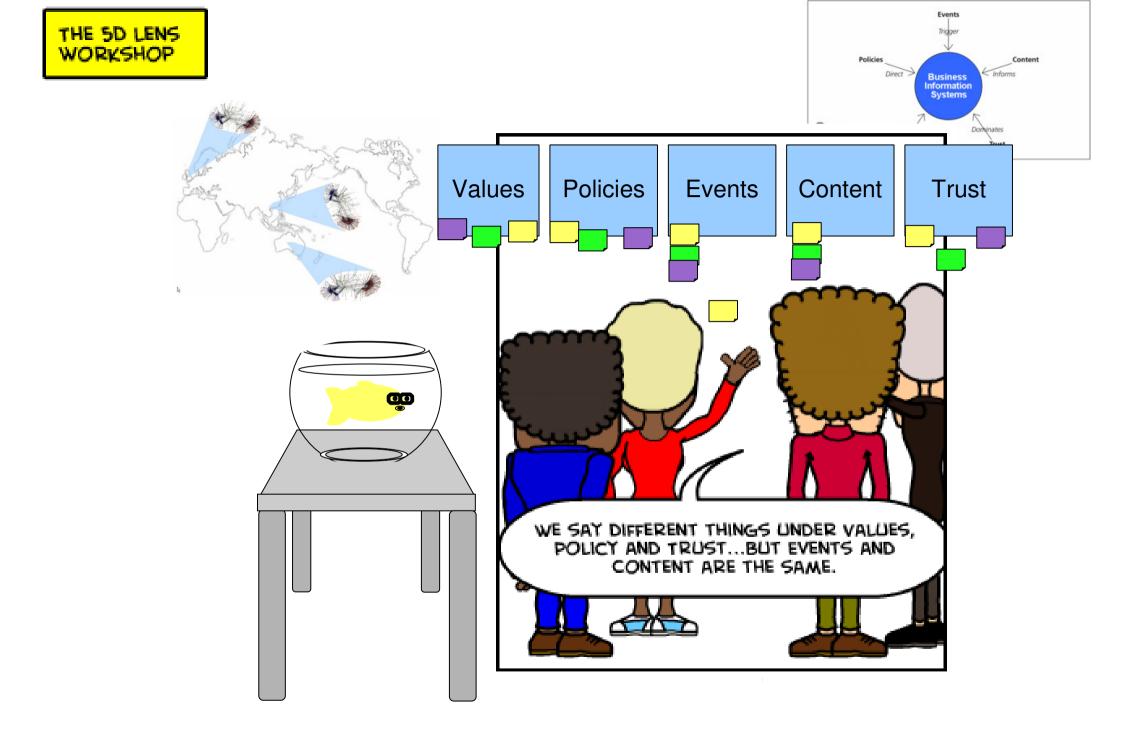
Understanding of the Business Operating Model

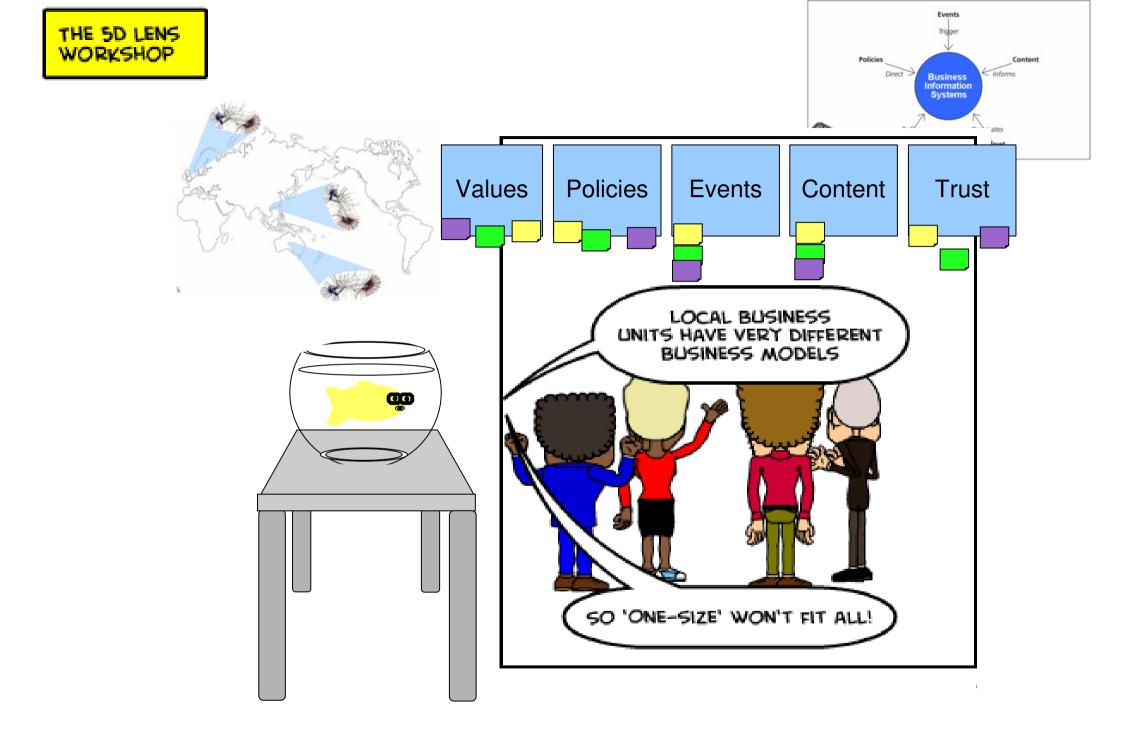


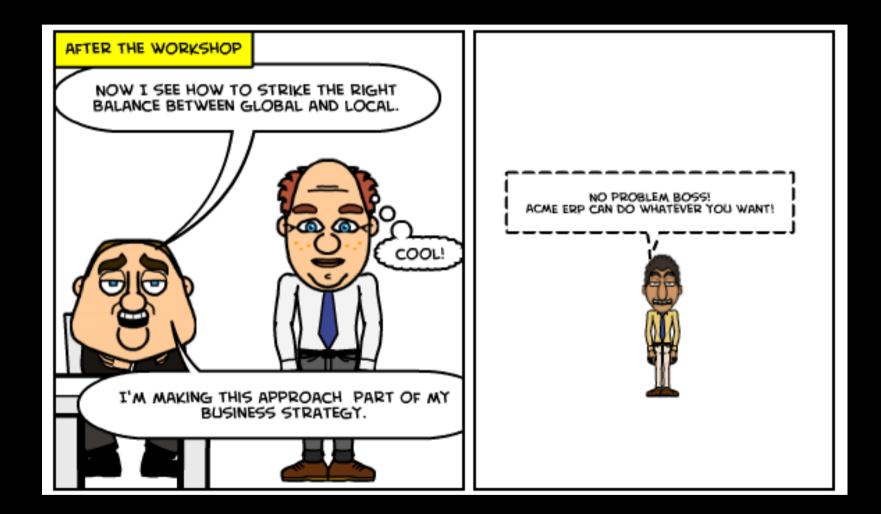
Understanding of the Business Operating Model











We learnt:

The framework worked well with other tools & could be applied at a strategic level within a global firm

The simple five word model works well across geographies

This company saw \$\$\$+ value in the approach in relation to their M&A and divestments plans.

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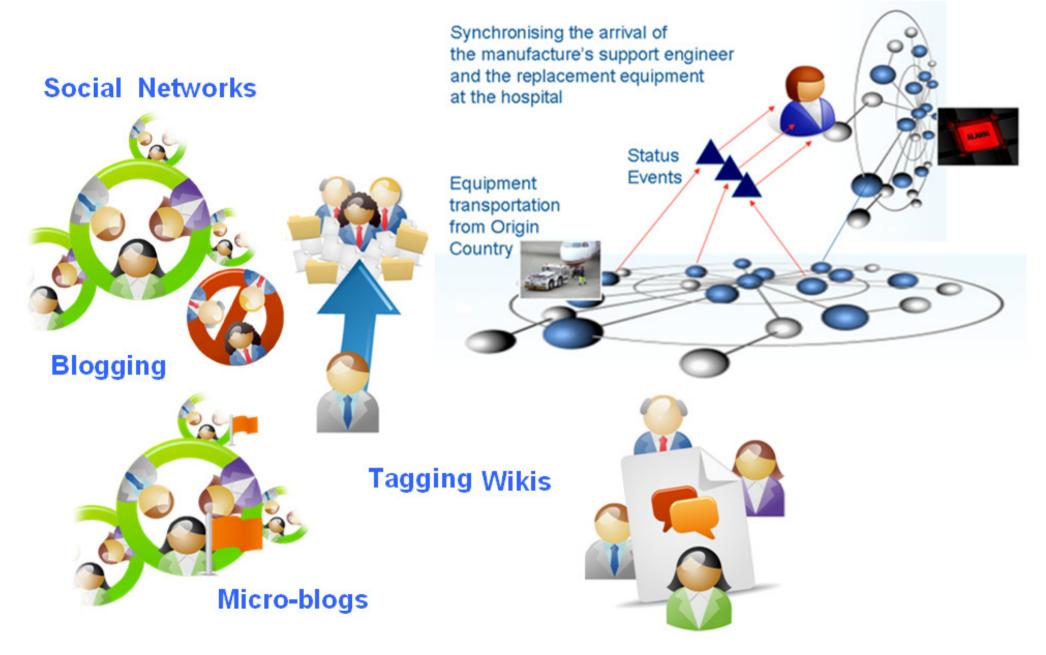
5D Lens and making Web stuff business meaningful



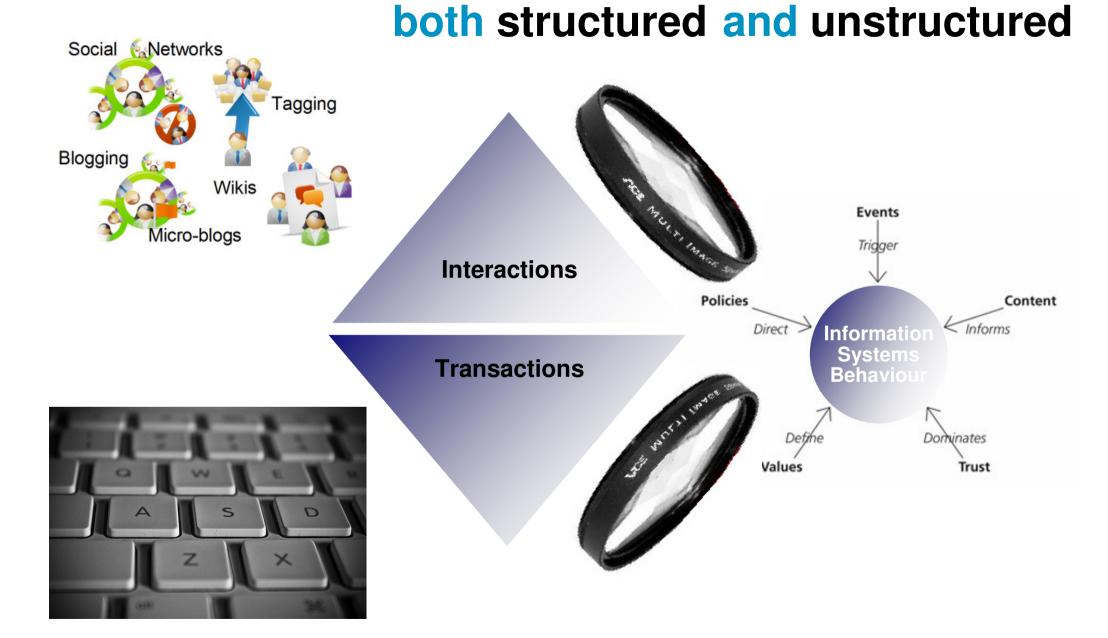
Events



...Web 2.0 Interaction technologies & Services in 'The Cloud'

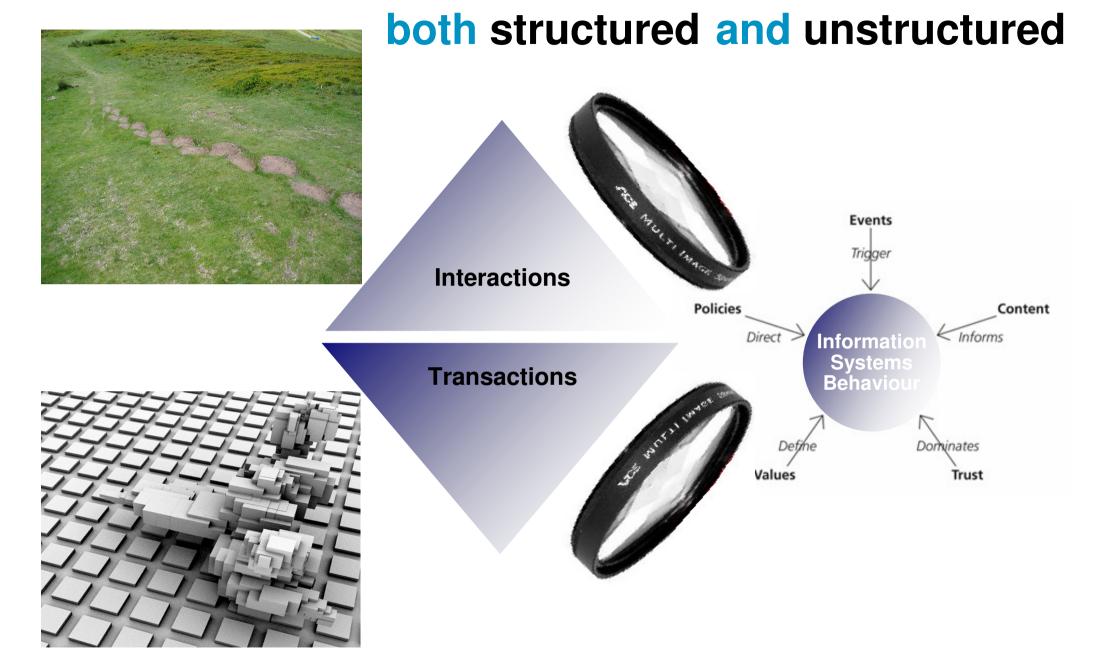


bringing old & new together -

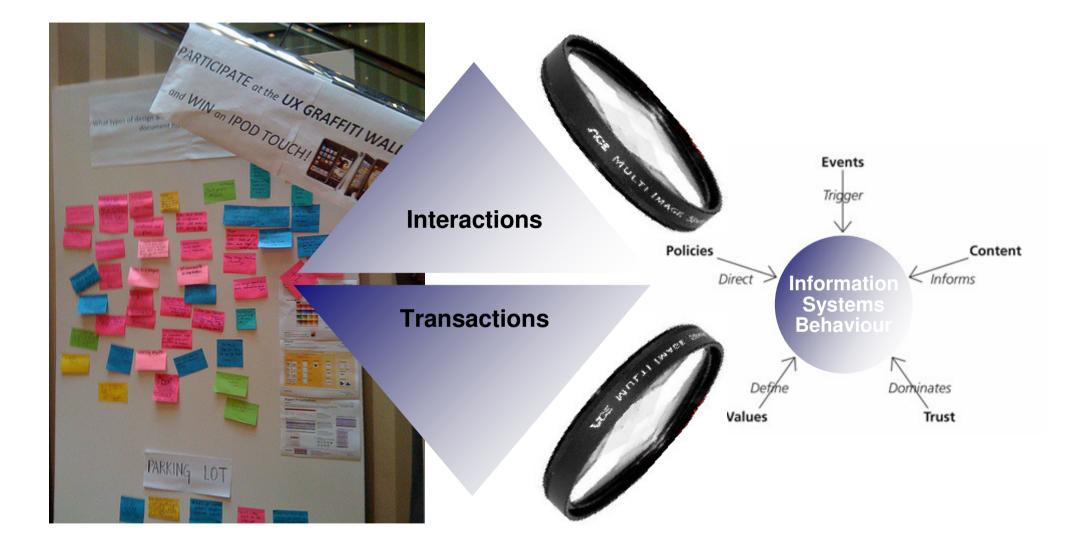


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bringing old & new together -



5D Lens Analysis is an 'Agile' process



Find out more...

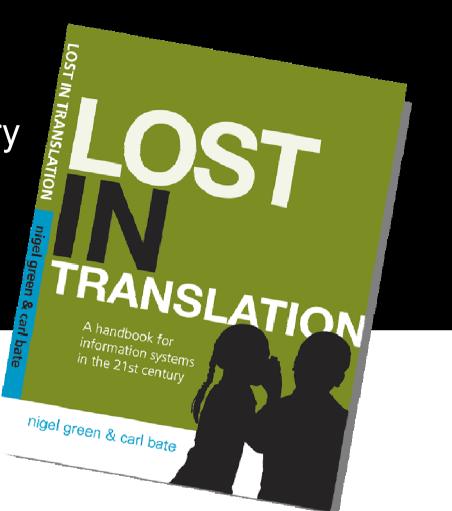
A handbook for Information Systems in the 21st Century

IT and Business: Which do you speak?

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nigel.green@capgemini.com

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