Shaping the Evolution of Information Infrastructures: Architecture, Governance Regime, Process Strategy

Towards a Theory of Information Infrastructures

A Theories of Information Infrastructures (Evolution & Design)





Infrastructure evolution

- Evolution
 - Adoption
 - Scaling
 - Innovation
 - Harmonization/restructuring/consolidation
 - Crumbling/fragmentation

Innovation

• Of, in, on

- W. Brian Arthur
 - The nature of technology. What it is and how it evolves
 - Out of a material
 - (re-)combination
 - Structural deepening
 - Re-domaing

Successful information infrastructures =

Generative information infrastructure

The Generative Internet

• Generativity =

- ".. A technology's overall capacity to produce unprompted change driven by large, varied, and uncoordinated audiences."
 - Capacity for leverage
 - Adaptability
 - Ease of mastery
 - Accessibility
- Computers
- PC & Internet
- Opposite: Appliances
 - Telecom: intelligent network + appliances

Generative relationships

• Innovation = exaptive bootstrapping

- aligned directedness
- heterogeneity
- mutual directedness.
- permissions structures
- action opportunities

Manuel DeLanda: A New Philosophy of Society. Assemblage Theory and Social Complexity

- Realist ontology, Gilles Deleuze
- Relations of exteriority, capacities to interact (not properties)
- Material expressive
- Stabilizing/territorializing destabilizing/deterritorializing
- Thresholds, emergence, non-linearity

A self-reinforcing installed base

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Platforms & apps

Apps

Platform (iOS, Android, ..)

The Medakis project (and others)

- Strategy:
 - Specification driven, big bang appraoch
 - Tight couplings
 - Centrlized control
- Outcome? Refelxivity!!
 - Trying to stabilize (requirements, solution, use)
 - => de-stabilization

Reflexive Standardization

II development strategy

- Strategy: management, regulation, ...
- Theories of regulation
 - Julia Black:
 - From command and control to cultivation
 - Larry Lessig:
 - Regulatory modalities
 - Law
 - Technology/architecture ("code is law")
 - Market (prices)
 - Social norms
- ISO standards are law!

Examples: Internet and telecom

	Internet	Telecom
Process strategy	Experiemntal, evolutionary, bottom-up	Specification driven, top- down, "anticipatory standardization"
Architecture	Distributed "End-2-end"	Cetralized "Intelligence in the center"
Governance regime	Loosely coordinated network, open source, communication technology	Hierarchical, open standards + proprieatary technology (patents)

Infrastructure Evolution & Innovation

- Shaping the evolution of infrastructures =
- Innovation
 - Of
 - In
 - On
 - infrastruture

MyHealthRecord

Communikasjon between patients and health care insititutions

2002-2004

2005-2009

2009-2012

Phase I Conceptual design

• 2002: Design of MyRec as component in the Clinical Portal.

• Clinical portal prioritise existing fragmentation of IS in the hospital, MyRec not further included .

•2003: first Initial sketches as independent solution with focus on providing trusted information and access to document from hospital systems.

• 2004: first mockups with various suggested functionalities

• 2004: idea to design of secure messaging service to address the illegal use of email in patient-hospital communication

Phase II Initial experiences

• 2005: Creation of unit for "research and patient services" (MyRec), new unit manager, new member hired

•2005: first functional version implemented

•2005: secure messaging designed and implemented

• Design of Request-change of appoitments services and diversification in open/closed services

Benefits

 Some functionalities dismissed

• 2008: change of security solution to a more user friendly one

Phase III Consolidation

• MyRec is contacted by departments and patient organizations

•development of a number of modules addressing specific problems of hospital-patient communication and focus on solving concrete specific problems.

- development of a number of general modules.
- development of modules according to a generic logic for re-use.
- wider implementation of generic functionalites
- participation in EU project
- Other hospitals take MyRec into use

MyHealthRecord – 1st design



2nd version

- Stand-alone infrastructure
 - iKnowBase platform
 - A few basic services
 - Secure logon
 - Secure email
 - A few specialized services

3rd version

- Emergning
- Tools and services for diabetes patients
- "plaform for disease management"

Evolution

- Innovations
 - Of: 3 versions
 - In: BankID as security system
 - On: specialized services, generification, a new layer emerging
- Architecture: 3 versions, "experimental architecting"
- Process strategy: experimental development, early use (bootstrapping)
- Governance regime: small, independent team ("under the radar")

EU: Pan-European eGovernment solutions

- Domains:
 - Customs
 - Health care
 - Immigration
 - Judiciary
- European Interoperability Strategy
- Interoperbility solutions for Euorpean Public Administrations
- European Interoperability Architecture

eCustoms

- Harmonizing, streamlining customs declarations in EU
- Aim:
 - 25% cost reductions for traders: "Single window"
- Increased trade/globalization
 - New risks: Mad cow, terror, counterfeit, ..
 - Containers, big hubs
 - New customs control procedures
- From transaction to system based control









Development activities

- First step: Export system
 - Aim: One common export system
 - Extensive adaptation to national installed base
- Next: Transit system
 - Developed one system in each country (=27 independent implementation of the same spec.)
- Next ...

– Aim: One common system ...

Plus

- For each new system:
 - Control systems build on top of customs systems
 - Additional data collected for control purposes

Dynamics

- More trade, more risk, more needs for control
- New systems for customs declaration
 - => new opportunities for building new control systems
- Adapted to (national) installed base
 - => more stability
 - => more fragmentation
- Traders need to adapt their system to 27 diff.
 National IIs

The shaping of the evolution of the eCustoms II

- Process strategy: Specification driven, one system at the time
- Architecture: tight coupling within national IIs, loose coupling between national IIs
- Governance: Loosely coupling between tightly coupled national projects, traders detached

Alternative?

- Process strategy: Evolutionary, learning focused
- Architecture: loose coupling within national IIs, tight coupling between national IIs, (minimum data), traders connected through one European portal/gateway
- Governance: Tight coupling between loosely coupled national projects, traders integrated