

# James A Robertson and Associates Effective Strategic Business Solutions



***Why your ERP is NOT delivering and how to FIX it***  
***(The Critical Factors in ERP Investment Success)***

## **6. The Missing Link – Strategic Engineered Precision Configuration™**

***Strategic Engineered  
Precision Taxonomies™ and  
Configuration***

**Dr James Robertson PrEng**

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James@JamesARobertson.com**



# A word of caution



This presentation may seem rather strange

In fact, you might think that I have got things upside down 😊

Please think laterally because, just maybe, I am seeing something different AND valuable 😊



# Failures are increasing The threat and therefore the opportunity is huge



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Exclusive

**Labour's computer blunders cost £26bn**

Ministers blamed for 'stupendous incompetence' after taxpayers left with projects

By Michael Savage, Political Correspondent

Tuesday, 19 January 2010

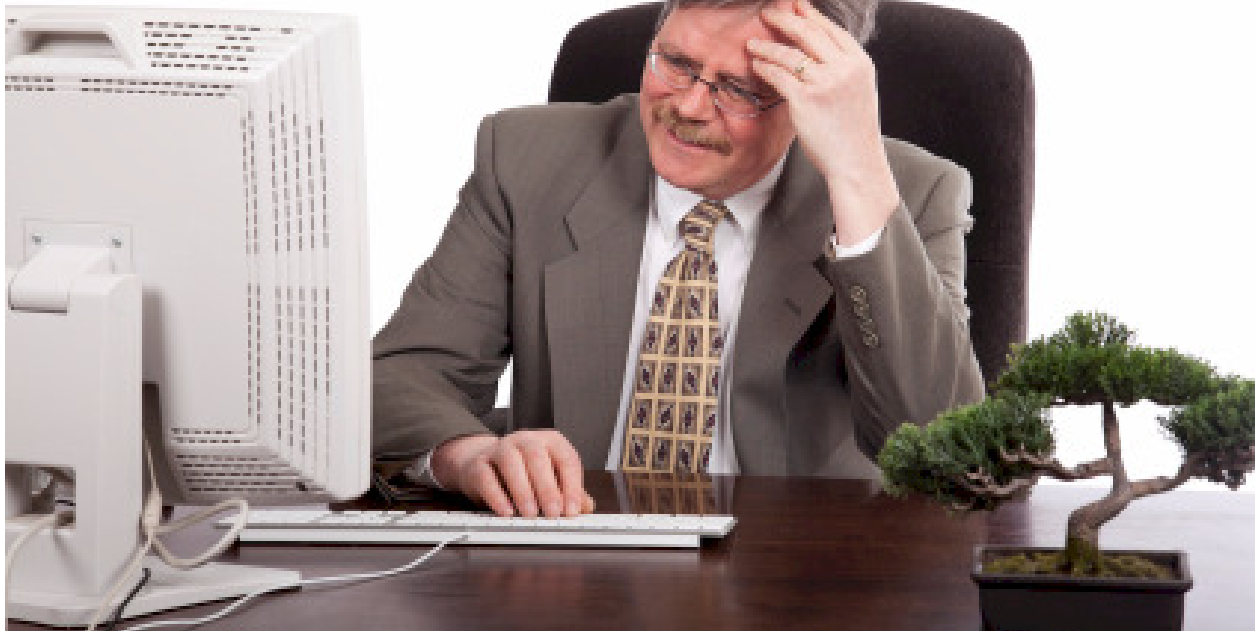


Including clinical integration project

## One of the classic business problems of this age



**We have spent a FORTUNE on this computer system and I.T. tell me it will take two years and another few million to get what I want BUT the transactions are being processed already**





# A classic practical example



- CEO of very big listed corporation in Johannesburg
- With very big installation
- Of very big brand ERP
- Used in advertising
- “At the executive level I would rate my systems at 1/10”
- “At the operational level I would rate my systems at 7/10”

**BUT even that is being done with smoke and mirrors!**

1/10

7/10

# ERP -- an industry in crisis



*“19 out of 20 ERP (integrated business information system) implementations do NOT deliver what was promised” – based on a survey of executives*



**To avoid misunderstanding → let me stress that I REALLY believe ERP can and should add great value to business**



# A classic example of IT value

## Double turnover in 12 months

### Through BETTER DECISIONS



I am successful because I make the right recommendations more than 51% of the time



1. Simple manual models were computerized
2. Computed faster and therefore many more scenarios
3. Creative business concept
4. Better advice in less time to more clients
5. Doubled turnover in 12 months
6. In 1982
7. Through supporting BETTER decisions



# Precision content engineering

## Key driver of successful implementations

---



1. Days spent with CFO designing the codes -- first year massive improvement in management information, one less clerk, financials signed off without qualifications six WEEKS after month end versus six MONTHS the previous year.
2. Software designed in two days, built in ten, ten days spent with a director of the company consulting with other directors and managers to design codes -- four clerks instead of 12, an extremely wide range of management information, captured 90% of the data instead of 10%.
3. Six days spent with CFO's of operating divisions and major subsidiaries to identify core economic drivers for a group of over 200 companies and develop the headlines of the group consolidation ledger -- dramatic improvement in management information.

The subject of this section is of critical importance -- it is the content that makes the difference

# What is an ERP?



*"Enterprise Resource Planning"* = ERP Systems  
? or ?

*"Integrated Business Information Systems"* = IBIS

= all the information "repositories"

= databases

= tables

= lists

= filing drawers / folders



real world items that require description and management

+ the numerical computations, workflow and other activities that are executed with the numbers (and text) stored in these repositories

ALL of which can be done by human beings -- including making a mess!

# IBIS = Integrated Business Information System

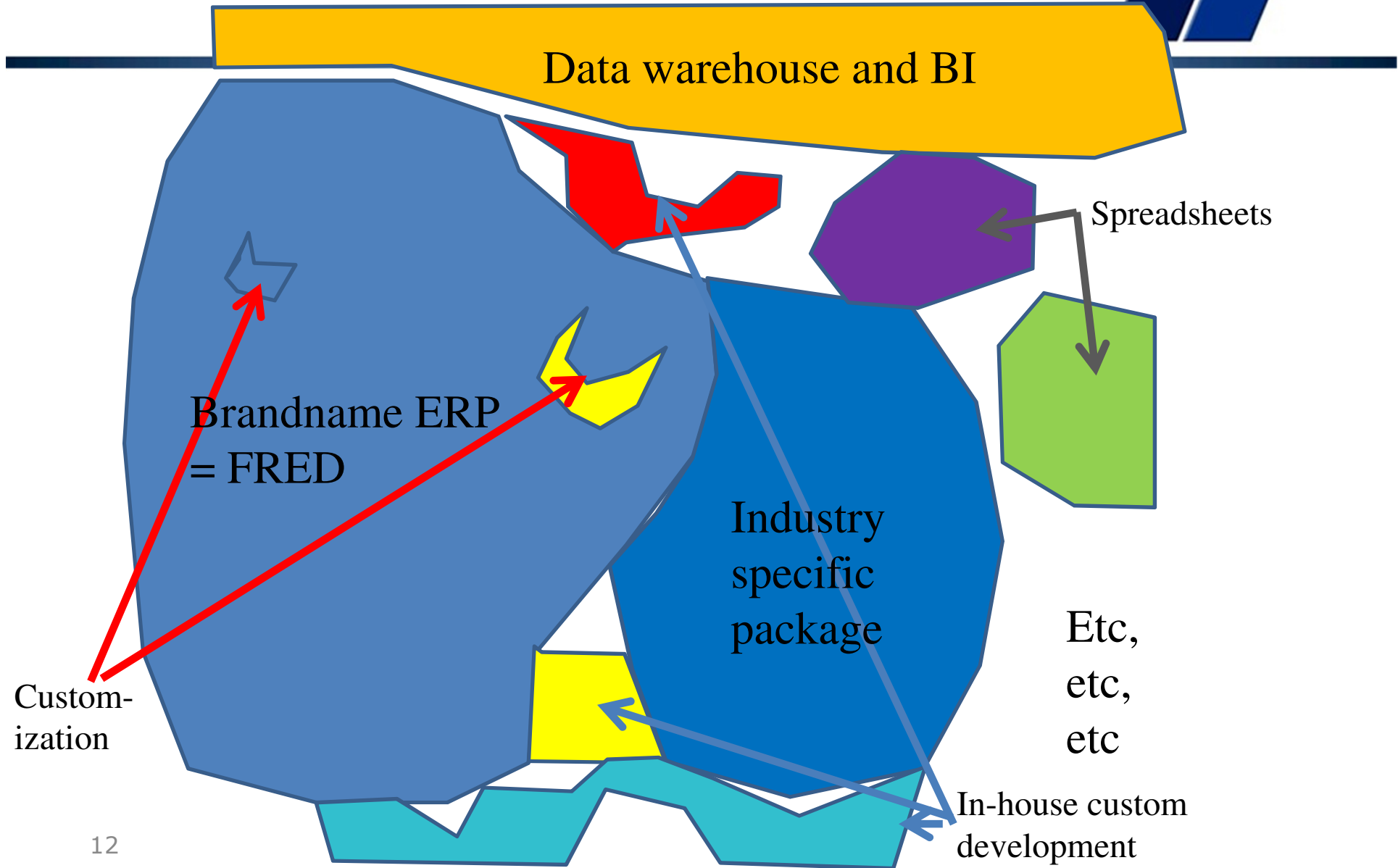


- But there really is NO SUCH THING as an ERP system (Enterprise Resource Planning)
- Many organizations do their resource planning in industry specific software, frequently NOT from the ERP vendor
- And configure badly = “sloppy configuration”
- And therefore are unable to integrate properly
- So HAVE to customize to compensate
- And still need spreadsheets – Excel is the most widely used software development tool in the world because we LIE about it
- Data warehouses are a necessity NOT a luxury, you SHOULD have one

So what do we have?

IBIS = ERP Plus

# IBIS – what every company REALLY has ☺





# Strategy defined



The essence of why an organization exists and how it thrives

Tactics – Doing things right →



Strategy – Doing the right things →

# The “Strategic Process”



- Receive report of a problem
- Ask for information
- Make some phone calls
- Discuss with some colleagues
- Or whatever ...
- or
- Find a nice conference venue
- Go away and talk
- Write a report
- Or whatever ...

Like silver bullets the “Strategic Process” does NOT exist  
Process is fundamentally  
**OPERATIONAL**

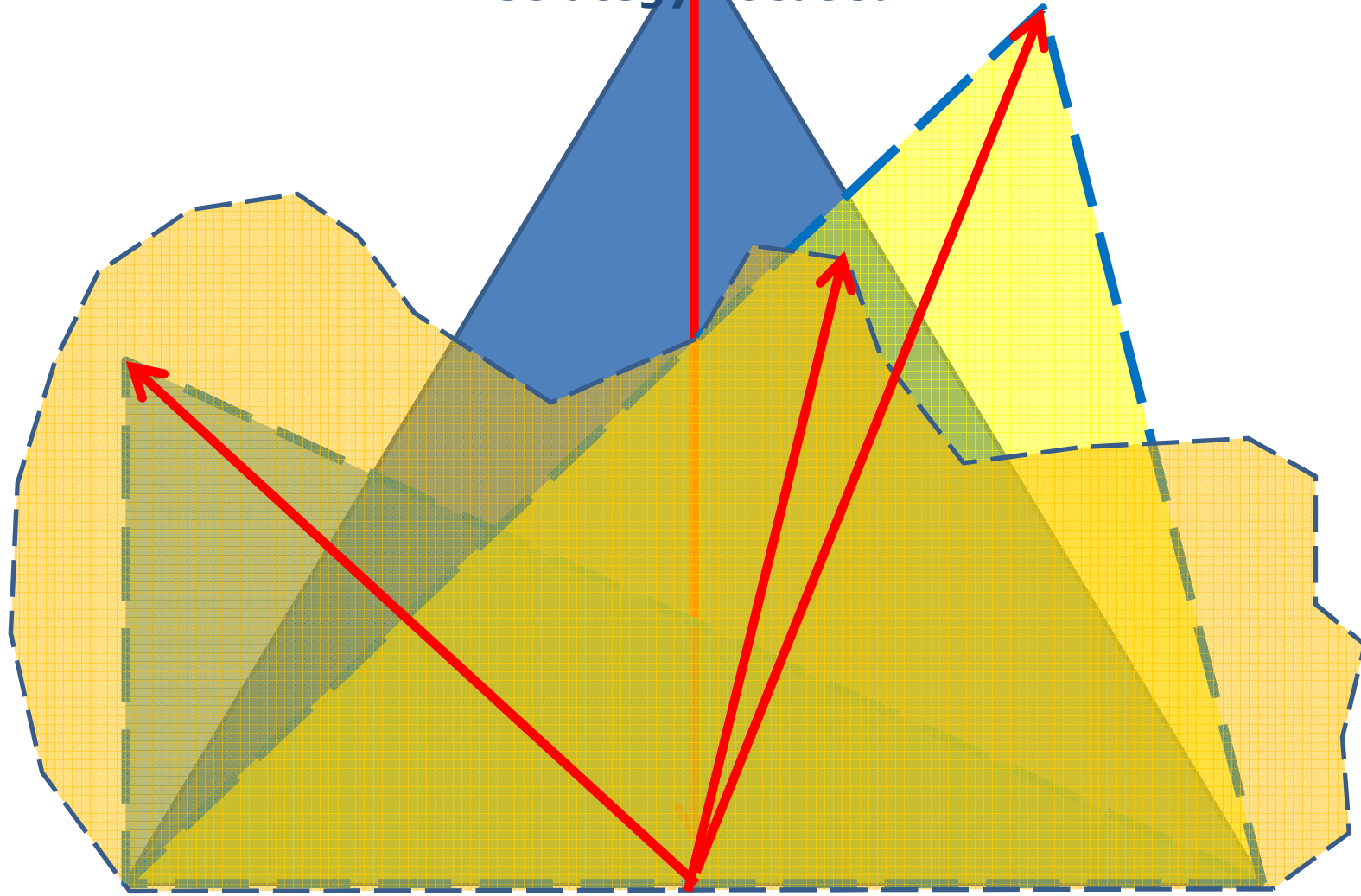
Critical strategic thinking  
leading to high value  
decisions

Operational workflow = process  
leading to operational efficiencies

# Top down versus bottom up design



**Top Down –  
Strategy Focused**



**Bottom Up – Process Focused**

# Defining terms – Business Process



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## Business process

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

 This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help [improve this article](#) by adding citations to [reliable sources](#). Unsourced material may be [challenged](#) and [removed](#). *(September 2010)*

A **business process** or **business method** is a collection of related, structured activities or [tasks](#) that produce a specific service or product (serve a particular goal) for a particular customer or customers. It often can be visualized with a [flowchart](#) as a sequence of activities with interleaving decision points or with a Process Matrix as a sequence of activities with relevance rules based on the data in the process.

*"A business process or business method is a collection of related, structured activities or tasks that produce a specific service or product (serve a particular goal) for a particular customer or customers. It often can be visualized with a **flowchart as a sequence of activities** with interleaving decision points or with a Process Matrix as a sequence of activities with relevance rules based on the data in the process."*

i.e. WORKFLOW!!!



# Pulse measurement



- A concise diagnostic investigation into why an ERP or other IT investment is NOT delivering what was promised
- Prescription of what is required to solve the problems
- Been doing them since 1990 – dozens and dozens

Process obsession is increasingly manifesting as a MAJOR cause of failures and sub-optimal outcomes

In fact business process is close to irrelevant when it comes to designing HIGH VALUE ERP solutions



# This is NOT in a Text Book



- Engineering
- Zoology
- Document cataloguing
- Military combat planning
- Methods of structured software design
- Strategic planning techniques
- etc
- Dozens of pulse measurements – what does NOT work and what does
- Cataloguing and analysing findings
- Trial and error
- Never did process BUT produced excellent results
- Then a client told me I was incompetent because I did not do process 😊
- Proven conclusively process close to irrelevant for ERP implementation



# Motivating quotes



- “James you produce exceptional high value outcomes in ridiculously short time frames at ridiculously low cost”
- “James you transformed what would have been a pedestrian, poorly thought out system, into an ERP that is already functional and will ultimately transform our analytics and IT offensive capabilities” -- Robert Priebatsch, Robert Priebatsch, Chief Executive, African Sales Company
- “James you have provided some key pieces of my jigsaw puzzle, now I understand why Business Systems Implementations are failing”
- All sorts of opposition

In fact ...  
Some very contradictory  
feedback 😊

# Some process obsession examples



- Big brand ERP implementation completely stalled
  - Project stalled
  - Took over leadership and brought to completion in five months
  - Thick file of Business Process diagrams = flow charts
  - Put on the shelf to gather dust
  - CEO of implementer could not tell me how the process diagrams contributed to the final outcome

i.e. process a complete waste of time and money!



# Some process obsession examples



- Big brand ERP, client insisted on process but consultant could NOT find out what the process was
  - Creditors process
  - Two creditors clerks, two completely different process descriptions
  - Two weeks later neither agreed with what they said before

i.e. process a complete waste of time and money  
and caused confusion!

# Some process obsession examples



- Big brand ERP, big brand implementer
  - Project stalled and restarted
  - Running for three years and NO DELIVERABLE!!!
  - Thick files of process documentation
  - Swimlanes, user stories, flow charts
  - You name it they had it
  - Except a deliverable

i.e. process a complete waste of time and money  
and caused massive delays!

# The brutal truth



- Real processes are much more diverse and more complex than most people realize
  - probably at least seven creditors processes
- Processes are seldom if ever defined in most businesses
- We hack it with the way the people we hire do it
- Process is only relevant IF all the rest of the business is highly optimized
- Process is a DESIGN OUTPUT NOT an input
- There is NO SUCH THING as the Strategic process

→ Provide quality information on which to base quality decisions – one really good strategic decision could repay the entire investment!

→ One really BAD decision can destroy the business

# Define: Strategic business function discovery



- Strategic – the essence of the business and how it THRIVES
- Business function – the WHAT we DO – eg Creditors Function – high level, broad concept – NOT a process
- Discovery – gain understanding

Then  
Precision Configuration

# Define: Strategic Engineered Precision Configuration



- Configuring the ERP so that it PRECISELY models the real world
- The goal is that any executive, manager, supervisor or operator can look at the configuration and say “YES, this IS my business”
- Founded on master data taxonomies – structured semantic content
- Coupled to custom business specific attributes
- Supplemented by highly structured record level configuration
- Supporting small pieces of clever custom development that add huge value and create huge strategic and operational opportunities

An ERP is a huge precision  
data processing factory  
Feed it precision data



# Why invest in a new ERP / IBIS? Or any IBIS?



- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Because everyone else has one?                              | ? X No    |
| 2. Because the one we have does not work very well?            | ? X No    |
| 3. Because the one we have is more than five years old?        | XXX NO!!! |
| 4. So that we can get better strategic (thrive) information?   | Yes       |
| 5. So that we can get better tactical (thrive) information?    | Yes       |
| 6. So that we can get better operational (thrive) information? | Yes       |
| 7. So that we have more effective delegation and governance?   | Spinoff   |
| 8. So that we can become more efficient?                       | Spinoff   |
| 9. Head count reduction and audit fee reduction?               | Spinoff   |

To support better decision making

# How do you unlock IBIS value?



1. Value is unlocked through effective delivery of information that is intuitively fundamentally meaningful
2. Packaged in a way that the computer system APPEARS to be intelligent
3. Presented through:
  1. reports
  2. graphs
  3. dashboards
  4. advanced statistical techniques
  5. advanced economic analysis
  6. other advanced techniques of information presentation, analysis and interpretation
4. Resulting in MUCH BETTER strategic, tactical and operational decisions that manifest in improved organizational profitability, growth, impact, etc

High value business decisions



# What is the core requirement for any IBIS?



I can get answers to any question for which I can reasonably expect there to be answers in the databases that I KNOW my organization has

Easily and quickly and without major effort on the part of any staff member or contractor

The RIGHT information at the RIGHT place at the RIGHT time in order to make the RIGHT decision

High value intelligent information



# How is value created



Value is created by business actions that deliver on the essence of why the organization exists and how it thrives

Value manifests through increased profitability, growth, acquisitions, job satisfaction, fulfilment of the strategic vision

The consequence of intuitive, intelligent, informed leadership business decisions – thrive decisions

Such decisions are facilitated, accelerated and enhanced through access to more intelligent, meaningful and relevant information

Answers to the questions I have not yet thought to ask

Such "Intelligent information" is assembled as a consequence of high level strategic and executive level input into the design of the data CONTENT – taxonomies designed to catalogue every conceivably relevant classification ahead of time

High value intelligent content design

# Strategic Engineered Precision Taxonomies™ (SEPT™)



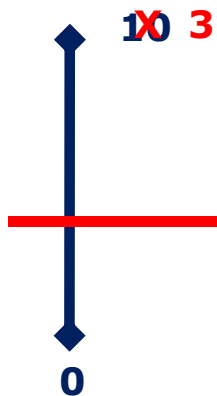
The definition of information content

- in a way that is structurally (taxonomically) fundamentally meaningful to human beings who understand the business
- and the translation of this content into structured codes which faithfully and accurately reflect human understanding of the REAL WORLD in a way that the computer can manipulate
- with minimal human intervention
- so that the computer system **appears to be intelligent**

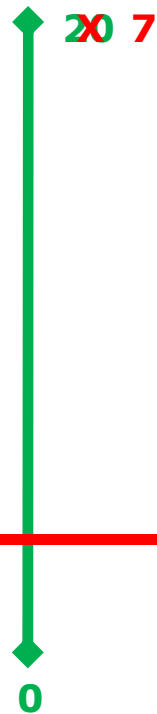
# Three alternative ERP value scenarios



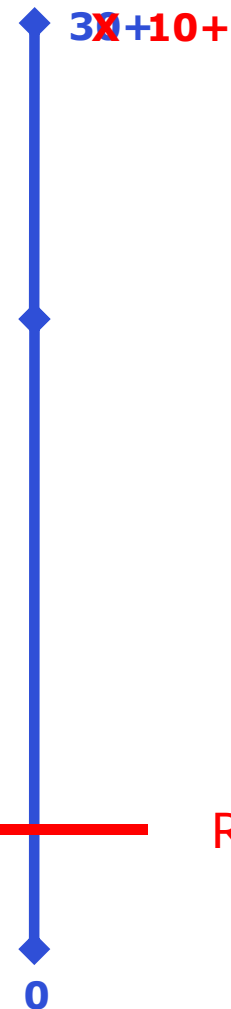
1. Current view of best practice



2. Precision configuration based on precision taxonomies



3. Strategic customization Based on SEPC&T™



This is the ONLY valid scenario but it seldom occurs

Relative value



# Taxonomy defined



1. Logical word (semantic structure)
2. Precision vocabulary of preferred terms
3. Conveys understanding between humans with relevant knowledge and experience
4. Once linked to a precision code scheme the most important communication mechanism between computers and people
5. An art and a science
6. Once it is right it is OBVIOUS 😊

INCOME	
EXPENSES	
PURCH INGRP CONS CONTRA Cr	
C OF SALES (CORE CoSl)	
FINISHED PRODUCT MVMNT (FPMv)	
RAW MAT CoS &Stk Mvt (RMCS)	
PACKAGING COSTS (PckC)	
DISC & REBATES REC (D&RR)	
DIRECT LABR CoS (DLCS)	
SALARIES	
WAGES	
Basic Wages	
Company Contribution	
Medical Co Contribution	
Provident Co Contribn	
UIF Company Contribution	
Other Company Contribn	
Overtime &Oth Spc Remn	
Inctv Comm & Bonuses	
Allowances	
Nightwork	
Overnight	
Other Allowances	
Reimbursements	
Exceptional Payments	
Provisions	
CONTRACT / CASUALS	
OTH PERS RELATED COSTS	



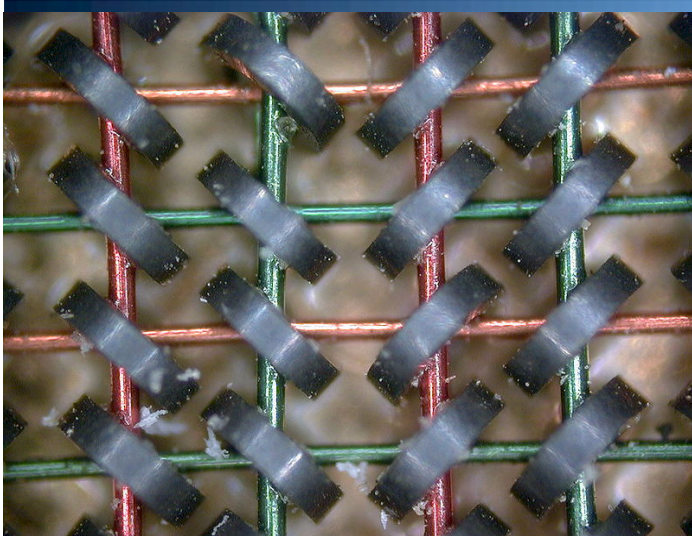
# Taxonomy relevance



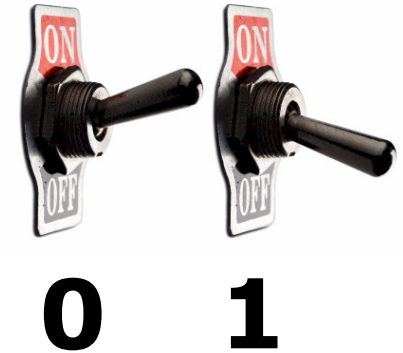
1. Essential to effective operational and strategic use of business software
2. Nearly ALL validation lists (drop down lists), chart of accounts, etc
3. Large body of expertise – Botany, Zoology, military filing, Library Science, Information Management, etc
4. Unknown to many (most?) IT professionals and business people

C.	ORDER CANCELLED	
CC	Order Cancelled Credit Control	
CS	Order Cancelled by Consumer	
CT	Order Cancelled by Customer	
D.	DAMAGED OR DEFECTIVE	
DF	Defective Product	
DM	Damaged Product	
DP	Damaged Packaging	
DT	Consumer Complaint	
P.	PRICE ERRORS OR DISCONTINUED	
PD	Discontinued	
PI	Incorrect Price	
S.	SUPPLY ISSUES	
SD	Order Duplication	
SF	Customer Non-Franchise Holder	
SI	Incorrectly Supplied	
SK	Overstock	
SL	Late Delivery	
SO	Oversupplied	
SV	Not in Customer Inventory Master	
T.	USED AS TESTER	
TT	Used as Tester	
Z.	OTHER	
<b>ZN</b>	Not Known	
ZO	Other	

# A computer is an adding machine / calculator



0  
1  
 $1+1=10$   
 $1+1+1=11$   
 $1+1+1+1=100$

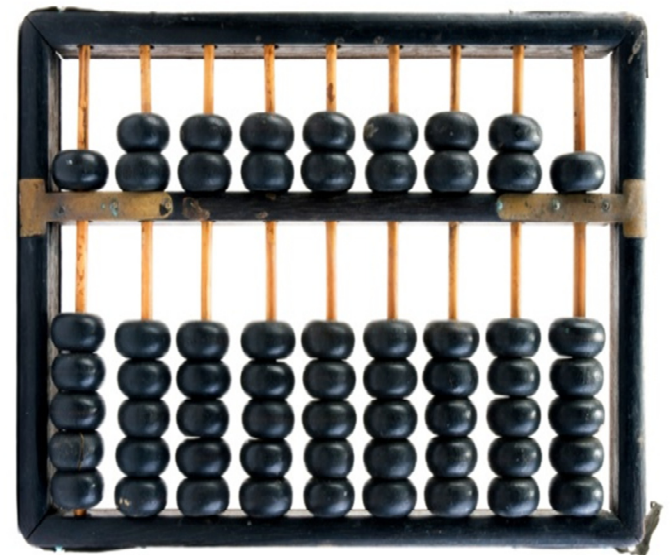


Called a "bit"

8 bits make a byte

2 bytes make an ASCII character

A= "41" hex





# Coding taxonomies



1. Computers only understand binary
2. The code is a unique binary pattern that corresponds to the structured English taxonomy
3. The only way the computer will appear to be intelligent
4. Results in "intelligent data"
5. Standard conventions
  1. Indents and trailing periods
  2. Capitalization
  3. Other standards and conventions

10	1	.	.	.	.	.	INCOME	
555	3	.	.	.	.	.	EXPENSES	
556	3	0	.	.	.	.	PURCH INGRP CONS CONTRA Cr	
570	3	1	.	.	.	.	C OF SALES (CORE CoSl)	
575	3	1	2	.	.	.	FINISHED PRODUCT MVMNT (FPMv)	
763	3	1	3	.	.	.	RAW MAT CoS &Stk Mvt (RMCS)	
921	3	1	4	.	.	.	PACKAGING COSTS (PckC)	
950	3	1	5	.	.	.	DISC & REBATES REC (D&RR)	
954	3	1	6	.	.	.	DIRECT LABR CoS (DLCS)	
955	3	1	6	-	1	.	SALARIES	
974	3	1	6	-	4	.	WAGES	
975	3	1	6	-	4	1	Basic Wages	
976	3	1	6	-	4	2	Company Contribution	
977	3	1	6	-	4	2	1	Medical Co Contribution
978	3	1	6	-	4	2	5	Provident Co Contribn
979	3	1	6	-	4	2	8	UIF Company Contribution
980	3	1	6	-	4	2	9	Other Company Contribn
981	3	1	6	-	4	3	.	Overtime &Oth Spc Remn
982	3	1	6	-	4	4	.	Inctv Comm & Bonuses
983	3	1	6	-	4	5	.	Allowances
984	3	1	6	-	4	5	1	Nightwork
985	3	1	6	-	4	5	5	Overnight
986	3	1	6	-	4	5	9	Other Allowances
987	3	1	6	-	4	6	.	Reimbursements
988	3	1	6	-	4	7	.	Exceptional Payments
989	3	1	6	-	4	8	.	Provisions
990	3	1	6	-	5	.	.	CONTRACT / CASUALS
999	3	1	6	-	6	.	.	OTH PERS RELATED COSTS
1000	3	1	6	-	7	.	.	DEPRECIATION

# Software and data text -> hexadecimal -> binary All for US ☺



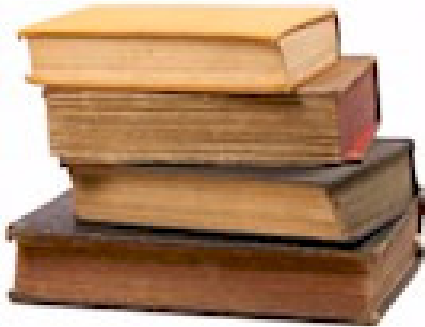
Binary Viewer : C:\Data\2\2M\2M-C-SEM\2009\01\_Exec B

File Search View Help

Address (Hex)	Hex	Text (ASCII)
00000150	30 20 63 65 6C 6C 50 61 64 64 69 6E 67 30	cellPadding=10
00000160	20 77 69 64 74 68 3D 36 32 30 20 0D 0A 6	width=620 ..bgC
00000170	6F 6C 6F 72 3D 23 30 32 30 31 38 30 20 6	olor=#020180 ali
00000180	67 6E 3D 63 65 6E 74 65 72 3E 0D 0A 20 2	gn=center>.. <T
00000190	42 4F 44 59 3E 0D 0A 20 20 3C 54 52 20 7	BODY>.. <TR vAl
000001A0	69 67 6E 3D 74 6F 70 20 61 6C 69 67 6E 3	ign=top align=le
000001B0	66 74 20 62 67 43 6F 6C 6F 72 3D 77 68 6	ft bgColor=white
000001C0	3E 0D 0A 20 20 20 20 3C 54 44 20 63 6F 6	>.. <TD colSp
000001D0	61 6E 3D 32 3E 0D 0A 20 20 20 20 20 20 3	an=2>.. <CE
000001E0	4E 54 45 52 3E 0D 0A 20 20 20 20 20 20 3	NTER>.. <H2
000001F0	3E 3C 46 4F 4E 54 20 66 61 63 65 3D 56 6	><FONT face=Verd
00000200	61 6E 61 2C 41 72 69 61 6C 2C 48 65 6C 7	ana,Arial,Helvet
00000210	69 63 61 2C 73 61 6E 73 2D 73 65 72 69 6	ica,sans-serif><
00000220	49 4D 47 20 62 6F 72 64 65 72 3D 30 20 6	IMG border=0 hsp
00000230	61 63 65 3D 30 20 0D 0A 20 20 20 20 20 20 2	ace=0 .. al
00000240	74 3D 22 22 20 61 6C 69 67 6E 3D 72 69 6	t="" align=right
00000250	20 0D 0A 20 20 20 20 20 20 73 72 63 3D 2	.. src="C:
00000260	5C 44 61 74 61 5C 32 5C 32 4D 5C 32 4D 2	\Data\2\2M\2M-C-
00000270	53 45 4D 5C 32 30 30 39 5C 30 31 5F 45 7	SEM\2009\01_Exec
00000280	75 74 69 76 65 20 42 72 69 65 66 69 6E 6	utive Briefing -
00000290	2D 20 57 68 79 20 79 6F 75 72 20 45 52 5	- Why your ERP i
000002A0	73 20 6E 6F 74 20 64 65 6C 69 76 65 72 6	s not delivering
000002B0	5C 30 32 5F 4D 61 69 6C 73 68 6F 74 20 4	\02_Mailshot Let
000002C0	74 65 72 5C 30 31 5F 46 69 72 73 74 20 4	ter\01_First Mai
000002D0	6C 73 68 6F 74 5C 4A 41 52 41 20 6C 6F 6	lshot\JARA logoJ
000002E0	50 45 47 20 54 68 72 69 76 65 20 6C 6F 7	PEG Thrive low r
000002F0	65 73 2E 6A 70 67 22 3E 57 68 79 20 0D 0	es.jpg">Why ..
00000300	20 20 20 20 79 6F 75 72 20 45 52 50 20 6	your ERP is
00000310	6E 6F 74 20 64 65 6C 69 76 65 72 69 6E 6	not delivering a
00000320	6E 64 20 68 6F 77 20 74 6F 20 66 69 78 2	nd how to fix it



# What is a general ledger?



EXPENDITURE	
63	DIRECT OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE
632	ASSET OPERATING COSTS
6321	DEPRECIATION ASSET OWNED-OpCost
6422	DEPRECIATION ASSETS LEASED-OpCost
6523	LEASE FINANCE CHARGES-OpCost
6624	RENTAL OF ASSETS-OpCost
6725	OPERATING LEASE COSTS ASSETS-OpCost
6826	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE ASSETS-OpCost
68261	PROPERTY (NON-PLANT, NON-OFFICE)
68262	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS
68263	INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND WAREHOUSES
68264	OFFICE BUILDINGS
68265	PRODUCTION LINES
68266	FIXED MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT-AssOwn
68267	TOOLS AND PORTABLE MACHINES-AssOwn
68268	VEHICLES MOBILE PLANT LOCOMOTIVES E
682681	Engine
682682	Transmission
682683	Chassis
682684	Wheels, Tyres And Brakes
682685	Cab / Manufacturers Body
682686	Electrical
682687	Electronic
682688	Hydraulics And Pneumatics
682689	Load Carrying Body



# What is a general ledger for?



**R / \$**

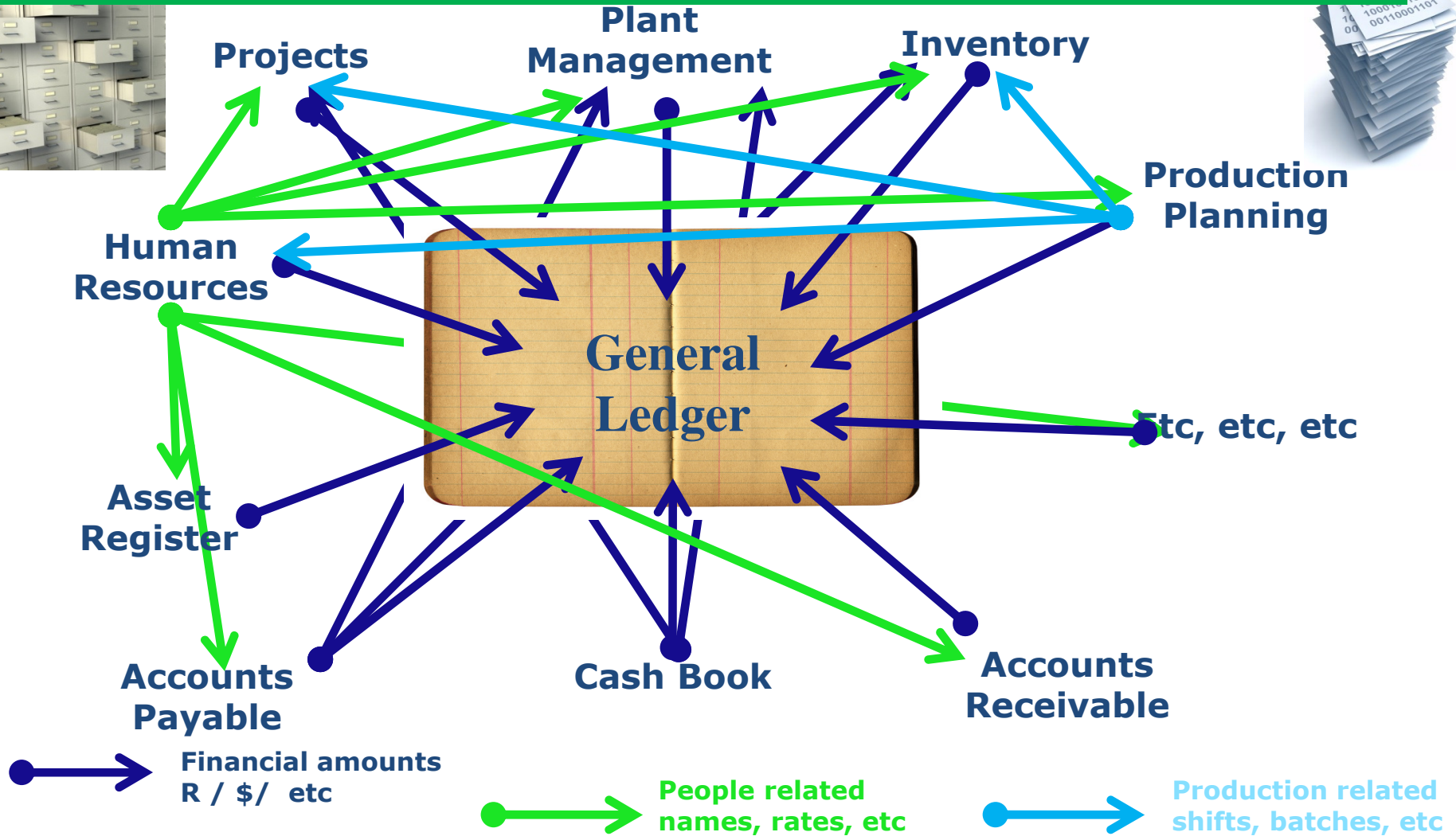


# Integrated system

(look-up and posting)



## Precision fundamental strategic taxonomies – the missing link





# Custom data entry screen with custom taxonomies



**Inventory and A&P Maintenance System**

**Edit Stock Code**

Barcode:  [Load Stock Item](#)

SKU Description:

Brand Hierarchy (Product Class):

**Item Masters**

Product Status:

Target Gender:

Product Category:

Sales Category:

Qualifier Stockcode:

[Prev](#) [Next](#)

**Inventory Take-On**

- New Stock Item
- Barcode
- Temporary Barcode
- Edit Stock Item
- Replace Temp. Code
- New Reference No
- Generate EAN
- Reports
- Logout

**A&P Applications**

- Bonding Job Receipt
- Bonding Job Posting
- A&P Budget
- Job Closure
- Budget Roll-up

**EDI Applications**

- 1 s Prod. Info.

**Admin Menu**

- Brand Hierarchy

# Custom code maintenance development for client specific taxonomy

Inventory Management System

## Brand Hierarchy (Product Class)

**Inventory Take-On**

- New Stock Item
- Barcode
- Temporary Barcode
- Edit Stock Item
- Replace Temp. Code
- New Reference No
- Generate EAN
- Reports
- Logout

**A&P Applications**

- Bonding Job Receipt
- Bonding Job Posting
- A&P Budget
- Job Closure
- Budget Roll-up

**EDI Applications**

- Prod. Info.

**Admin Menu**

- Brand Hierarchy
- Expense Code Maint.
- Inv. Master Defaults

**Support**

**Hierarchy**

- ⊕ M... - MAURER & WIRTZ
- ⊕ N... - ANNICK GOUTAL
- ⊕ P... - PROCTER & GAMBLE
- ⊕ Q... - LALIQUE
- ⊕ R... - SELECTIVE BEAUTY
- ⊕ U... - PUIG
- ⊕ X... - ALEXANDER MCQUEEN
- ⊖ Y... - YSL
  - ⊕ YB.. - YSL BEAUTE
  - ⊖ YF.. - YSL FRAGRANCE
    - ⊕ YFF. - FEMININE - YSL FRAGRANCE
    - ⊖ YFM. - MASCULINE - YSL FRAGRANCE
      - YFM7 - YSL - M7
      - YFMB - YSL - Body Kouros
      - YFMH - YSL - L'Homme
      - YFMJ - YSL - Jazz
      - YFMK - YSL - Kouros**
      - YFMI - YSL - Live Jazz
      - YFMO - YSL - Opium pour Homme
      - YFMR - YSL - Rive Gauche pour Homm
      - YFMX - YSL Masculine - Ltd Eds
      - YFMY - YSL Masculine - Sumr Ed
- ⊕ Z... - ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA

Product Class:

Description:

# Matching codes in unrelated module provide logical integration



Hierarchies for Job: CY002009

File Edit Options Job Query

Hierarchy

- [-] CY002009
  - [-] Y - YSL
    - [+] B - YSL BEAUTE
    - [-] F - YSL FRAGRANCE
      - [+] F - FEMININE - YSL FRAGRANCE
      - [-] M - MASCULINE - YSL FRAGRANCE
        - [+] 7 - YSL - M7
        - [+] B - YSL - Body Kouros
        - [+] H - YSL - L'Homme
        - [+] J - YSL - Jazz
        - [+] K - YSL - Kouros
        - zE. - MEDIA
        - zE1 - Advertising Space
        - zE2 - Mailers
        - zE3 - Billboards / Outdoor
        - zE4 - Production
        - zE5 - Television
        - zE6 - Promotional
        - zE8 - Other Media
        - zE9 - Rec Consult Fee -Distribn
        - zH. - LAUNCH COSTS
        - zH1 - Travel & Accomodation
        - zH3 - Venue Hire
        - zH5 - Catering
        - zH6 - Joint Launch Cost
        - zH7 - Materials
        - zH9 - Other Launch Costs
        - zI. - TRAINING
        - zI1 - Travel & Accomodation
        - zI3 - Venue Hire

Getting the software to do what it supposedly cannot do

# Example of faulty integration

*"The &\$%^#@% system lost my data"*



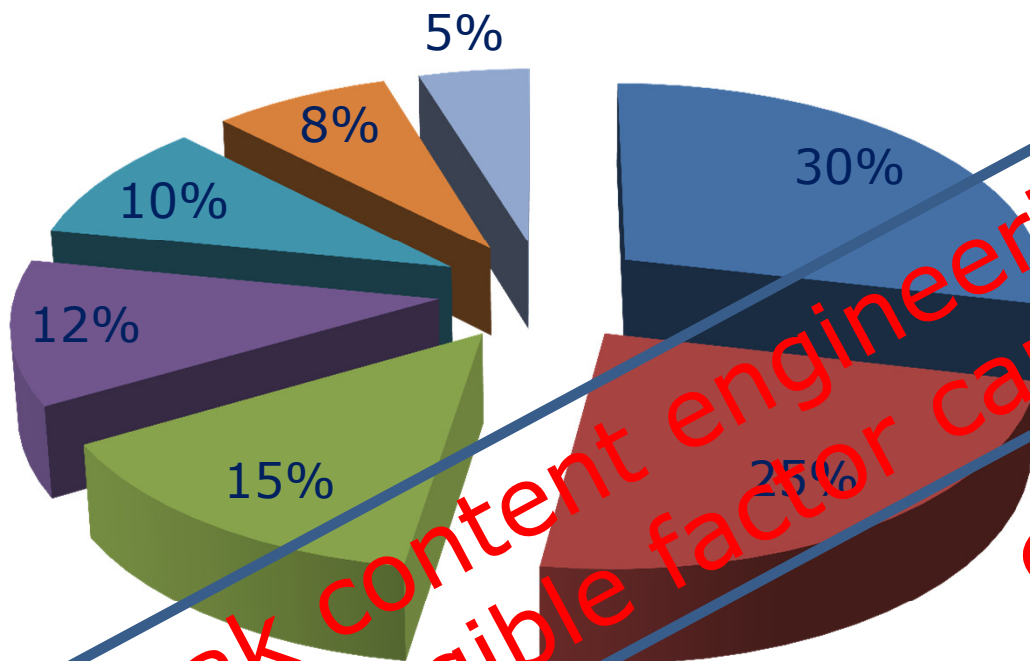
Heads/Sections				
Double-click to select				
Hierarchy	Description	WIP Control ledger	Tracking Cost Only	WIP Cost tracking ledger
Y /F /M /K /zE.	MEDIA		No	
Y /F /M /K /zE1	Advertising Space		Yes	10-337E1-11
Y /F /M /K /zE2	Mailers		Yes	10-337E2-11
Y /F /M /K /zE3	Billboards / Outdoor		No	
Y /F /M /K /zE4	Production		Yes	10-337E4-11
Y /F /M /K /zE5	Television		No	
Y /F /M /K /zE6	Promotional		Yes	10-337E6-11
Y /F /M /K /zE8	Other Media		Yes	10-337E8-11
Y /F /M /K /zE9	Rec Consult Fee -Distribn		Yes	10-337E9-11
Y /F /M /K /zH.	LAUNCH COSTS		No	
Y /F /M /K /zH1	Travel & Accomodation		Yes	10-337H1-11
Y /F /M /K /zH3	Venue Hire		Yes	10-337H3-11
Y /F /M /K /zH5	Catering		Yes	10-337H5-11
Y /F /M /K /zH6	Joint Launch Cost		No	
Y /F /M /K /zH7	Materials		Yes	10-337H7-11
Y /F /M /K /zH9	Other Launch Costs		Yes	10-337H9-11
Y /F /M /K /zI.	TRAINING		No	
Y /F /M /K /zI1	Travel & Accomodation		Yes	10-337I1-11
Y /F /M /K /zI3	Venue Hire		Yes	10-337I3-11
Y /F /M /K /zI5	Catering		Yes	10-337I5-11
Y /F /M /K /zI7	Materials		Yes	10-337I7-11
Y /F /M /K /zI8	Training Team		No	
Y /F /M /K /zI9	Other General Train Costs		Yes	10-337I9-11
Y /F /M /K /zL.	LOCAL POINT OF SALE MATERIAL		No	
Y /F /M /K /zL1	Local Transparences /Logos		Yes	10-337L1-11
Y /F /M /K /zL3	Local Materials		Yes	10-337L3-11
Y /F /M /K /zL5	Personalized Fixures / Counter		No	
Y /F /M /K /zL6	Product Sleeve (Instore)		No	
Y /F /M /K /zL7	Shelf Tools		No	
Y /F /M /K /zL9	Shelf Price Stickers		No	



# Factors causing IT failure



Includes process obsession



- 1. IT Mythology -- 30%
- 2. Lack of executive custody -- 25%
- 3. Poor strategic alignment -- 15%
- 4. Lack of an engineering approach -- 12%
- 5. Poor data engineering -- 10%
- 6. People issues -- 8%
- 7. Technology issues -- 5%

Weak content engineering is the most tangible factor causing failure

**The value of technology is determined by the person using the technology**





# The Business Intelligence and ERP challenge



➤ Most businesses are NOT making better decisions than they did five years ago despite substantial BI investments -- Gartner 2006

➤ "19 out of 20 ERP implementations do not deliver what was promised" – Financial Mail 2003

➤ 50% of ERP projects fail – Gartner

➤ Precision strategic content engineering

→ THE MISSING LINK

➤ A HUGE OPPORTUNITY



# Exceptionally BAD practice



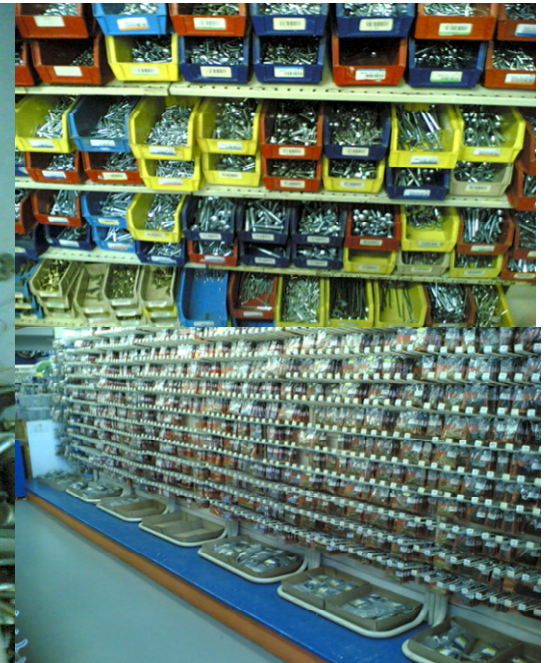
**Huge negative impact on integration, reporting, etc**



- 500528 Waste Material Consumed
- 500530 Loss from valuation of external materials
- 500540 Loss from valuation of own materials
- 500550 Losses - inventory variance -consignment sale
- 500560 Safety Clothing
- 500565 Safety Equipment
- 500570 Sand & Stone
- 500575 Scraper Rope
- 500580 Scrapers
- 500585 Services
- 500590 Signs
- 500595 Capital item
- 500600 Finished Goods Inventory Offset
- 500605 Capital item or cost
- 500610 Production Order Settlement - Variance
- 500615 Steel Other
- 500620 Steel Sections
- 500625 Steel Sheets & Plates



# Precision ordered data Versus ...



# What is the best way to unscramble spaghetti?



**Do NOT scramble it in the first place!**





# Structure of strategically aligned Chart of Accounts → plant maintenance → inventory → etc



- Investment**
- 
- E...**
- 
- D..**
- 
- ... operation**
- 
- Processing**
- 
- Marketing and sales**
- 
- Operational support**
- 
- Administration**
- 
- Dividends, taxes, etc**

- MOBILE PLANT**
- 
- LHD's**
- 
- Dump trucks**
- 
- Drill rigs**
- 
- Other off road**
- 
- LDV's**
- 
- etc**

## Assets

- Assets owned
- Assets leased
- ...
- Dep'n assets owned
- Dep'n assets leased
- ...

## Liabilities

## Income

## Expenses

- R&M assets
- Finance and insurance assets
- ...

## Plant Maintenance

## Materials Management

Provide for foreseeable growth  
Five to ten years

# Mapping between modules

## Well structured



### GL R&M spares expenses

**MOBILE PLANT**

**Loaders**

**Dump trucks**

**Drill rigs**

**Other off road**

**LDV's**

**etc**

### MM plant spares

**MOBILE PLANT**

**Loaders**

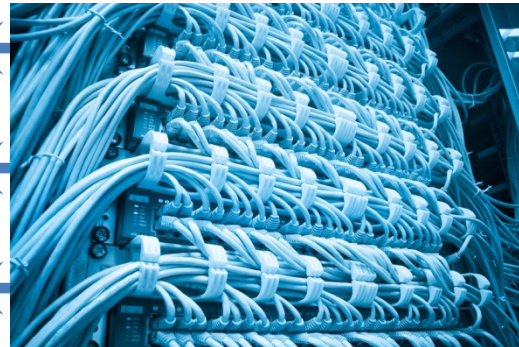
**Dump trucks**

**Drill rigs**

**Other off road**

**LDV's**

**etc**





# Precision strategic content engineering IS the missing link



Lack of coding structure and standards

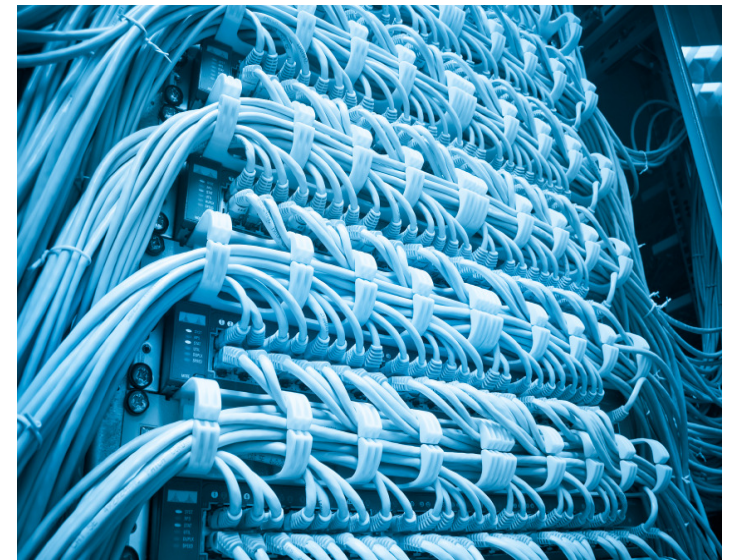
versus

fundamental first principles precision strategic content engineering



Current

**Instead of ->**



Objective

# Business Intelligence the ideal

**Better  
DECISIONS**



**Business intelligence solutions**

**ERP**

**Strategic Engineered Precision Taxonomies™  
The foundation of decision support**

**The business**

# Business Intelligence current reality **Throwing Money away**



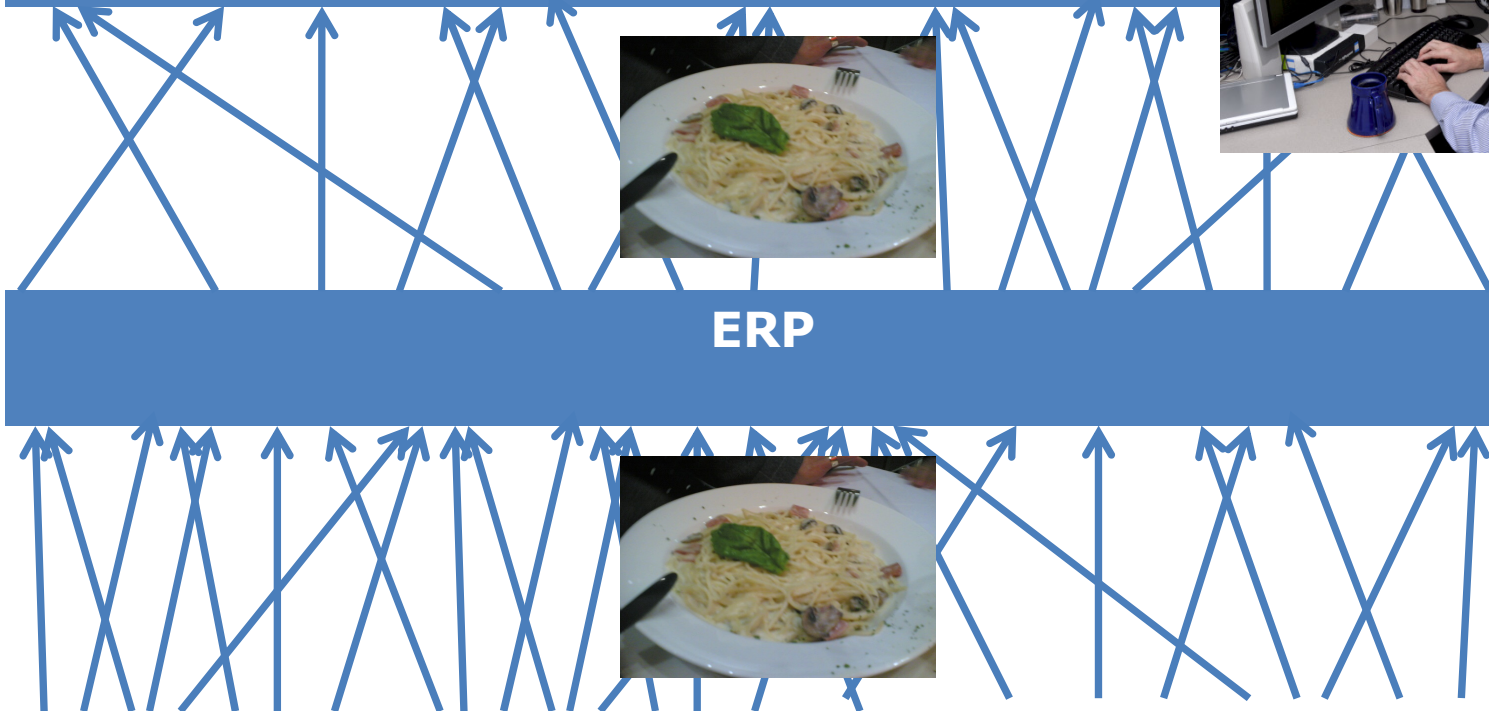
Business intelligence solutions



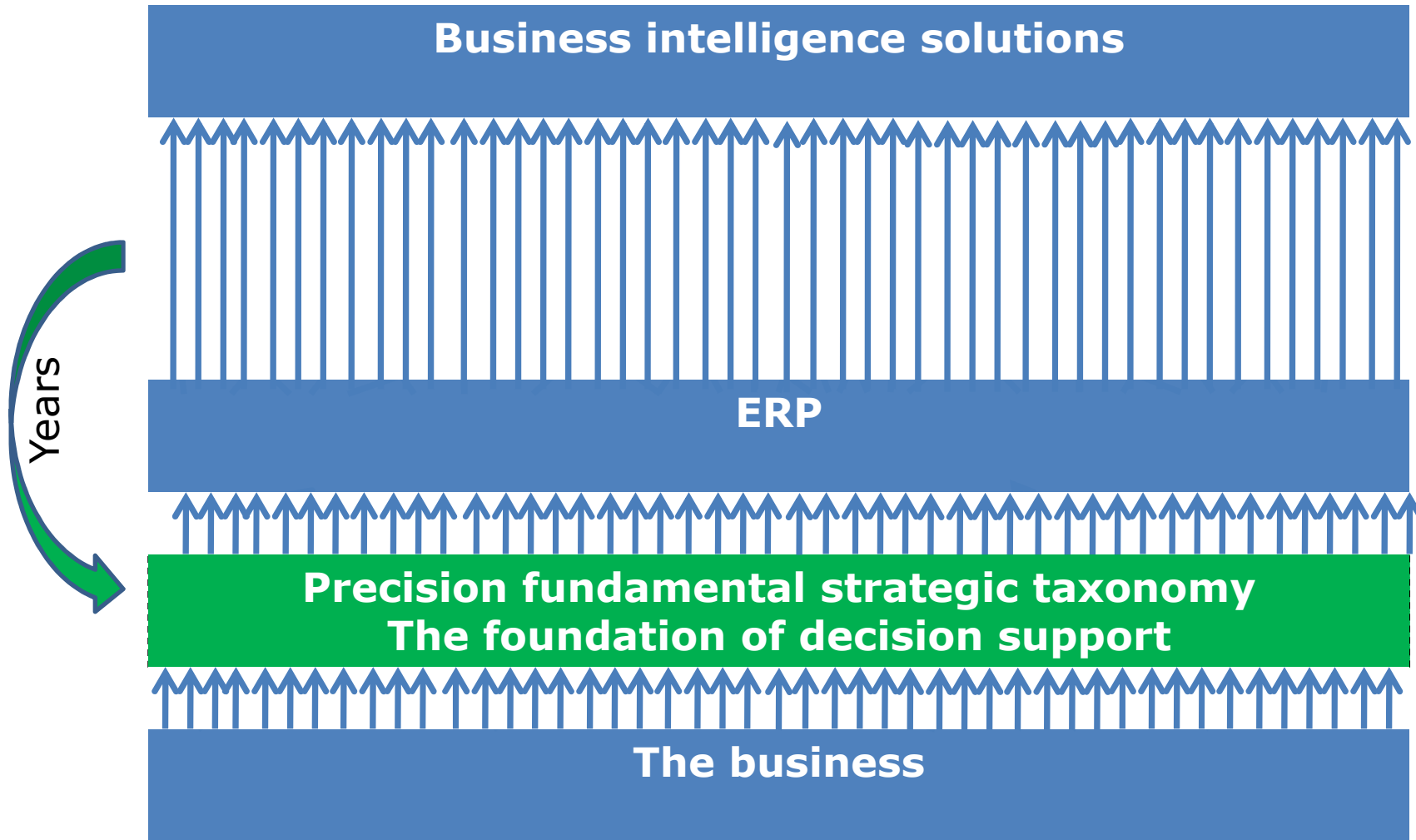
ERP



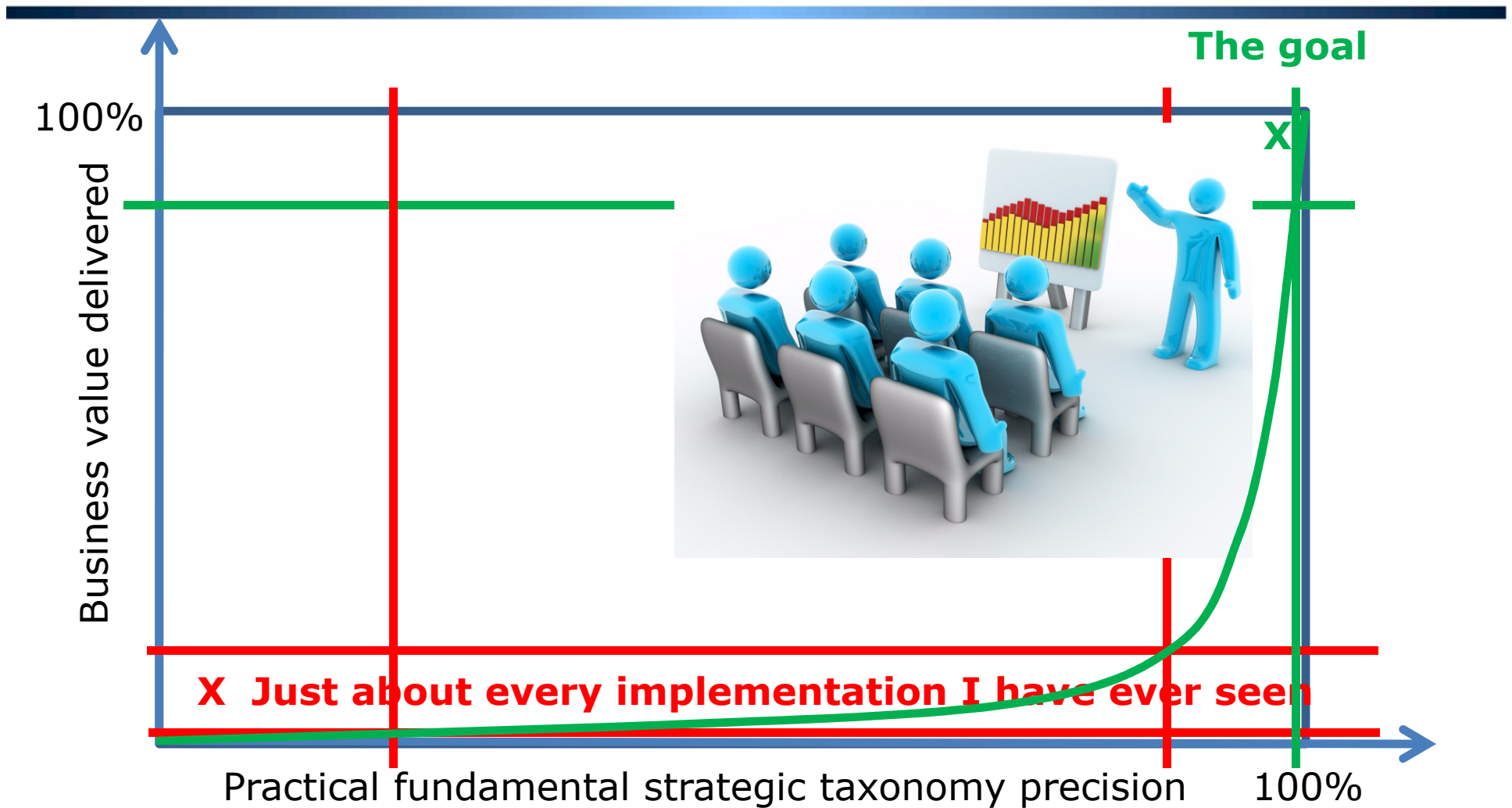
The business



# Business Intelligence the opportunity high value highly successful outcomes

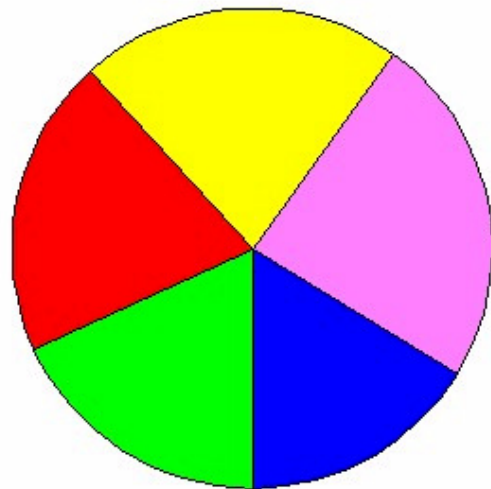


# Value versus precision A critical consideration

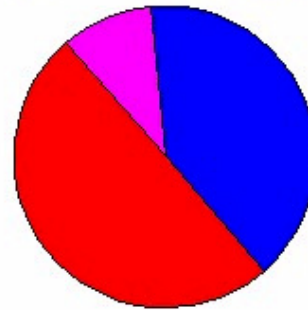




# Critical principle – constraint and opportunity -- cognitive span



<5 = too few



> 10 = too many



**5 TO 10 SLICES OPTIMUM**

## ABSTRACT THINKING / MANAGEMENT

The average person can manage 7 plus or minus 2 distinct areas or concepts

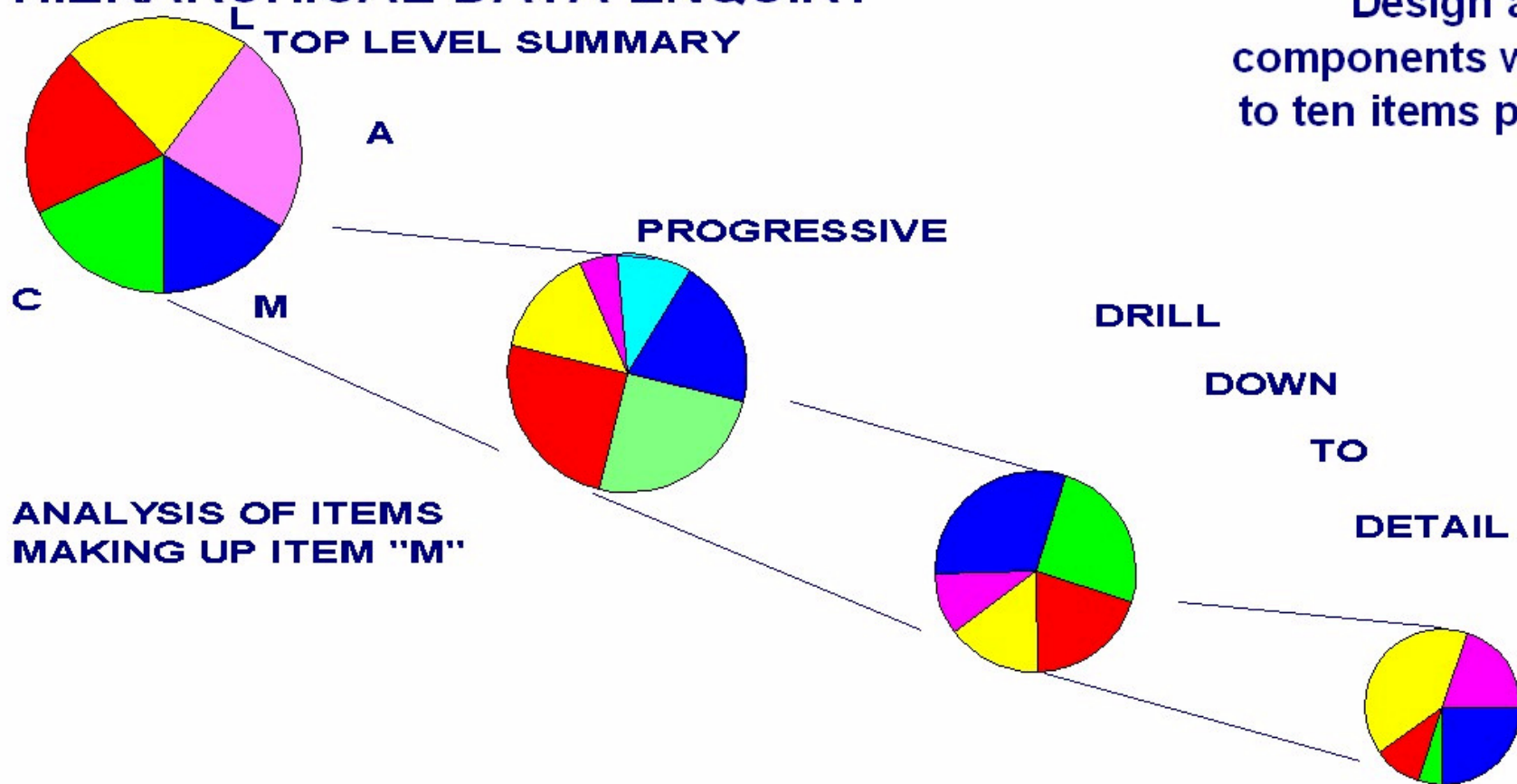
Design the information structure accordingly at every level

# Drill down

## A function of the content



### HIERARCHICAL DATA ENQUIRY



Design all components with five to ten items per level

# Cubic business model

## A logical taxonomic construct



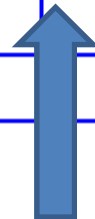
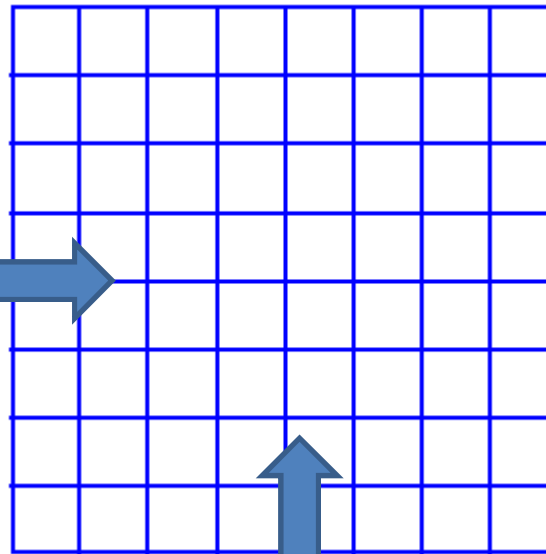
- Every organization has a location logical dimension - where we do what we do
- and a functional logical dimension – what we do
- These can be plotted on a matrix of function versus location
- This is fundamental to the design of a chart of accounts and all other logical components that define the business
- There are multiple further dimensions including income, expenditure, personnel, machines, products, etc
- Each of these should be described by a fundamental precision strategic taxonomy
- This model in the general ledger provides a critical element of integration



# Cubic business model concept GL or costing module



**FUNCTIONAL AXIS**  
What We Do

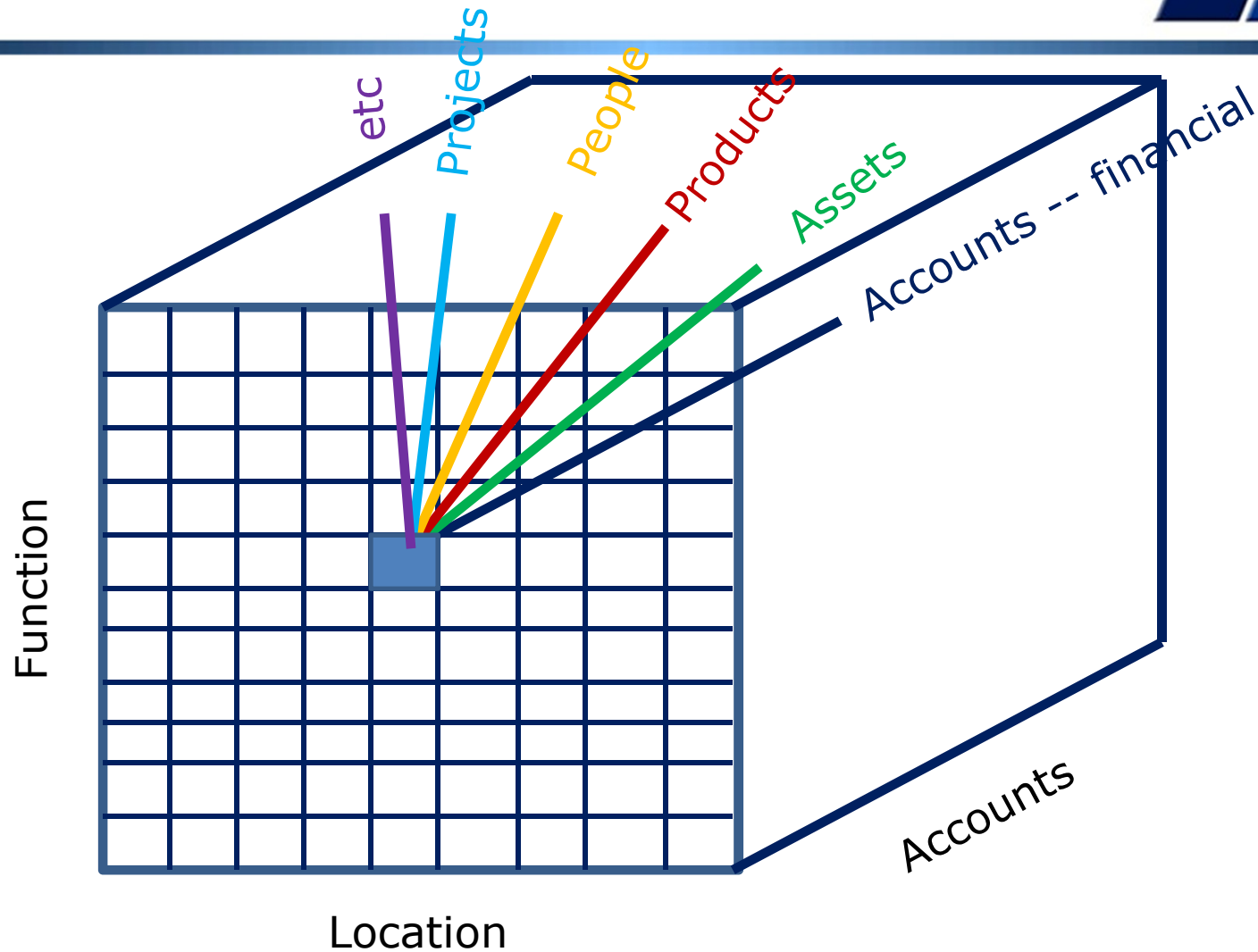


**LOCATION AXIS**  
Where We Do What We Do

# Financial cube

## Essence of integration

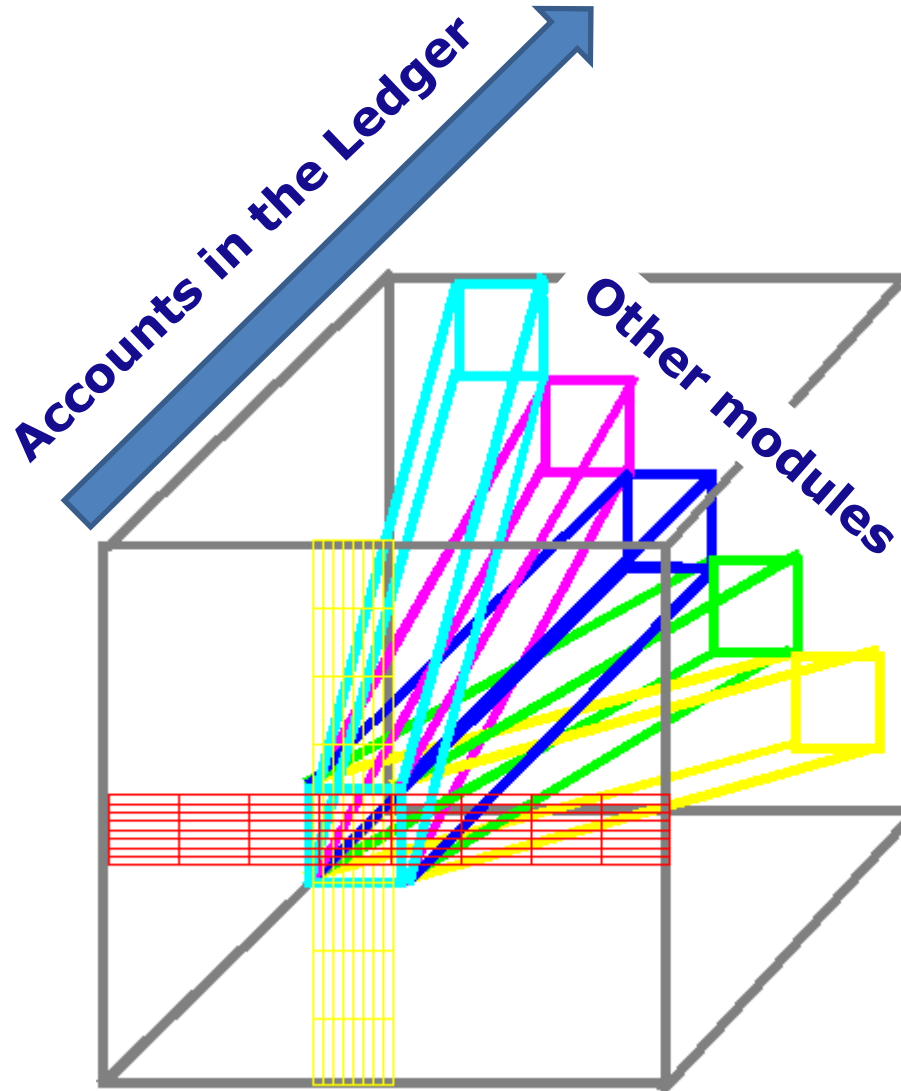
### Well over 1,000 hours R&D



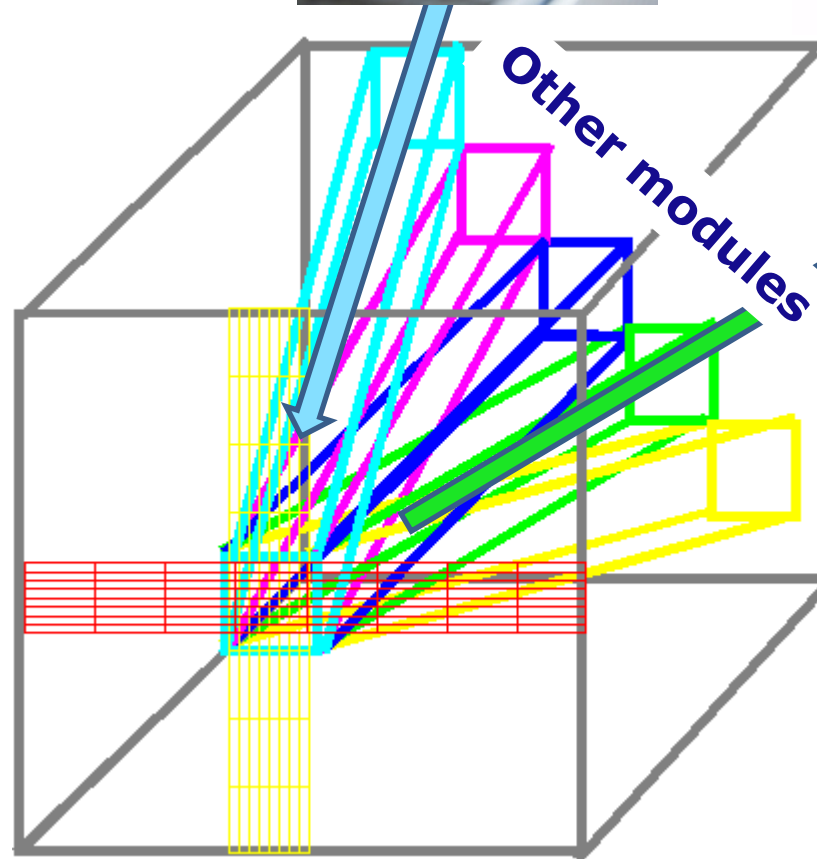
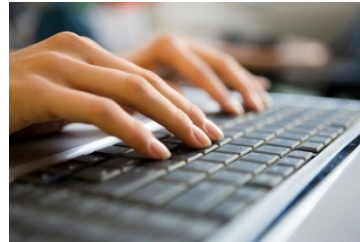


# Cubic business model

## Locus of integration -- taxonomies



# How integration works around the GL



# Example of "cubic business model" In General Ledger



**General Ledger Structure Definition**

**Structure options**

G/L structure required     Edit structure

Number of sections required: 3

**Analysis options**

Section analysis required  
 Budget analysis required  
 Purchase commitment required

**Structure definition**

Section	Description	Position	Length	Characters allowed	Separator required	Separator	G/L code section	
1	Branch	1	02	Any	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
2	Ledger Code	4	05	Any	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Maintain...
3	Department	10	02	Any	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
4			00	Any	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
5			00	Any	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
6			00	Any	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
7			00	Any	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
8			00	Any	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...
9			00	Any	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="radio"/>	Maintain...

Relationships...    Access...    Rebuild Analysis...    Save    Close

# Example of "cubic business model"



The image displays three overlapping software windows, each showing a hierarchical list of items. The windows are titled "Branch", "Ledger Code", and "Department". Each window has a "Section" header and a table with columns for ID, Description, and Ledger Code. The "Branch" window shows a list of branches, the "Ledger Code" window shows a list of ledger codes, and the "Department" window shows a list of departments. Each window also has buttons for "Add...", "Change...", "Delete", "Create Sections...", and "Close".

### Branch

Branch	Description	Ledger c...
1.	CORPORATE ITEMS	
10	Corporate Only Items	
15	Department Only Items	
2.	SANDTON	
21	Offices	
3.	CAPE TOWN	
31	Offices	
4.	DURBAN	

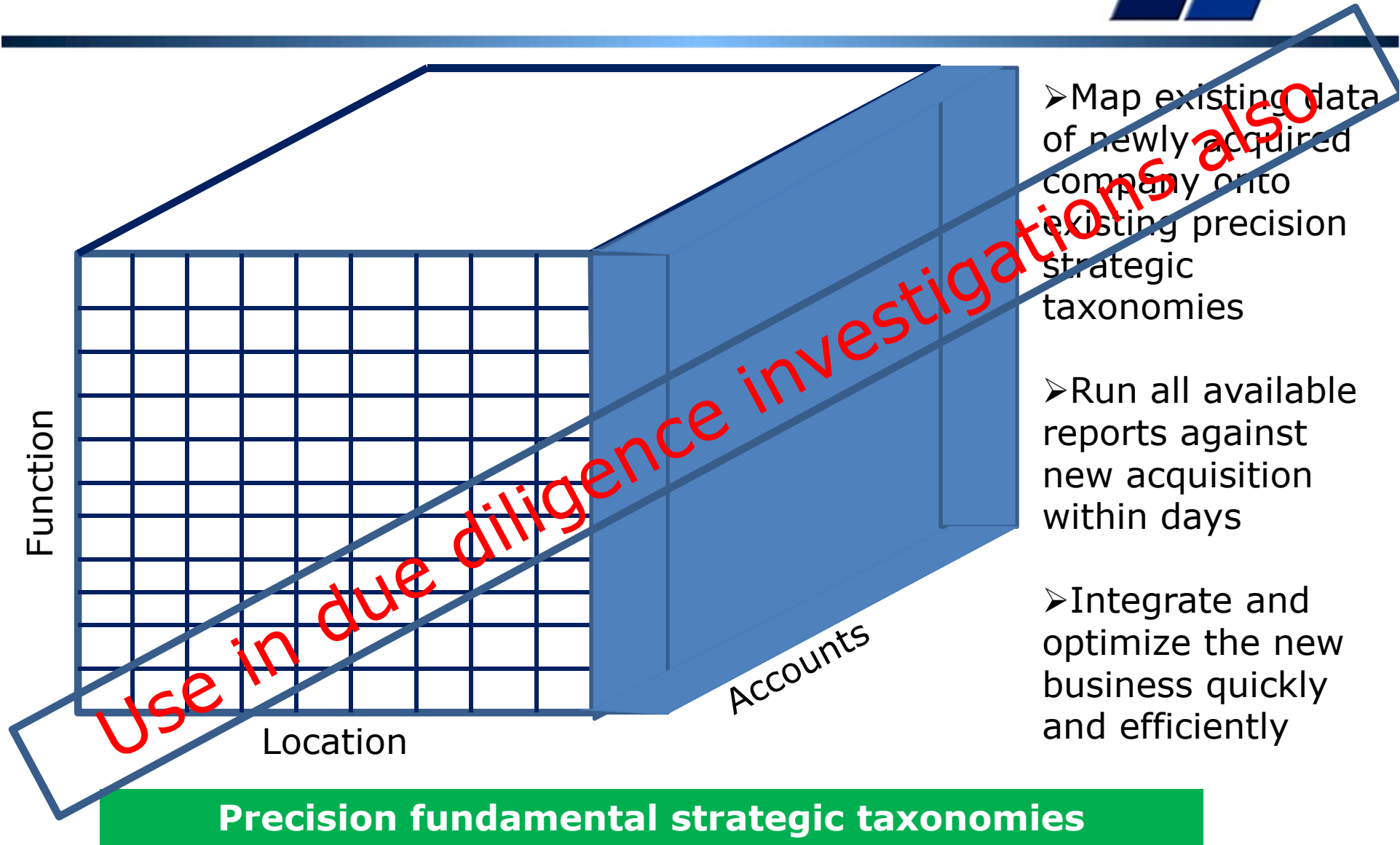
### Ledger Code

Ledger C...	Description	
1....	INCOME	
11...	SALES	
111..	SALES	
1111.	SALES	
11111	Sales Fragrance	
11112	Sale Return Fra	
11113	Discount frag -	
11115	Sales Fashion	
11116	Sale Return Fas	
11117	Year end sale -	

### Department

Departm...	Description	Ledger c...
1.	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT	
11	Corporate Operations	
12	Corporate Management	
13	Sales	
14	Display	
15	Branch Management	
2.	ACTIVITIES REL TO LOCT'N FAC'S	
21	Facilities M & A-Fragrance	
25	Select Brands	
3.	CORE BUS OPS - FRAGRANCE	

# Use in acquisitions









# Financial cube

## Face of actual cube – portion for illustrative purposes



CTd			1	21	41	81			121		
MtP								103			
MPe				45					125		
SRC					63					143	
Cto					65					145	
Adm					70					150	
CIL											950
			JFS	JWS	HMF	HSh	SMF	MCF		FIL	CoR

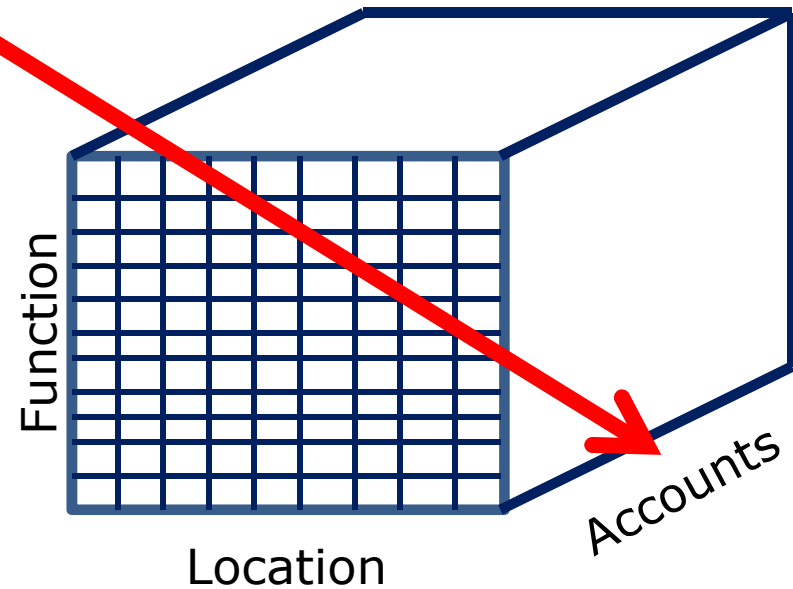


# Financial cube

## Chart of accounts, the third dimension



4171...	PROF SERV BOUGHT IN
41711..	AUDITORS REMUNERATION
417111.	Audit Fees
417112.	Tax Services
417113.	Professional Services
417115.	Statutory Services
417119.	Other Auditor Fees
41715..	LEGAL FEES
417151.	Debt Collection
417155.	Other Legal Fees
41719..	OTH BGHT IN PROF SERV
417191.	Consulting Fees
417199.	Oth Prof Serv
4172...	COMPUTER & TELECOM CST
41721..	COMPUTER EXPENSES
417211.	Hardware
417213.	Software
417214.	Software Licenses
417216.	IT Technical Services
417217.	Group IT Charges
41725..	TELECOMMUNICATION COST
417251.	Telephone and Fax
417253.	Cellphone Costs
417256.	Internet Access
417259.	Oth Telecommunication
4173...	ADM & OH TRAV & ENT
41731..	LOCAL TRAVEL
417311.	Car Hire



# Financial cube

## Matrix analysis of the business



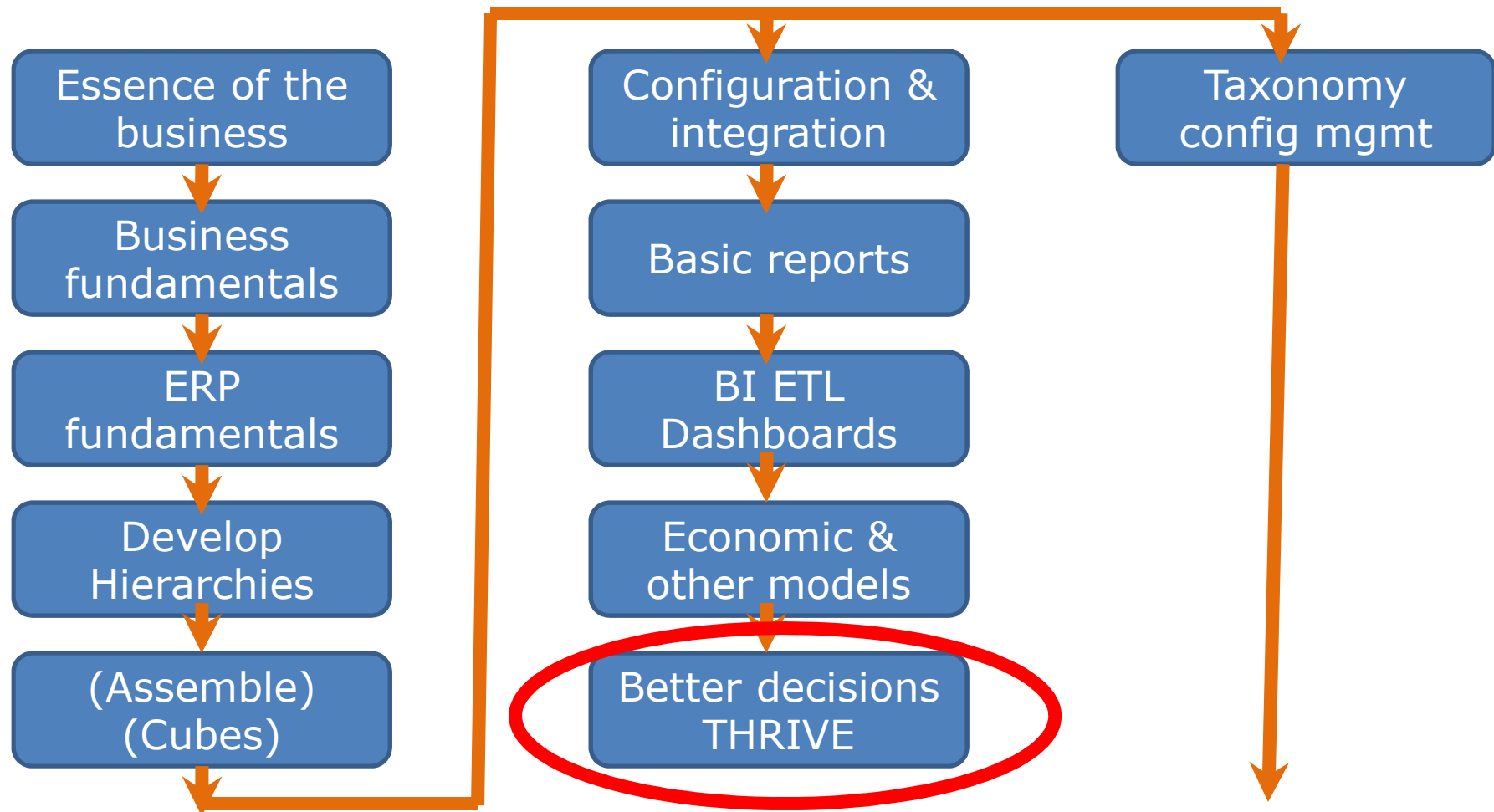
4171...	PROF SERV BOUGHT IN
41711..	AUDITORS REMUNERATION
417111.	Audit Fees
417112.	Tax Services
417113.	Professional Services
417115.	Statutory Services
417119.	Other Auditor Fees
41715..	LEGAL FEES
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41719..	OTH BGHT IN PROF SERV
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4172...	COMPUTER & TELECOM CST
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417213.	Software
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417216.	IT Technical Services
417217.	Group IT Charges
41725..	TELECOMMUNICATION COST
417251.	Telephone and Fax
417253.	Cellphone Costs
417256.	Internet Access
417259.	Oth Telecommunication
4173...	ADM & OH TRAV & ENT
41731..	LOCAL TRAVEL
417311.	Car Hire

CTd			1	21	41	81				121									
MtP									103										
MPr					45						125								
SRC					63						143								
CtO					65						145								
Adm					70						150								
CIL																		950	
					JFS	JWS	HMF	HSh	SMF		MCF							FIL	Cor

Drop down list on Chart of Accounts linked to matrix view of the cubic model allows any financial measure at any level of detail to be displayed on the matrix



# The precision configuration process



# Benefits of a comprehensive integrated intelligence model



If only I knew exactly what the relative cost of these two machines was I could compete more profitably



Comprehensive integrated economic and operational model with precision strategic taxonomies



Precision fundamental strategic taxonomies



# Characteristics of precision strategic content engineering

## Methods and standards



- Driven by executive (strategic) decision support requirements
- Fundamental first principles → Strategic
- Highly structured → Hierarchical
- Very specific coding and layout conventions for ease of use
- Disciplined code design and maintenance
- Massive improvement in management information and decision support
- Deliver the often promised but seldom delivered benefits of business ERP, CRM, ECM, BI, IT → business system investments
- An opportunity to gear your current investment



# Components of Precision Configuration

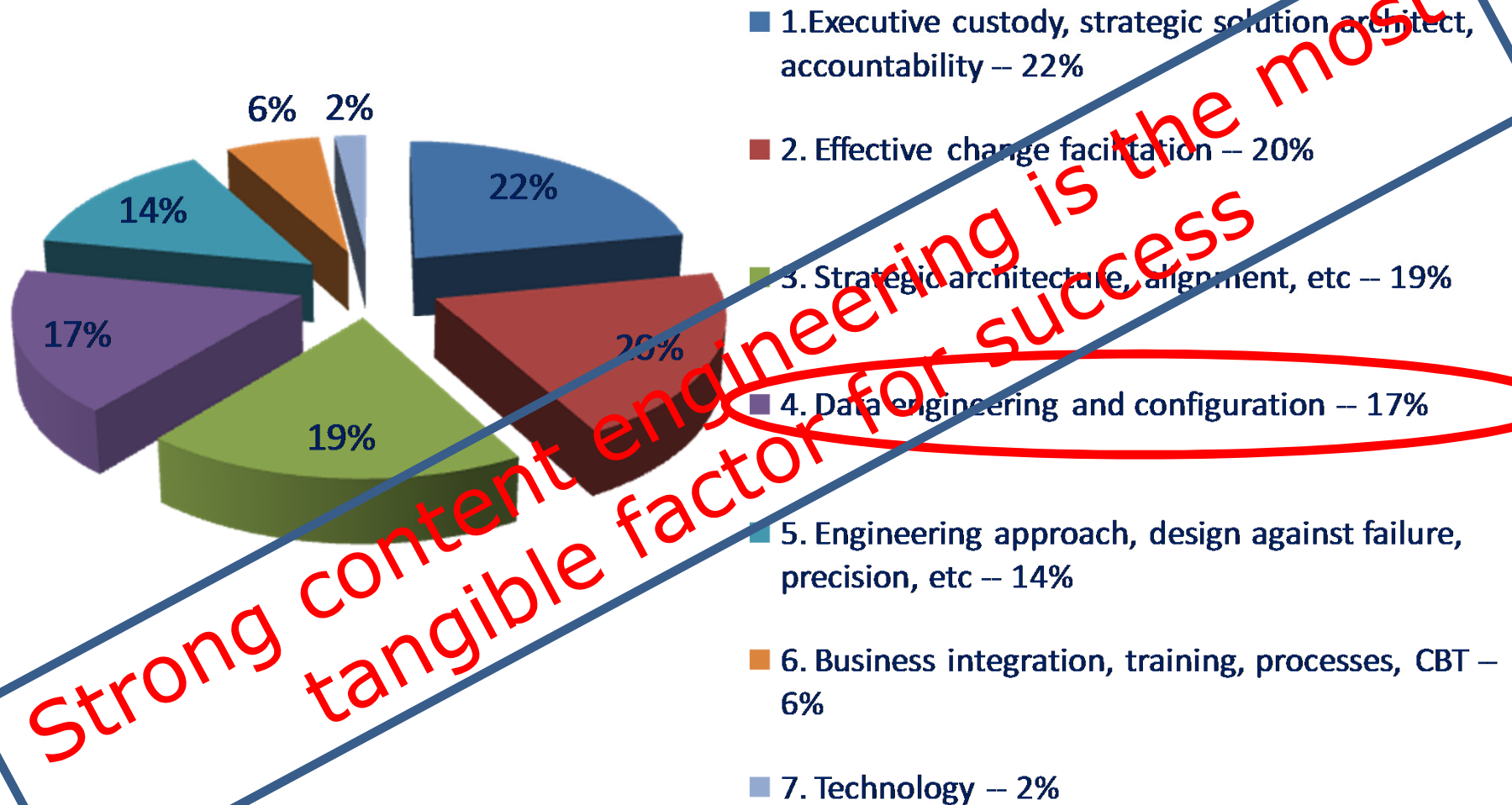


1. Software settings
2. Cubic Business Model™ in the General Ledger
3. Asset classification
4. Product / Material / Item classification / catalogue
5. Classification of Personnel
6. Other specific classifications
7. Unique attributes on Products and other classification master data
8. General record level attribute settings
9. Other configuration settings





# Factors for ERP reimplementation success



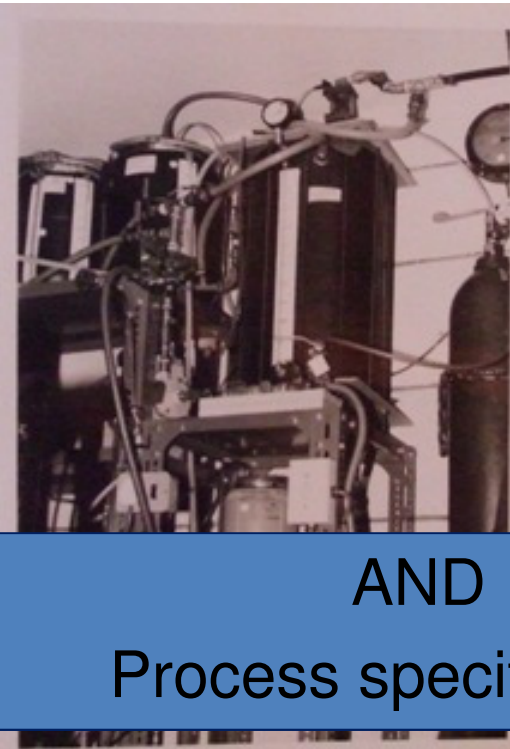
# Laboratory



A location where the real world is simulated  
on a statistically valid representative basis

ALL possible scenarios thoroughly tested

Reports, BI, training, CBT...



AND  
Process specification!

# What is an ERP? REALLY?



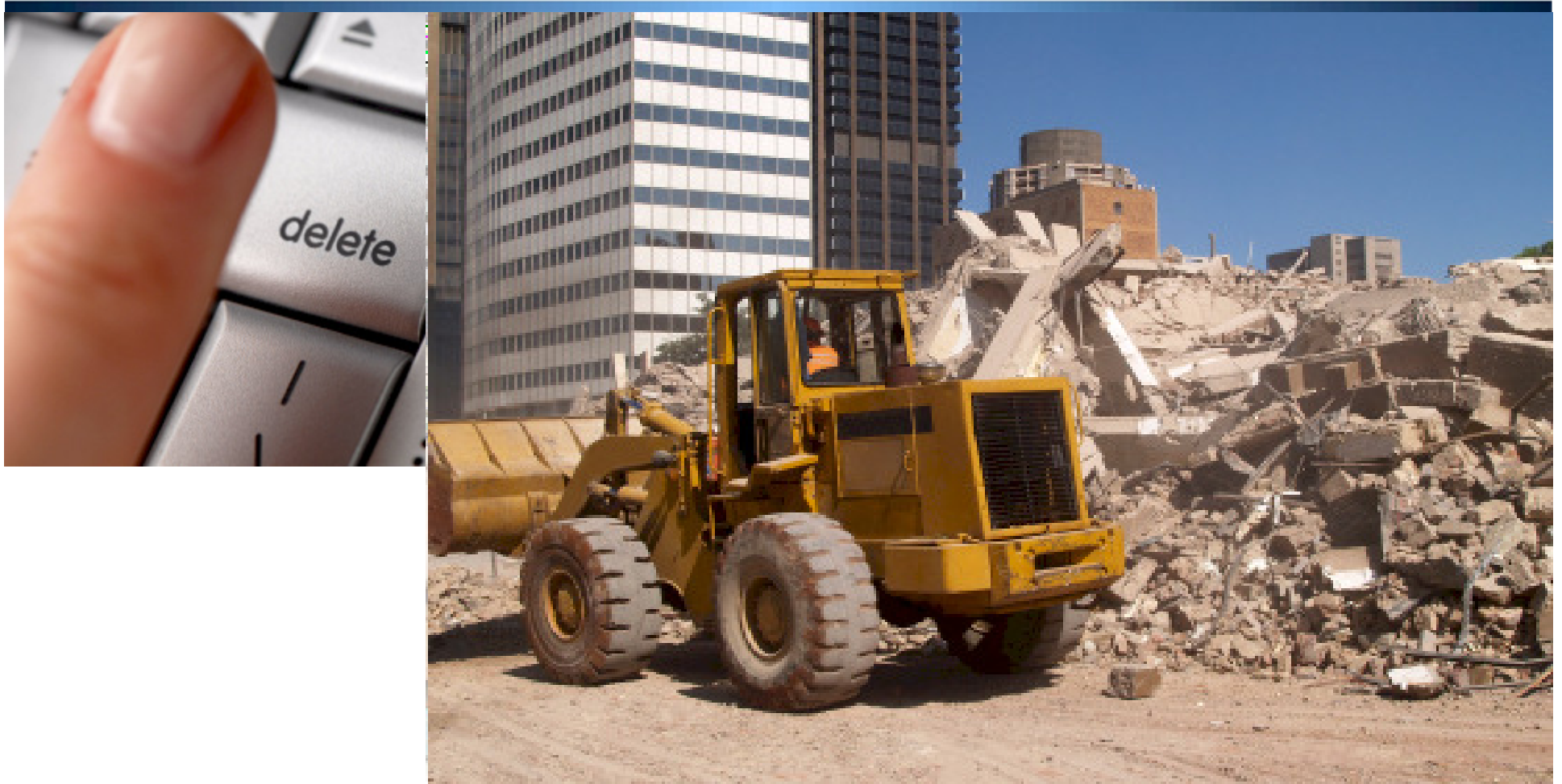
A huge precision data processing factory that SHOULD be fed precision data in order to produce precision results (the factory CAN be OLD) 😊



# What is an ERP? Refurbish



# vs Deleting a building





# The fundamental requirements for an ERP



- The answers to questions I have not yet thought to ask
  - Enable me to run the business MY way
  - Accurately model every aspect of my business
  - Totally integrated solution
  - Entirely reliable and dependable
  - Fundamentally support the essence of the business and how it thrives (strategy)
  - Fully support my day to day operational functions

Including but NOT limited to  
processes

# Summing up -- PROCESS



- Business process obsession is killing ERP
- It is placing businesses at serious risk
- It is only a matter of time before MORE major clients SUE major implementers
- There are OTHER aspects of ERP configuration that are MUCH more important than process
- Strategic Engineered Precision Configuration based on Precision Taxonomies is **THE** ERP WAVE OF THE FUTURE

# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 1. CEO take custody

1. CEO is custodian of the integrated view of the business
2. therefore custodian of the integrated business information systems (IBIS) comprising
  1. the Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP)
  2. Data Warehouse (DW)
  3. Business Intelligence (BI)
  4. other systems
3. high level strategic advisory support
4. senior staffing
5. oversight with limited CEO time

# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 2. Strategic alignment

1. define and document the essence of the business and how it thrives
2. publish and make all personnel aware
3. evaluate all aspects of operation of ERP getting in the way of the essence of the business
4. long term plan to fully align IBIS with strategic direction

# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 3. Standards, controls and disciplines

1. effective ERP operation requires robust and rigorous standards rigorously enforced
2. engage external specialists to develop the standards
3. take appropriate measures to implement and apply



# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 4. Configuration audit

1. comprehensive audit of the configuration of the ERP and the corresponding data in DW
2. evaluate all code tables, validation lists, master files and other settings
3. make sure the purpose of every table or list is clearly understood and documented
4. note deficiencies
5. formulate long term plan to remediate
6. note how deficiencies ripple through into DW and BI and formulate plan to rectify

# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 5. Comprehensive suite of taxonomies

1. define comprehensive suite of Strategic Engineered Precision Taxonomies (SEPT) for new DW
2. refer Taxonomy Manual
3. every single validation table or master list should be populated with precision taxonomies in the Data Warehouse – includes
  1. Chart of Accounts
  2. Cubic Business Model
  3. Product Class / Product Master / Material Master / Item Master / etc
  4. Customer Classification
  5. Supplier Classification
  6. etc, etc

# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 6. Data warehouse and business intelligence

1. clean instance of Data Warehouse
2. keep the old instance running and build the new Data Warehouse alongside the old one
3. if you do not have a fully-fledged data warehouse, now is the time to obtain one
4. high risk and massive project to re-implement ERP – **so do NOT do it!!**
5. much lower risk to implement the new taxonomies first in a new Data Warehouse
6. does require drudge mapping
7. solves most critical decision support problems (80% of the problem for 20% of the cost)
8. IF correctly designed and implemented this will deliver exceptionally high value results

# 7 Steps to FIX your ERP



---

## 7. Progressive refurbishment of ERP

1. now know what needs to be done to ERP
2. will take incremental remedial steps in ERP to get DW working adequately
3. can do limited surgery on the ERP
4. progressive, pragmatic, incremental remediation of ERP over years
5. higher value, lower risk and lower cost route to greatly enhanced IBIS (ERP, DW, BI) operation in support of high value strategic decision making

# Summing up – Precision Configuration



1. Excellent high value decisions rely on logical strategically aligned information → the information to thrive
2. To get executive intelligence OUT you must **put executive intelligence IN – “intelligent content”**
3. Precision strategic content engineering IS **THE missing link in ERP and IBIS**
4. Requires a significant investment
5. An ART and a science
6. Do NOT scrap your current system until you have thoroughly evaluated this
7. An opportunity for dramatic gearing of your current investment





# Questions?



**Dr James Robertson PrEng**

**James A Robertson & Associates**

**Telephone: ++27-(0)86-111-5409**

**Cell: 083-251-6644 (preferred)**

**Fax: ++27-(0)86-540-0178**

**P O Box 4206, Randburg, 2125, South Africa**

**www.James-A-Robertson-and-Associates.com**

**email: [James@JamesARobertson.com](mailto:James@JamesARobertson.com)**

**LinkedIn: <http://za.Linkedin.com/in/DrJamesARobertsonERPDoctor>**



**Please remember to complete the  
evaluation forms**

***Finding the missing pieces of your I.T. and strategy puzzles***