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Course IN5140

2023-10-11

# LARGE-SCALE AGILE AND ARCHITECTURE



# Who is Antonio Martini?

## Italian

- No kebab pizza! ☺
- 12 years in Scandinavia – survived many winters!

## Previously

- Worked as a Software Developer
- PhD in Software Engineering (Chalmers)
- Postdoc (Chalmers)
- Independent Consultant
- Advisory board on a startup (Skuld.ai)
- My own startup (AnaConDebt)
- Principal, Strategic Researcher at CA Technologies

## Currently:

- Professor at UiO

## Hobbies

- Board games, strategy computer games, pool, etc.
- Football, volleyball, beach volley, medieval fencing
- Piano, Drumset, etc.
- Travel!
- ...and no time for them! ☺



# Agenda

- ⦿ Recap
  - What is software architecture?
  - How to think about architecture?
- ⦿ Agile and Architecture
  - A complicated relationship
  - Current state of the art
- ⦿ Agile Architecting
  - Process
  - Product
  - Organization
- ⦿ Agile and architects
  - Industrial case study
- ⦿ Summary
  
- ⦿ We will use mentimeter during the lecture, participate!
  - Check the following symbol during the lecture



# What is Software Architecture?



# First question, let's try Menti

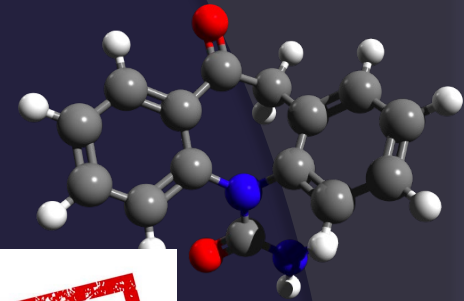


- What is software architecture?



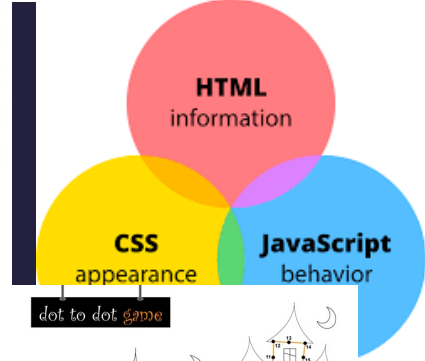
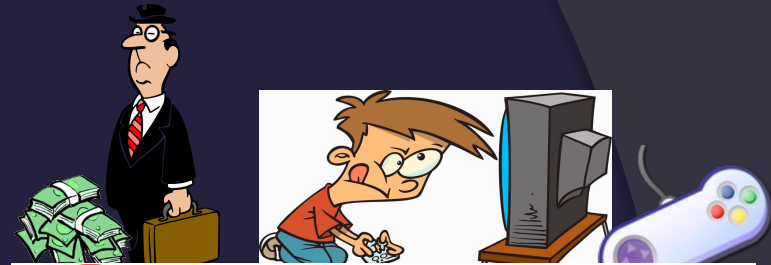
# Software architecture is...

- ◎ All of the followings:
  - Overall system structure
  - The important stuff – whatever that is
  - Things that people perceive as hard to change
  - A set of architectural design decisions



# Software Architecture characteristics

- Multitude of stakeholders
- Quality driven (tradeoff)
- Separation of concerns
- Recurring styles (patterns)
- Conceptual integrity (vision)



# Why software architecture?

- ⦿ To get a **grasp** of a **complex** system
- ⦿ Facilitates the **communication** among the **stakeholders** about their **needs**
- ⦿ Supports **decisions** about future development and maintenance
  - Reuse
  - Budget
- ⦿ Analysis of the product **before** it's **built**
  - Cost reduction
  - Risk reduction





# You can't ignore architecture

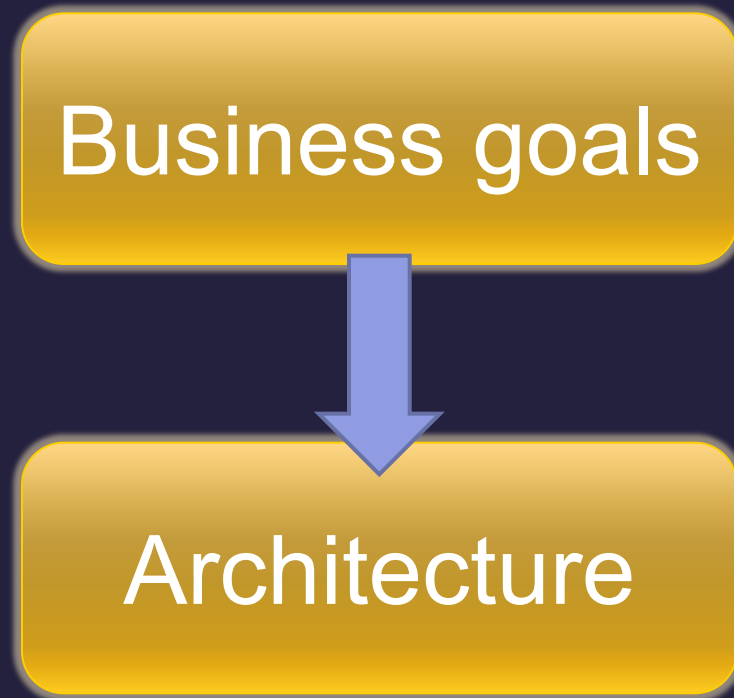
- ◎ All products **HAVE** an architecture
  - It can be bad
  - It can be good
- ◎ In all projects we **SHOULD** think about architecture
  - Maybe less in small projects
  - Maybe more in large projects
- ◎ Thinking about the architecture is a necessary (and smart) process



# How to think about Architecture



# Business drives architecture



# A process to think about architecture



Who?

What do they need?

What should the system do?

What qualities are important?

What should we focus on?

How should we implement it?

# System Qualities

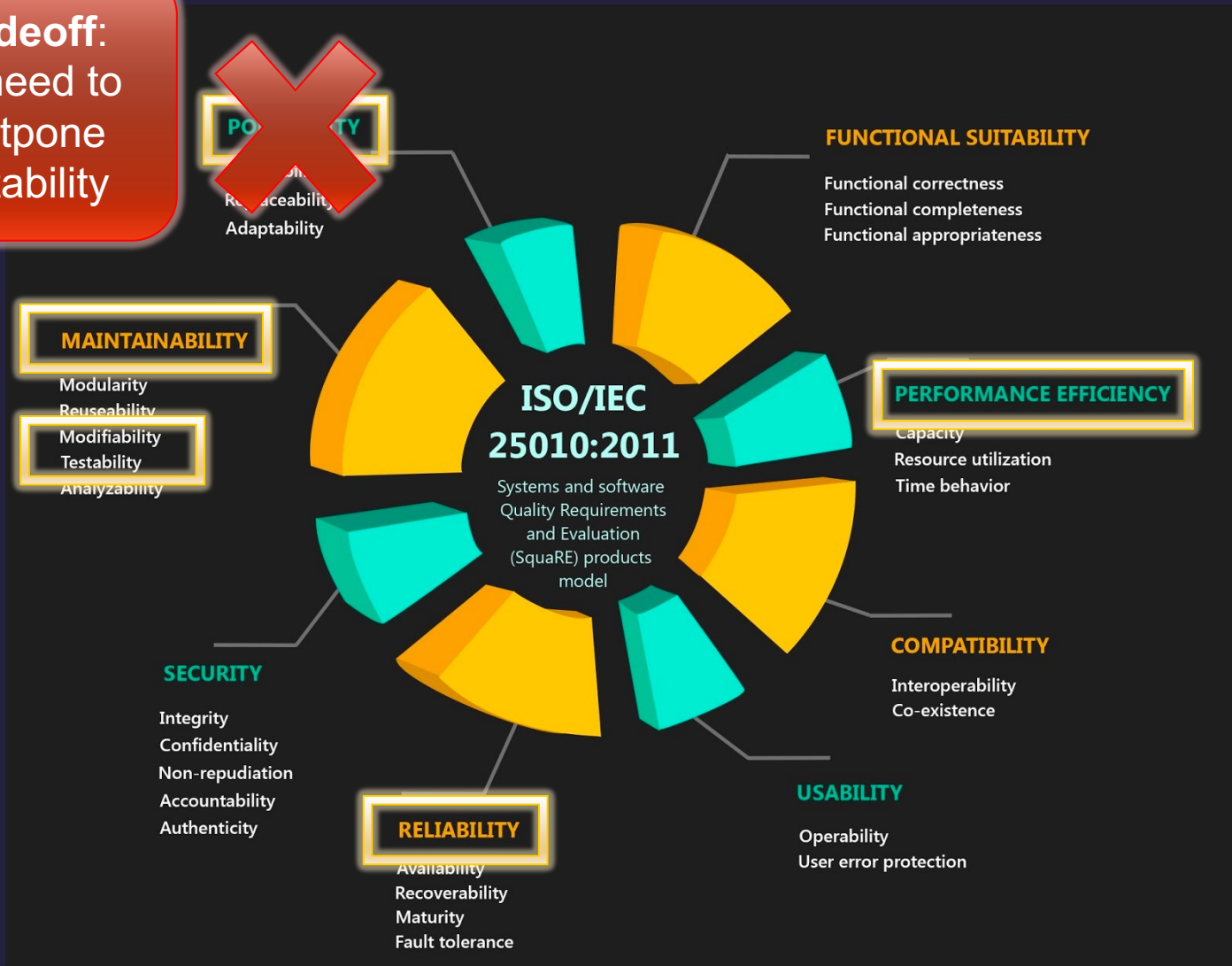


# System Qualities – All stakeholders



# System Qualities – Trade-off

Tradeoff:  
we need to  
postpone  
portability



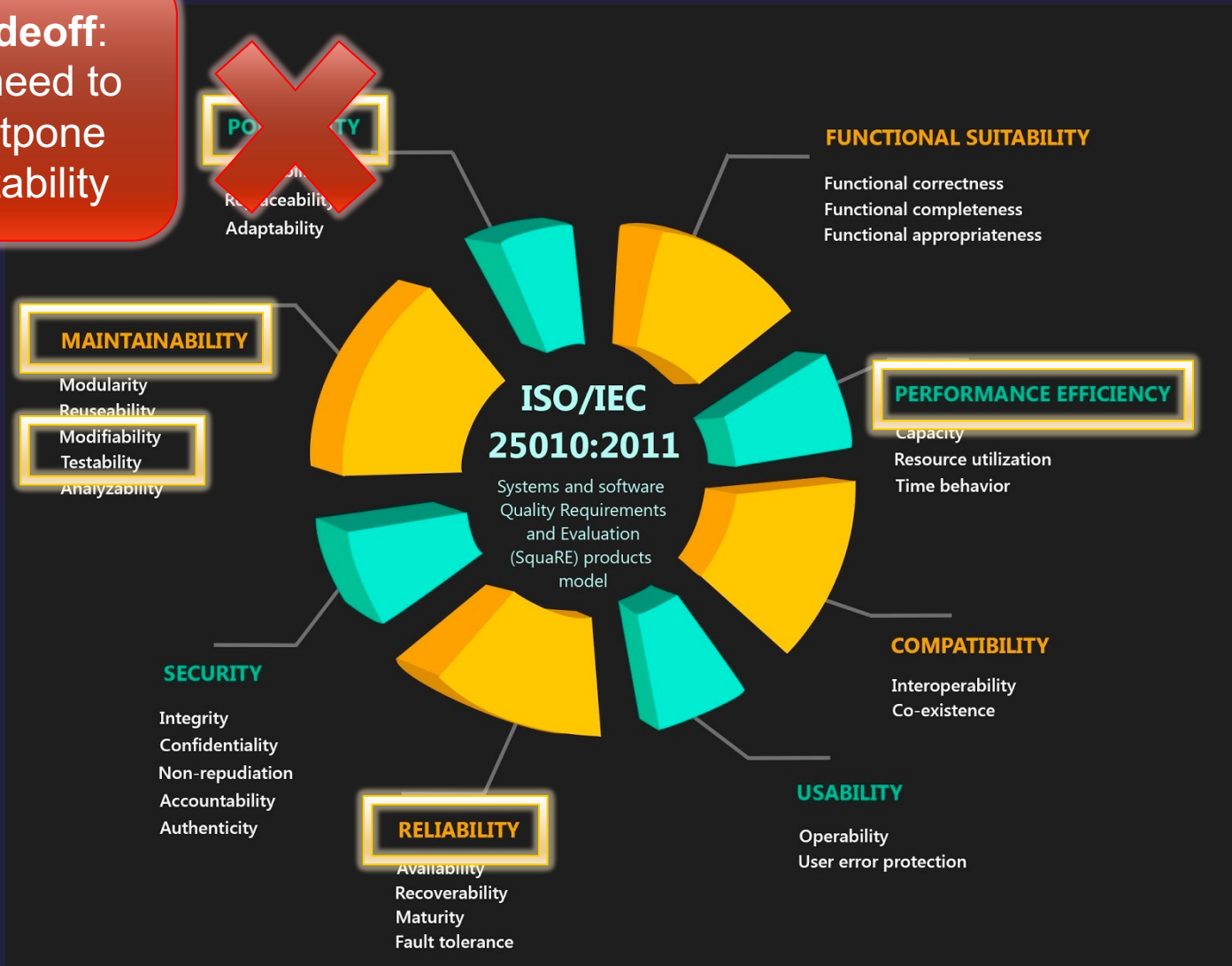
# Cost/benefits scenarios and analysis (simplified example)

	Benefit: Users short-term	Benefit: User long-term	Cost	Total
Solution 1	-- (vs competitor)	++ (both platforms)  - (lack of visibility)	+ (cheaper in total)	0
Solution 2	++ (vs competitor)	+ (visibility)  - (no users in one platform)	- (rewrite)	+1



# System Qualities – Trade-off

Tradeoff:  
we need to  
postpone  
portability



# Architecture = Tradeoff

- It will **never** be perfect
- It's all about doing the **best tradeoff**
- But what if the best tradeoff is a... **moving target?**



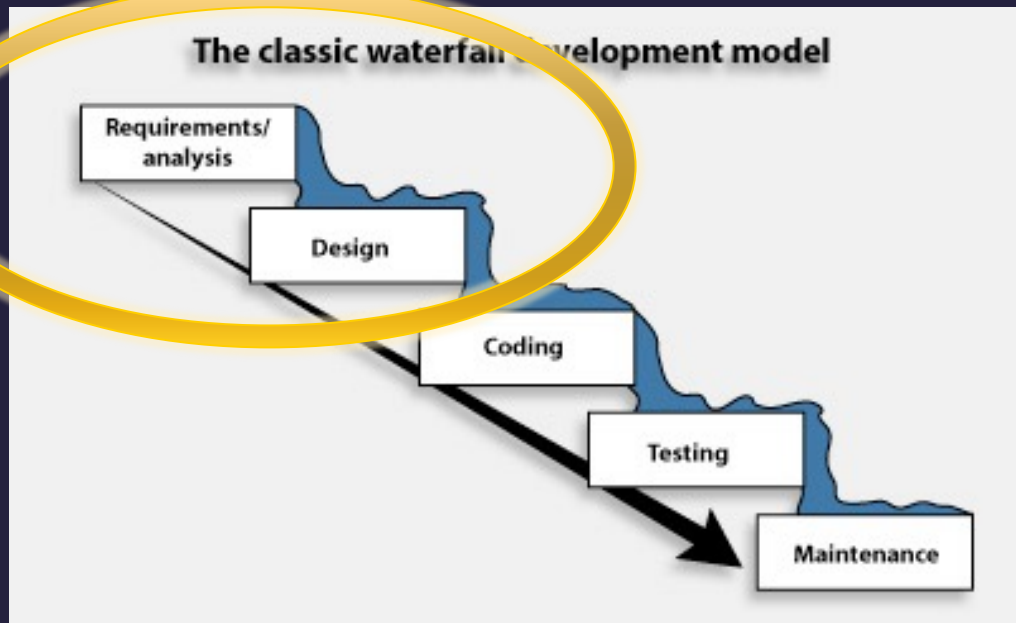
# Agile and Architecture: a complicated relationship

In a relationship
Engaged
Married
✓ It's complicated
Divorced



# Once upon a time it was Waterfall...

## Architecture



# The enemy: Big Upfront Anything\*

## ⦿ Requirement engineering

- Should we do upfront requirement engineering?
  - Yes
    - We need to understand what the users want
    - We need to understand the domain and its constraints
  - No
    - Too much documents and time spent are a waste
    - Requirements change anyways
- There is a middle ground, we don't have to be extreme

\* Book Chapter 3 (up to 3.3 included)



# Architecture in waterfall: 3 problems

- ◎ Upfront design
  - assumes a “perfect” architecture is already known
- ◎ Is this advisable/possible/realistic?
  - Problem 1: Arch. / Reqs. / Impl. first?
    - Some Architecture Reqs emerge from implementation\*
    - The earlier the Arch decision, the more the probability that is wrong because of lack of information\*\*
  - Problem 2: Architects are humans
    - Several bias: some decisions are not rational\*
      - Anchoring
        - Let's use microservices! Let's design OO!
        - First decisions have a strong effect on other decisions

\* Van Vliet, Tang: *Decision making in software architecture*, JSS, 2016

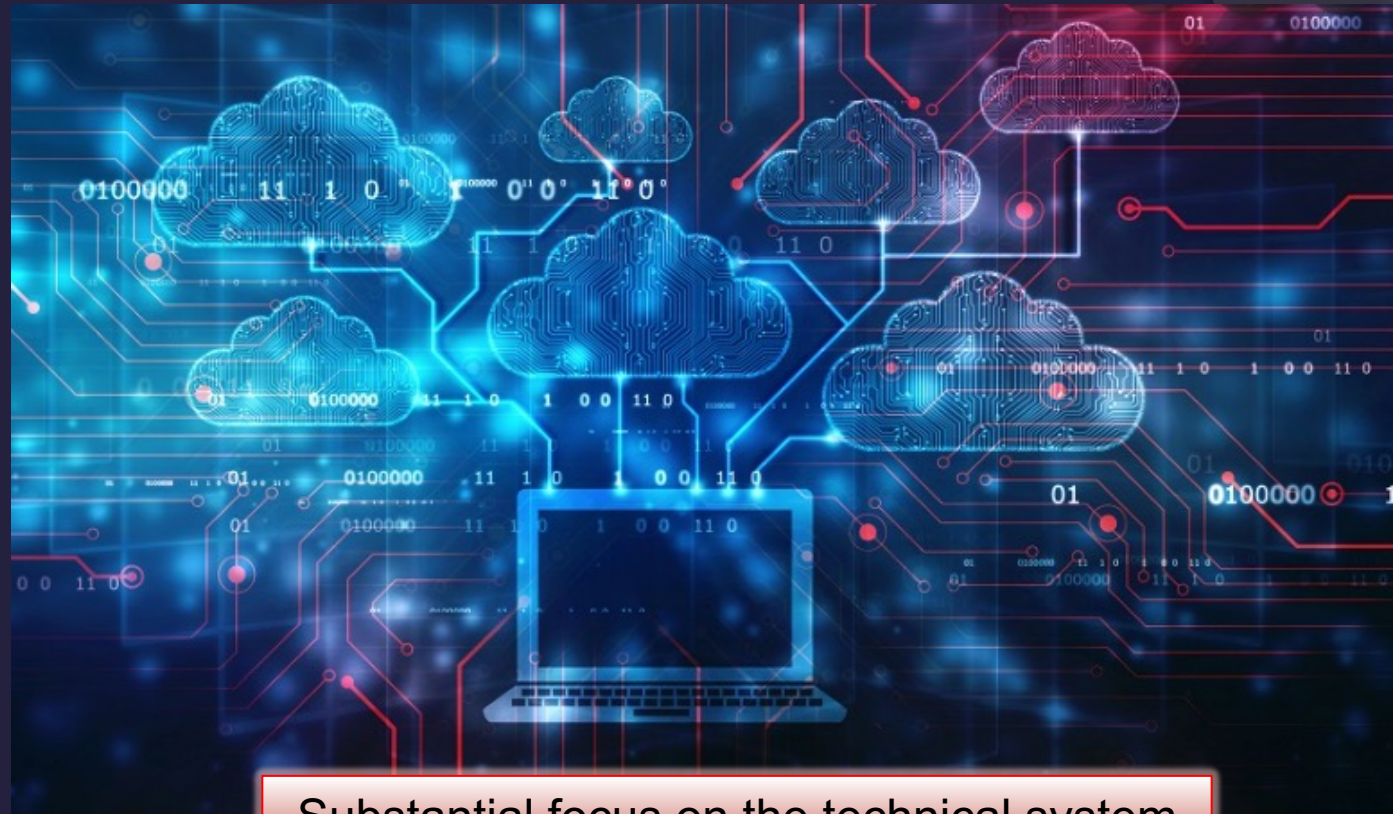
\*\* Poort, van Vliet: *Architecting as a Risk- and Cost Management Discipline*



# Problem 3: Focus on the Wrong Outcome



Little delivered  
value!



Substantial focus on the technical system

# But the solution of problem 3 is not just doing the opposite! You need a balance...



Too much focus on  
delivering short-term  
value!

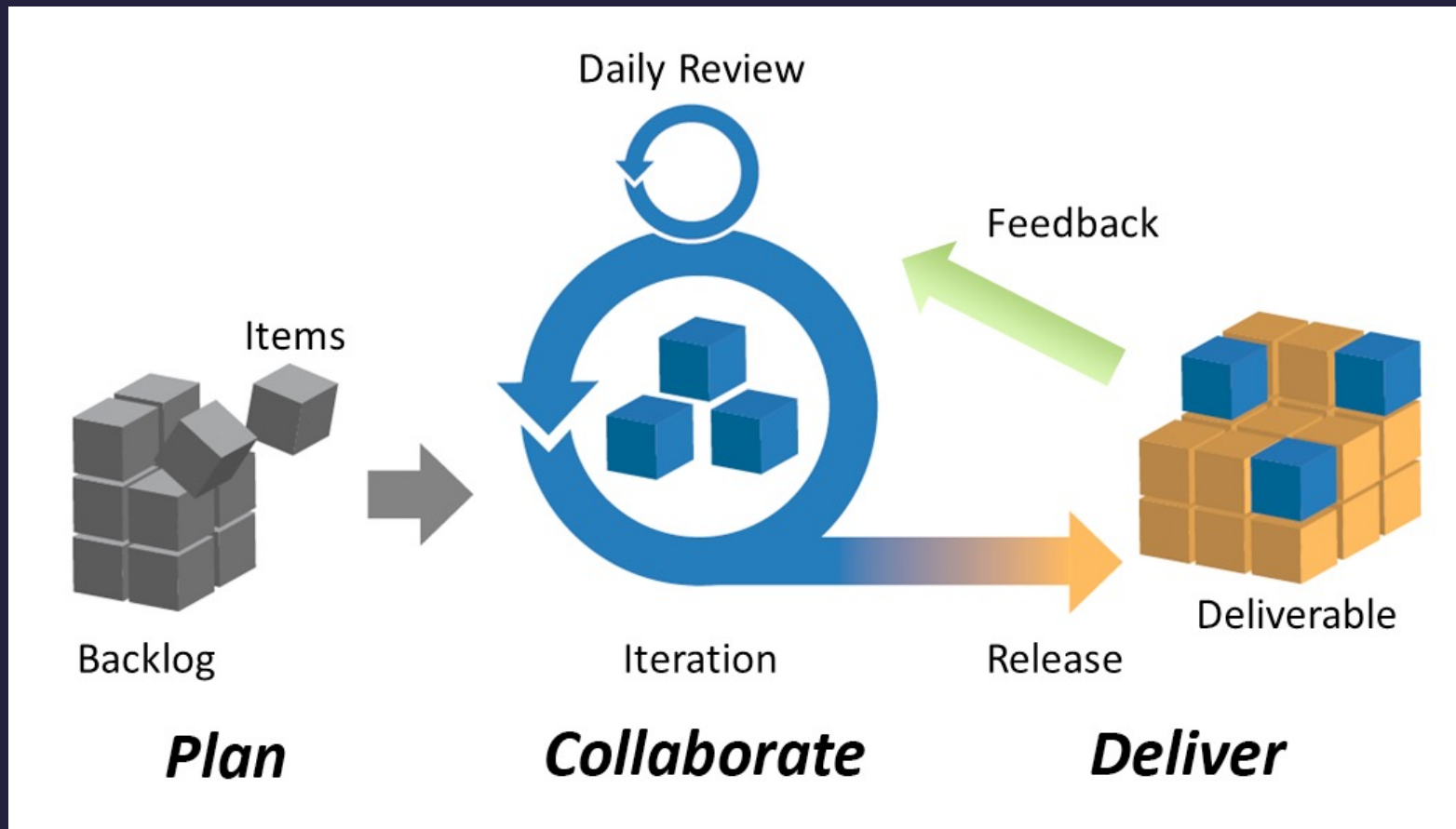


Little focus on the  
technical system





# ...then the Agile revolution happened



# Spot what can affect architecture in the agile manifesto



1. Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.
2. Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.
3. Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.
4. Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.
5. Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.
6. The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.
7. Working software is the primary measure of progress.
8. Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.
9. Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.
10. Simplicity--the art of maximizing the amount of work not done--is essential.
11. The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.
12. At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.



# Spot what can affect **architecture**

1. Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through **early and continuous delivery** of valuable software.
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# Necessary but not sufficient

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



# Different architecture management in different contexts...

## ◎ Small projects:

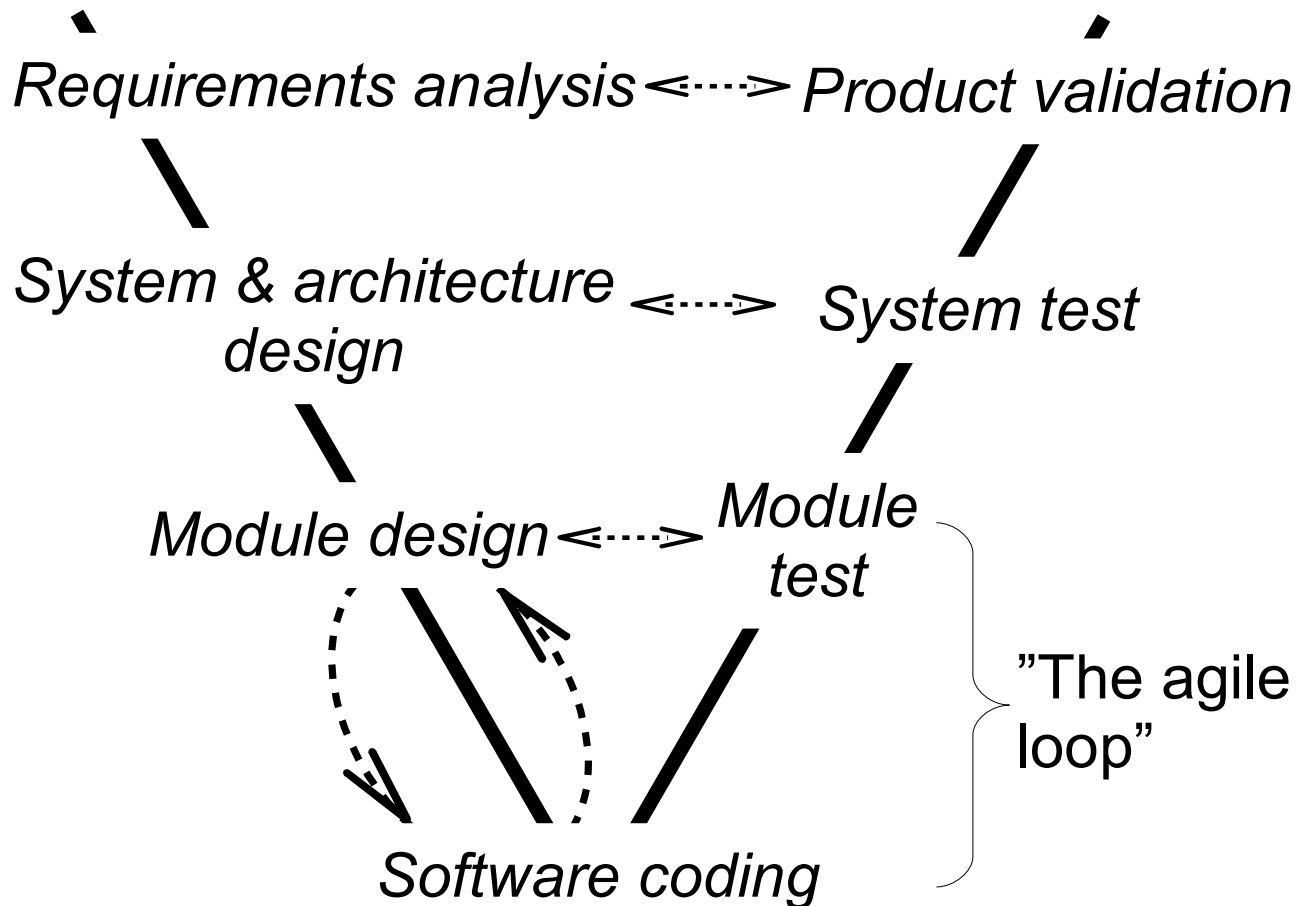
- 1 team can
  - understand few stakeholders
  - manage their concerns
  - handle complexity
  - grasp the overall view

## ◎ Large projects:

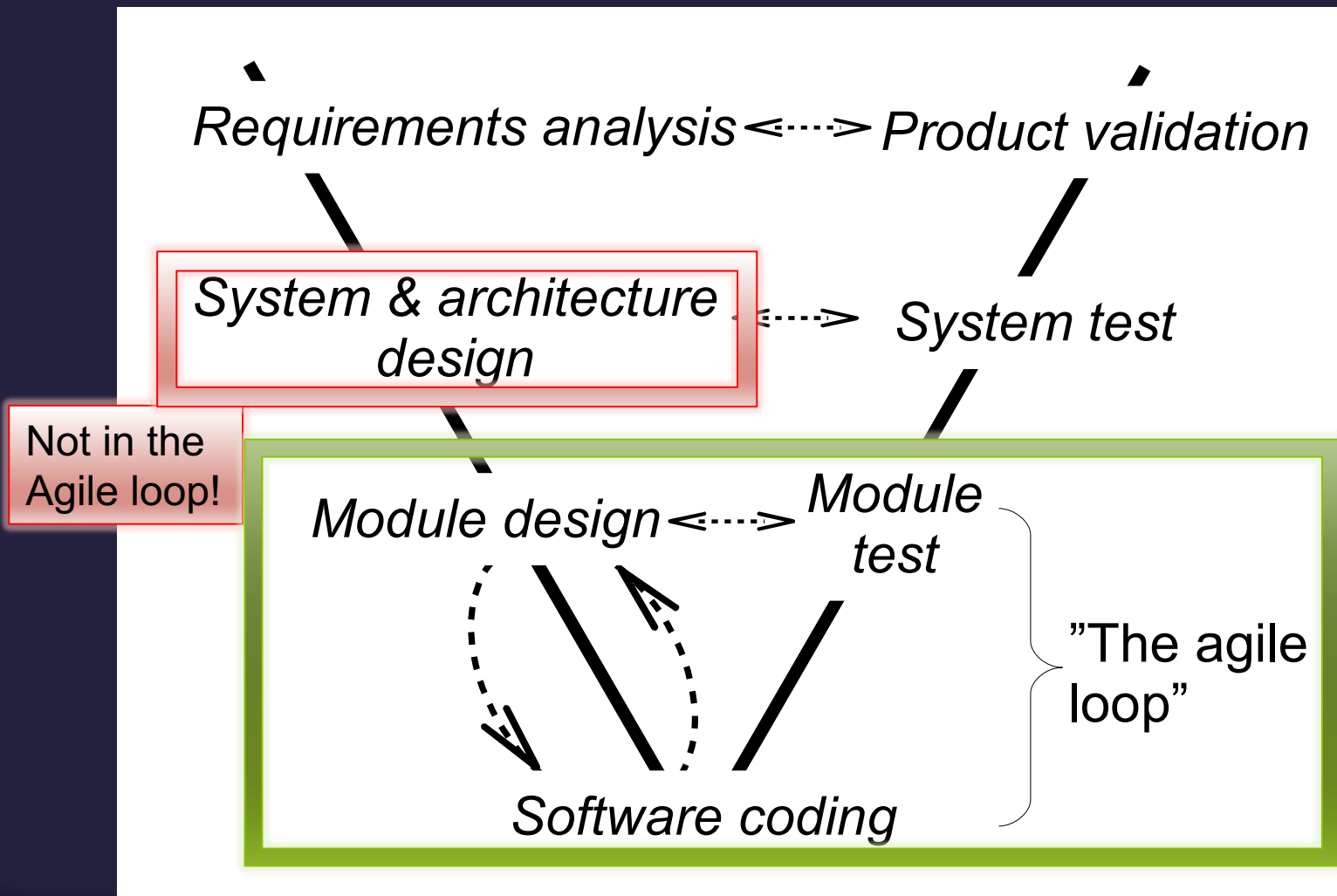
- Many teams need to coordinate on
  - understanding many stakeholders
  - tradeoff among many concerns
  - handle high complexity
  - share the same view



# Meanwhile, in practice...



# What about architecture?



# Architecture in Agile?

- Not emphasized in Agile practices
- “**Just enough** architecture/design”
  
- But what does that mean?
- Are there studies?



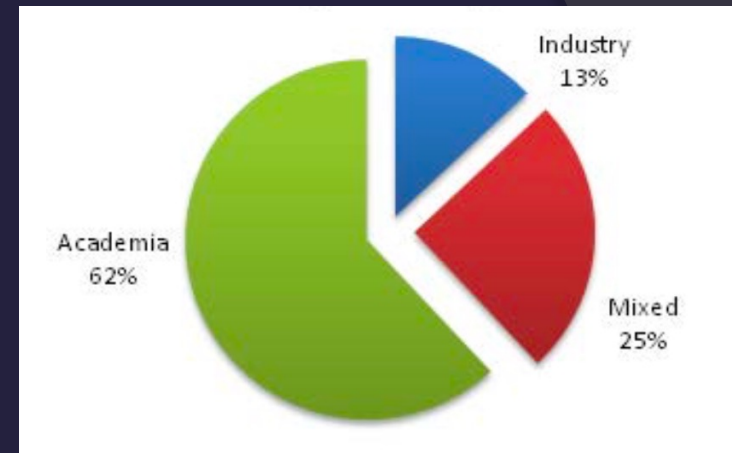


# Agile and Architecture: what do we know?

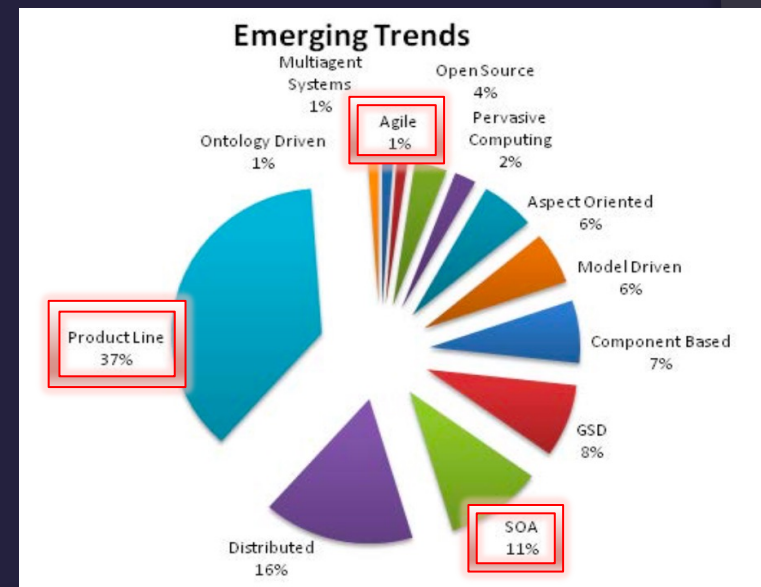


# Current studies

- Most of the papers are not based on industrial experience or evaluation



- Not much on “Continuous” and “Agile”
  - 1% Agile
  - 11% SOA
  - 37% Software Product Lines
    - require upfront design

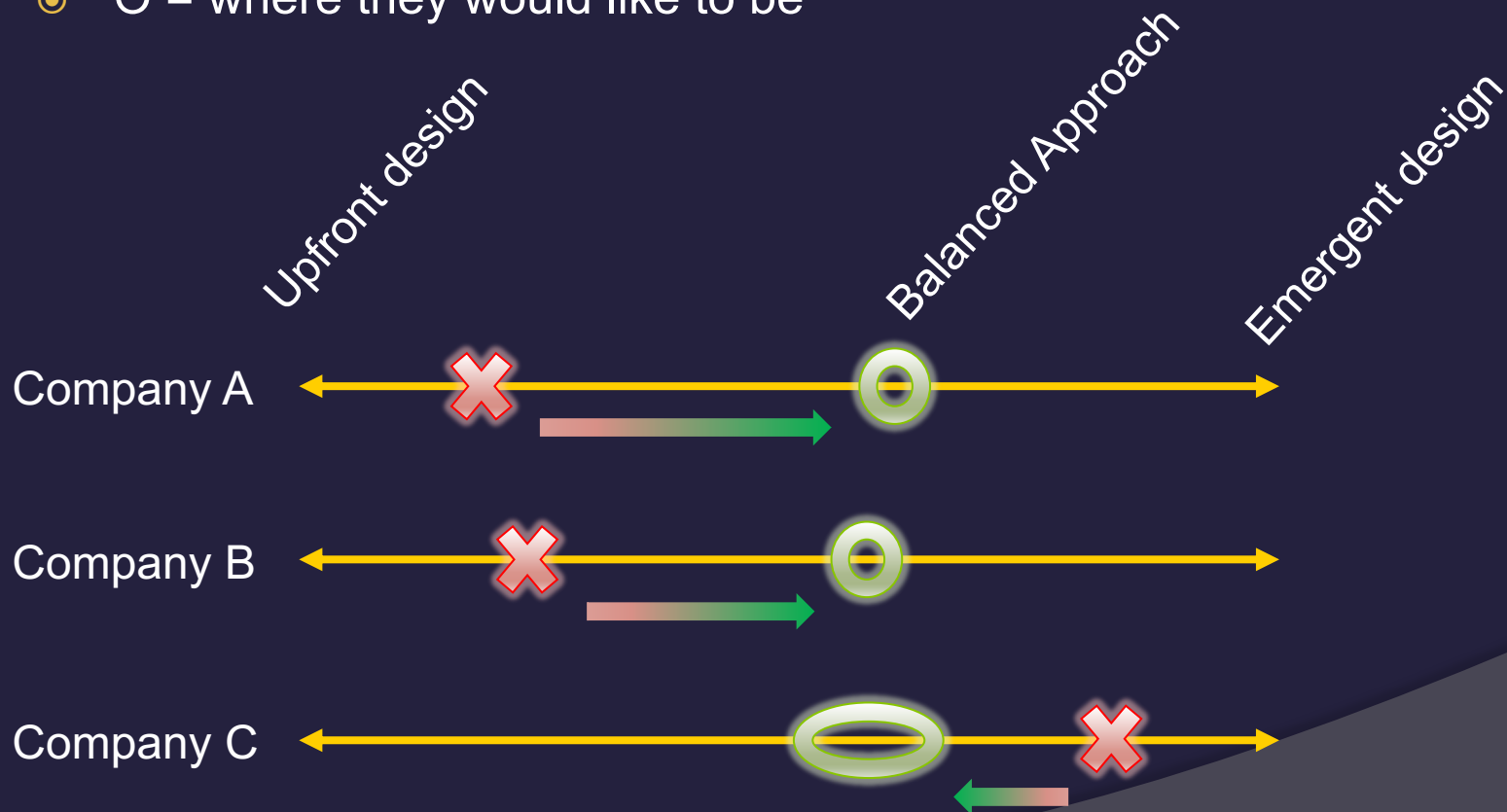


\* Qureshi, Usman, Ikram: *Evidence in Software Architecture, a Systematic Literature Review*,



# What do companies want? A balanced approach\*

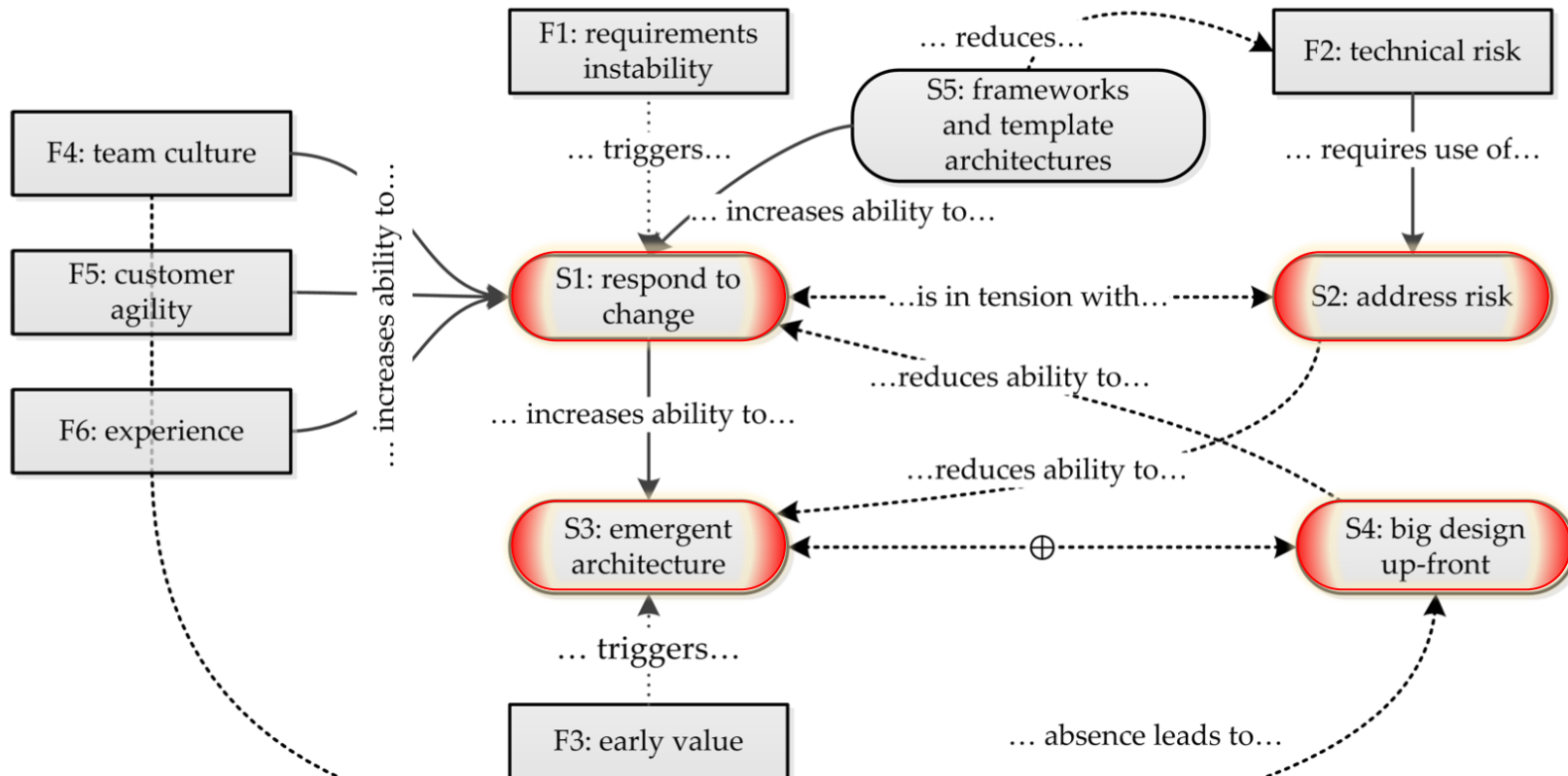
- ⦿ X = where they are now
- ⦿ O = where they would like to be



T. Mårtensson, D. Ståhl, A. Martini and J. Bosch, "Continuous Architecture: Towards the Goldilocks Zone and Away from Vicious Circles" 2019 IEEE International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA) 2019



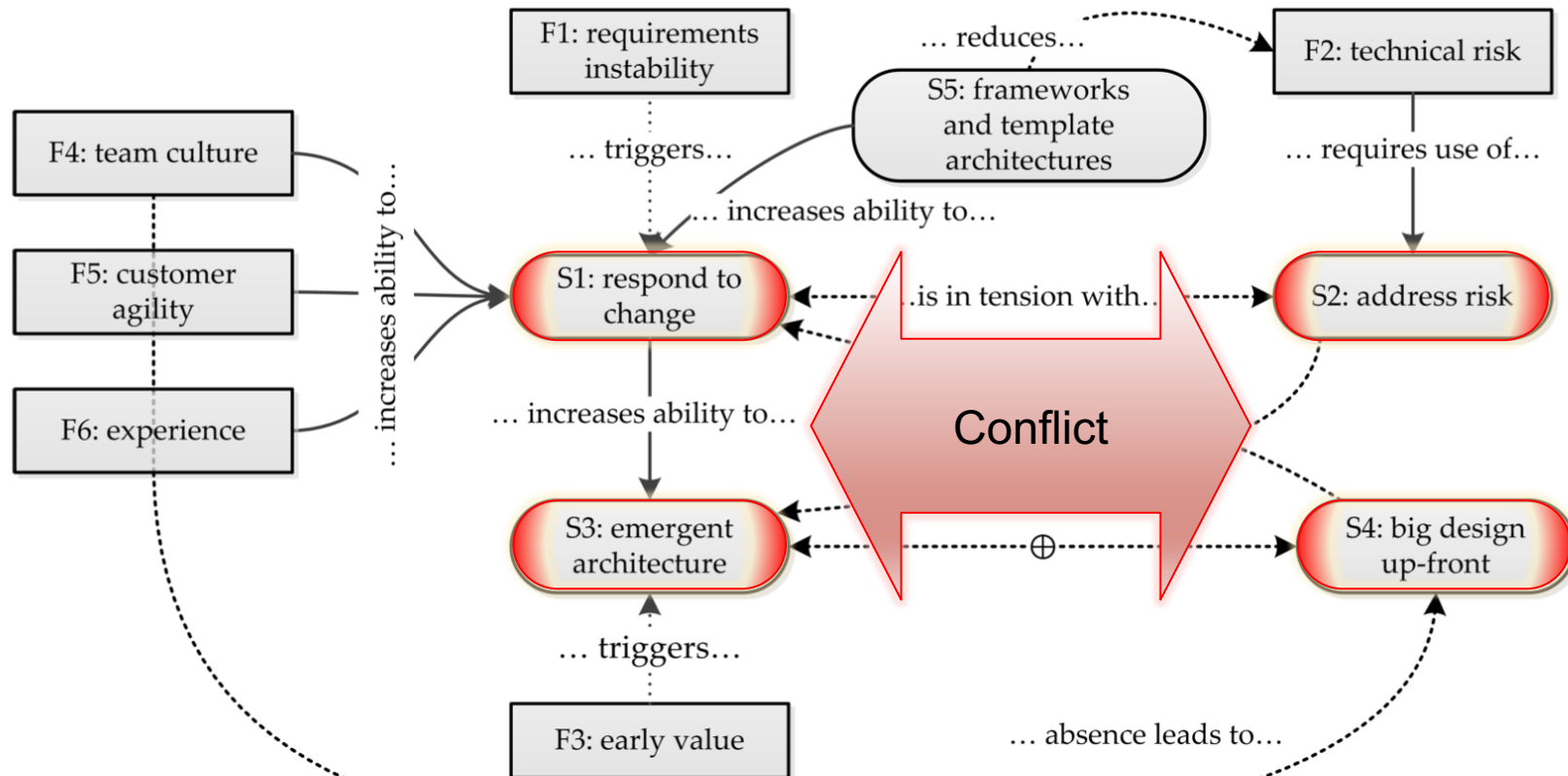
# Why is it so difficult to balance the right upfront design?



\* Waterman, Noble, Allan - *How Much Up-Front? A Grounded Theory of Agile Architecture*, ICSE, 2015



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# Frameworks embed architectural decisions and help agility

- ◎ *"many of the architectural decisions are embedded in the framework, and hence architectural changes can be made with a lot less effort"*
- ◎ Examples:
  - Apache Kafka – message streaming
  - JUnit – Java unit testing framework
  - Django – python web applications
  - ...



# Prioritizing architectural **significant** concerns (backlog)

- ◎ Architecture is a **risk-** and **cost** management activity\*
- ◎ **Significance** depends on **Risk** (Decision)
- ◎ **Risk:**
  - Prob (Failure) x Impact (Failure)
    - An example of impact is the necessity of re-architecting because of a probable failure

\* Poort, van Vliet: *Architecting as a Risk- and Cost Management Discipline*



# Example of risk

- Is it higher the risk to suffer from a flu or from malaria taking a bus in Oslo?

- Disclaimer: numbers are just examples, they are not real
- Impact is represented as 1-5 (5 = worst)



- Malaria

- Prob ( Malaria ) = 0.0000001
- Impact ( Malaria ) = 4
- Risk = 0 x 4 = 0.0000004

- Flu

- Prob ( Flu ) = 0.6
- Impact (Flu) = 1
- Risk = 0.6 x 1 = 0.6

- When taking the subway in Oslo, one should be **more worried to get a flu** than to get malaria

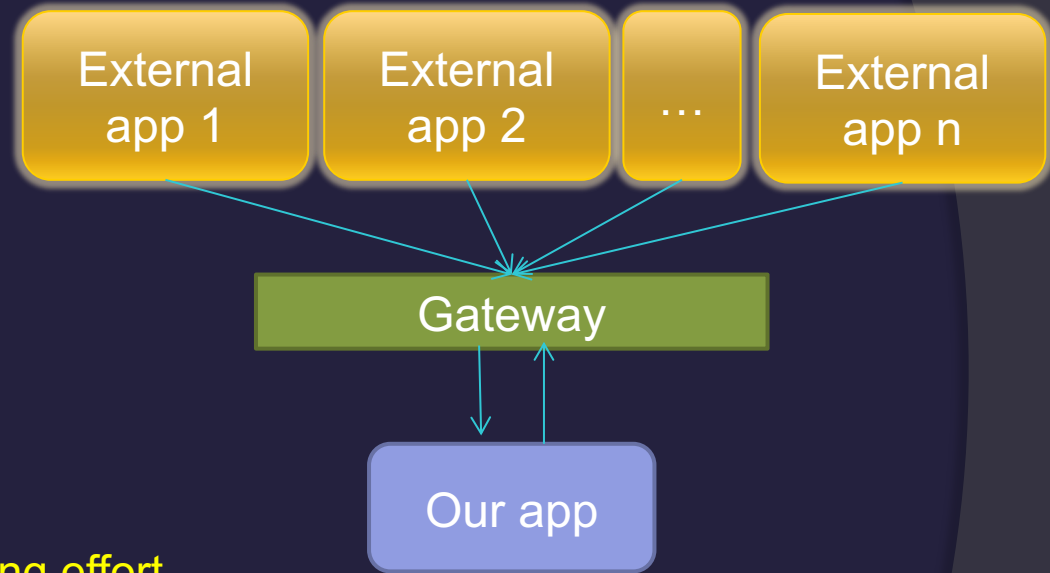
- 0.6 >> 0.0000004





# Architectural example (1)

- We build an app that supports other apps
- We need to develop a gateway
- Architectural concern: **scalability**
  - Significant?
- We don't know **how many** apps we will need to support
  - Is it going to be 1 or 100?
- We might **waste a lot of engineering effort** in planning a scalable gateway that is not used
- The **risk** of not being able to support apps (unhappy customers) has
  - A high **impact** (4)
  - A **low probability at this stage** (0.3)
- Result: at the moment the **risk** of this concern is **low**
  - $0.3$  (probability of failure)  $\times$   $4$  (high impact) = **1.2**

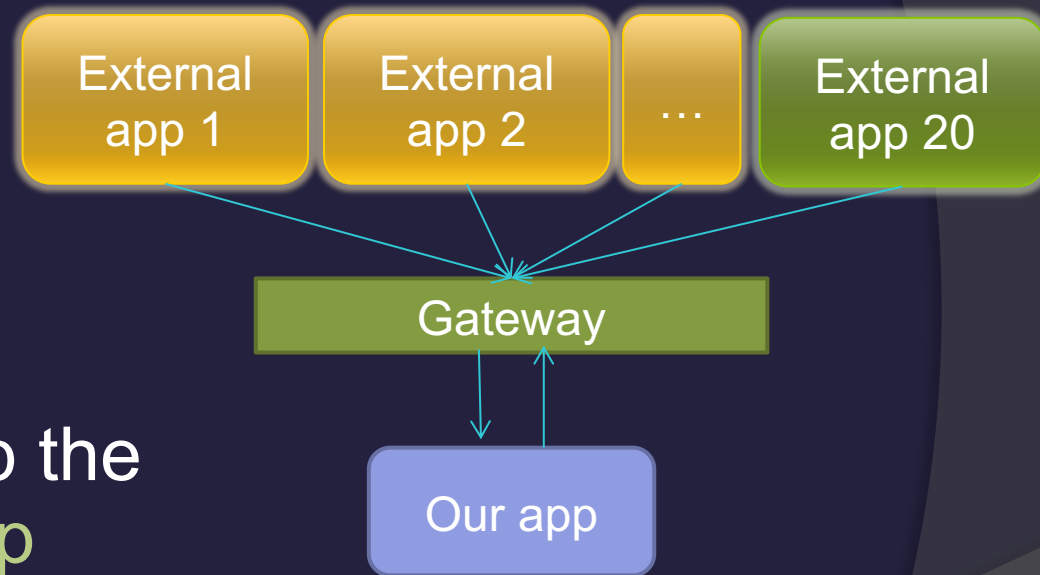


# Architectural example (2)

- The risk is low, so the scalability concern is not significant

- We decide to develop the gateway to support up to 20 apps

- Architectural decision that costs less and doesn't address the scalability concern



# Architectural example (3)

- After some time, we receive new information: now more than 30 new apps want to use our gateway

- What happens now?

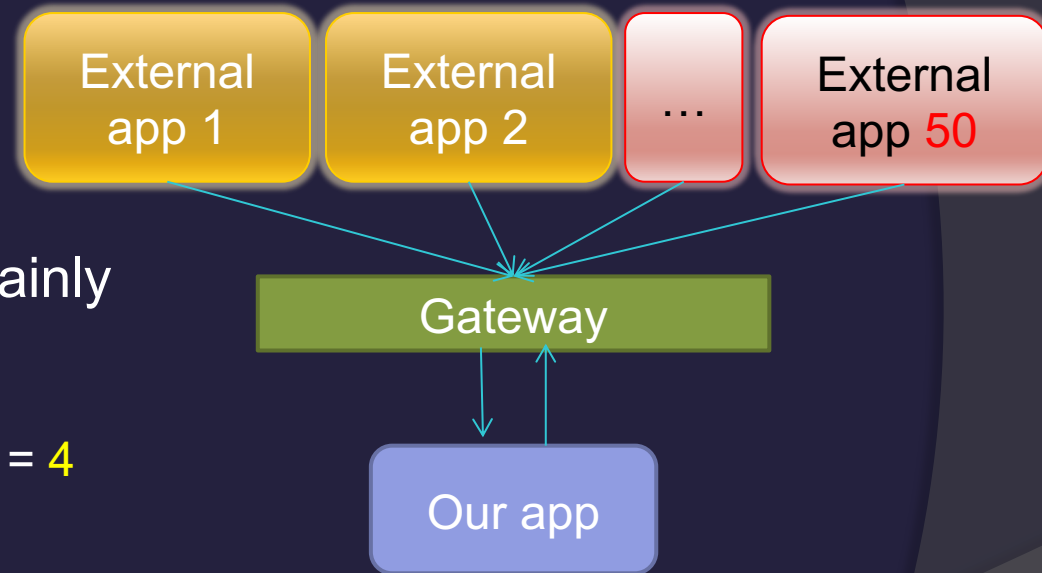
- Now our solution will be certainly **wrong (failure)**

- The **risk is high**

- 1 (prob of failure) x 4 (impact) = 4
- 4 >> 1.2 (previous risk)
- The concern is significant

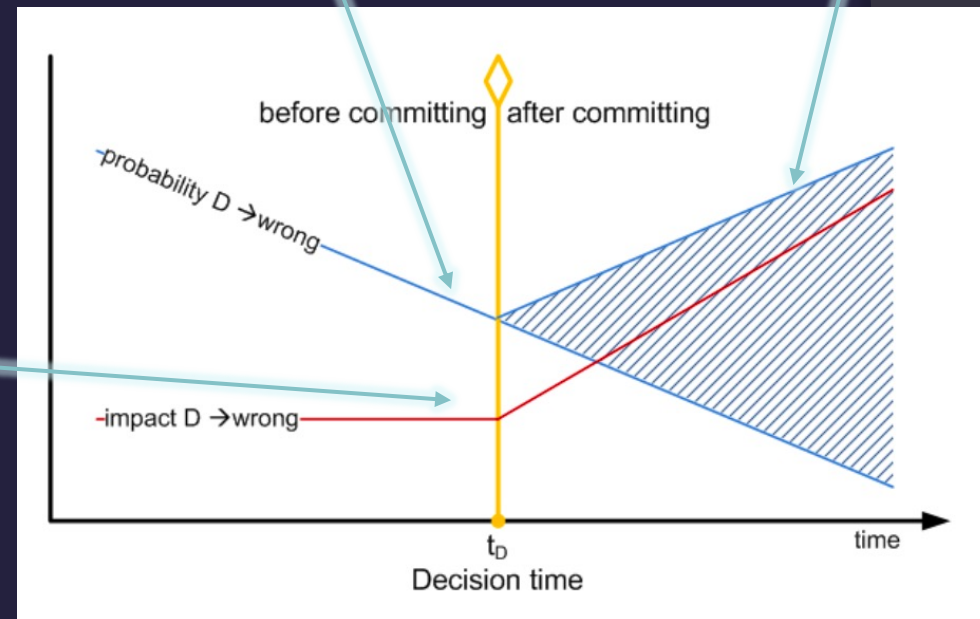
- We need to re-architect as soon as possible to address the scalability concern

- The more we wait the more re-architecting costs
- The more we wait the more customers could experience connectivity issues



# Other considerations \*

- The probability of an architectural decision D to be wrong **decreases over time**
  - More **information** can become available
- At the same time, the probability of D to be wrong **can increase over time after** we have taken a decision
  - More **information** can become available from **implementation**
- The impact of failure **increases over time after** we have taken a decision D
  - If we need to change such decision, it has a cost of re-architecting

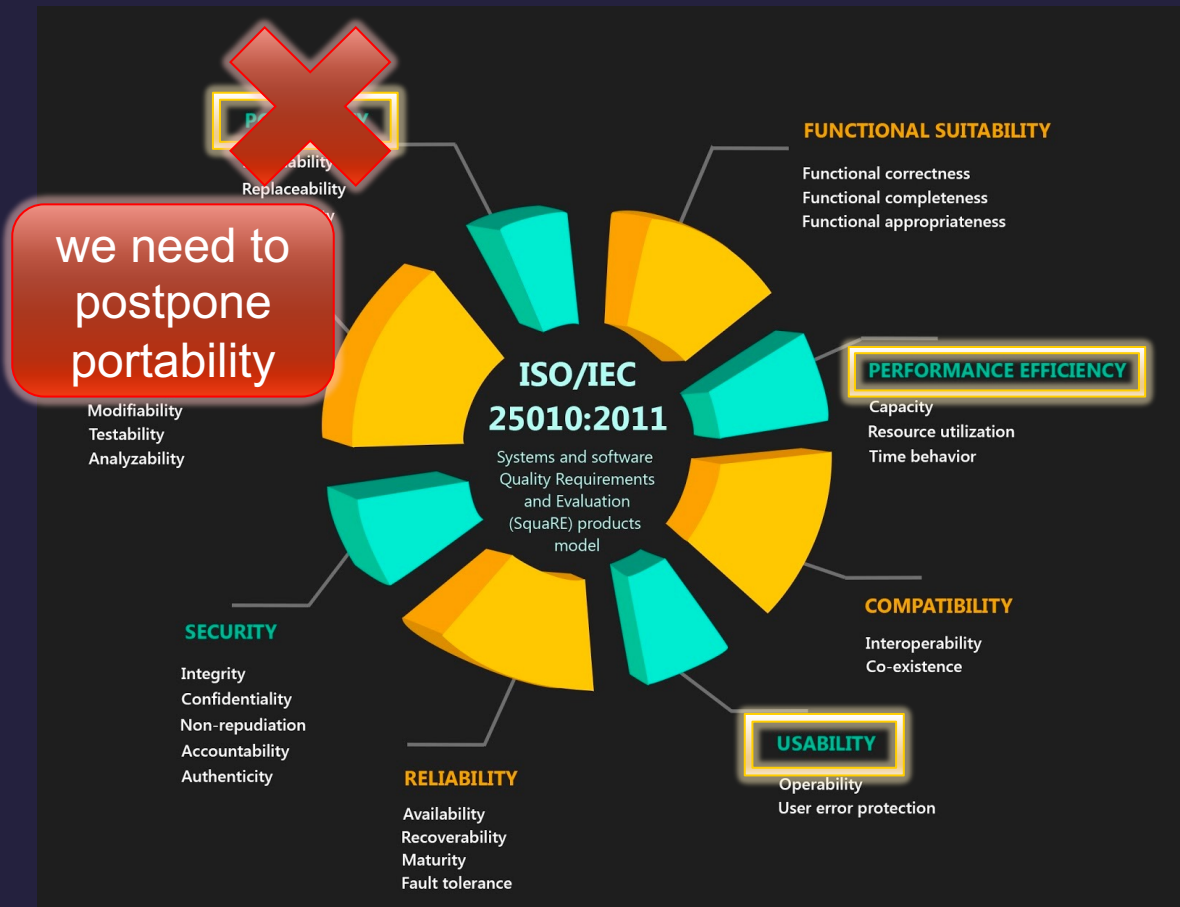


# So what should we do?

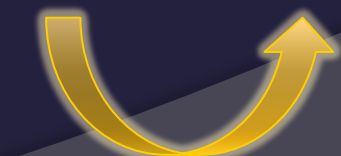
- ⦿ **Postponing** architectural decisions can increase the probability of being **correct**
  - **Only if possible and in case there is uncertainty**
- ⦿ More **information** can **change** our perception of the **risks**
  - Architectural decisions need to be **monitored** and **revisited**
- ⦿ **Architectural Backlog** should be continuously **re-prioritized based on risk (and cost)**



# Re-prioritize your architecture backlog



Concern	Rank
Scalability	1
Maintainability	2
Performance	3
Portability	4
...	...



Continuous Re-prioritization



# Agile Architecting



# What is Agile Architecting?

- ◎ Architecting that supports **Continuous Delivery** \*
- Continuous Delivery is:
  - *“Continuous Delivery is the ability to **get changes** of all types—including new features, configuration changes, bug fixes and experiments—**into production**, or into the hands of **users**, **safely** and **quickly** in a **sustainable** way.”*

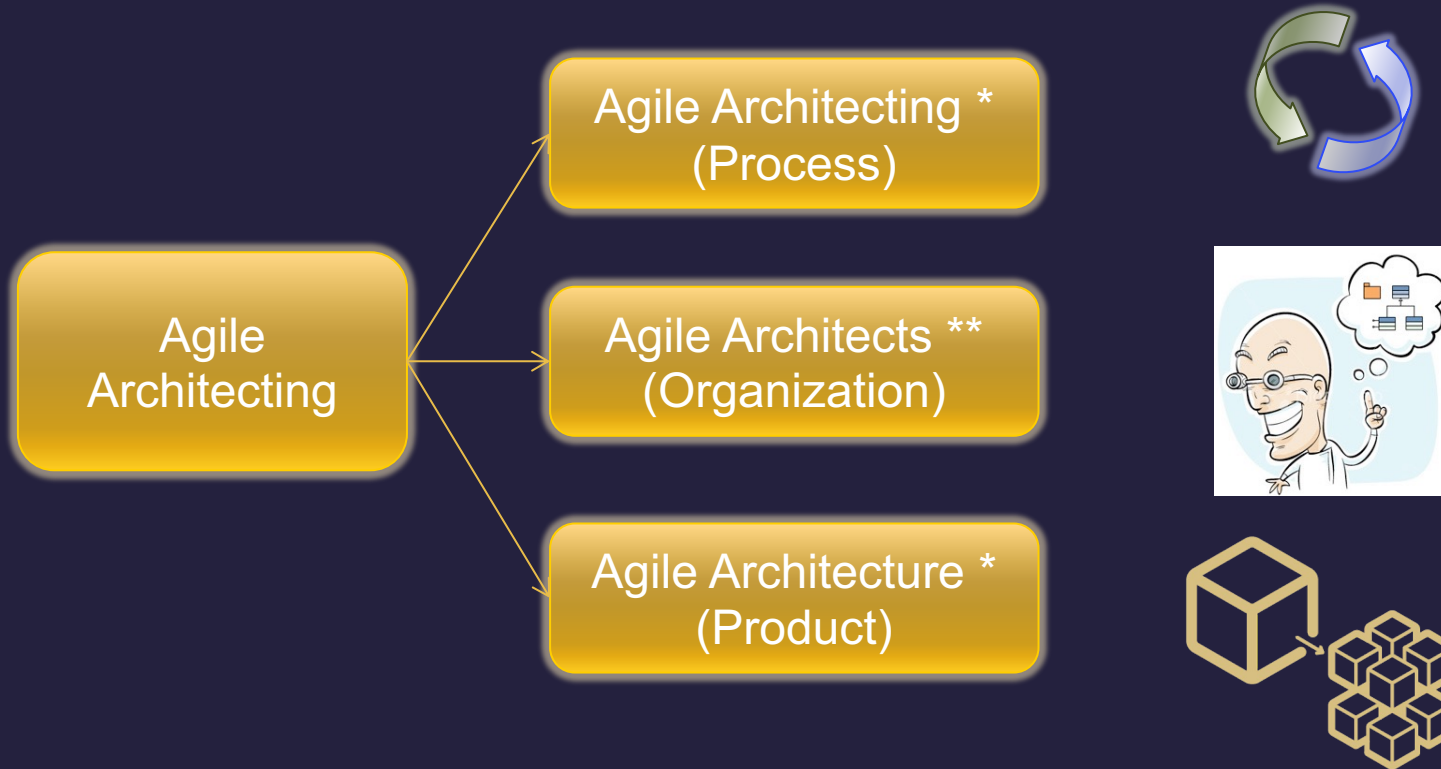
\* Murat Erder, Pierre Pureur “*Continuous Architecture*”, Elsevier, 2015

\* various blogs online, <https://continuousdelivery.com/>





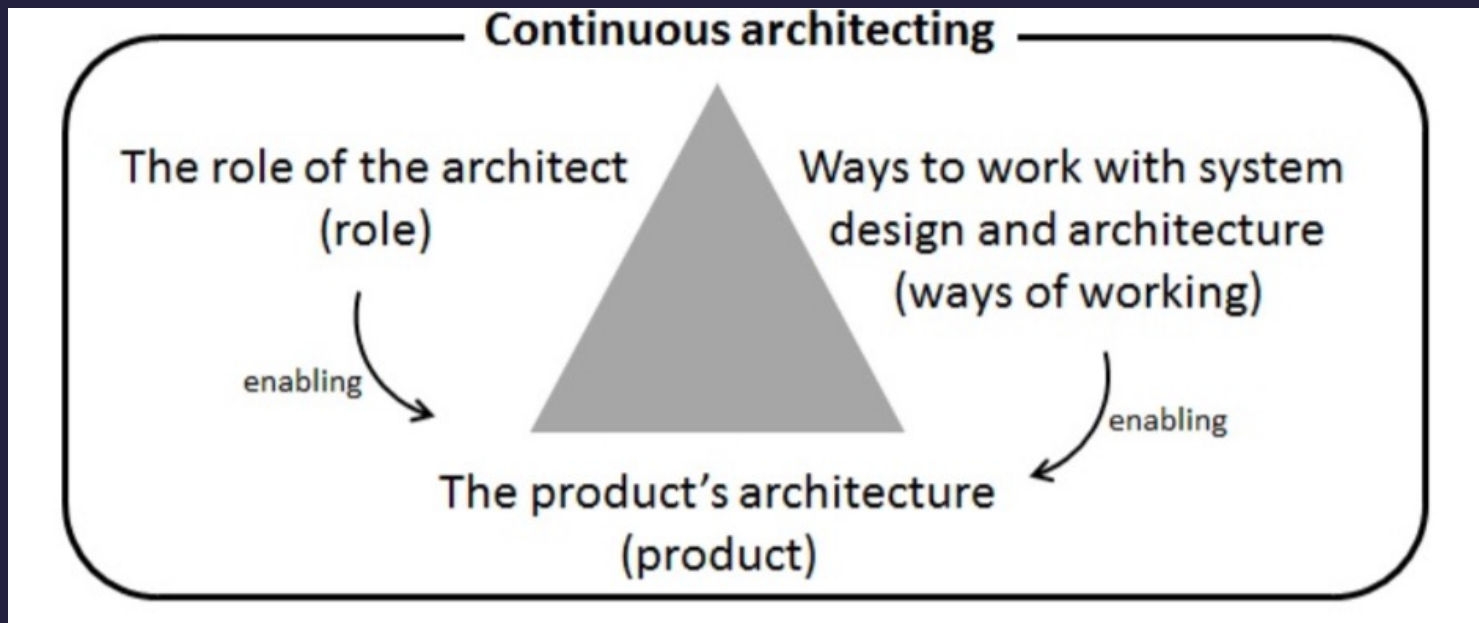
# Agile Architecting: 3 dimensions



\* Bellomo, Kruchten, Nord, Ozkaya: *How to Agilely Architect an Agile Architecture*

\*\* A. Martini and J. Bosch, "A Multiple Case Study of Continuous Architecting in Large Agile Companies: Current Gaps and the CAFFEA Framework,"

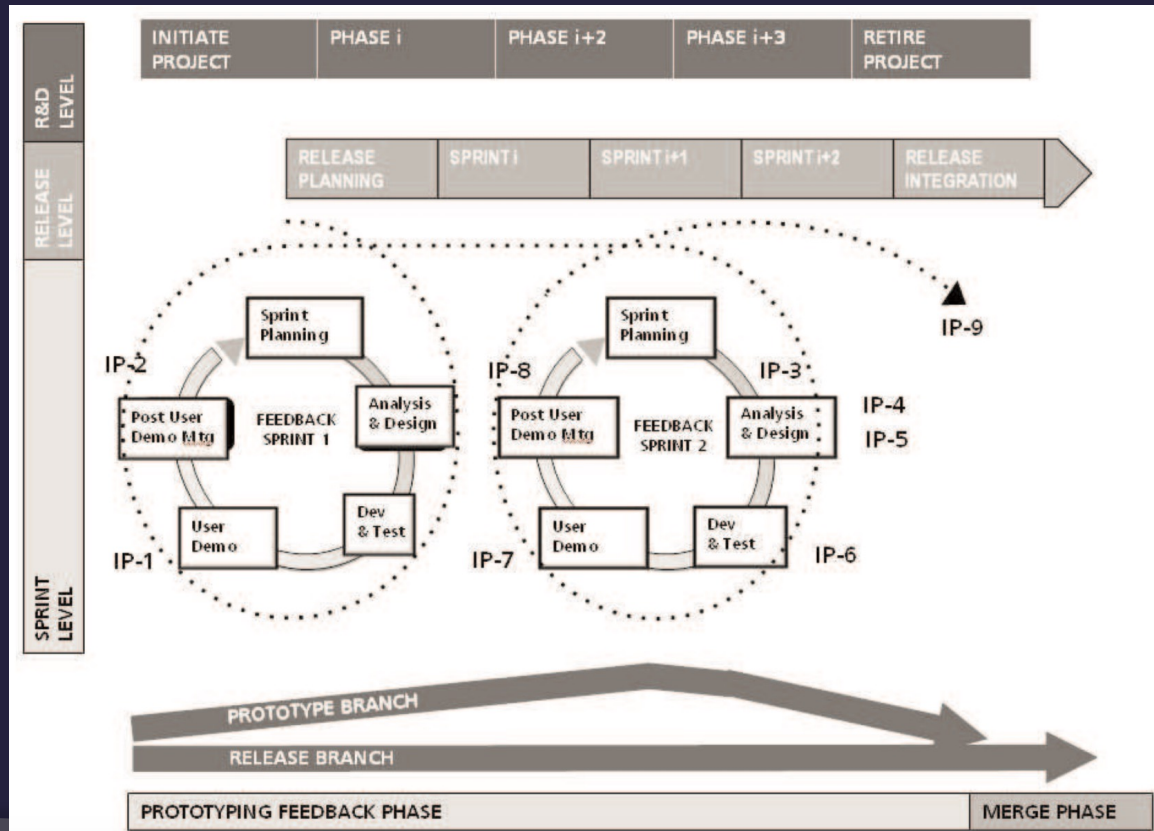
# Product architecture needs support



T. Mårtensson, D. Ståhl, A. Martini and J. Bosch, "*Continuous Architecture: Towards the Goldilocks Zone and Away from Vicious Circles*" 2019 IEEE International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA) 2019

# Agile Architecting – Process\*

- An Agile way to define an architecture, using an **iterative lifecycle**, allowing the architectural design to tactically evolve over time, as the problem and the constraints are better understood



\* Bellomo, Kruchten, Nord, Ozkaya: *How to Agilely Architect an Agile Architecture*

Continuous Re-prioritization



# Agile Architecting – Product\*

- ◎ Product Architecture enables Agility
  - Layered architecture
  - Service Oriented Architecture
    - **Microservices**
  - **Frameworks**
  - Other tactics\*

\* Bellomo, Kruchten, Nord, Ozkaya: *How to Agilely Architect an Agile Architecture*



# Organization: who is in charge of the overall design?



# Agile and Architects: a case study\*

\* A. Martini and J. Bosch, “A Multiple Case Study of Continuous Architecting in Large Agile Companies: Current Gaps and the CAFFEA Framework”, Working International Conference on Software Architecture, 2016, Venice, Italy

Antonio Martini - Professor of Software Engineering



# Research Design – gaps and framework

Literature

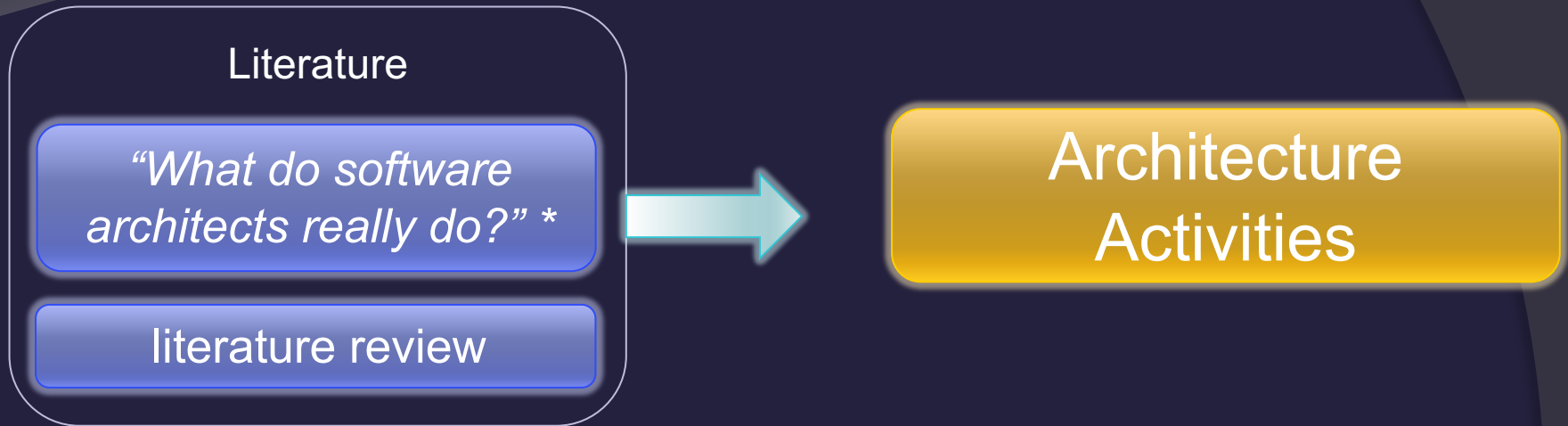
*“What do software architects really do?” \**

literature review

\* P. Kruchten, “What do software architects really do?” *Journal of Systems and Software*, Dec. 2008



# Research Design – Gaps and Solution



\* P. Kruchten, "What do software architects really do?" *Journal of Systems and Software*, Dec. 2008





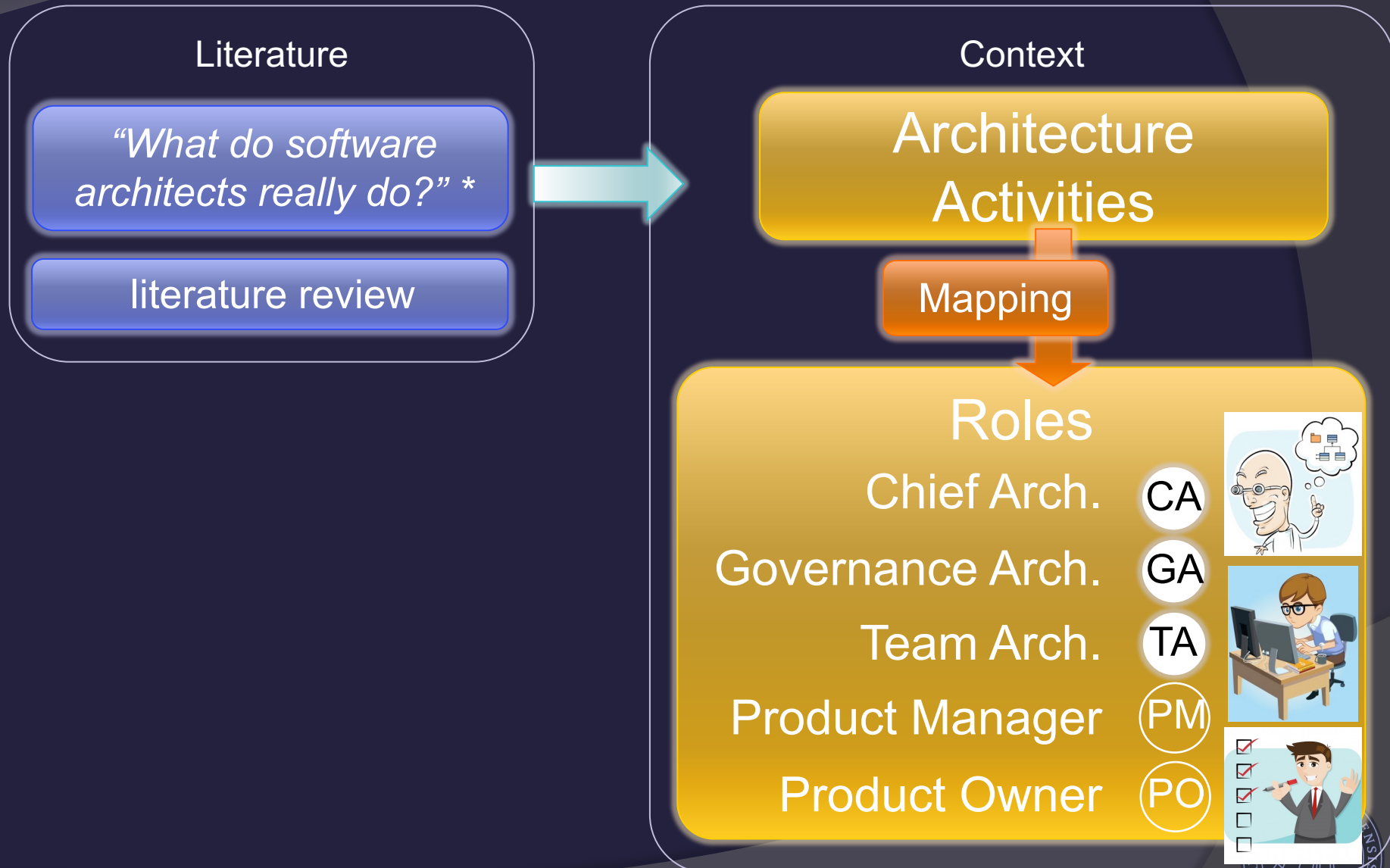
# Architecture activity examples

## Activity: Architecture Knowledge Production

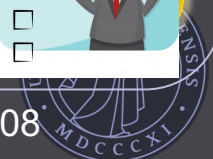
Sub-Activities	Meaning
Architect	Examines concerns and context in order to come up with architectureally significant requirements.
Integrate	Integrates software engineering and knowledge engineering tools and repositories into the development process.
Share	Shares the AK with implementers to facilitate their understanding.
Trace	Creates necessary links (fwd., bwd., formal, informal) between reasoning-, design-, genera-, and context knowledge.
Synthesize	Extends or modifies the design knowledge through creation of detailed design for the architecture.
Distill	Examines design to turn patterns therein into general knowledge for future reuse.
Apply	Uses existing solutions, patterns, templates (general knowledge) to solve problems at hand.



# Research Design – Gaps and Solution

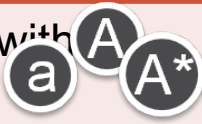








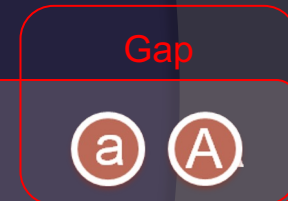
\* P. Kruchten, “What do software architects really do?” *Journal of Systems and Software*, Dec. 2008



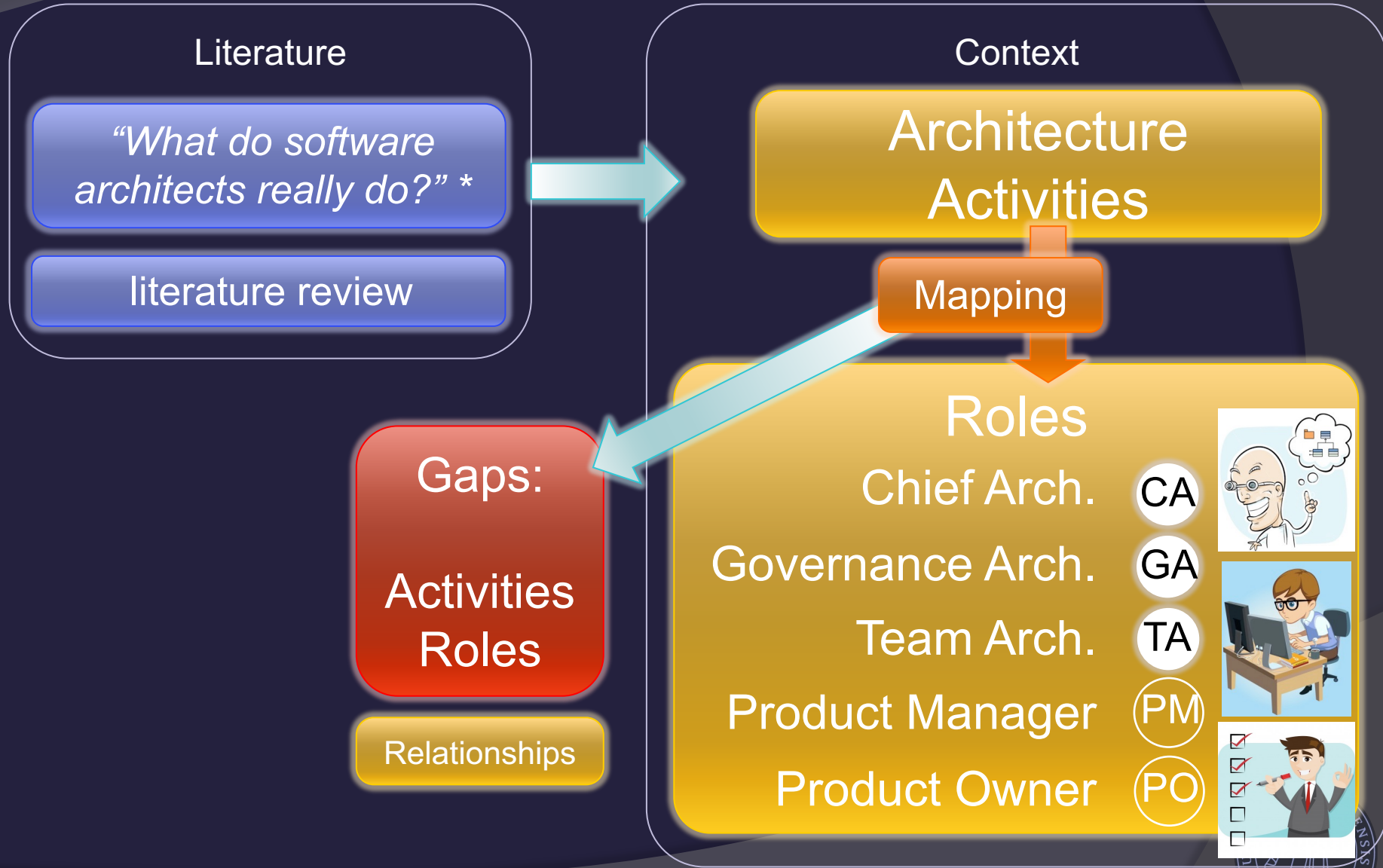
# Interactive mapping in 5 companies

- Who is responsible now?
- Is this activity missing?
- Who should do it?

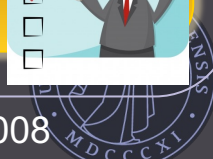
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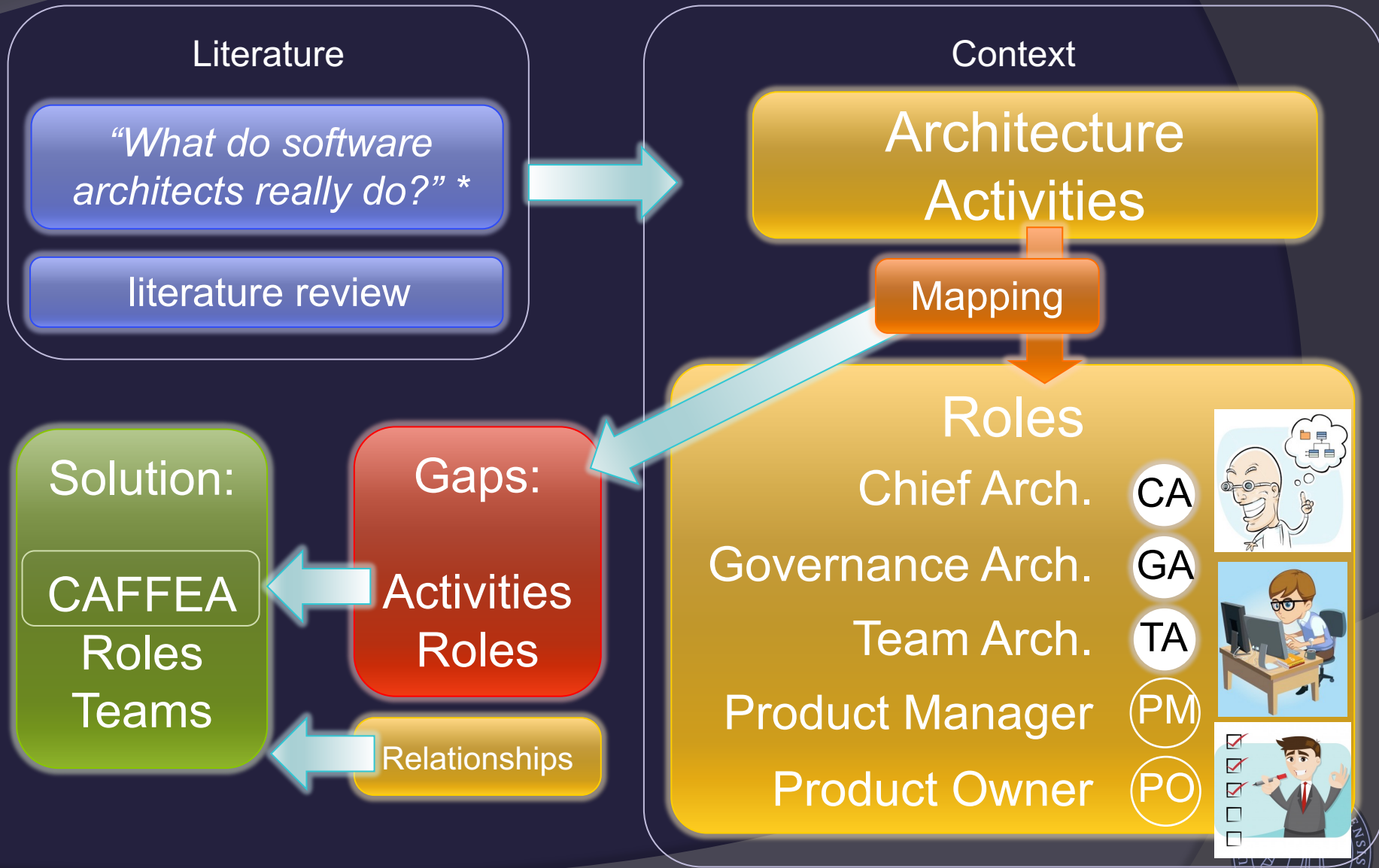
# Gaps and Solution



\* P. Kruchten, “What do software architects really do?” *Journal of Systems and Software*, Dec. 2008

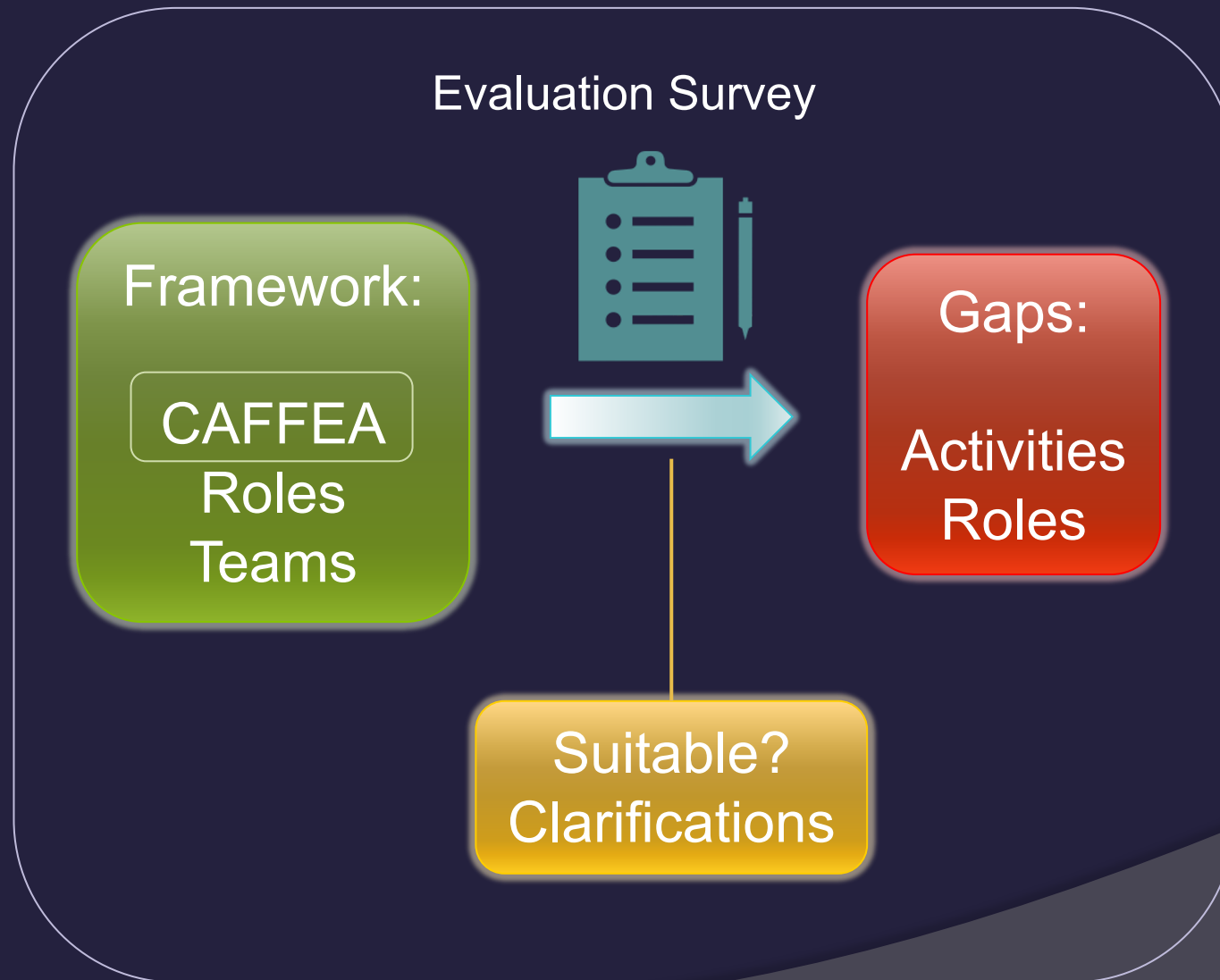


# Gaps and Solution

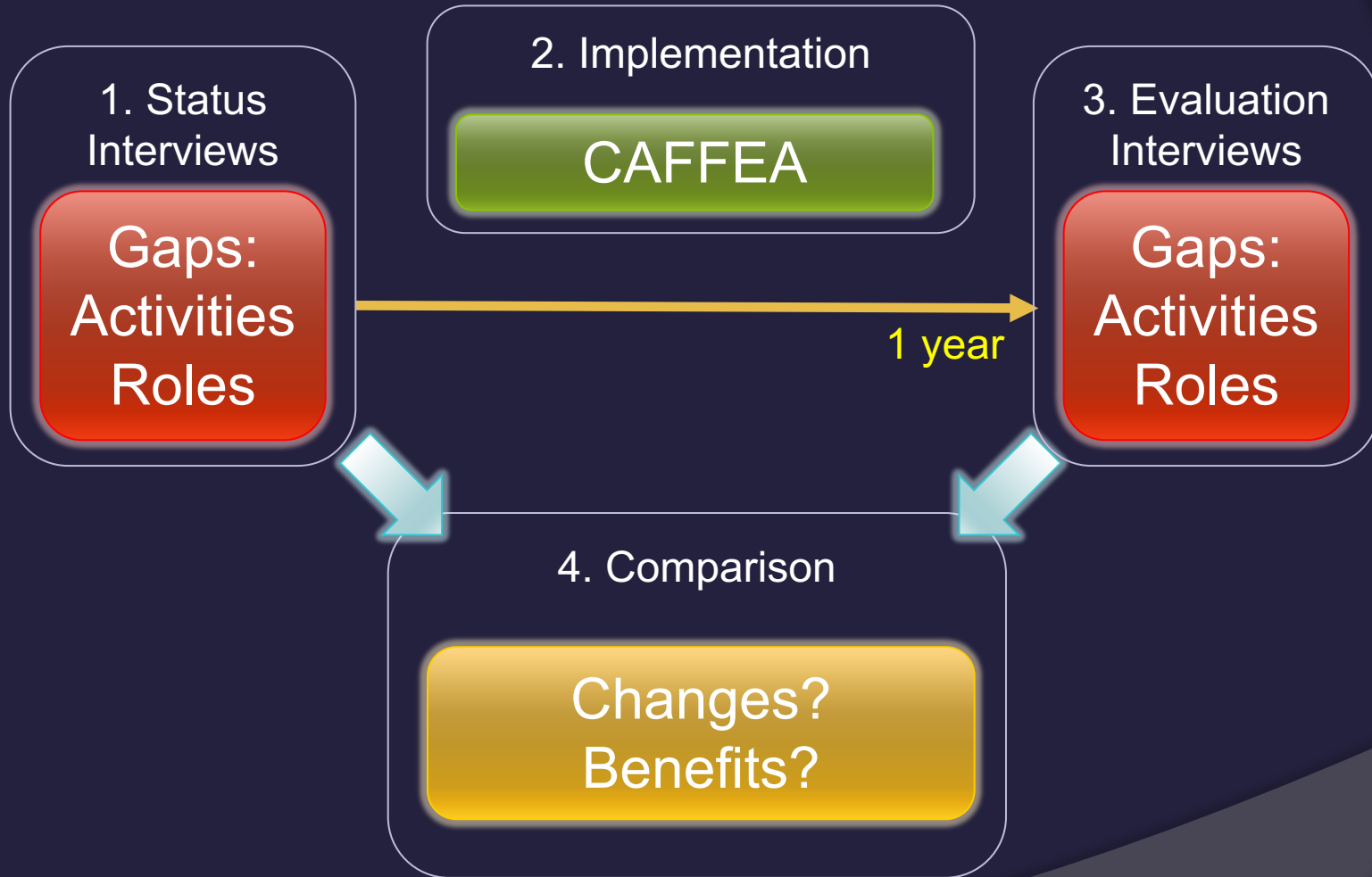


\* P. Kruchten, “What do software architects really do?” *Journal of Systems and Software*, Dec. 2008

# Did it work? – First Evaluation



# Did it work? – Empirical Evaluation



# What we found – Gaps and CAFFEA





# Findings: challenges in activities

- Risk management
- Architectural decisions and changes
- Providing architectural knowledge
- Monitor the current status of the system

Short-term or long-term value delivery?

What is worth changing in our architecture?

What qualities are really important?

How much technical debt do we have?



# Findings: roles in CAFFEA

- Missing activities (and needed!) due to:
  - Roles not present in the organization
  - Roles overloaded with activities
  - Roles not aware of the need for the activities

- Needed roles:

- Chief Architect 



- Governance Architect 



- Team Architect 

# Findings: Teams in CAFFEA

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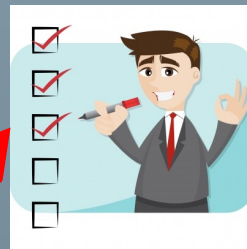


Careful, we  
have  
Technical  
Debt!

# Findings: Teams in CAFFEA

- Risk management
- Architectural decisions and changes
- Providing architectural knowledge
- Monitor the current status of the system

What to do next?  
Refactoring or  
features?

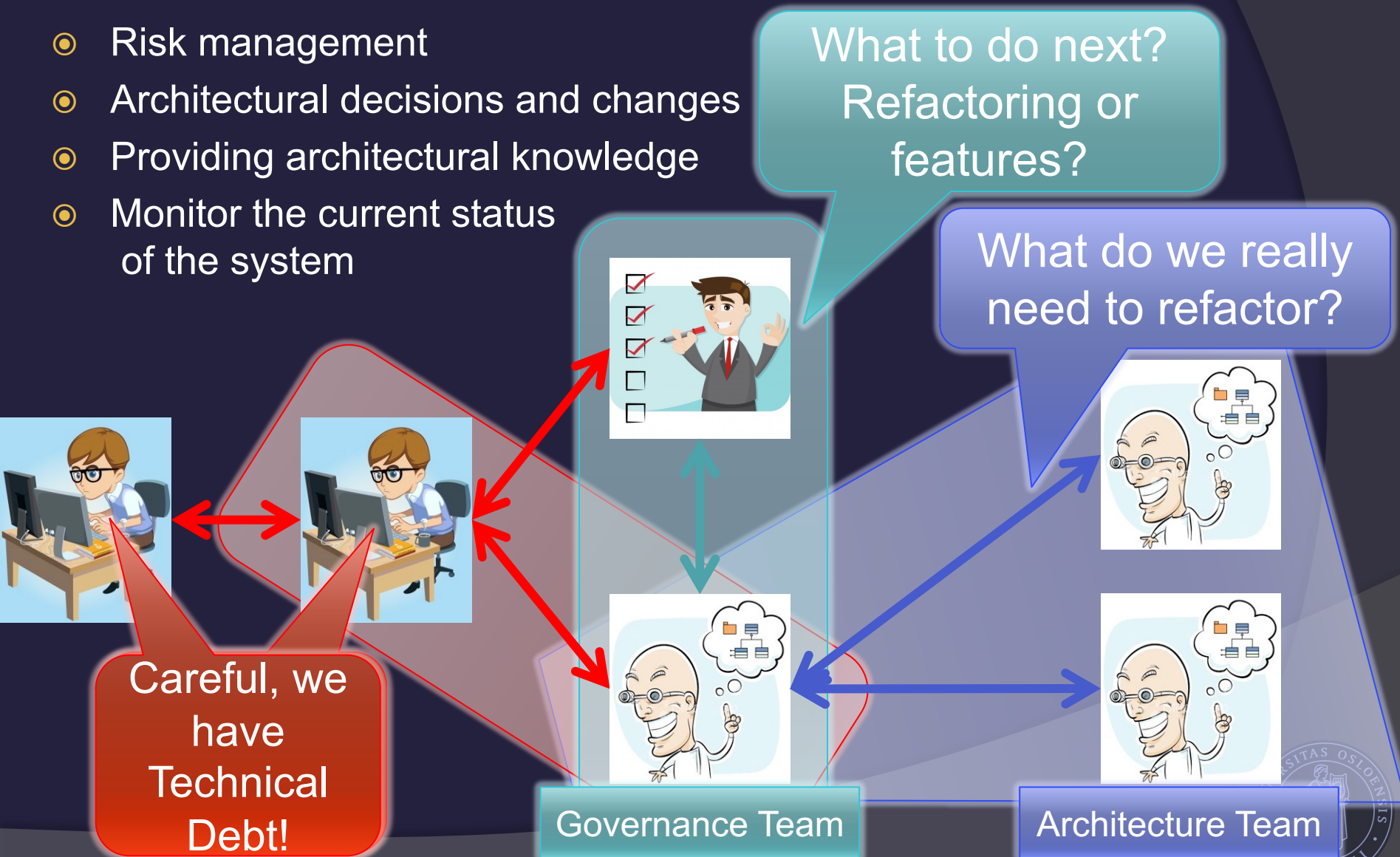


Careful, we  
have  
Technical  
Debt!

Governance Team

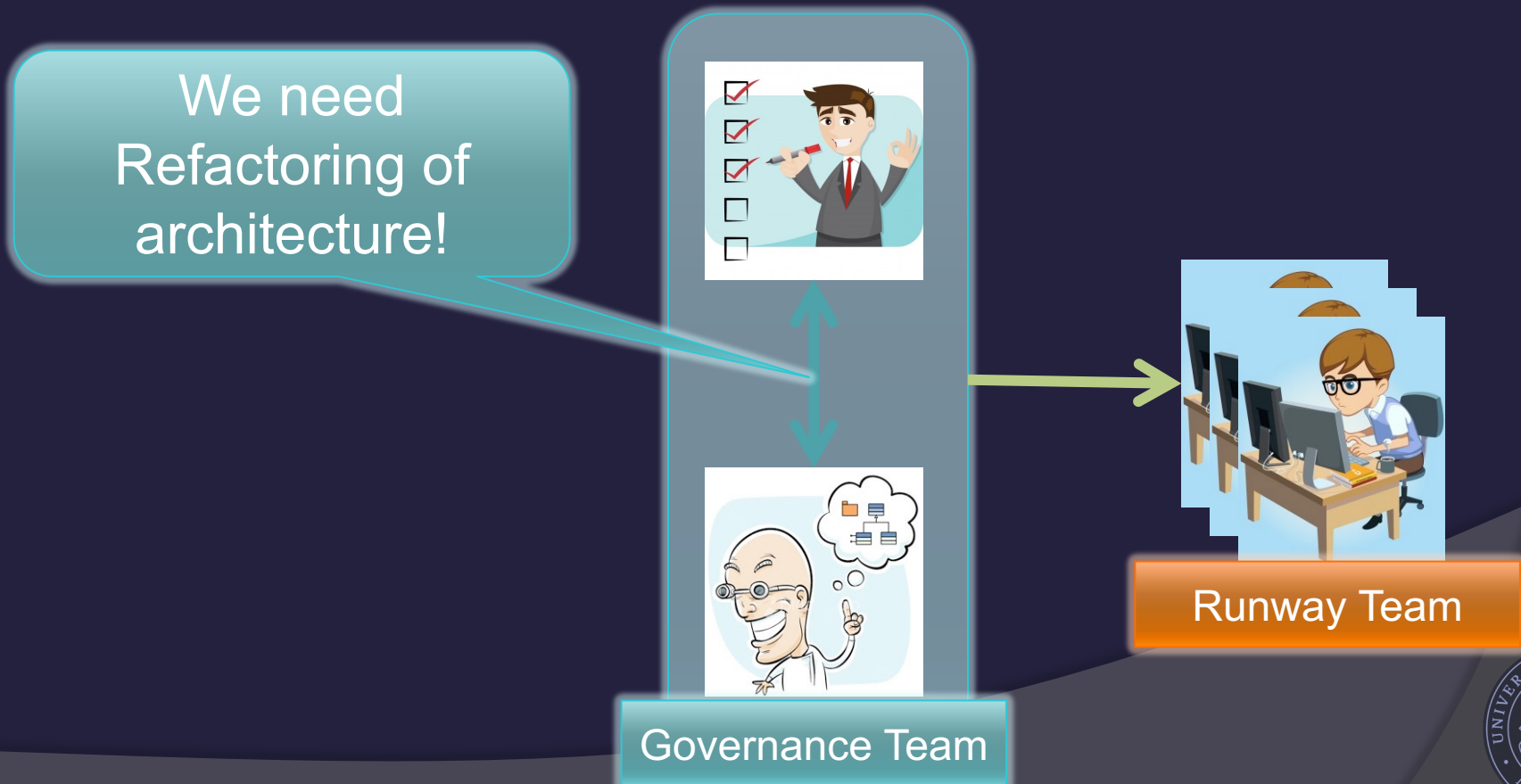
# Findings: Teams in CAFFEA

- Risk management
- Architectural decisions and changes
- Providing architectural knowledge
- Monitor the current status of the system

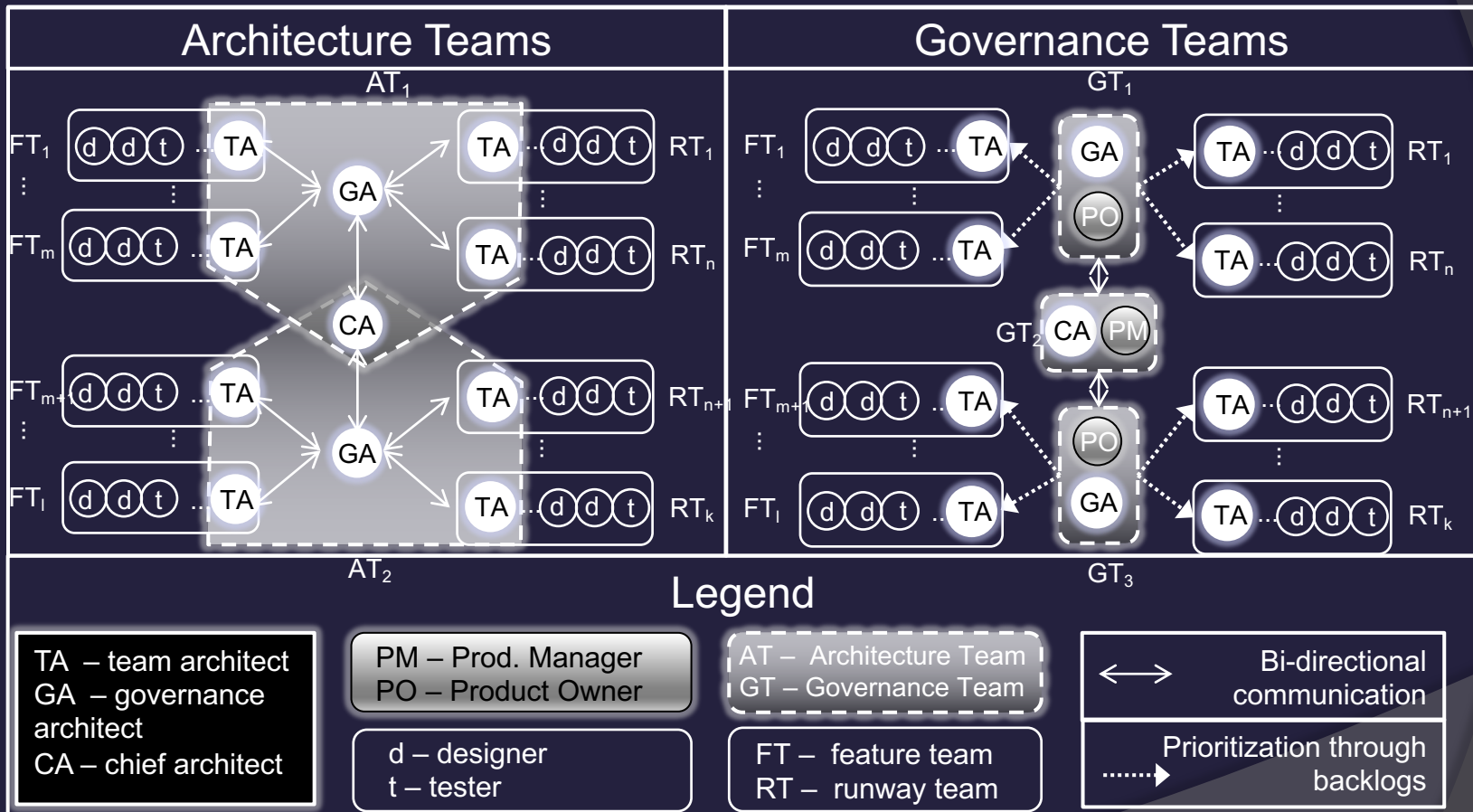


# Findings: Runway Team in CAFFEA

- A feature team dynamically appointed when the architecture needs improvement



# Overall CAFFEA framework



\* A. Martini and J. Bosch, "A Multiple Case Study of Continuous Architecting in Large Agile Companies: Current Gaps and the CAFFEA Framework", Working International Conference on Software Architecture, 2016, Venice, Italy



# Did it work? – Evaluation





# Improvement in risk management

- ⦿ Architectural Technical Debt discovered and managed
  - Architecture Team
- ⦿ Long-term perspective
  - Governance Team
  - Allocation of Runway Team



# Improvement in managing decisions

- Informal tracking of decisions during meetings
- Conflicts discovered and solved
  - Between architects related to different teams and different views
- Follow up on “bad” decisions



# Improved communication

- ⦿ Necessary inter-team socio-technical communication facilitated
  - Architecture Team as opportunity to share
    - Improvements
    - Needs
- ⦿ Better communication about the current status of the system
- ⦿ Enforcement and capillary distribution of Architectural Knowledge

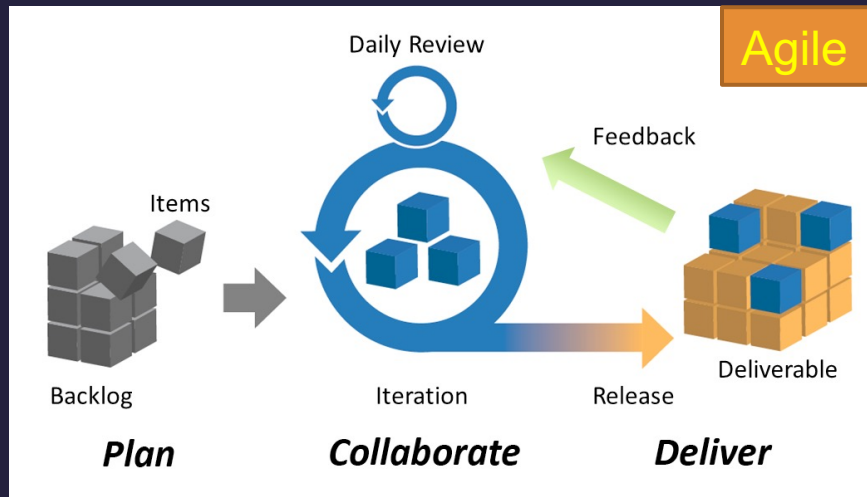


# Other improvements

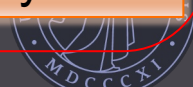
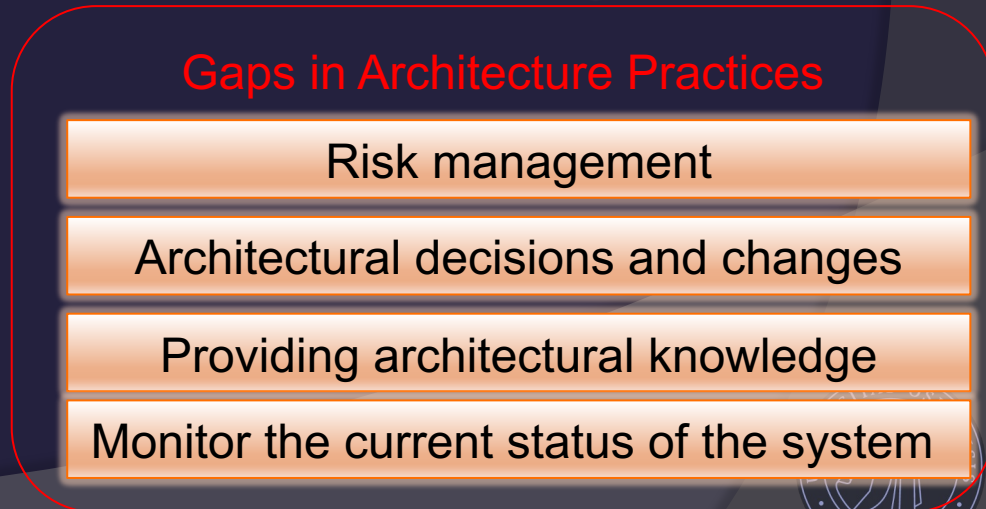
- The formalized framework in place provided:
  - Clear knowledge references
  - Clear architecture responsibilities
  - Architecture activities not overlooked



# Summary



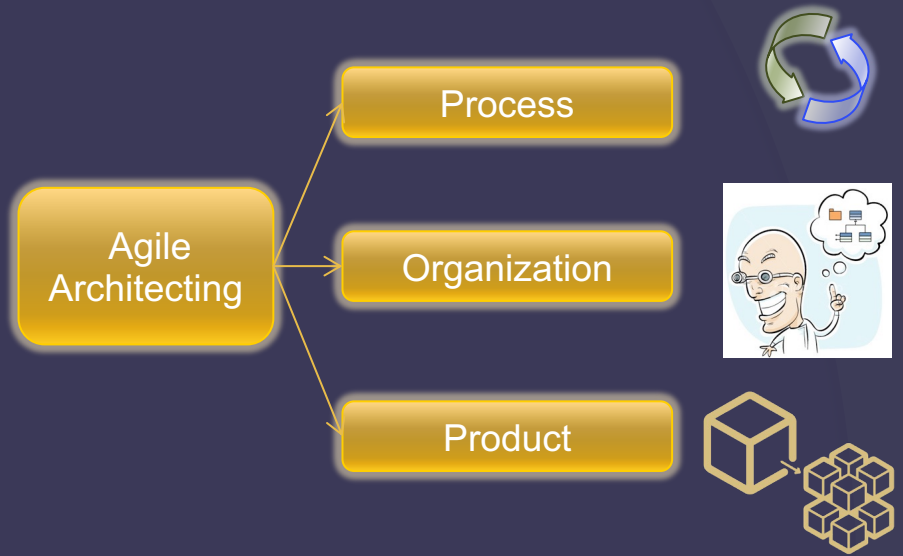
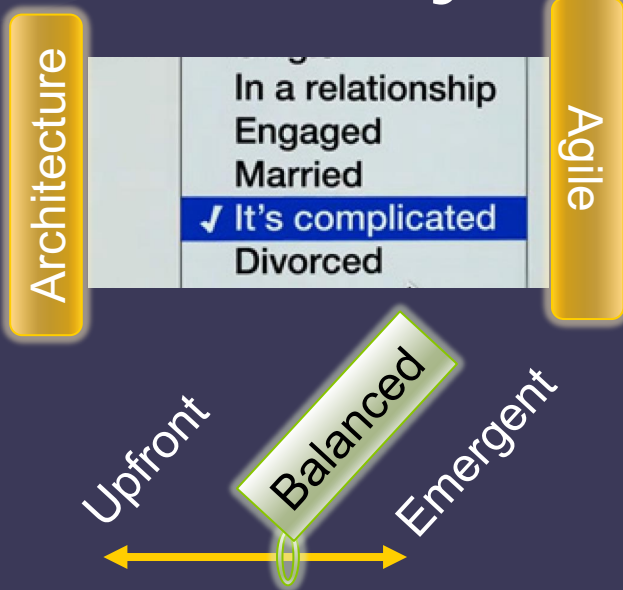
Improves



# Take aways



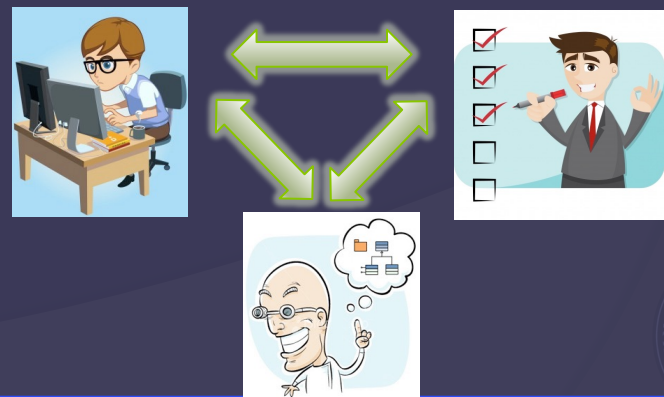
# Summary



Communication among roles and stakeholders is key



- Continuously re-prioritize architectural concerns according to risks
  - Use frameworks



# Don't underestimate architecture (and architects)...





# Questions?

# Comments?

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