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What does the 'A' in SOSA stand for?

Integrated-EA 2012

Nick Frall and Kevin Wallis

Overview

- ▼ Introductions and a little bit of history
- ▼ SOSA Implementation
- ▼ The SOSA spotters guide
- ▼ SOSA in the wild
 - ▼ Case study 1 – DPD CI
 - ▼ Case study 2 – JSP604
- ▼ Three ideas for the 'A'
- ▼ Configuring for success
- ▼ SOSA going forward

A bit of SOSA history

- ▼ Clear problems in NEC with lack of coherence
 - ▼ No common architecting approach
- ▼ “System of systems architecting strategy”
 - ▼ Proposed in 2007
- ▼ It noted
 - ▼ the relationship between SOSA and Enterprise Architecture (EA)
 - ▼ Strong alignment with TLM
 - ▼ supported by an industrial Key Systems Advisor (KSA),
 - ▼ and by a joint MOD / industry consultation group
- ▼ Never formally published
 - ▼ but it started something

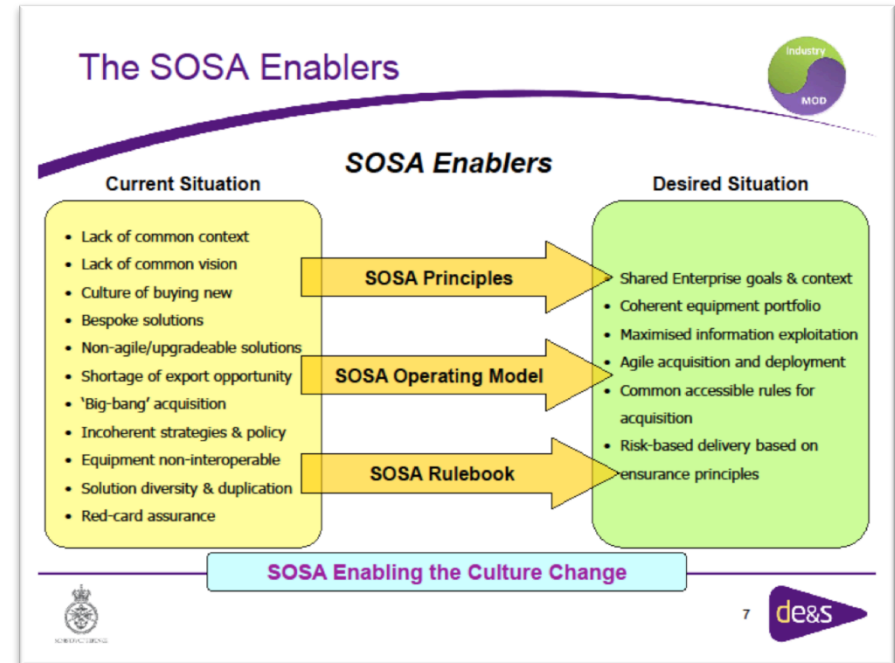


SOSA: Start of Something Amazing?



SOSA Implementation

- ▼ SOSA is represented by the SOSA Enablers
- ▼ There was recognition that it was all about a culture change
- ▼ But it's a hard message to sell
- ▼ It needs a balance between...



SOSA: Same Old Stuff Again?



SOSA: Snake Oil Salesman Alert?



SOSA: Save Our Systems Architects?



From Architecture to Approach

- ▼ SOSA became bigger
 - ▼ Bigger than NEC
 - ▼ Bigger than Architecture
 - ▼ Became the System of Systems *Approach*
- ▼ Arguably SOSA has pushed harder than the organisation can cope
- ▼ If we look for evidence of the SOSA Enablers – its hard to find the impact
- ▼ But SOSA is making a difference – you just need to look

The SOSA Spotters Guide

Architecture

- Makes appropriate use of architecture
- Is clear on its boundaries and dependencies.

Collaboration

- Engages well with its MOD stakeholders
- Engages appropriately with Industry

Standards

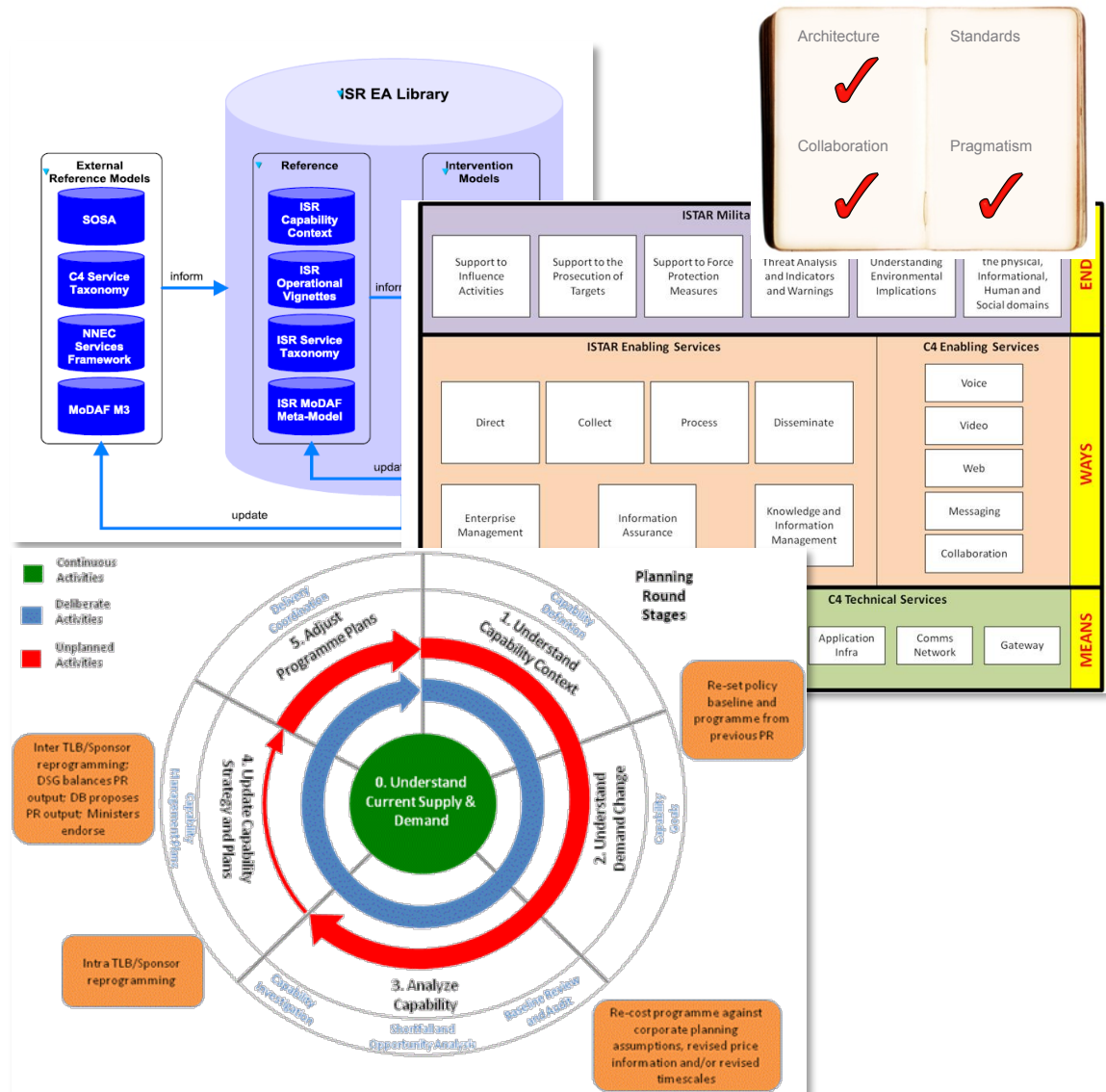
- System interfaces adopt open standards
- Interpretation of standards tested by experimentation

Pragmatism

- Reuse. Don't build stuff you don't need or that already exists.
- Don't plan to build stuff you can't afford.

Direct, Process and Disseminate (DPD)

- Methodology to support DPD decision-making in PR11
- Enabled HOC ISTAR to develop a coherent capability plan
- Key Recommendations to IDA:
 - Service driven approach
 - Architecture Governance
 - Architecture Federation
 - Information Management



JSP604

▼ Version 1 (Pre-SOSA)

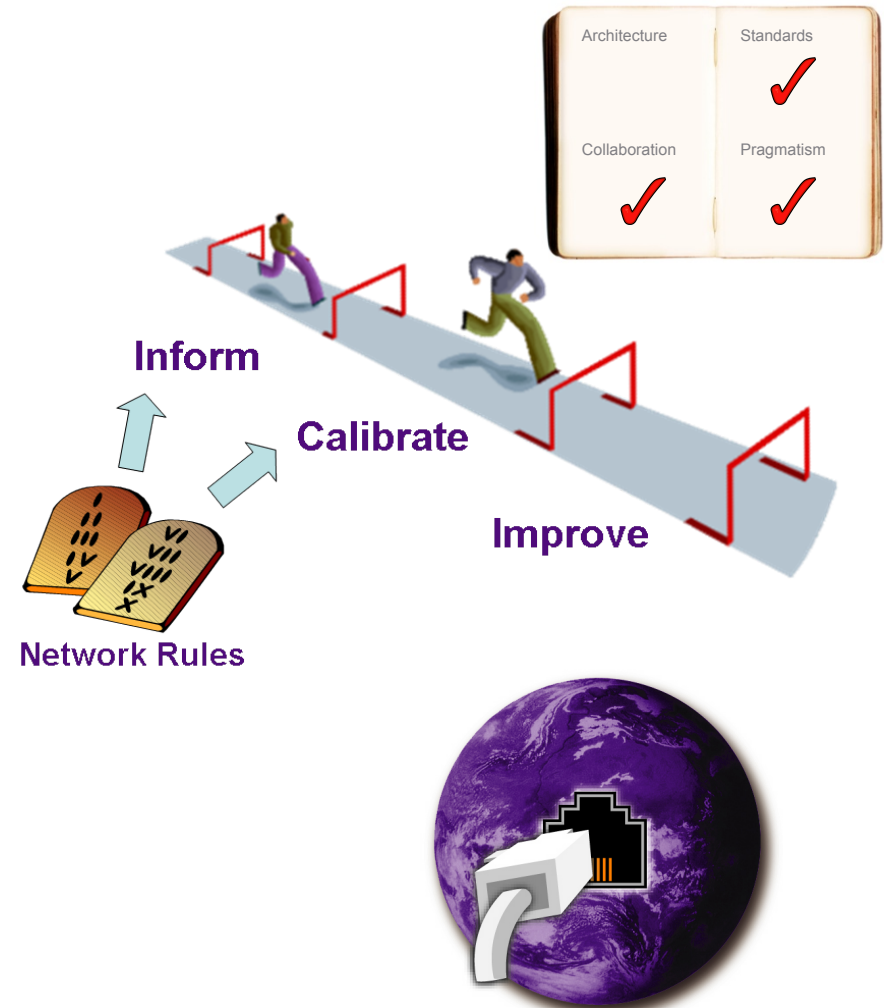
- ▼ Minimum set of criteria
- ▼ Too little too late?

▼ Version 2 (SOSA Epoch 1)

- ▼ Conflicting rules & criteria
- ▼ No architecture

▼ Version 3 (SOSA Epoch 2)

- ▼ Grounded in Architecture
- ▼ Linked to principles

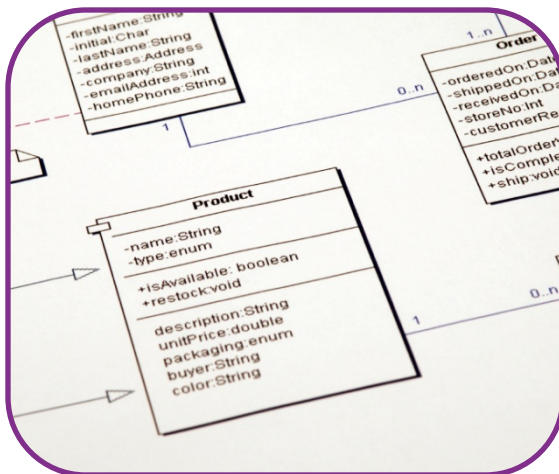


So what about that 'A' then?

S
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S
A

N S W E R S

Architecture



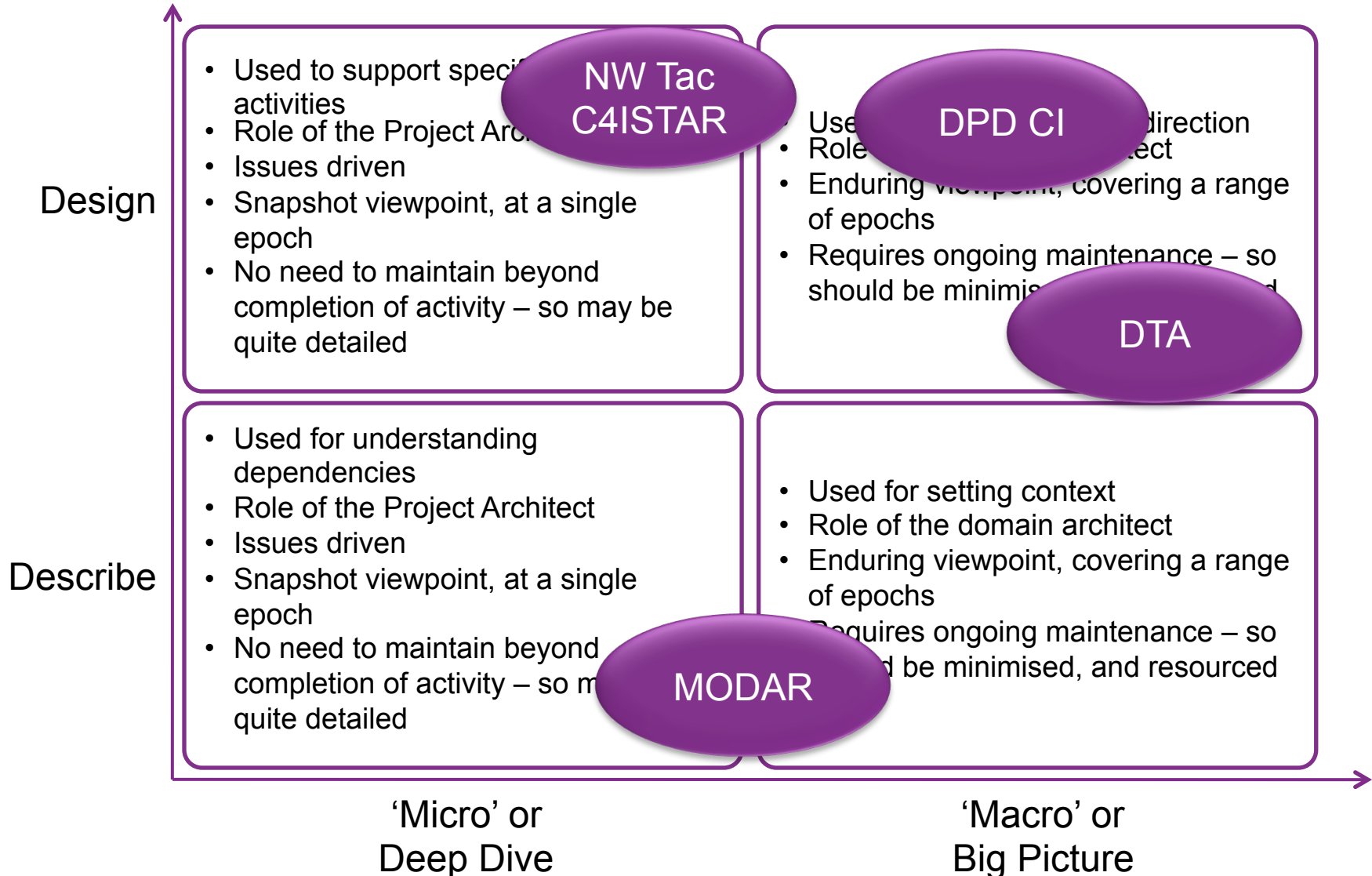
Authority



Attitude



Appropriate Architecture



Authority and Leadership

- ▼ SOSA Operating model and Domain Authorities
 - ▼ Network Authority stood up in 2010
 - ▼ ISTAR Domain Authority stood up in 2010
 - ▼ Other 'Authorities' coming soon
- ▼ All styles of 'Authority' in evidence and required
 - ▼ Guidance
 - ▼ Standards setting
 - ▼ Arbitration
 - ▼ 'Red Card'
- ▼ But the case studies above show that success comes with **Leadership**



Attitudes and Behaviours

▼ Pragmatism

- ▼ Perhaps learning this the hard way
- ▼ Essential in a cost constrained environment

▼ 'Soft' Viewpoint

- ▼ Business is about the people
- ▼ Understanding of the different 'world views'
- ▼ Recognise we can't always fix semantics with taxonomy

▼ Communication

- ▼ The importance of evidence
- ▼ The role of visualisations

▼ Collaboration

- ▼ Between domains
- ▼ With Industry



Configuring for Success

- ▼ So SOSA is delivering real value
 - ▼ But because its hard to spot the official SOSA artefacts
 - ▼ And they aren't necessary for SOSA to work
 - ▼ Its often hard to attribute the value to SOSA approaches
- ▼ Why is it working?
 - ▼ Where architecture is being used appropriately
 - Tac C4ISTAR, DPD CI, Training Transformation
 - ▼ Where the authority and leadership are in place
 - Network Authority, ISTAR Domain Authority
 - ▼ Where the attitudes and behaviours are right
 - SEIG, Niteworks, NTA, IDA and many others

SOSA going forward

- ▼ A bumpy road ahead
 - ▼ Defence Reform
 - ▼ Materiel Strategy
- ▼ Appropriate Architecture
 - ▼ Standards, Operating Models, Rulebooks or repositories
- ▼ Attitudes and behaviours
 - ▼ Collaboration, Joint ownership, pragmatism
- ▼ Authority and leadership
 - ▼ But most of all Leadership