

# Future Trends in Systems & Software Engineering

- How Future Trends Bode Well for Systems Engineering's Partnership in the Transformation

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Chantilly, Virginia  
Theme: Systems Engineering: A Partner in Transformation



# The Software Engineering Institute - Improving the State of Practice of Engineering: Create, Apply and Amplify

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Federally Funded Research and Development Center

Created in 1984

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense

Locations in Pittsburgh, PA; Washington, DC;  
Frankfurt, Germany

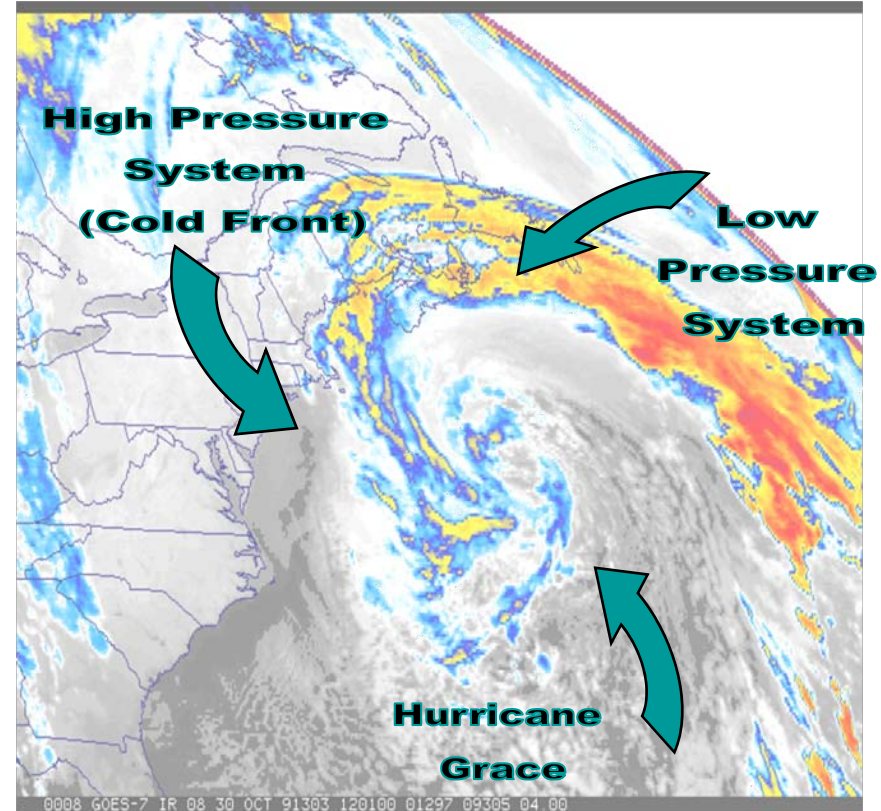
Operated by Carnegie Mellon University



# Overview



- Transformational Trends in Systems and Software Engineering
  - Development
  - Innovation
  - Integration
  - Human Element
  - Communications
  - Process
- Ten Trends
- Wrap-up



“Perfect Storm” Event, October 1991  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



# Development Challenges: Need for Space, Air, Ground, Water, Underwater Software-Intensive Systems that are Interconnected



- Several million SLOC programs; “Hybrid” systems combining legacy re-use, COTS, new development
- Multi-contractor teams using different processes; dispersed engineering, development & operational locations
- New technologies create opportunities/challenges; products change/evolve, corporations mutate
- Business/operational needs change - often faster than full system capability can be implemented
- Skillset Shortfalls; Cost and schedule constraints
- Demands for increased integration, interoperability, system of system capabilities
- Enterprise perspectives/requirements; sustainment concerns



Systems Engineering – A Partner in Developing More Responsive Space Systems



# Software Engineering Development Trends That Impact Systems Engineering



## Traditional

- Standalone systems
- Mostly source code
- Requirements-driven
- Control over evolution
- Focus on software
- Stable requirements
- Premium on cost
- Staffing workable

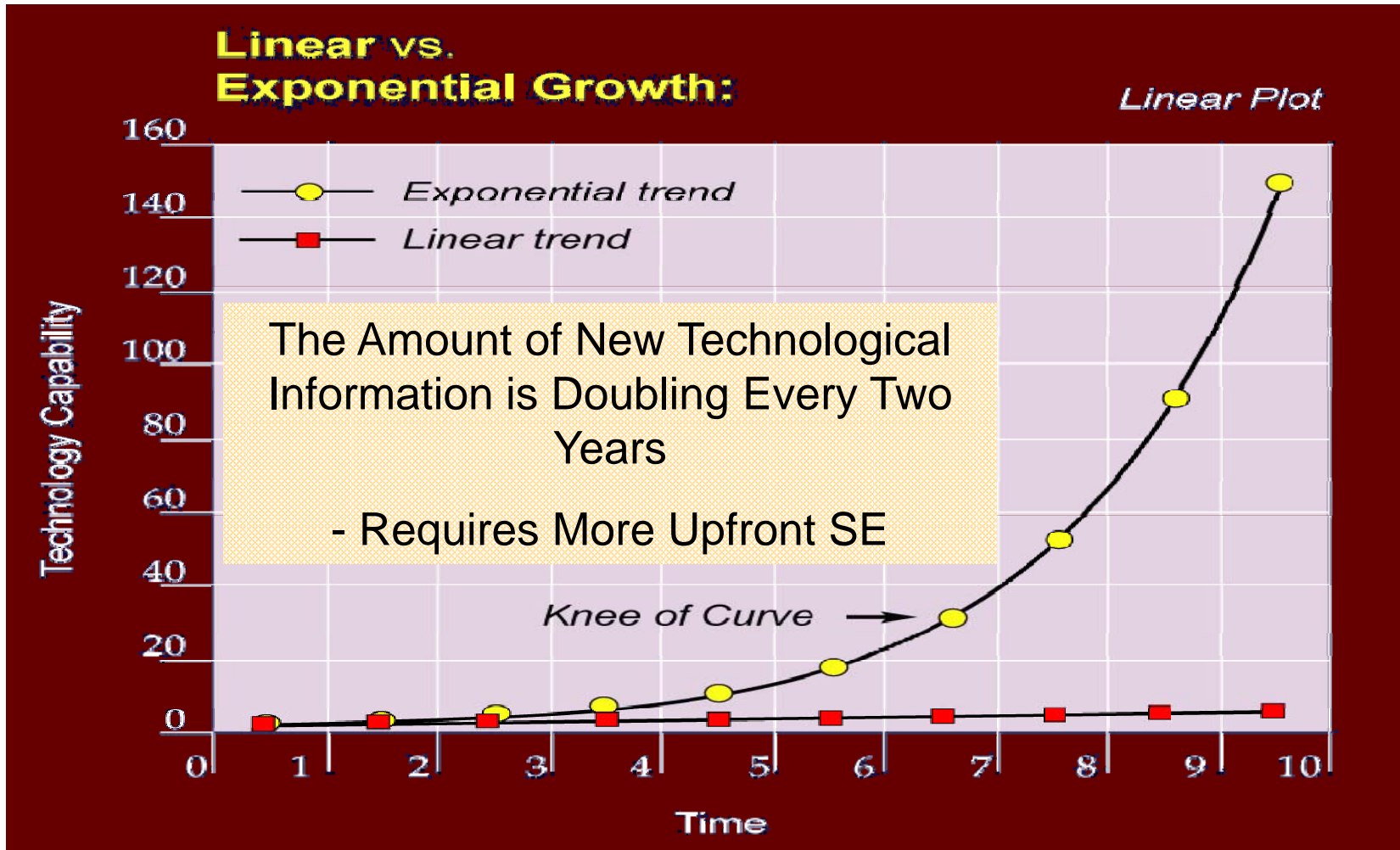
## Future

- Everything connected-maybe
- Mostly COTS components
- Requirements are emergent
- Limited control over COTS evolution
- Focus on systems and software
- Rapid change
- Premium on value, speed, quality
- Scarcity of critical talent

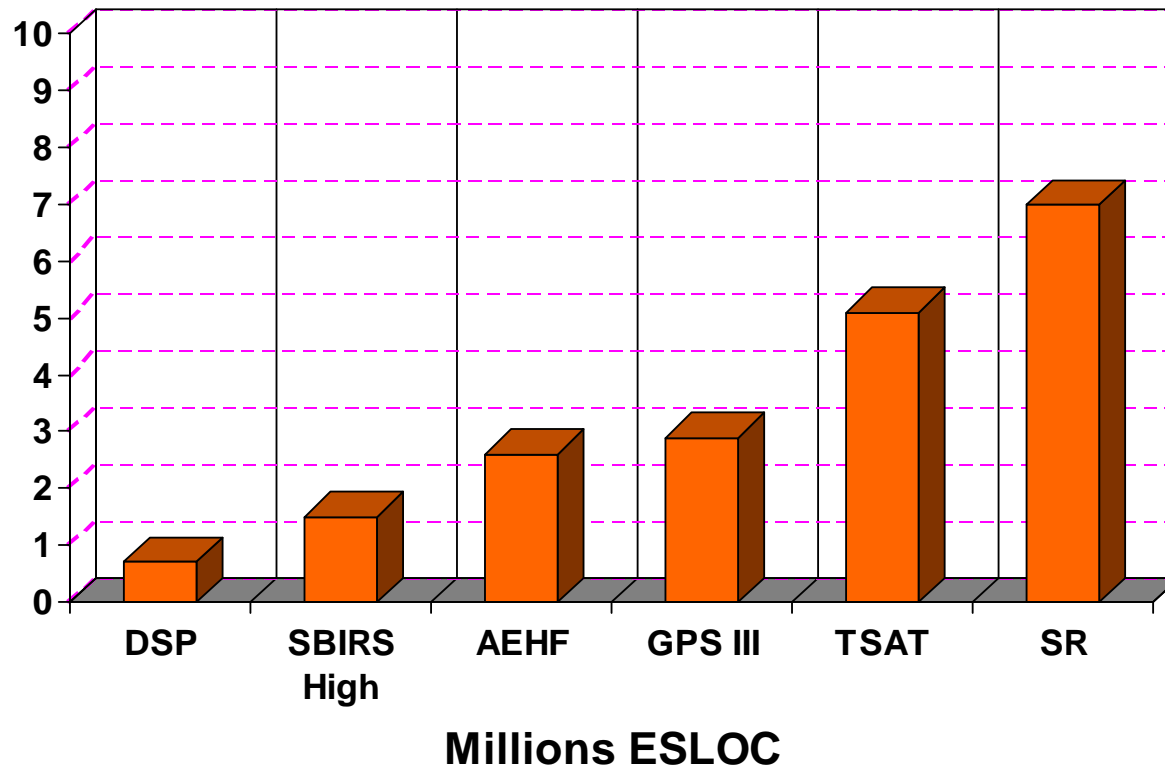
Emerging Dynamics of Bringing Systems and Software Engineering in Continued Partnership



# The Acceleration of Innovation in the 21st Century: Impact Systems Engineering Transformational Activities



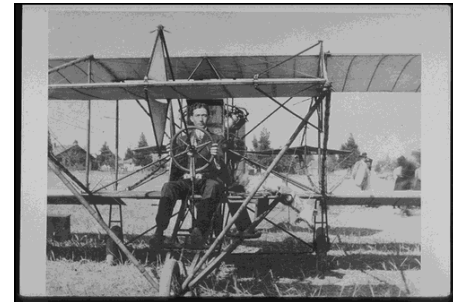
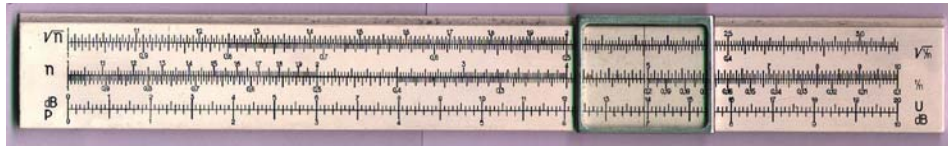
# Growth Trend in Space System Software (Onboard and Ground Software)



# System/Software Engineering I/F Challenges: Augustine's Law – Growth of Software - Order of Magnitude Every 10 Years



## In The Beginning



1960's



**F-4A**  
**1000**  
**LOC**



1970's



**F-15A**  
**50,000**  
**LOC**



1980's



**F-16C**  
**300K**  
**LOC**



1990's



**F-22**  
**1.7M**  
**LOC**



2000+



**F-35**  
**>6M**  
**LOC**





# System/Software I/F Challenges: Relationship Between Complexity and Acquisition Success Improving But Not Enough!



## Software is Growing in Complexity

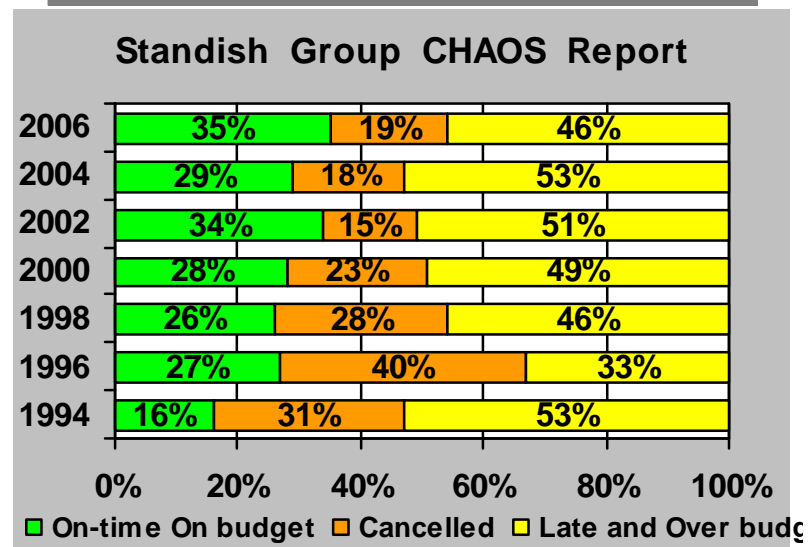
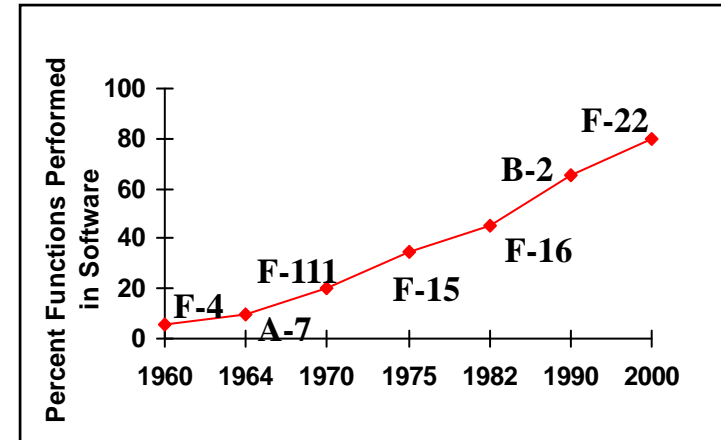
- 80% of some weapon system functionality is dependent upon software<sup>1</sup>
- Consequences of software failure can be catastrophic

## Software Acquisition is Difficult

- 46% are over-budget (by an average of 47%) or late (by an average of 72%)<sup>2</sup>
- “Successful projects” have 68% of specified features<sup>2</sup>

## Software is Pervasive

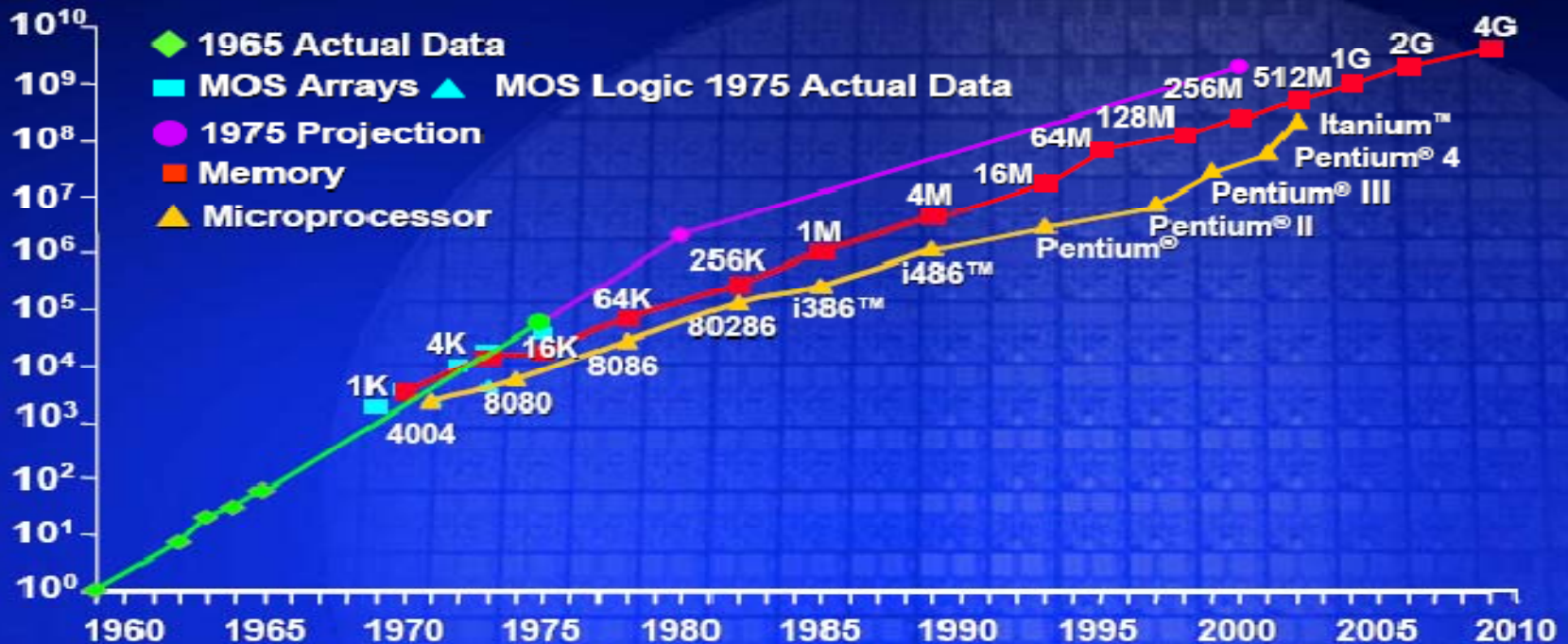
- Space, IT Systems, C4ISR, Weapons, etc



# System/Hardware Engineering I/F Challenges - Moore's Law: The Number of Transistors That Can be Placed on an Integrated Circuit is Doubling Approximately Every Two Years

## Integrated Circuit Complexity

Transistors  
Per Die



Source: Intel



# Systems Engineering Integration Challenges: Some Drivers That Increase the Complexity of Acquiring Systems



**Platform** → *Customer Emphasis* → **Enterprise**

**Requirements** → *Acquisition Model* → **Capabilities**

**Dominant Customer** → *Program Execution* → **Collaboration**

**“Boxes”** → *Integration Challenge* → **“Layers & Stacks”**

**Proprietary** → *Architectures and Standards* → **Plug & Play**

*Transformation will require addressing both sides, and do so with compressed delivery schedules via improvements in systems/software engineering*

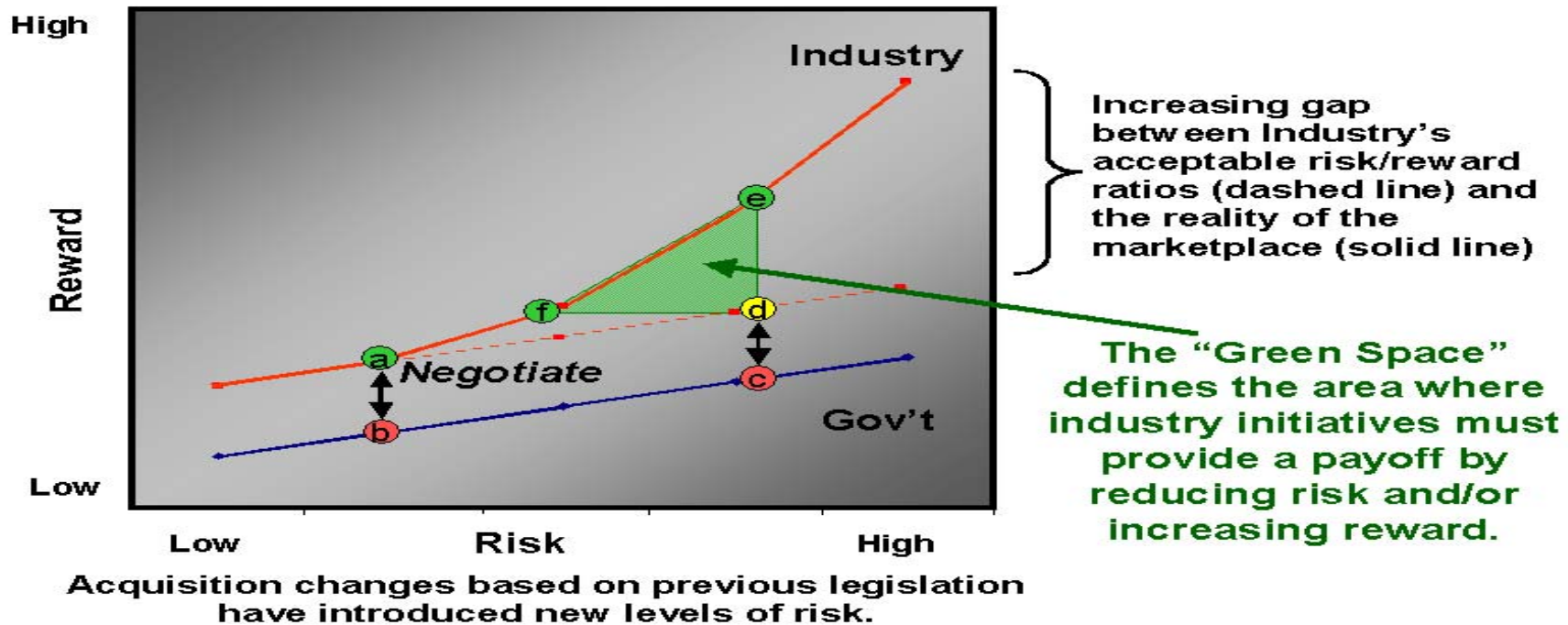


# Increased Reliance on Acquirer/Developer to Reduce Integration Risk by Effectively Navigating the Green/Acquisition Space



## Navigating the “Green Space”

### Risk-Reward Preferences

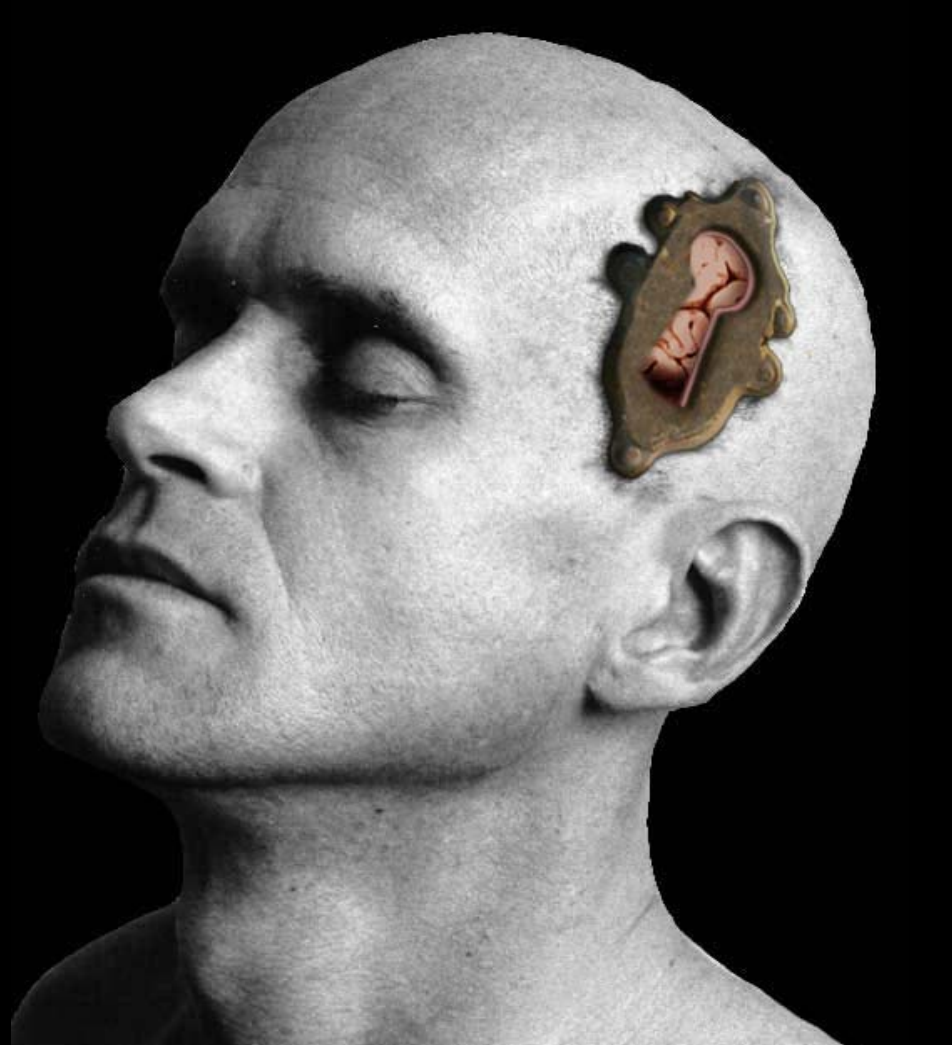


©2005 Systems and Software Consortium, Inc.

Source: Nidiffer and Dolan, IEEE Software, Sept/Oct 2005

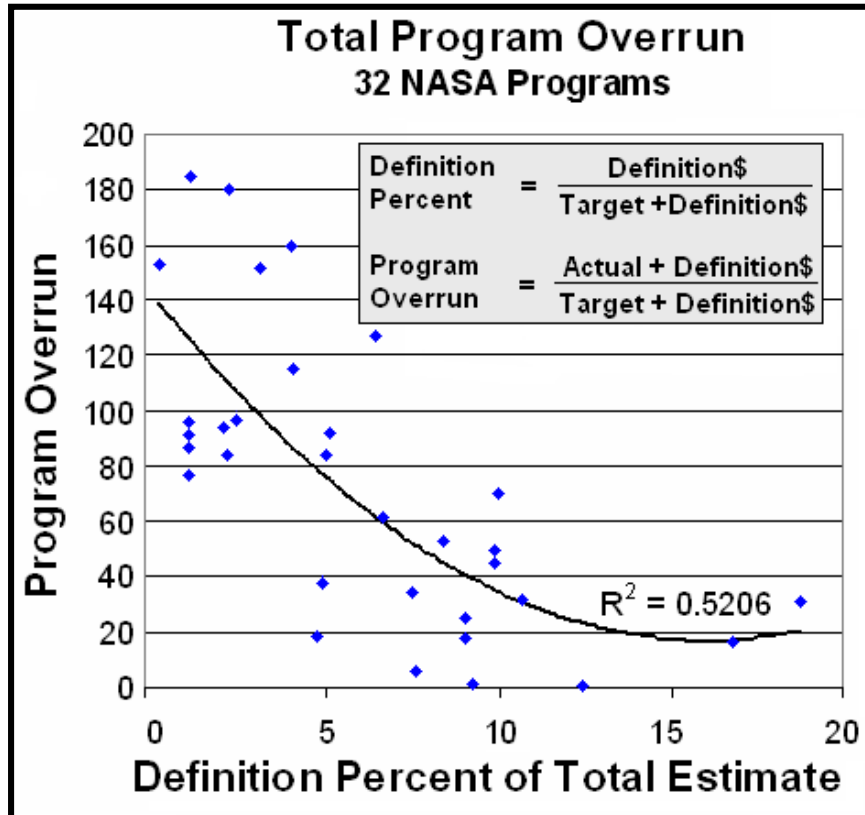


# Human Element – Perhaps the Longest Pole in the Tent Is Rebuilding the Workforce – Gen Thomas S. Moorman Jr. (Ret) March 2008

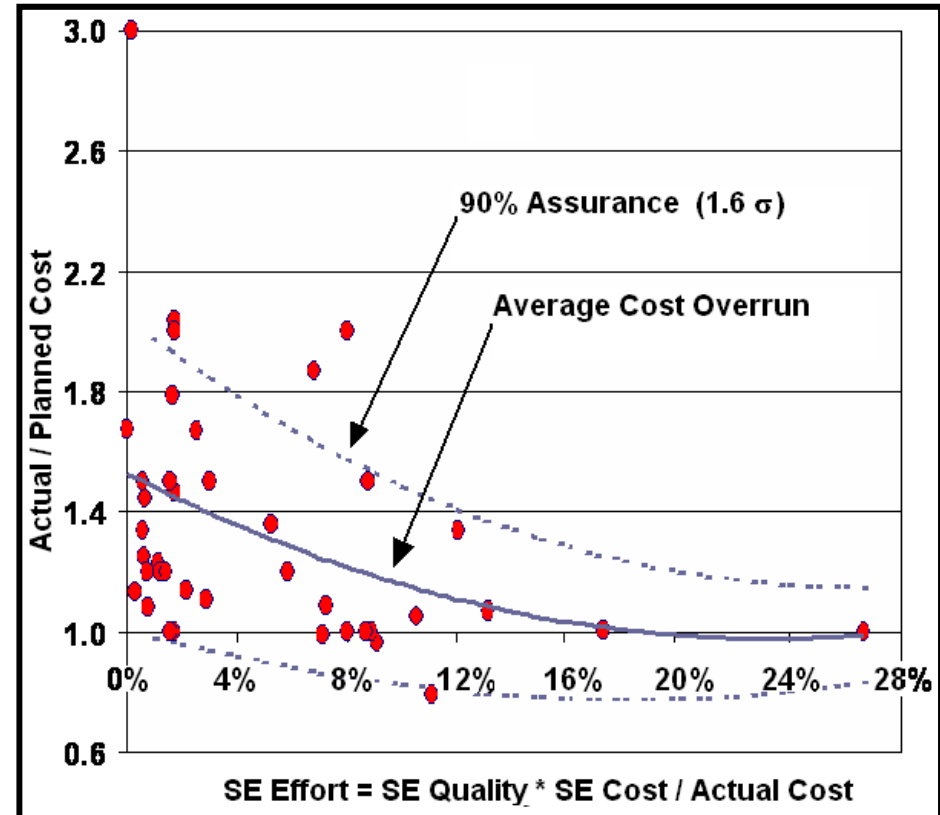


*The ability of organizations to compete will increasingly depend on the innovation of the human element*

# The Challenge - Supporting Evidence



**Gruhl, Werner (1992)**, Lessons Learned: Cost/Schedule Assessment, Internal Presentation, NASA Comptroller's Office

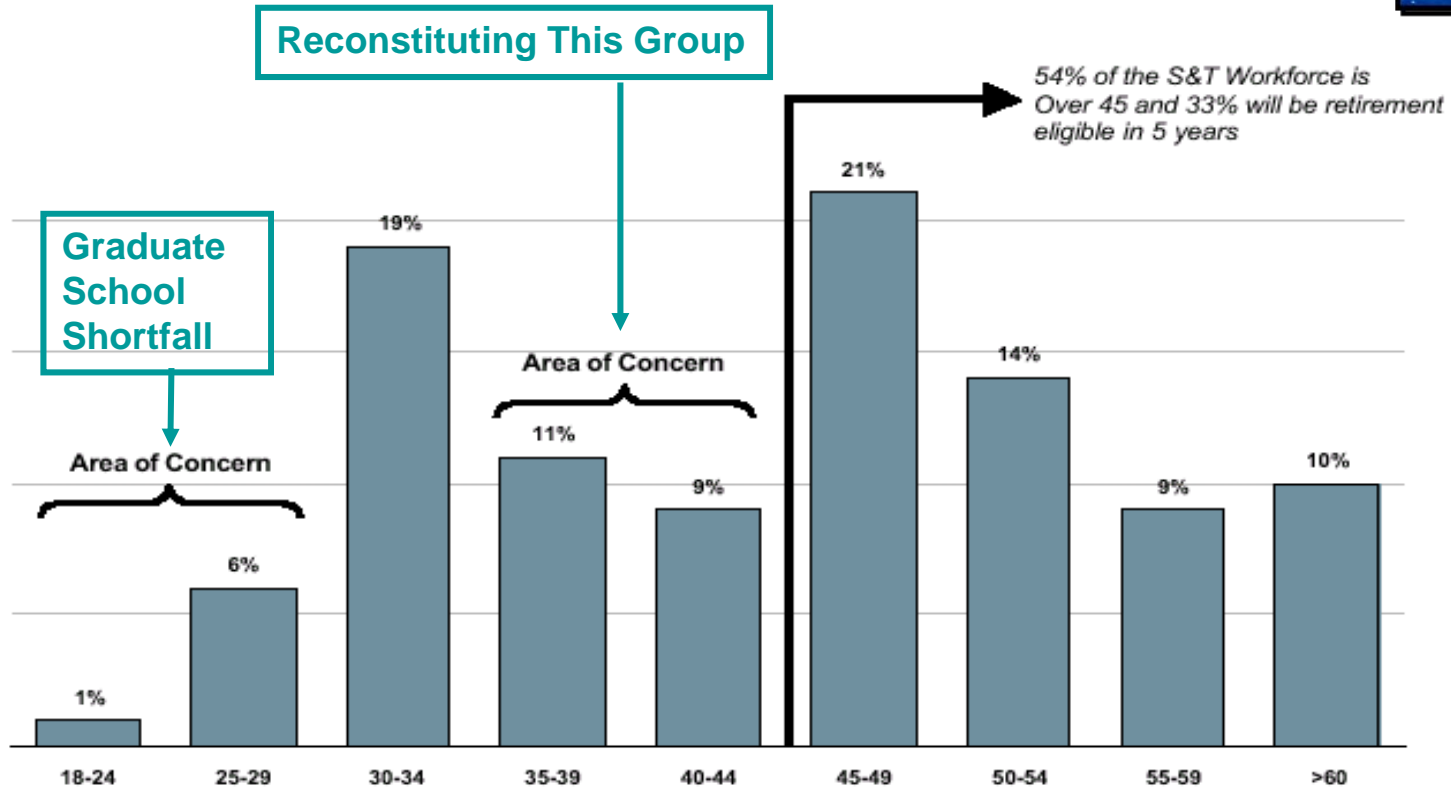


**Honour, Eric (2004)**, *Understanding the Value of Systems Engineering*, Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual INCOSE International Symposium





# Society Drivers: Bimodal Demographics (Space Industry)

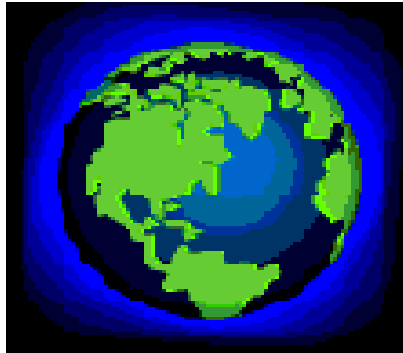


*Average Space Industry S&E Workforce Age Distribution*

***Trend: Industry/Gov't Will Increasingly Focus on Attracting, Training and Retaining Systems Engineering Talent***



# Organizational Performance - Flexible Boundary-Crossing Acquisition Structure

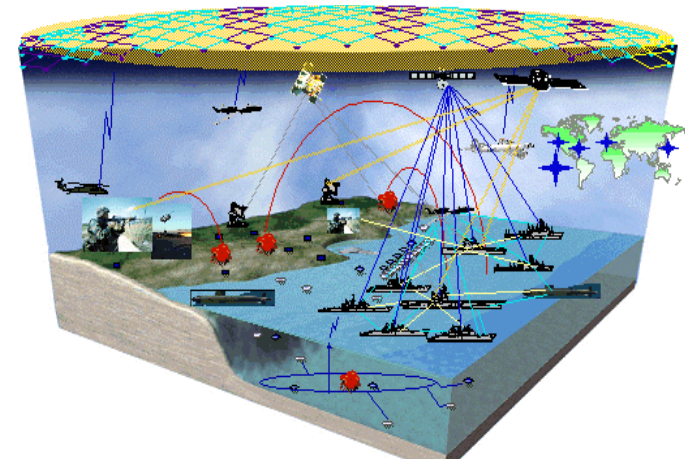
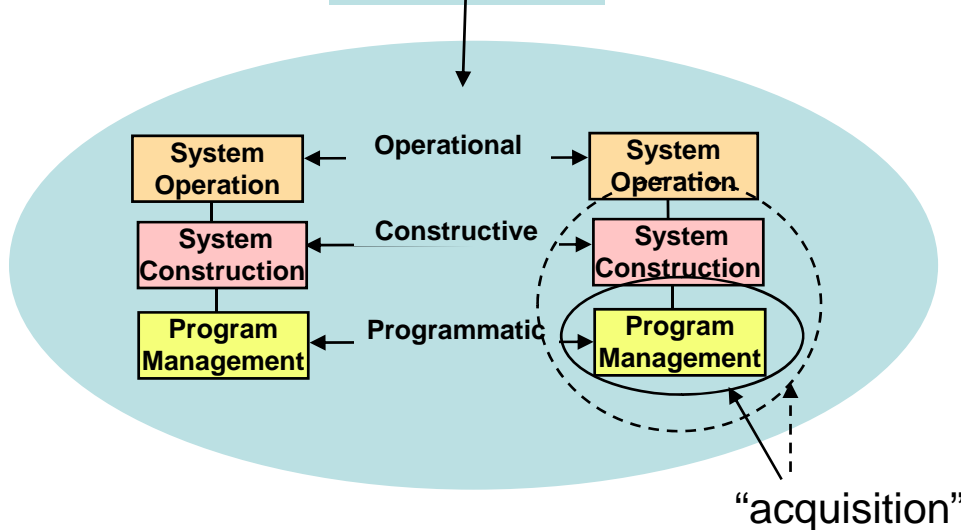


2005 study confirmed\*:

- In advanced knowledge-based organizations, management's desire for the flow of knowledge is greater than the desire to control boundaries
- Unlike the matrix organization, there is less impact on the dynamics of formal power and control

\* Using Communities of Practice to Drive Organizational Performance and Innovation, 2005, APQ study

“Acquisition” ← Advanced Knowledge-Based Organizations (Big A)



From “Science and Technology to Support FORCEnet,” Raytheon TD-06-008. Used by permission.

Ref: Jim Smith, (703) 908-8221, [jds@sei.cmu.edu](mailto:jds@sei.cmu.edu)

# Human Element Challenge: Bumpy Road at the Systems Engineering/Software Engineering Intersection

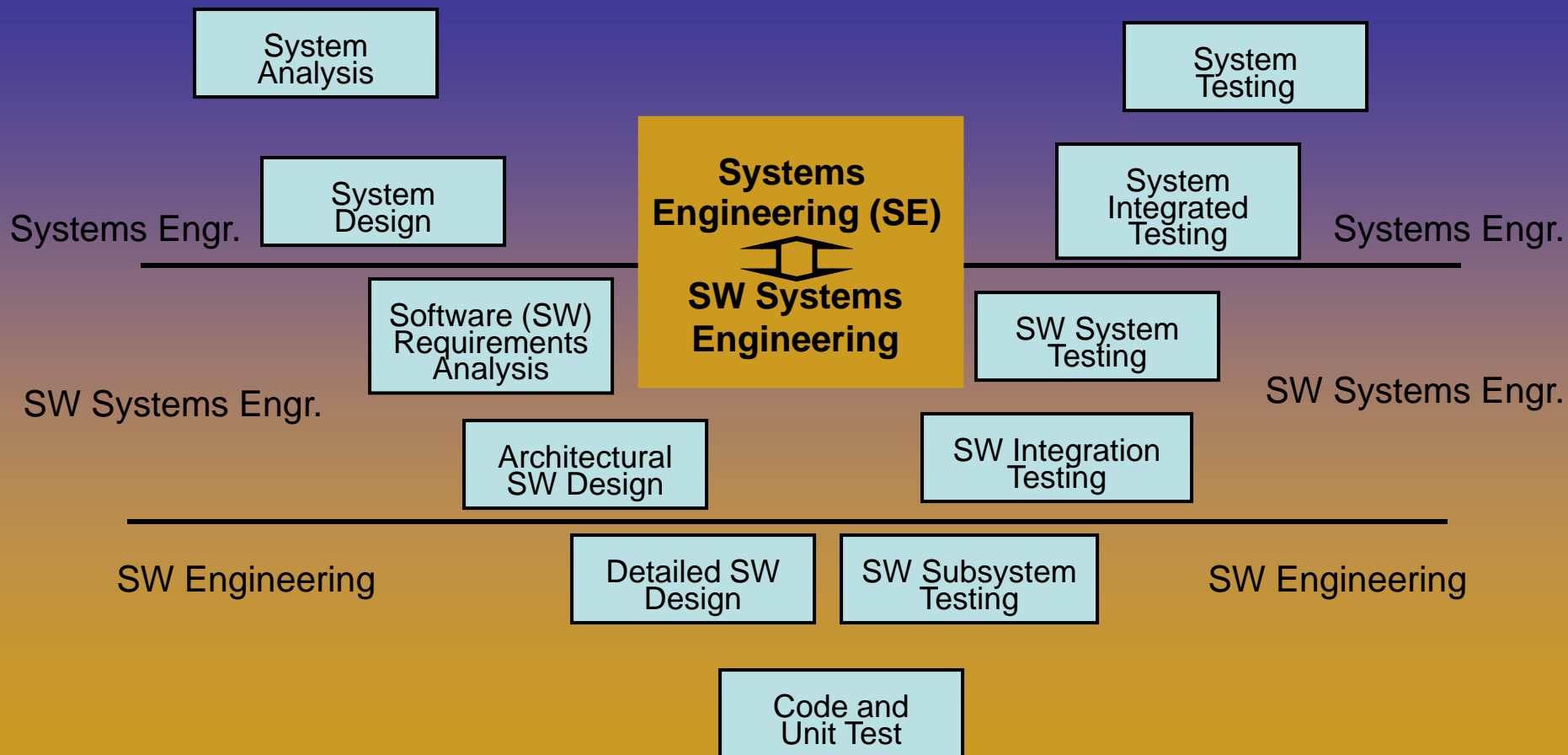


***The Integration of Systems and Software Engineering will take SE Leadership Commitment***

Source: Kurstedt, Harold, Newport Group, 2008



# Human Element: Current Objective is for Software and Systems Engineering to Become More Integrated Versus Separated



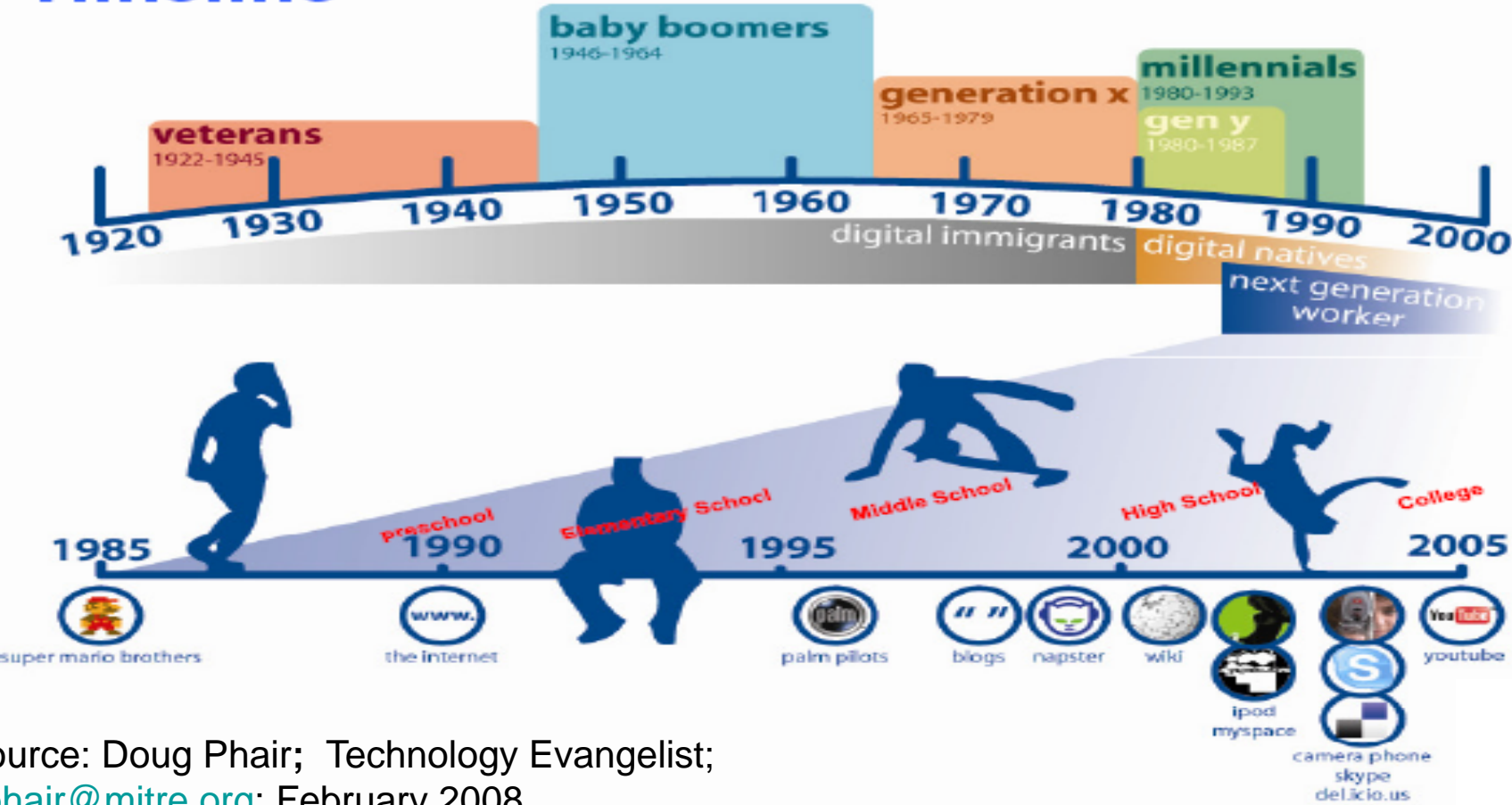
*OSD Initiative: Integrated Software and Systems Engineering Curriculum*



# Human Element in the Work-Space Environment



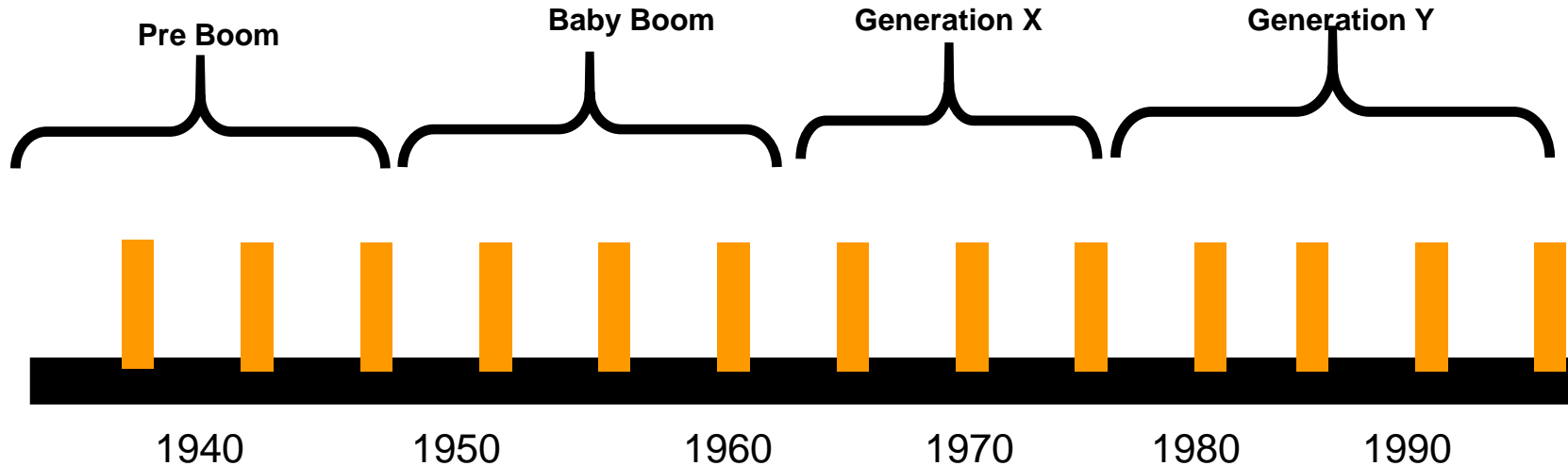
## Timeline



Source: Doug Phair; Technology Evangelist;  
[dphair@mitre.org](mailto:dphair@mitre.org); February 2008



# Human Element: More Generation Y Workers Will Enter the Workplace



## Generation Y Characteristics

- Born late 1970s to mid-1990s
- Larger than Generation X
- More ethnically diverse
- Technologically savvy

## What Makes Generation Y Tick

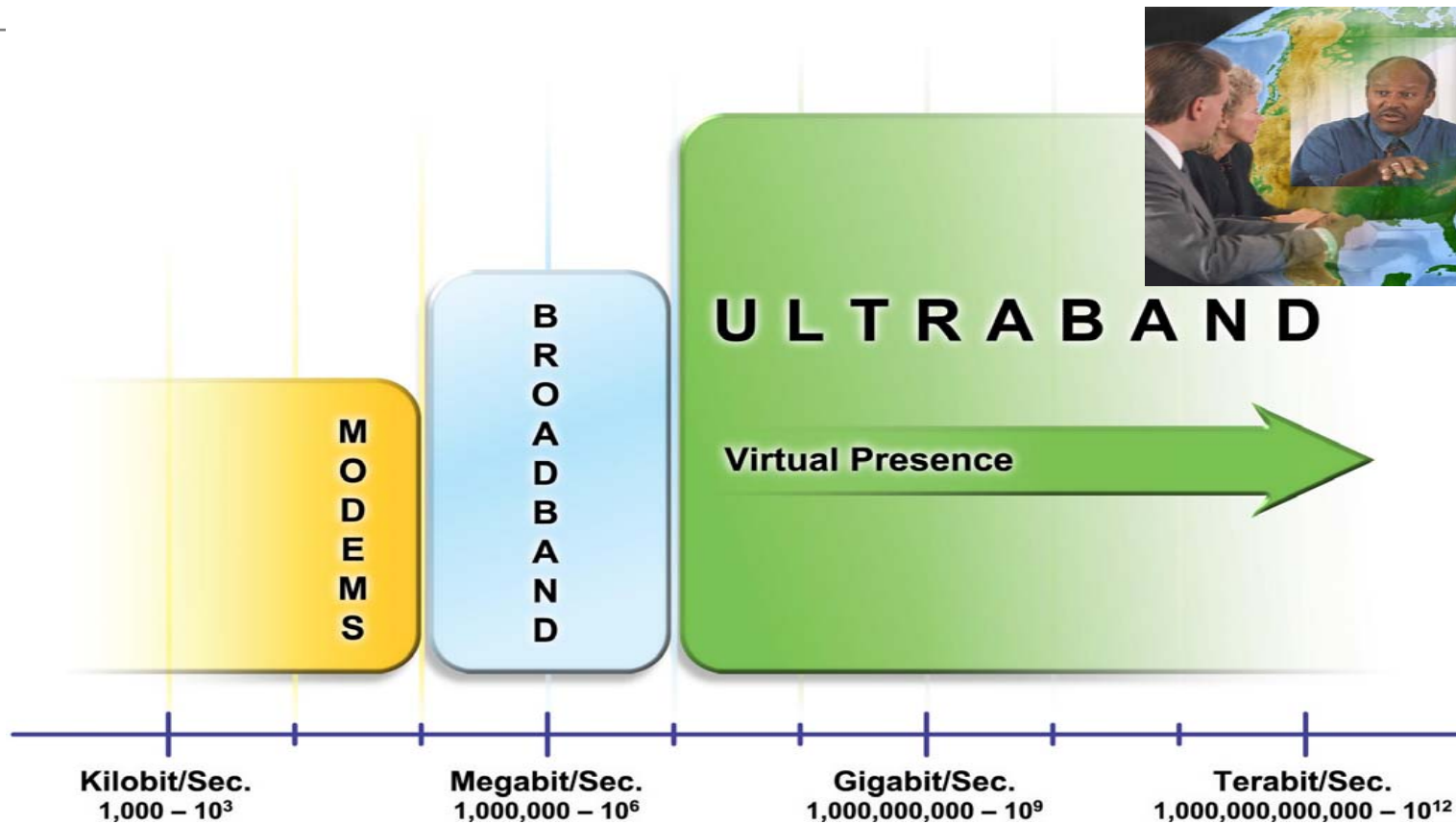
- High Expectation of Employers
- Goals, Goals, Goals
- Desire for Immediate Responsibility
- Balance and Flexibility

Source: Cara Spiro, DAU, 2006





# Increased Capabilities in the Digital Spectrum Enables SE Improvements in Communication and Collaboration



***Rule #4: The best companies are the best collaborators\****

\* Friedman, Thomas L. "The World Is Flat", Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005

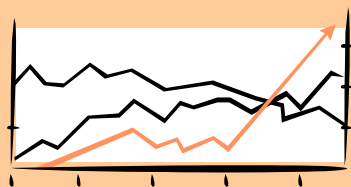




# SE is a Partner in Addressing Both Approaches to Process Improvement



## Data-Driven (e.g., Six Sigma, Lean)



Clarify what your customer wants (Voice of Customer)

- Critical to Quality (CTQs)

Determine what your processes can do (Voice of Process)

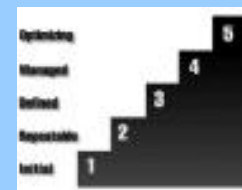
- Statistical Process Control

Identify and prioritize improvement opportunities

- Causal analysis of data

Determine where your customers/competitors are going (Voice of Business)

## Model-Driven (e.g., CMM, CMMI)



Determine the industry best practice

- Benchmarking, models

Compare your current practices to the model

- Appraisal, education

Identify and prioritize improvement opportunities

- Implementation
- Institutionalization

Look for ways to optimize the processes

- Design for Six Sigma







# Systems and Software Engineering: Ten Trends

- *Greater demands on systems and software engineers will stimulate growth in the field – nationally and internationally*
- *Industry/Gov't will increasingly focus on attracting, training and retaining systems and software engineering talent – short and long run – with emphasis on providing a Generation Y work environment*
- *Increased reliance on systems and software engineering processes and technologies to effectively manage the acquisition/"green" space*
- *The laws of Augustine's and Moore will continue to hold and will continue to be a forcing function to bring the fields of software and systems engineering closer together*
- *Improvements risk-reduction collaboration mechanisms will be significant enablers for increases in systems and software engineering communication and "decision velocity"*





# Systems and Software Engineering: Ten Trends

- *Increased need for a large number of complex systems and systems of systems will lead to investments in research and technology*
- *Systems and software engineers will continually find way to innovative to reduce complexity*
  - *Increased importance of modeling and simulation*
  - *Increased reliance on architectures (top-down and bottoms-up)*
  - *Increased design for continuous evolution and deployment at all levels will occur*
- *Increased customer requests for system and software engineering support will occur earlier in life cycle*
- *Shift of systems and software engineering focus from the platform to the networks and ground systems*
- *Process improvement will continue to be important*





Questions?



THE  
KNOWN WORLD  
*Beyond here there  
be Dragons*



# Recommended Readings



Buckman, Robert H. *Building a Knowledge-Driven Organization*. McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, 2004.

GAO Report: 08-467SP, Defense Acquisitions – Assessment of Selected Weapon Systems, March 2008

Chesbrough, Henry William. *Open Innovation: The New Imperative for Creating and Profiting from Technology*. Harvard Business School Publishing Corporation, Boston, MA 2003.

Drucker, Peter. *Managing in the Next Society*. Truman Talley Books, New York, NY, 2003.

Friedman, Thomas L. “*The World Is Flat*”, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005

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Kurstedt, Harold and Pamela. *Systems and Software Engineering Interfaces, Dealing with the Bumpy Roads, Participant Guide*, March 2008

Malone, Thomas. *The Future of Work: How the New Order of Business Will Shape Your Organization, Your Management Style and Your Life*. Harvard Business School Publishing, Boston, MA, 2004. See <http://ccs.mit.edu/futureofwork/>

Nidiffer, Kenneth E. and Doland, Diana “Evolving Distributed Project Management”, special issue IEEE Software, Sept/Oct 2005

Northrop, Linda. *Ultra-Large-Scale Systems – The Software Challenge of the Future*, Software Engineering Institute, June 2006

Rouse, William B. et al, *Understanding R&D Value Creation with Organizational Simulation*, Tennenbaum Institute, H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332-0205, Oct 2006

Wladawsky-Berger, Irving. “The Future of IT in an On-Demand World.” IBM Server Group, Keynote address at OSBC 2005. Archived at <http://www.itconversations.com/shows/detail495.html>

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