

# Systems Engineering Challenges for Integrating Software Assurance into Defense Systems Viewed Through the Prism of Future Systems

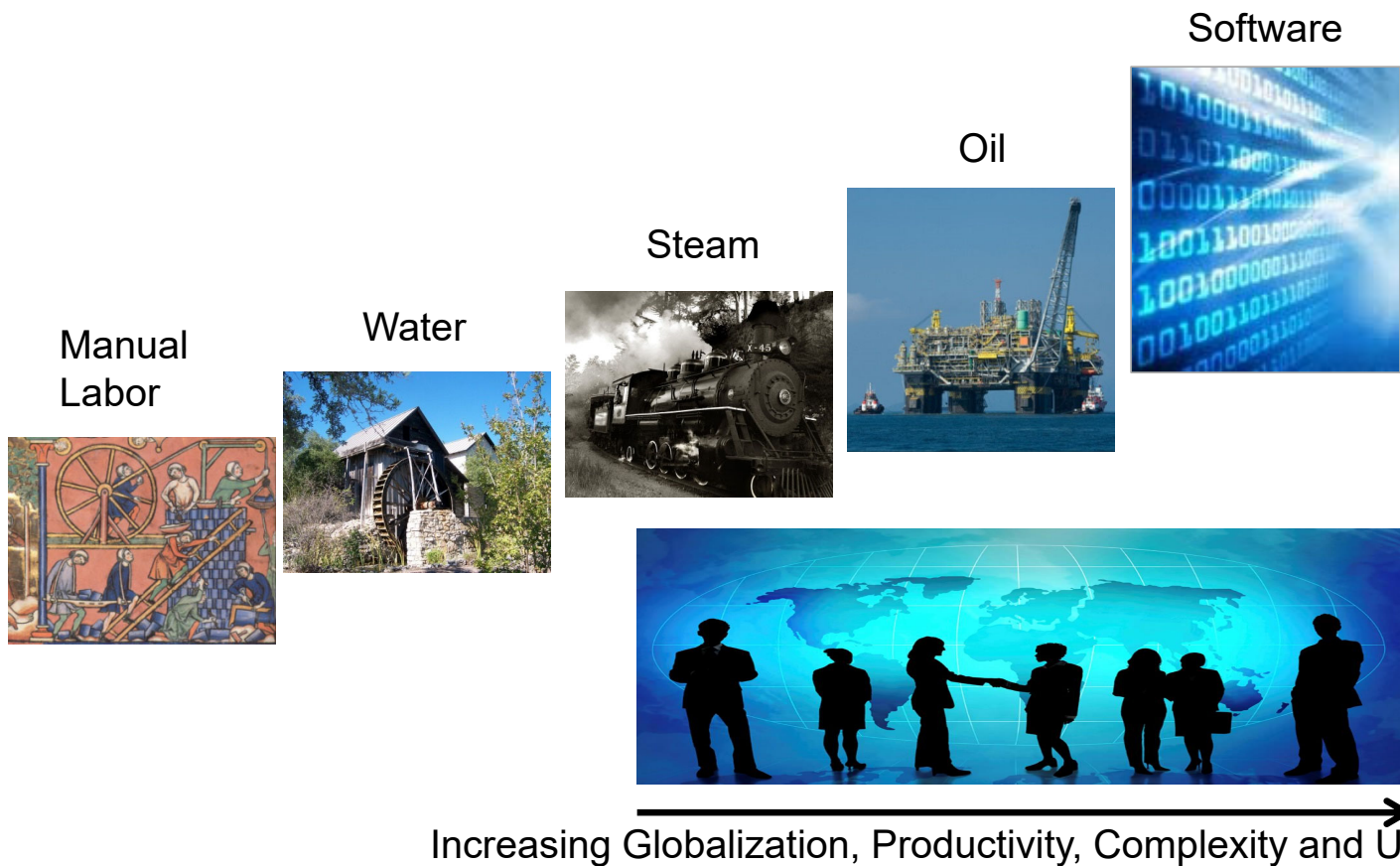
26th Annual NDIA 2022 Systems and Mission Engineering Conference  
Norfolk, VA  
10/16/2023 - 10/19/2023

Dr. Kenneth E. Nidiffer  
[knidiffe@gmu.edu](mailto:knidiffe@gmu.edu)  
703 217-0215

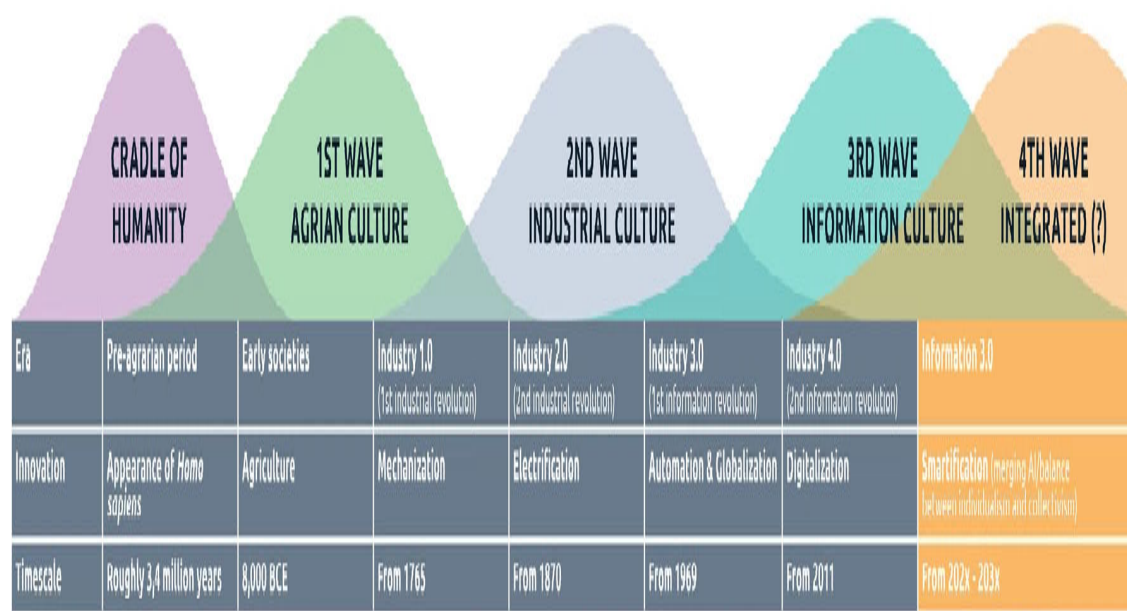
Approved for Public Release



# Increasingly Software-enable Systems Are a Significant Strategic Resource



# DoD Vision: Deliver Resilient Software At The Speed Relevance\*



Four Waves of Industrial Revolution

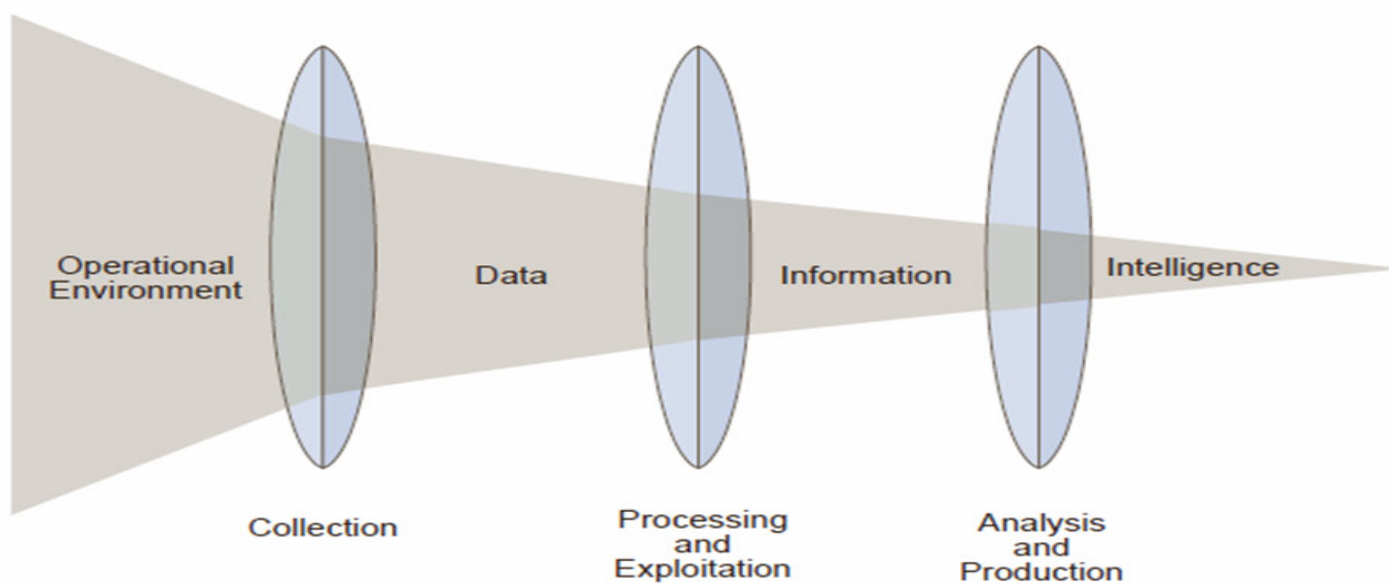


Uncertainties Are The Only Certainties We Have.

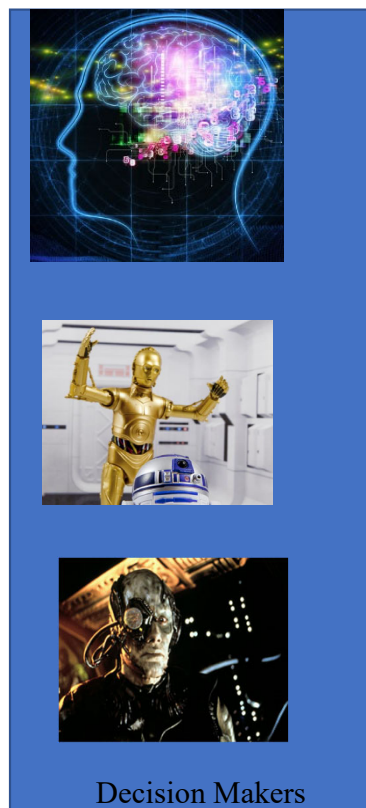
Source: Department of Defense Software Strategy Coordinator, November 2021

# Enabling Effective Decision Making

## Relationship of Data, Information and Intelligence



Source: Joint Intelligence / Joint Publication 2-0 (Joint Chiefs of Staff)



## BANI - How To Make Sense of a Chaotic World? (Idea: We live in a world of constant change)

- **Brittleness** - The world has become brittle or fragile. The new environment has shorter product lifecycle, disruptive change - the transformation to a digital world.
- **Anxiety** - The situation around us has become more anxious. The current events happening in the world, such as how COVID 19 make the world 'anxious' – mask or no mask.
- **Non-Linearity** - Cause and effect relationships are no longer easily predictable in advance – resources for quantum research.
- **Incomprehensibility** - It is very difficult to understand and comprehend how events are happening and why they are happening - AI/Machine Learning is changing the world and us.

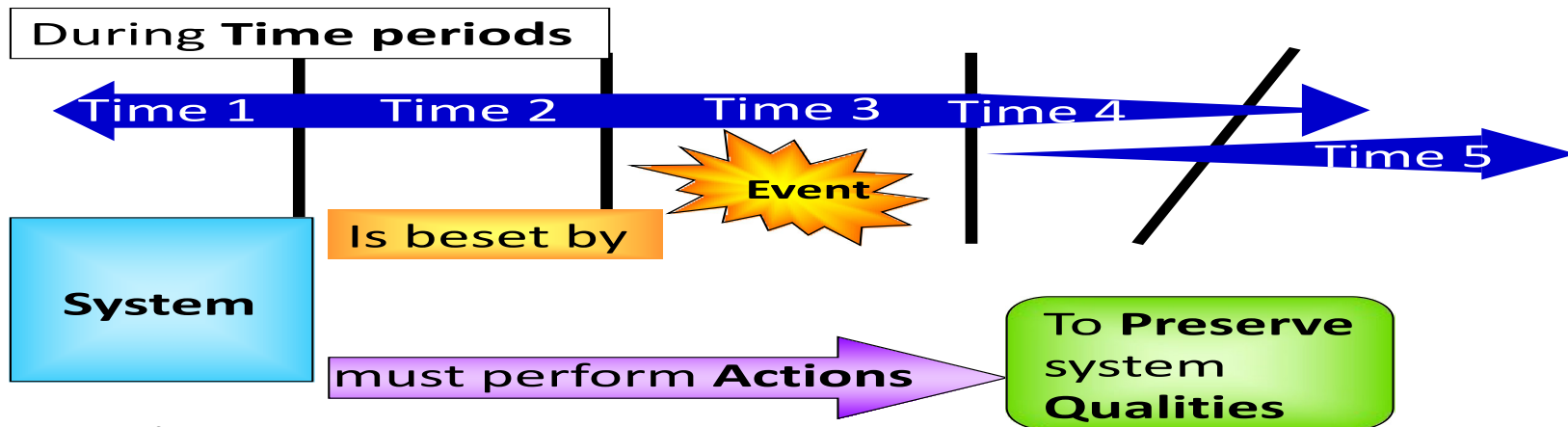
HGTO\$- /5: 3\$41\$ 31\$ 2\$/4 - ; ?\$ E\$P - .188L\$Y - 58L > \$R5: 710 \$:

[4@@<? \\$LCC & 5: 7105: \\$/ ; 9 15: 16-9 -5? /- ?/5; L>1/1: @- /@5@EL?4 ->1?L](#)



## Twenty- First Century Imperatives in Transdisciplinary Engineering

- Norm Augustine: “One should expect that the expected can be prevented, but the unexpected should have been expected”
- Engineering resilience is a system property that allows a system to continue providing useful service despite largely unpredictable and disruptive events internal or external to the system



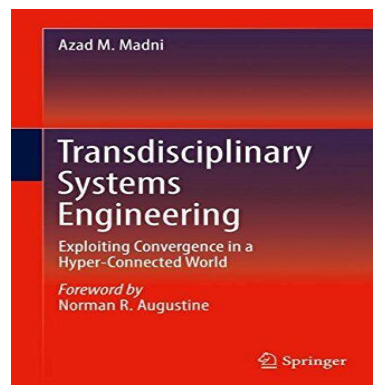
A Framework for System Resilience Discussions. Sheard 2008

# Looking Into the Future - Transdisciplinary Systems Engineering

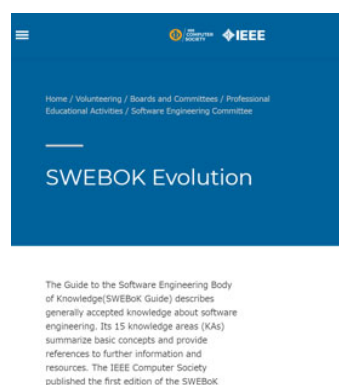
Finding Your Systems Engineering Role In 21<sup>st</sup> Century Software -Dominant Organizations\*\*



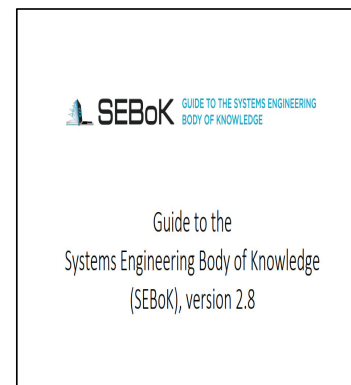
\*



\*\*



\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*

\* Sheard, Bouyaud, Osaisai, Sivi, and Nidiffer, Finding Your Systems Engineering Role In 21<sup>st</sup> Century Software -Dominant Organizations, 2021

\*\* Azad M. Madni ,Transdisciplinary Systems Engineering: Exploiting Convergence in a Hyper-Connected World, 2018

\*\*\* Washizaki, H., Sanchez-Segura, M-I., Garbajosa, J., Tockey, S., Nidiffer, K.E.. “Envisioning Software Engineer Training Needs in The Digital Era Through the SWEBOK V4 Prism”, *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering Education and Training* (CSEE&T 2023), August 8-9, 2023, Waseda University, Tokyo Japan.

\*\*\*\* Washizaki, H., Sanchez-Segura, M.I., Garbajosa, J., Tockey, S., Reilly, A.D., Nidiffer, K.E, SWEBOK v4 Article to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBOK v2.8), 2023 – release TBD

## Twenty- First Century Imperatives in Transdisciplinary Engineering

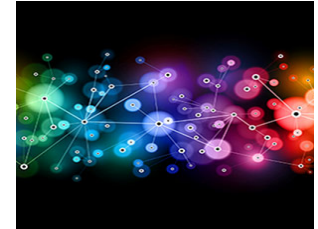
- Today the network of relationships linking the human race to itself and to the rest of the biosphere is so complex that all aspects affect all others to an extraordinary degrees.\*
- Someone should be studying the whole system, however crudely it has to be done, because no gluing together of partial studies of a complex nonlinear system can give a good idea of the behavior of the whole.\*

\*Murray Gell-Mann - physicist

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn - Alvin Toffler – Futurist



# Grand Challenges/Wicked Problems\* Move to Transdisciplinary Engineering



Number	Grand Challenge	Group	Number	Grand Challenge	Group
	Advance personalized learning	Joy of Living	8	Secure cyberspace	Vulnerability
	Enhance virtual reality	Joy of Living	9	Restore and improve urban infrastructure	Sustainability
	Engineer the tools of scientific discovery	Joy of Living	10	Provide access to clean water	Sustainability
	Reverse engineer the brain	Health	11	Provide energy from fusion	Sustainability
	Engineer better medicines	Health	12	Manage the nitrogen cycle	Sustainability
	Advance health informatics	Health	13	Develop carbon sequestration methods	Sustainability
	Prevent nuclear terror	Vulnerability		Make solar energy economical	Sustainability

\*National Council of Engineering - 2018

# Emerging Ultra-Large Systems of Systems Requiring Transdisciplinary Engineering

- Enormous web service and computing infrastructure
- Supply chain systems
- Software-based engineering systems

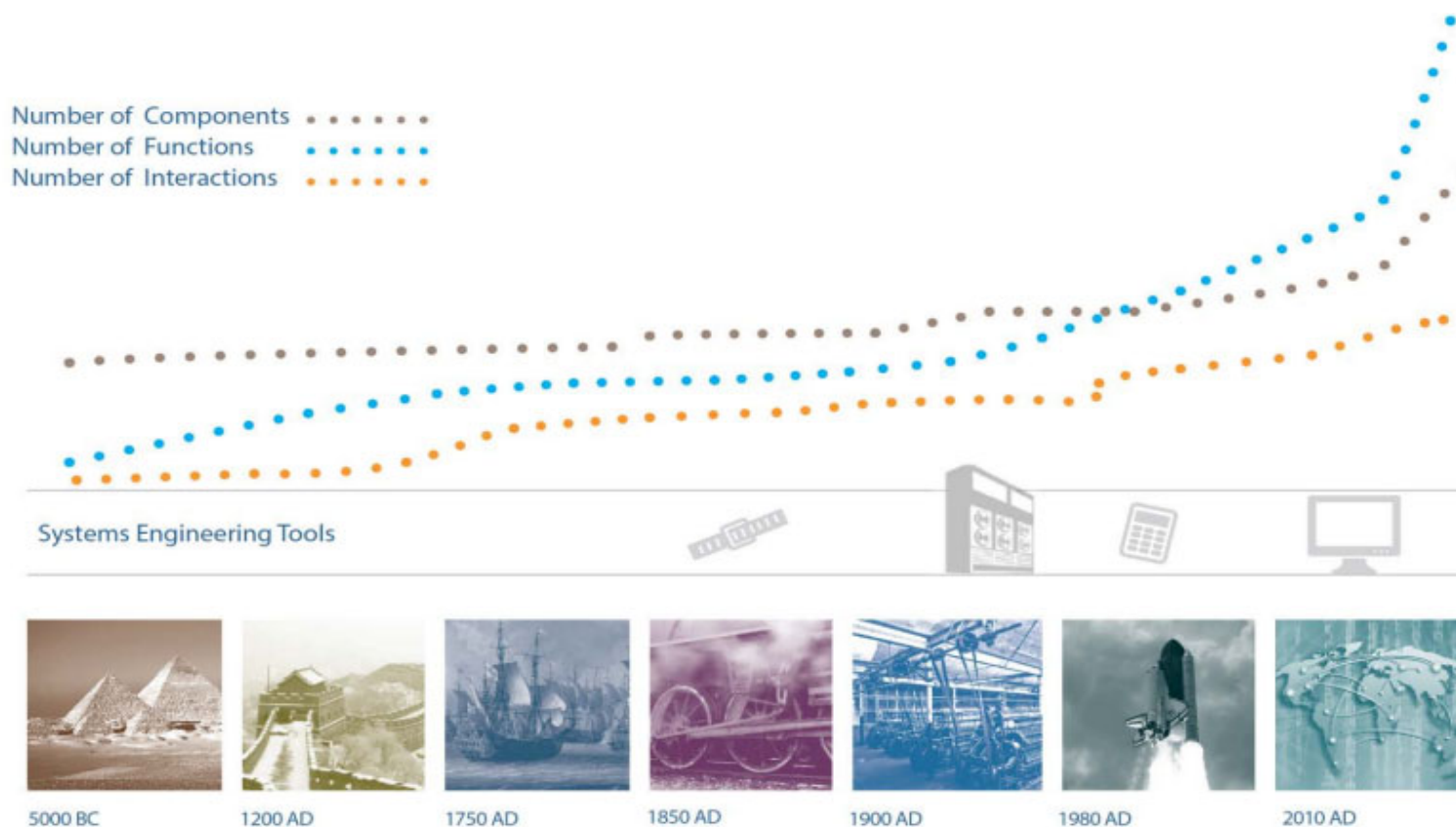
### Networked Automobiles

### Homeland Security

Source: [www.sei.cmu.edu/uls](http://www.sei.cmu.edu/uls)

### Healthcare Infrastructure

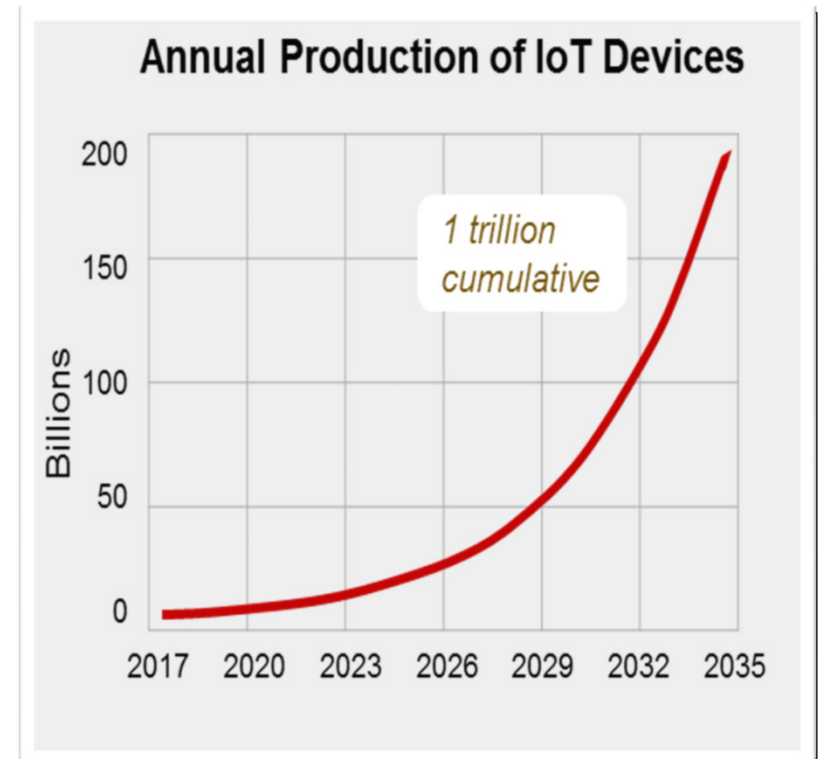
# Trend: Increasing Number of Components, Functions and Intersections\*



\* Roedler G., Systems Engineering of the Future: Shaping the Future of Systems Engineering, Feb 28, 2018

## Trend: Increasing Number of Connected Platforms\*

- An internet of things (IoT) platform is software that enables development, deployment, and management of solutions that connect to and capture data from IoT endpoints.
- IoT platforms can be delivered as a hybrid combination of edge platforms and/or cloud IoT platforms as a service

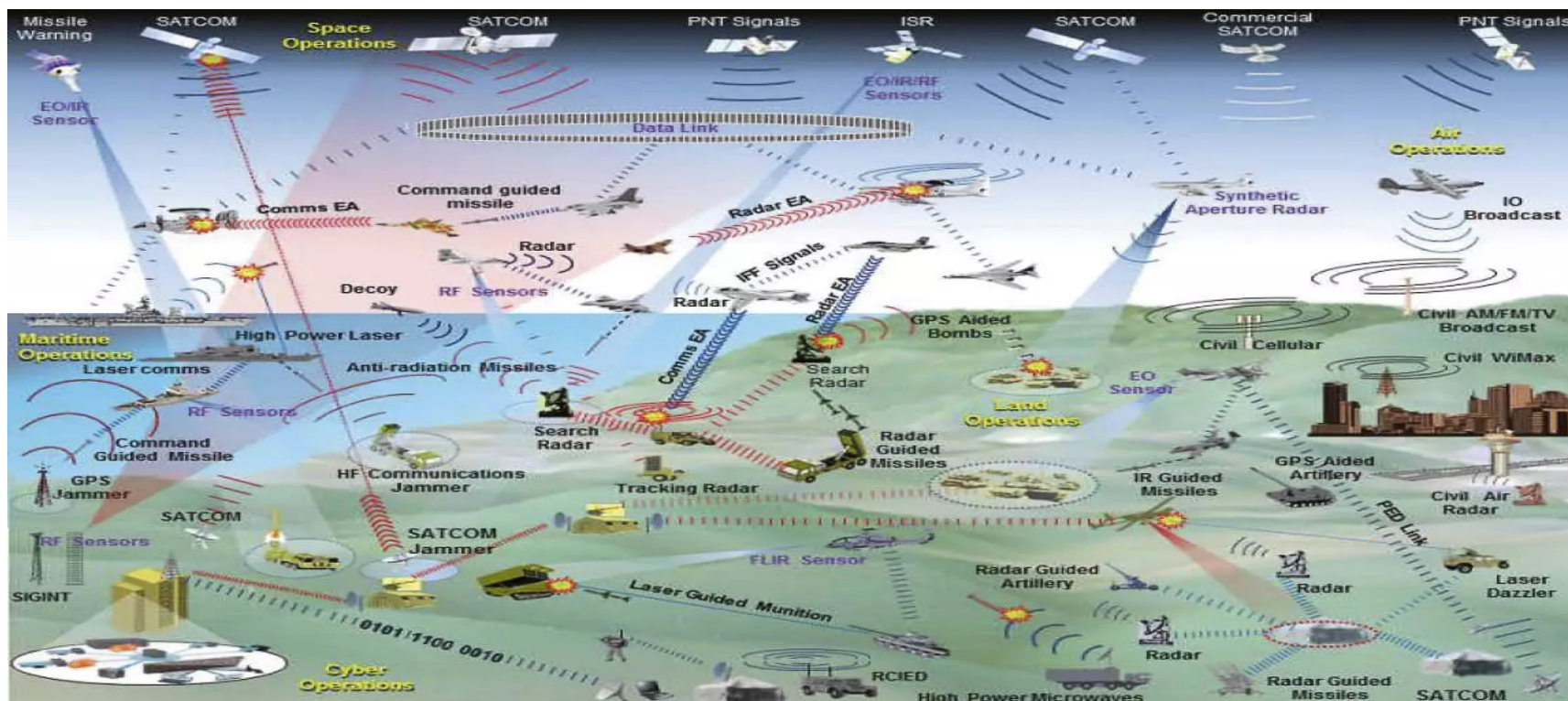


Source data: ARM Holdings

\*AFCEA Technical Vectors, 2021



# Engineered Systems Are Distinct But Becoming Intimately Intertwined Transdisciplinary Engineering Disciplines



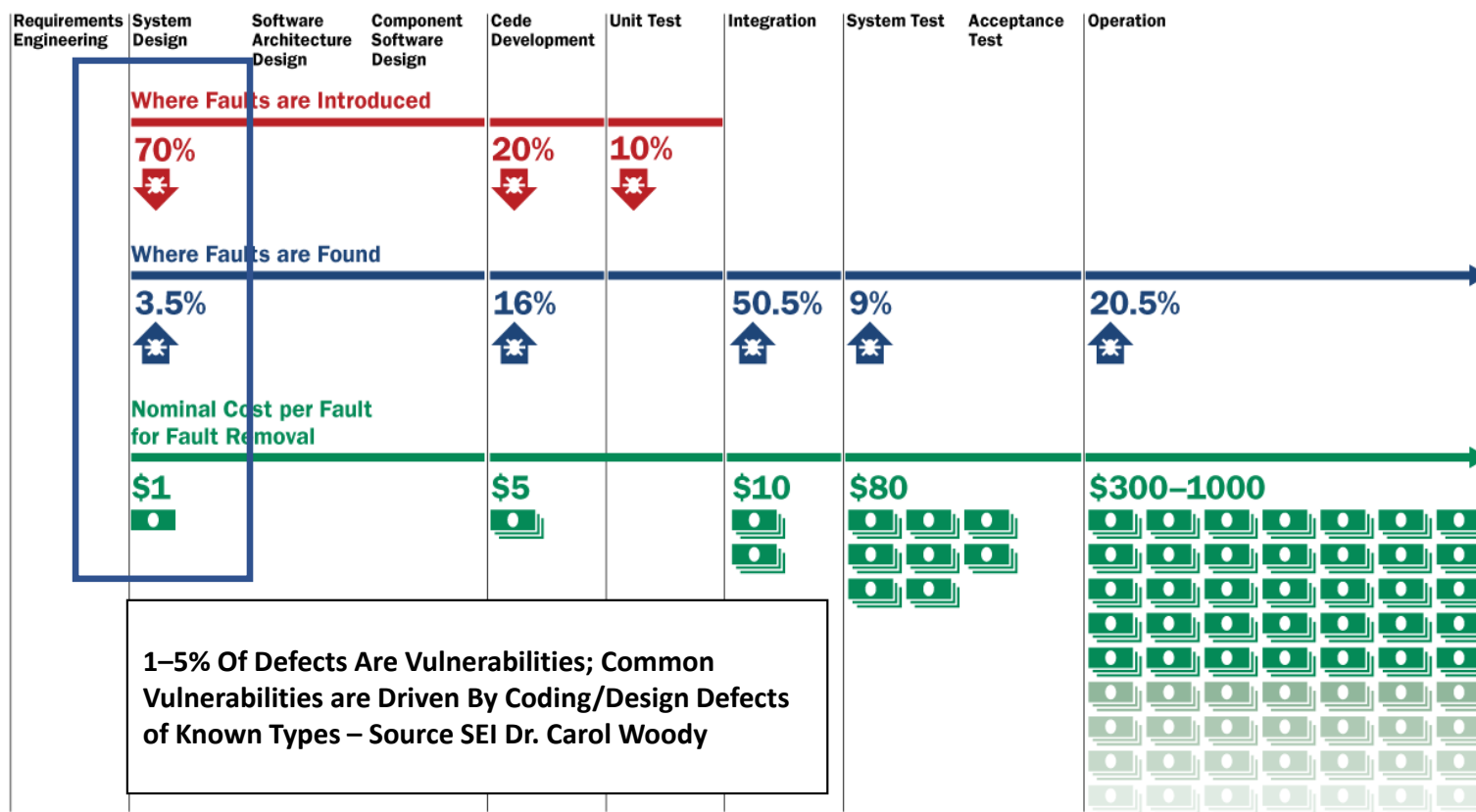
## Engineered Systems Are Distinct But Becoming Intimately Intertwined Transdisciplinary Engineering Disciplines

Category	Characteristics	Examples	Roles Played
Older physical systems	Relatively “dumb”	Bridges, buildings, vehicles, roads	Predominantly systems engineers
Computational systems	Computational algorithms, behaviors, and software representations	Information systems, operating systems, middleware	Predominantly software engineers
Cyber-physical systems	Complex configurations of physical and computational elements	Self-driving vehicles, Internet of things, robotic manufacturing systems	Complex interactions of Transdisciplinary Engineering



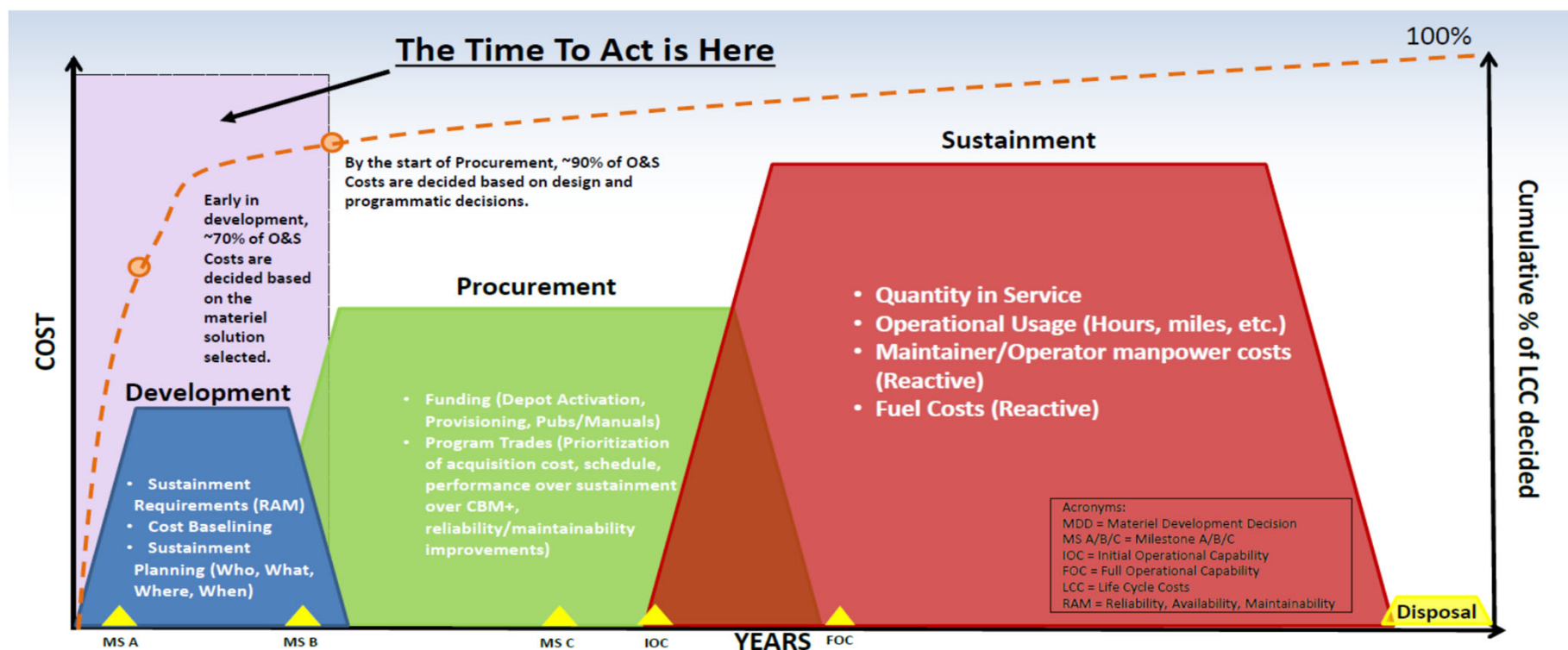
# The Result: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Technical Debt Becomes More Important

## Software Development Lifecycle



Sources: Critical Code, NIST, NASA, INCOSE, and Aircraft Industry Studies

# “Bake In” Data During System Design



Source: 2022 PSM Workshop, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

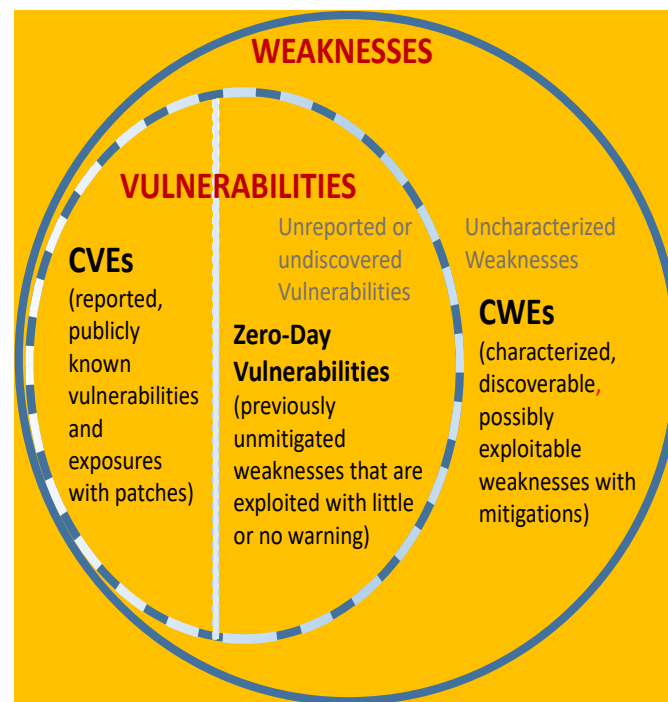
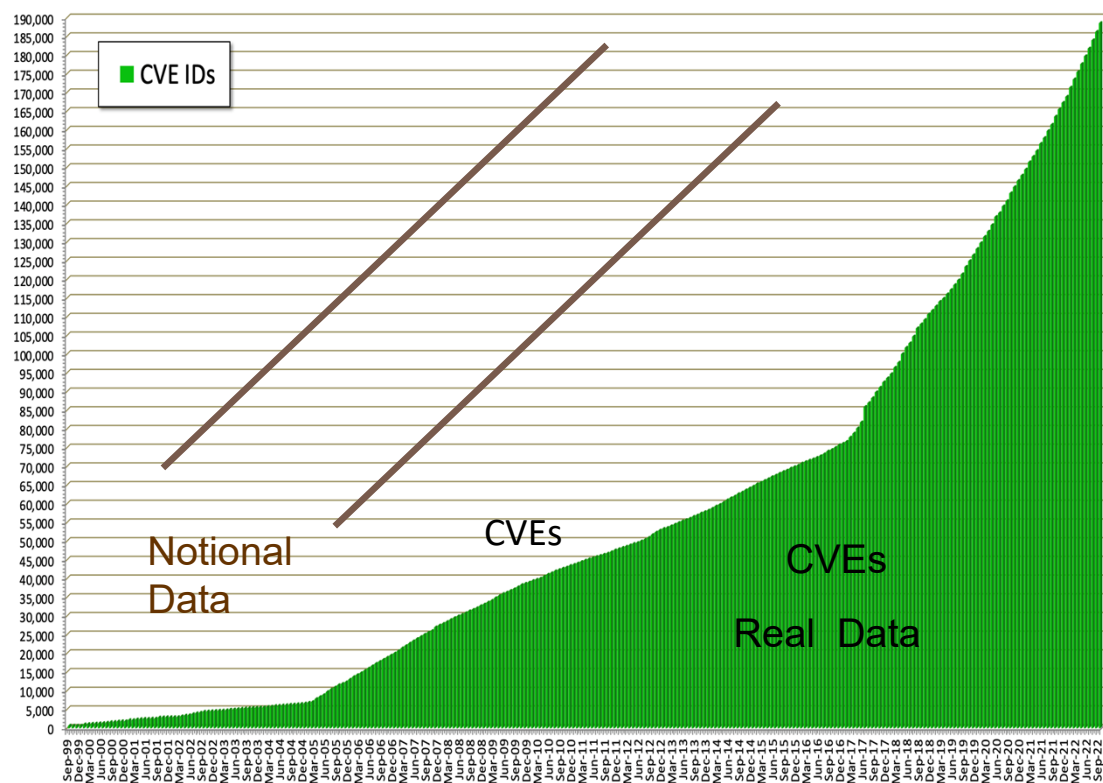
Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited

# The Result: Software Assurance Is and Has Been a Security Issue

## CVE 1999 to 2022: Reported Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs)



CWEs Zero Day



Source: Robert A. Martin, MITRE Corporation, October 2022

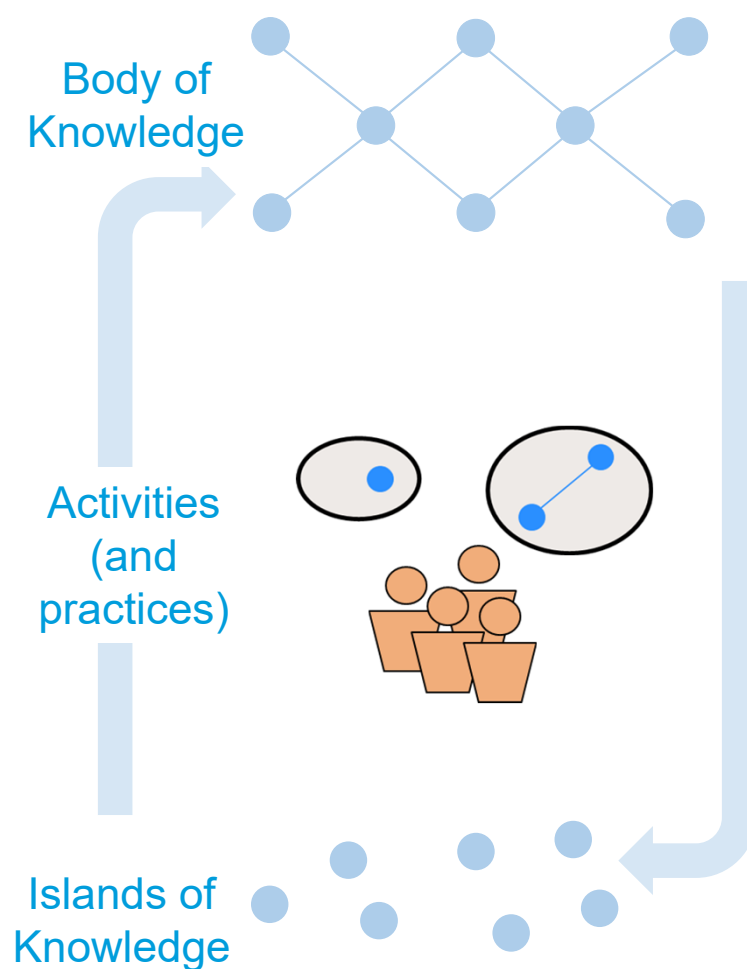
## Leveraging Transdisciplinary Engineering Competencies.

- Software will continue to grow in a social technical ecosystem comprising customers, end users', developers, maintainers, testers and other stakeholders.
- The increasing complexity is becoming apparent that the people aspect of software deserves greater attention and more emphasis.
- The people aspect comprises the peoples' decisions, personal skill sets, training motivation, creativity and talent.
- Principal issue greater than increasing software complexity – more about effectively leveraging transdisciplinary engineering competencies.

# Guide to the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge (SWEBOK)

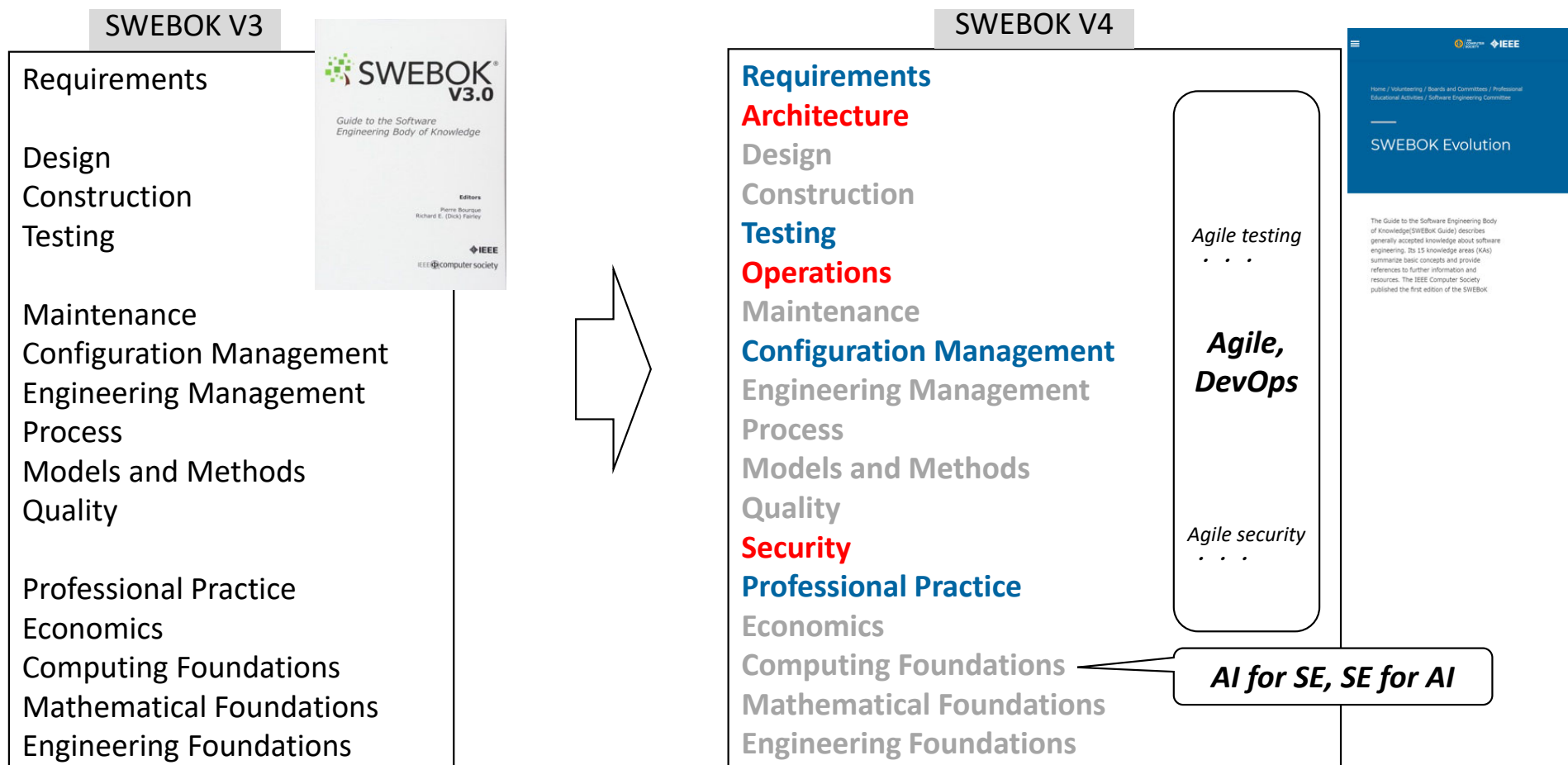
<http://swebokwiki.org>

- Objective
  - Guiding learners, researchers and practitioners to identify and have common understanding on “**generally-accepted-knowledge**” in software engineering
  - **Defining boundary** of software engineering and related disciplines
  - Providing **foundations for certifications and educational curriculum**
- Adoption
  - IEEE-CS software professional **certification programs** based on SWEBOK (Associate Software Developer, Professional Software Developer, Professional Software Engineering Master)
  - **ISO/IEC 24773-4: Certification of software and systems engineering professionals - Part 4: Software engineering**
  - **Software Engineering Competency Model (SWECOM)**



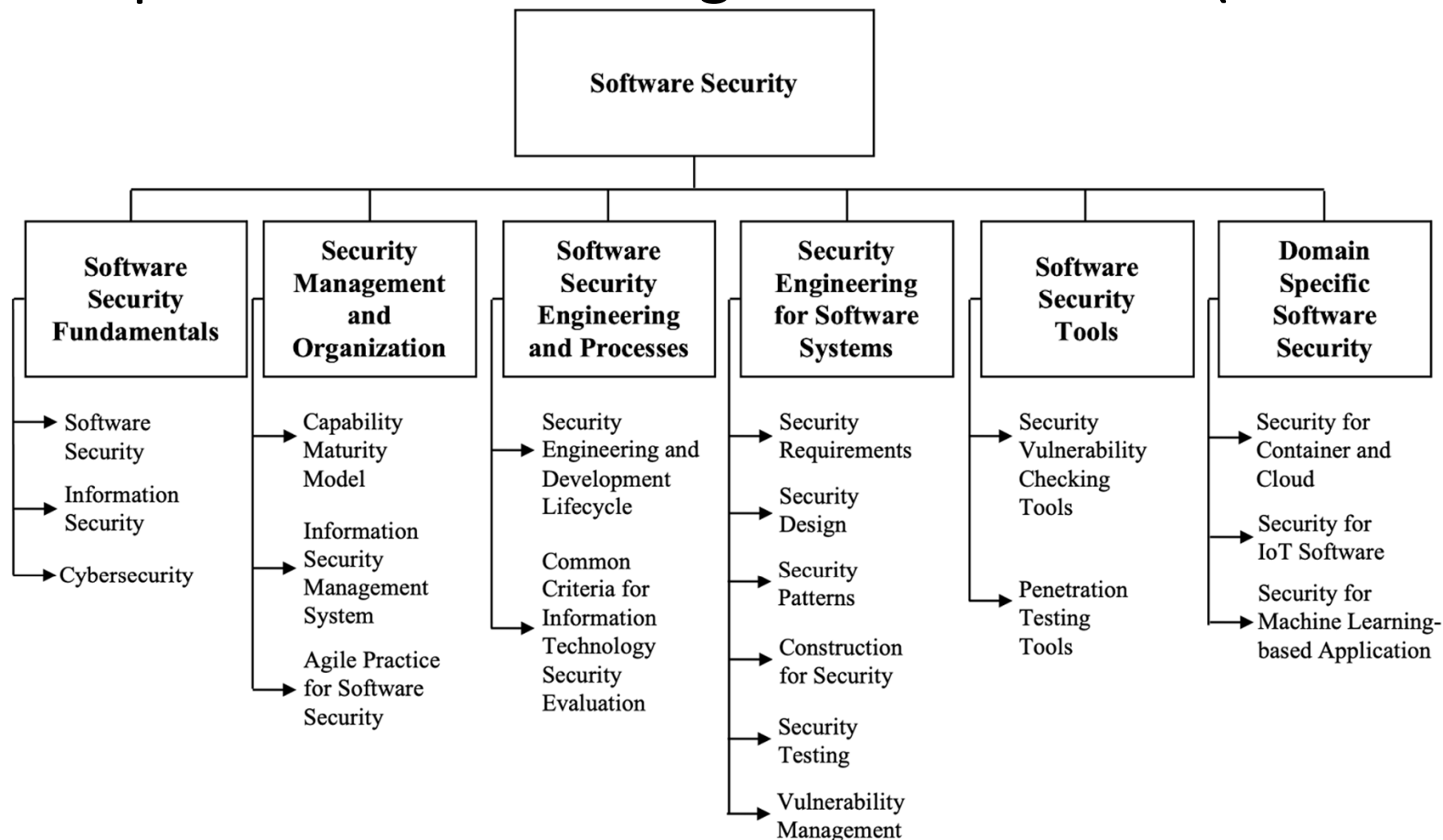
# SWEBOK Evolution from V3 to V4

- Modern software engineering, practice change and update, BOK grows and recently developed areas
- Public review under progress! <https://www.computer.org/volunteering/boards-and-committees/professional-educational-activities/software-engineering-committee/swebok-evolution>



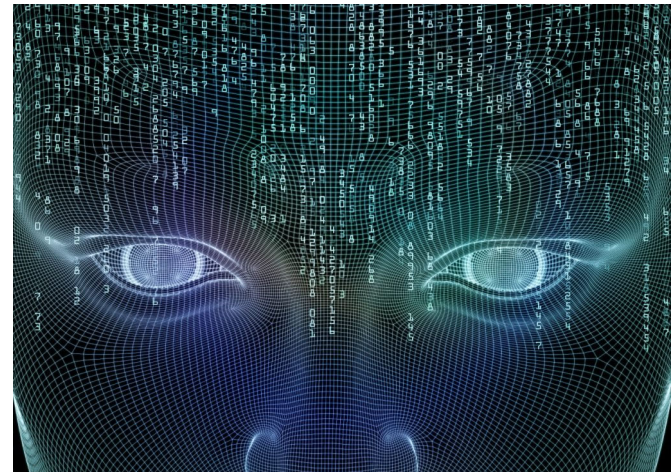


# Example of New Knowledge Area Structure (SWEBOK)



# Improving Our Cyber Security Posture

- ★ 1. Improve Policy
- ★ 2. Update Acquisition Processes
- ★ 3. Improve Software Development Processes\*
- 4. Improved Transdisciplinary Engineering Convergence



\* Williams, C, Why DOD Is So Bad at Buying Software, FCW and Defense Systems Defense Systems, Nov 08, 2021

The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking - Albert Einstein

## **Example 1: Improved Transdisciplinary Engineering Convergence - Ten Things Systems Engineers Need to Know About Software Engineering\***

1. **Systems Engineering and Software Engineering are Distinct Disciplines**
  - a. Systems Engineers apply their problem-solving skills (based on continuous mathematics and the physical sciences) to develop physical systems.
  - b. Software engineers apply their problem-solving skills (based on discrete mathematics and computer science) to develop computational systems.
2. **Software Is a Logical Medium**
  - a. Software elements of software-enabled systems are logical constructions expressed in algorithmic form,
  - b. in contrast to the physical elements of systems that are realized in mechanical, electrical, chemical, biological, and other physical media.

\* Fairley, R., Systems Engineering of Software-Embedded Systems, Wiley, 2019

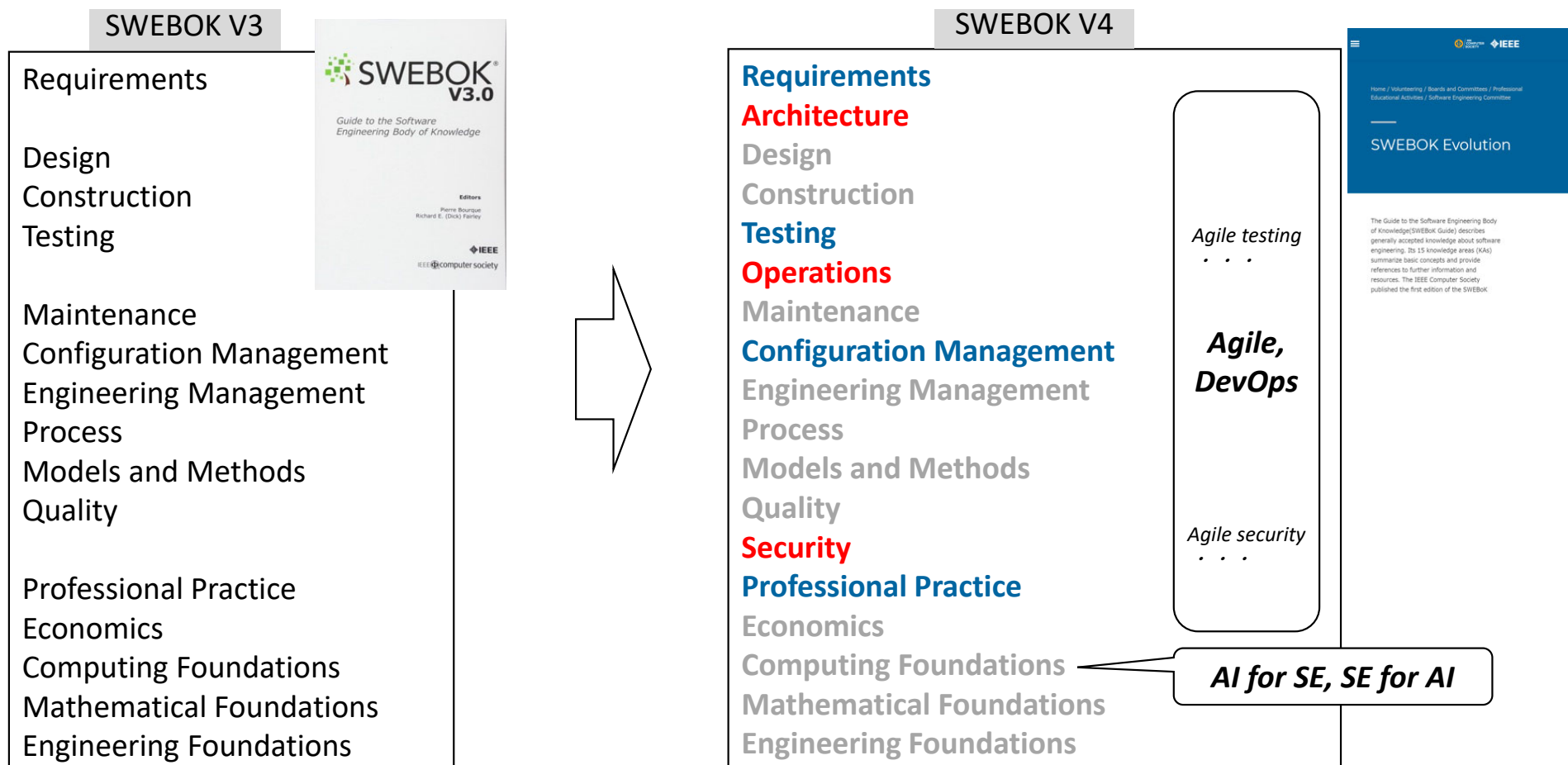
## Example 2: Improved Transdisciplinary Engineering Convergence - Evolution of the Guide to The Software Engineering Body of Knowledge (SWEBOK 4.0)

- History: 2001 v1, 2004 v2, 2005 ISO/IEC Technical Report, 2014 v3, **2022 v4**
- Objective:
  - Guiding learners, researchers and practitioners to identify and have common understanding on **“generally-accepted-knowledge”** in software engineering
  - **Defining boundary** of software engineering and related disciplines
  - Providing **foundations for certifications and educational curriculum**
- Example:
  - \*Update to SEBOK – Article on SWEBOK v4



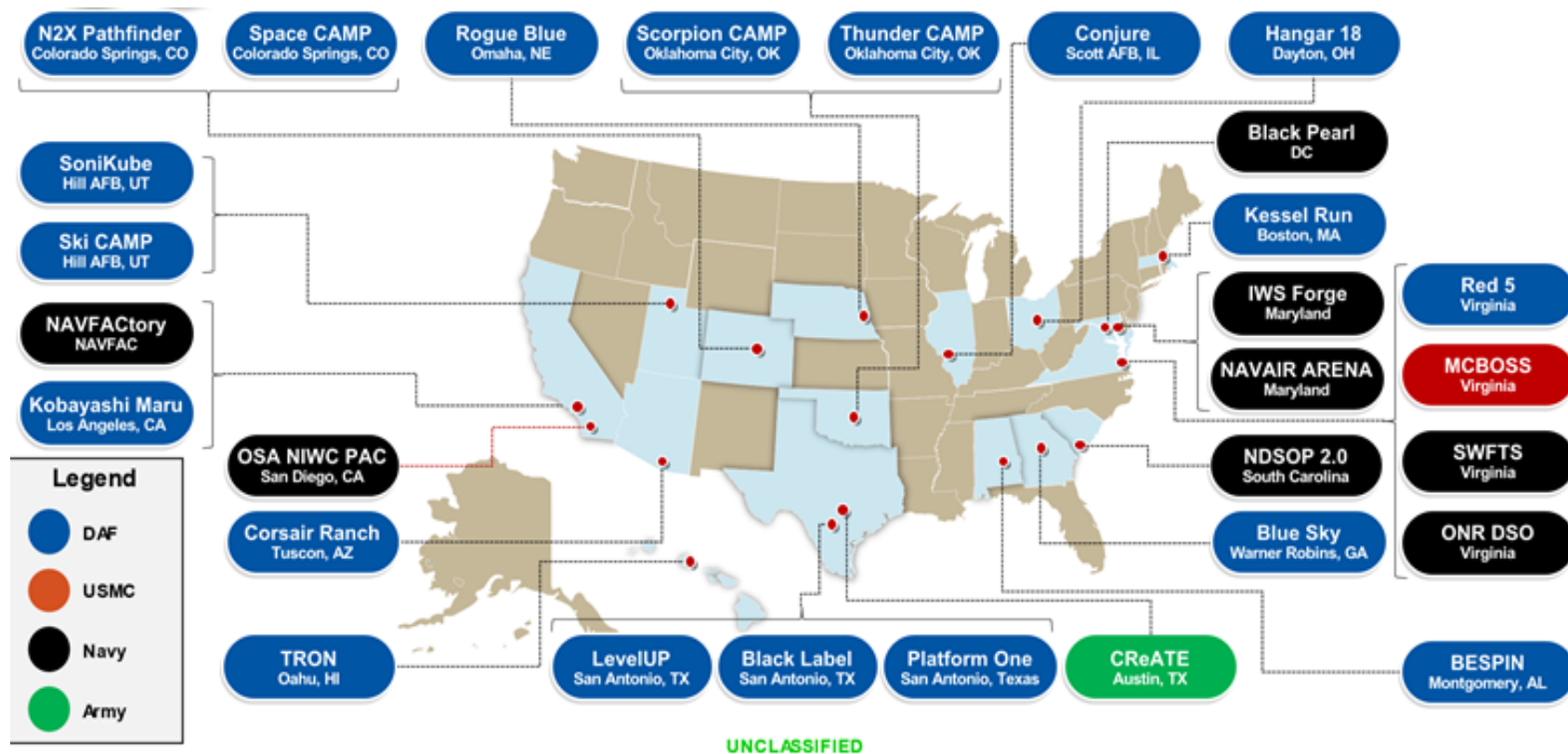
\*Washizaki, H., Sanchez-Segura, M.I., Garbajosa, J., Tockey, S., Reilly, A.D., Nidiffer, K.E, SWEBOK v 4, Article to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBOK), 2023 – release TBD

# Example 3: : Improved Transdisciplinary Engineering Convergence - Evolution of the Guide to The Software Engineering Body Of Knowledge (SWEBOK 4.0)





## Example 4: Surveying the Software Factory Ecosystem

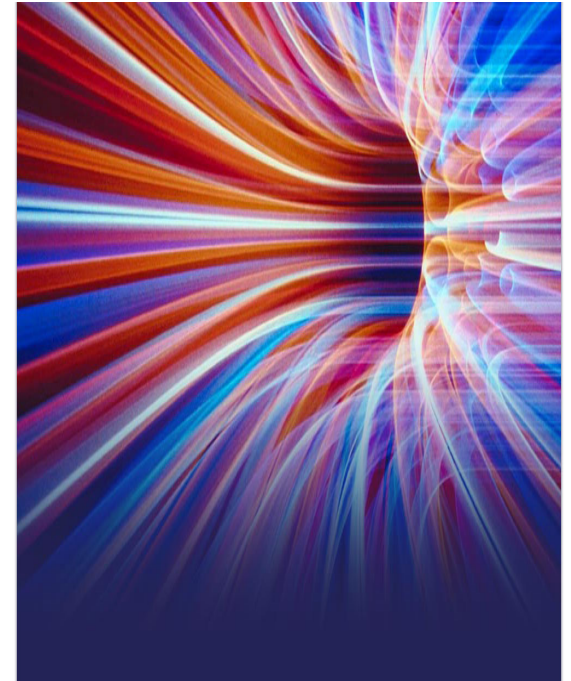


The most dangerous phrase in the language is, "We've always done it this way".- Rear Admiral Grace Hopper



## So Where Does This Lead Us?

- The scale of complicated and complex software-enabled systems & services will continue to increase exponentially with intricate and often hidden interfaces & interrelationships, operating in a dynamic and non-deterministic world.
- Increases in product functionality, software assurance goals and deliveries of overall value at the speed of relevance are dependent on transdisciplinary systems engineering teams working as intimately intertwined disciplines throughout the life cycle.
- Transdisciplinary team disciplines need to be brought forward (from right to left) in the life cycle. As system engineering partners (outside-in) versus a specialty engineering functions executed late in the development life cycle.



## Thank you – Questions/Comments

### Contact Information

Dr. Kenneth E. Nidiffer

- **Cell:** **703 - 217- 0215**
- **President and CEO:** **Ken's Software-Enabled Systems Company**
- **Email:** **knidiffe@gmu.edu**



## References

## References (1 of 4)

- Gallagher, B.; Nidiffer, K. & Saga, R. The Ordered Process for Improving Agile Engineering Outcomes, CrossTalk, Nov/Dec 2016
- Alberts, C.; Woody, C.; & Dorofee, A. Evaluating Security Risks using Mission Threads(CMU/SEI-2014-TN-025), 2014.
- Quotes from the Defense Science Board Summer Study on Autonomy, June 2016, p. 45, and Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap, FY2013-2038, p. 60
- <http://www.gartner.com/technology/research/metodologies/hype-cycle.jsp>, web search, 2019
- DoDI 5200.44 Protection of Mission Critical Functions to Achieve Trusted Systems and Networks (TSN), and 2013 NDAA S933
- The Joint Artificial Intelligence Center Overview, AFCEA/GMUC4I Conference, May 2020
- Wilson, Roy. Software Assurance Course (CLE 081). Defense Acquisition University. Preliminary Design Review, July 2017 and Critical Design Review, December 2017.
- Nidiffer, K; Chick, T.; & Woody C.; Program Manager's Guidebook for Software Assurance, August 2018, CMU/SEI-2018-SR-025
- Miller, C.; Nidiffer, K DoD Software Sustainment Study Phase II: Policy Analysis and Recommendations, Jan 2018, CMU/SEI-2018-SR-001—RESTRICTED
- Sheard, S.: Nidiffer, K.; et al, Finding Your Systems Engineering Role In 21<sup>st</sup> Century Software - Dominant Organizations 2021
- Fairley, R., Systems Engineering of Software-Embedded Systems, Wiley, 2019

## References (2 of 4)

- Design and Acquisition of Software for Defense Systems 2018  
Defense Science Board report, <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1048883.pdf>
- DoD Digital Engineering Strategy 2018  
Department of Defense <https://www.acq.osd.mil/se/docs/2018-DES.pdf>
- Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy for the United States of America  
<https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf>
- Summer Study on Autonomy 2016  
Defense Science Board, <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=794641>
- Ten Commandments of Software 2018  
Defense Innovation Board, [https://media.defense.gov/2018/Apr/22/2001906836/-1/-1/0/DEFENSEINNOVATIONBOARD\\_TEN\\_COMMANDMENTS\\_OF\\_SOFTWARE\\_2018.04.20.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2018/Apr/22/2001906836/-1/-1/0/DEFENSEINNOVATIONBOARD_TEN_COMMANDMENTS_OF_SOFTWARE_2018.04.20.PDF)
- National Security Strategy, Office of the President of the United States 2017  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf>
- Critical Code: Software Producibility for Defense 2010  
National Research Council <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12979/critical-code-software-producibility-for-defense>
- Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Studies  
<https://www.nitrd.gov/>

## References (3 of 4)

- DoD Directive 5000.01, “The Defense Acquisition System,” September 9, 2020
- DoD Directive 5135.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)),” July 15, 2020
- DoD Instruction 5000.02, “Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework,” January 23, 2020
- DoD Instruction 5000.75, “Business Systems Requirements and Acquisition,” February 2, 2017, as amended
- DoD Instruction 5010.44, “Intellectual Property (IP) Acquisition and Licensing,” October 16, 2019
- DOD Instruction 5000.87 Operation Of The Software Acquisition Pathway, October 2, 2020, [https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/500087p.PDF?ver=virAfQj4vLgN1JxpB\\_dpA%3d%3d](https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/500087p.PDF?ver=virAfQj4vLgN1JxpB_dpA%3d%3d)
- Nidiffer, K. Accelerating Modernization of Software Acquisition to Better Serve the Warfighter ... Special Emphasis on Software Assurance and Sustainment (IEEE Published Paper), <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/9171048/proceeding>; IEEE/NDIA Systems Security Symposium, July 2020
- Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Acquisition Policies and Guides, October 9, 2020, <https://aaf.dau.edu/aaf/policies/>
- Williams, C, Why DOD Is So Bad at Buying Software, FCW and Defense Systems Defense Systems, Nov 08, 2021



## References (4 of 4)

- Azad M. Madni , Transdisciplinary Systems Engineering: Exploiting Convergence in a Hyper-Connected World, 2018
- , Dr. Sarah Sheard . A Framework for Systems Resilient Discussion, Stevens institute of Technology, Third Millennial Systems, 2008
- Paul Nielsen, and Suzanne Miller, Software and Systems Collaboration in the Era of Smart Systems, March 2022 • PODCAST
- Michael D. Watson, Future of Systems Engineering, First published: 29 May 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1002/inst.12231>
- Sheard, Bouyaud, Osaisai, Sivi, and Nidiffer, Finding Your Systems Engineering Role In 21st Century Software -Dominant Organizations, 2021
- \*\* Azad M. Madni , Transdisciplinary Systems Engineering: Exploiting Convergence in a Hyper-Connected World, 2018
- \*\*\* Washizaki, H., Sanchez-Segura, M-I., Garbajosa, J., Tockey, S., Nidiffer, K.E.. “Envisioning Software Engineer Training Needs in The Digital Era Through the SWEBOK V4 Prism”, Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering Education and Training (CSEE&T 2023), August 8-9, 2023, Waseda University, Tokyo Japan.
- Washizaki, H., Sanchez-Segura, M.I., Garbajosa, J., Tockey, S., Reilly, A.D., Nidiffer, K.E, SWEBOK v4 Article to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBOK v2.8), 2023 – release TBD