Inscriptions in standards Actor Network Theory 2

Concepts

- Actants
- Associations/networks/collectives (of humans and non-humans)
- Translation, composition, enrollment
- Interference
- Inscription, delegation
- Program-of-action
- Black-boxing
- Irreversibility

- Sum of inscriptions = technological style
- DRM = surveillance?

Example: Hotel keys (Latour)

- Problem: Customers not returning keys
- Anti-programs
- 1. trial: Sign behind the counter: "Please remember to return the key"
- 2. trial: Ordering the "doorman" to remind customers
- 3. trial: Adding a metal nob to the key
- Inscribing = building network
- Make it strong enough

Inscriptions in standards

- "Materials"
  - The standards organizations
  - Systems architecture
  - EDIFACT syntax
  - Messages
  - Data elements

- The socio-technical network!
- The EDIFACT network: Big and strong

Inscriptions in the EDIFACT actor network

- No user participation
  - Must know the rules and the network
  - The complexity of the network
  - The EDIFACT mafia in control
  - No flexibility

Systems architecture

- Message based, transaction oriented, client/server, event-driven
- EDIFACT: message based (modelling paper forms) => email (X.400)
- Labs:
  - Orders and complete reports
  - Ordering new analysis

EDIFACT Syntax

- No sub typing => no specialization
- General standard that includes everything
- Defining new subsets of this one
- New local needs must
  - Be included in the general standards
  - Defining new subsets

More on EDIFACT syntax

- Implications
  - Low flexibility
  - Centralized control
  - Complexity
  - => aligned with inscriptions into the standardization organization

Individual messages

- Data elements determines the use are of a message
- Economic data in lab messages? Support administrative processes
- References internally in a message?
- Including the order in the report?
  - Huge amounts of date
  - Complex definitions
  - Order sometimes required
- Inscriptions in organization too strong

Data elements

- Identifying drugs in prescriptions
- Text?
- Code?
- Selecting identifiers
- Establishing organization?
- Extend GP's systems
- Distribution of new versions to GPs

Extending the network to increase its strength

- How to make GPs use the codes?
  - Integration with EPR
  - Integration with common catalogue?
  - Extend the list with additional information?
  - Quality assurance?

Technology as ally

- Vendors tried to ally themselves with a standard to strengthen own position
- HL-7, Medix, EDIFACT
- …CEN
- The depts. Initiative was killed