EA for Teams

Expanding your use of Sparx Enterprise Architect across your organisation

Special for
EA Global Summit 2020

eaDocX
smart documents

Model Expert

My biases – the ones I know about

- EA user since v3.5
- Business analyst, process modeller, team leader, consultant
  - So I don't know SysML or Archimate
- I would rather spend 4 hours writing a script than 20 minutes doing something dull
  - BIG bias towards tools

- EA drives me CRAZY
  - But I never use anything else
- Co-founder of the EA User groups
- I have Used EA in teams of 2-20
- I have worked with EA teams of 2-200
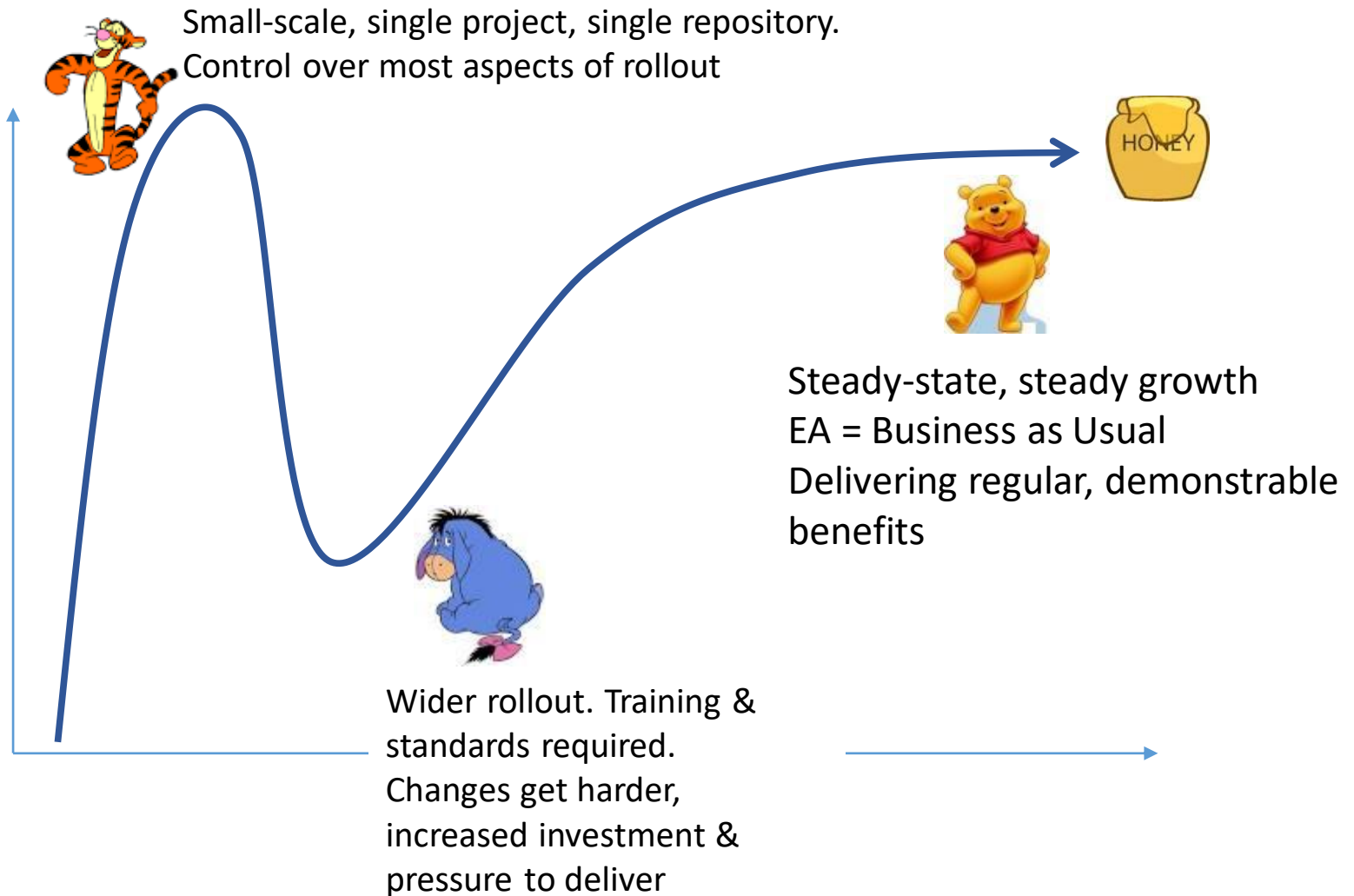- Collaborated with Nizam in early days of Prolaborate

Agenda – today

1. Keys to success growing
2. Scaling Baselines, DIFF, Version control & auditing
3. Harvesting and Integrations Reference Data
4. Reusable Asset Server Governance
5. Security
6. Harvesting
7. Keys to Success
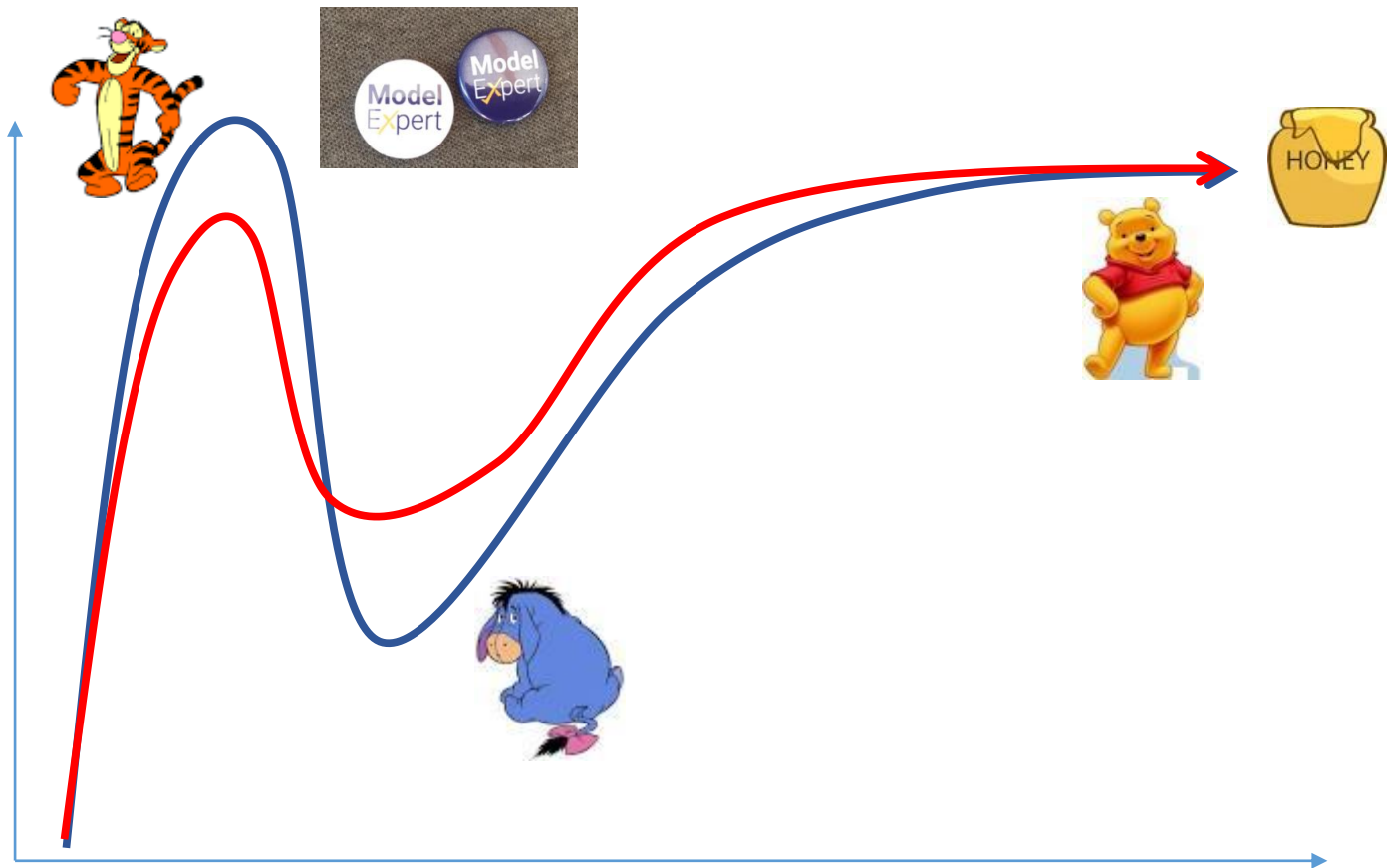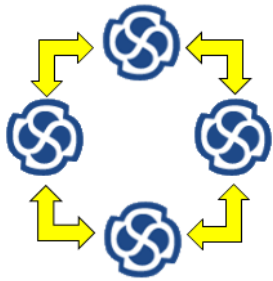8. Governance approaches
9. Partitioning
10. (other stuff)

All day workshop

"Awareness, not expertise"

Evolution of a typical EA rollout

Small-scale, single project, single repository.
Control over most aspects of rollout

Steady-state, steady growth
EA = Business as Usual
Delivering regular, demonstrable
benefits

Wider rollout. Training &
standards required.
Changes get harder,
increased investment &
pressure to deliver

Evolution of *your* EA rollout
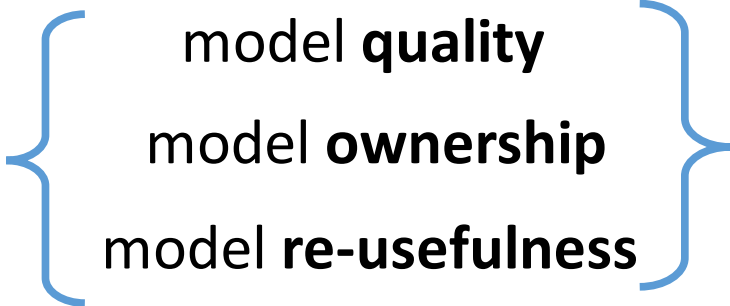
Keys to success

Being successful with EA doesn't stop with buying more licences. Organisations which make a difference using EA share some common approaches
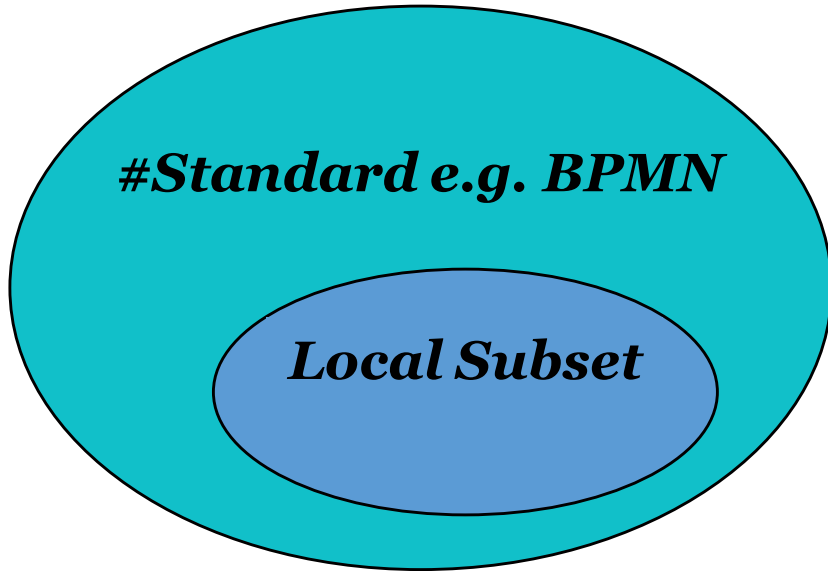
Approach

- Find a **senior manager** who is a believer

- Put
  - model **quality**
  - model **ownership**
  - model **re-usefulness**

  on some people's **job objectives**, and **measure it**

- Get a group of enthusiasts

- EA models = part of a process

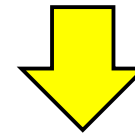- Sell it to the rest of the organisation – by proving it!

Success - 2

#Standard e.g. BPMN

Local Subset

"Aren't I clever – I can use ALL the (..)ML notation…."
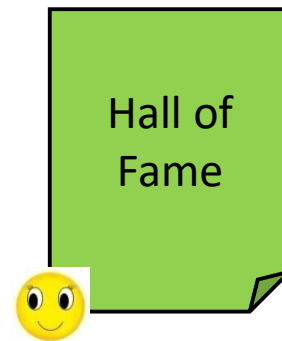
MML

Pick your subset
– forbid everything else
– ..but allow some users to experiment
- ..and DOCUMENT your decisions

Model Expert

Hall of Fame

Wall of Shame

Document best practice
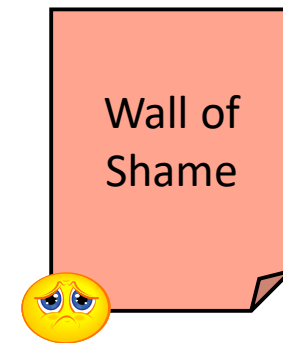
…and worst (anonymously)

Success - 3

Key to the Consistency of models, and the **trust** of potential re-users

- ## Structural standards
  - What kinds of 'things' and 'relationships between things' are allowed
  - Might be verifiable mechanically
    - Model validation rules, scripting, **Model**Expert
- ## Stylistic standards
  - E.g. 'how shall we write user stories',
  - 'what's a good style for Requirements'
  - What's a sensible way to draw diagrams?
  - Cannot be verified mechanically – wet-ware solution only

Success - 4

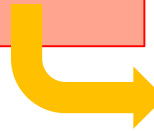## Create re-useful models

Avoid 'look at me' diagrams:
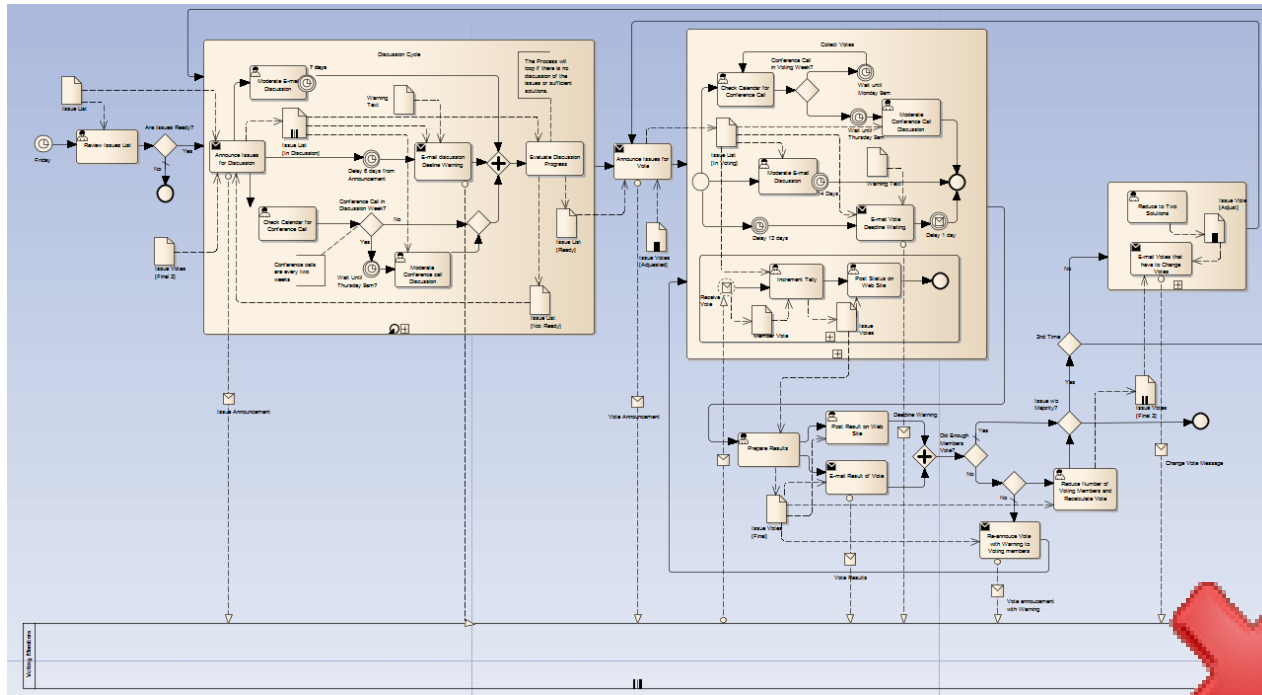
- Looks clever – isn't
- Usually means author can't/won't make into several smaller pictures
- Can't be printed => can't be re-used or reviewed without EA
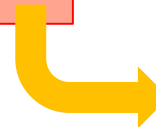- MAY be useful as a "working out" diagram – not for public consumption

Success - 5

The BIG PLAN

Develop a plan for doing everything in EA → Keep everyone on the same plan → Slow rollout, un-responsive to new discoveries

Let new teams do their own thing, but monitor them closely → Prove they can deliver, starting small, getting larger → Steady evolution of a common approach
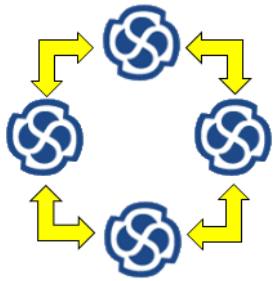
No plan for how to do stuff in EA → New teams have their own approaches → Can't combine into a single version of the truth

The Organic PLAN

Scaling

Pull existing knowledge into EA to make it more useful, faster

Scaling - 1

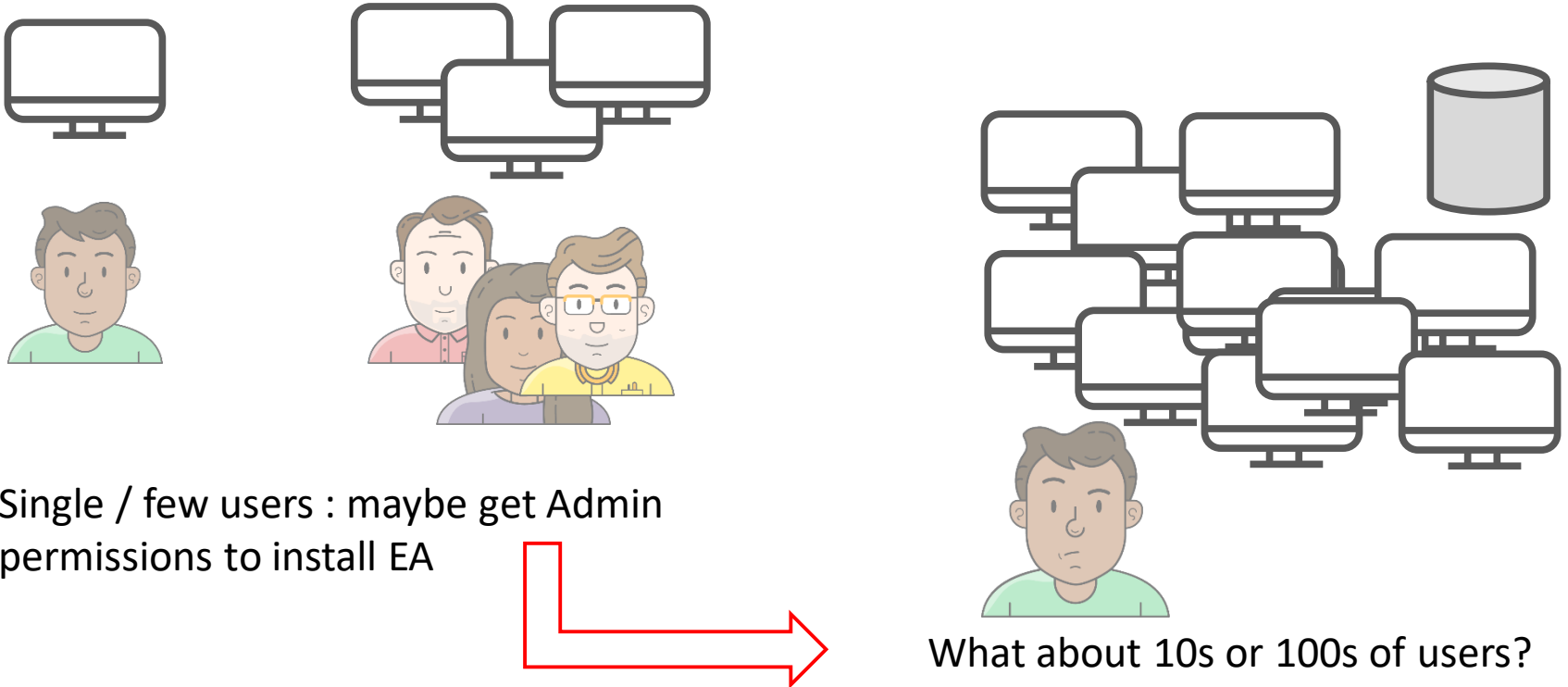EAPX   1

Shared EAPX   <5

Master Replica   <10

DBMS (+Cloud)   100s – 1000s

Federated Servers   ??

Full cloud deployment   ∞

Scaling - 2

Single / few users : maybe get Admin
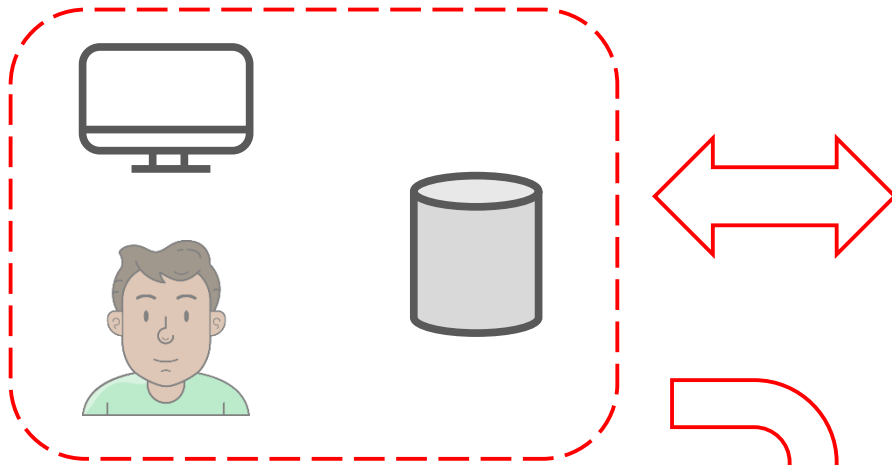permissions to install EA

What about 10s or 100s of users?

"A thick client solution in a browser world.."

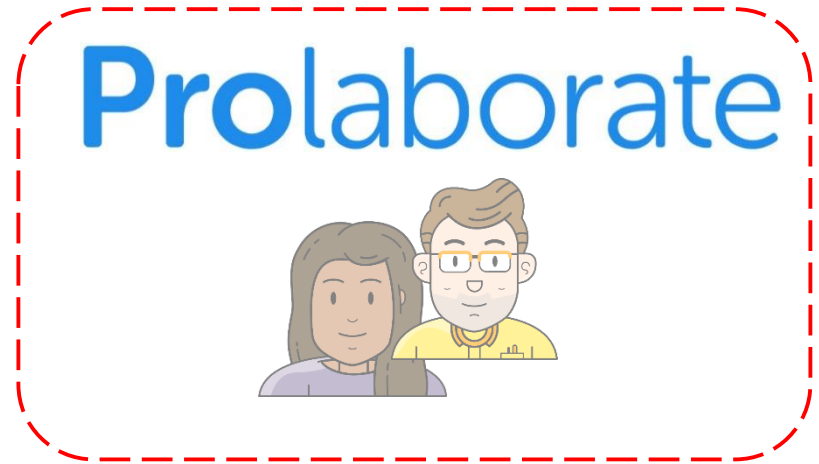(chief architect of multi-national, $MMM project)

Scaling - 3

Do all your knowledge community NEED EA on their desktop ?

...or would a web-based, read-mostly solution be easier/faster/better/cheaper ?

Prolaborate

...or if you MUST have documents, make them interactive
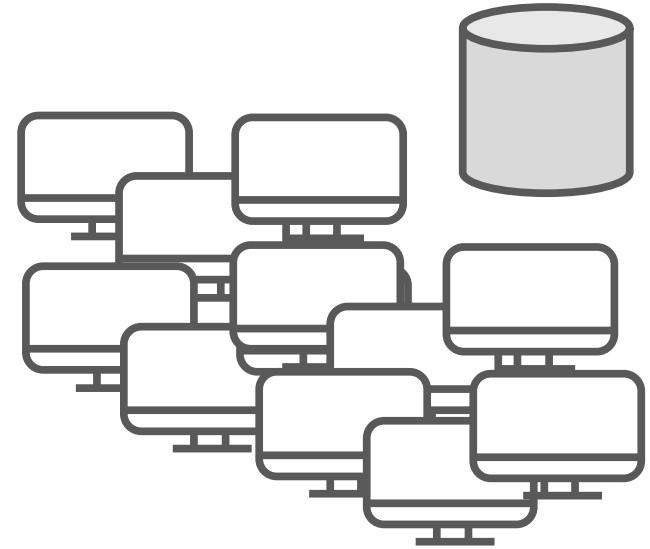
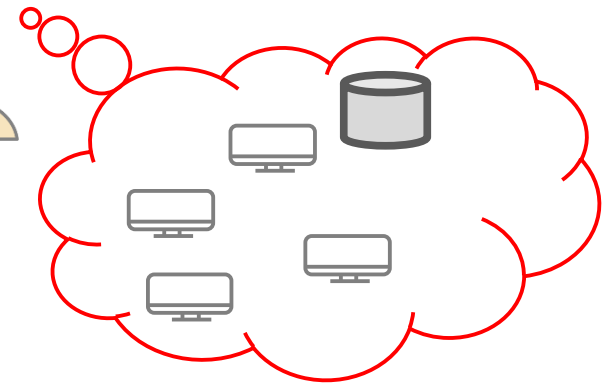**eaDocX** smart documents

Other web tools

Scaling - 4

Options

- Become friends with your IT desktop team
  - Still hard to install new versions of EA…
  - …Or addins

Cloud hosting

- Each EA user has their own VM
- Image can change – once, for everyone
- Allows easier updates to EA and addins
- Run offsite
- Maintained by experts

https://prolaborate.sparxsystems.com/enterprise-architect-models-on-cloud

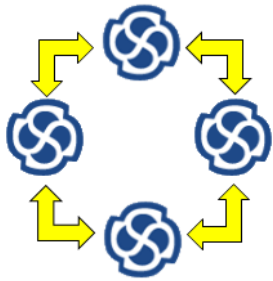https://www.mosaicisland.co.uk/

Scaling 5 – Simplify EA

"This new EA thing is really complicated…."

"OK, we can make it simpler"

- LOTS of ways that the EA user experience can be simplified
- Perspectives, MDGs, Model expert, removing menu options
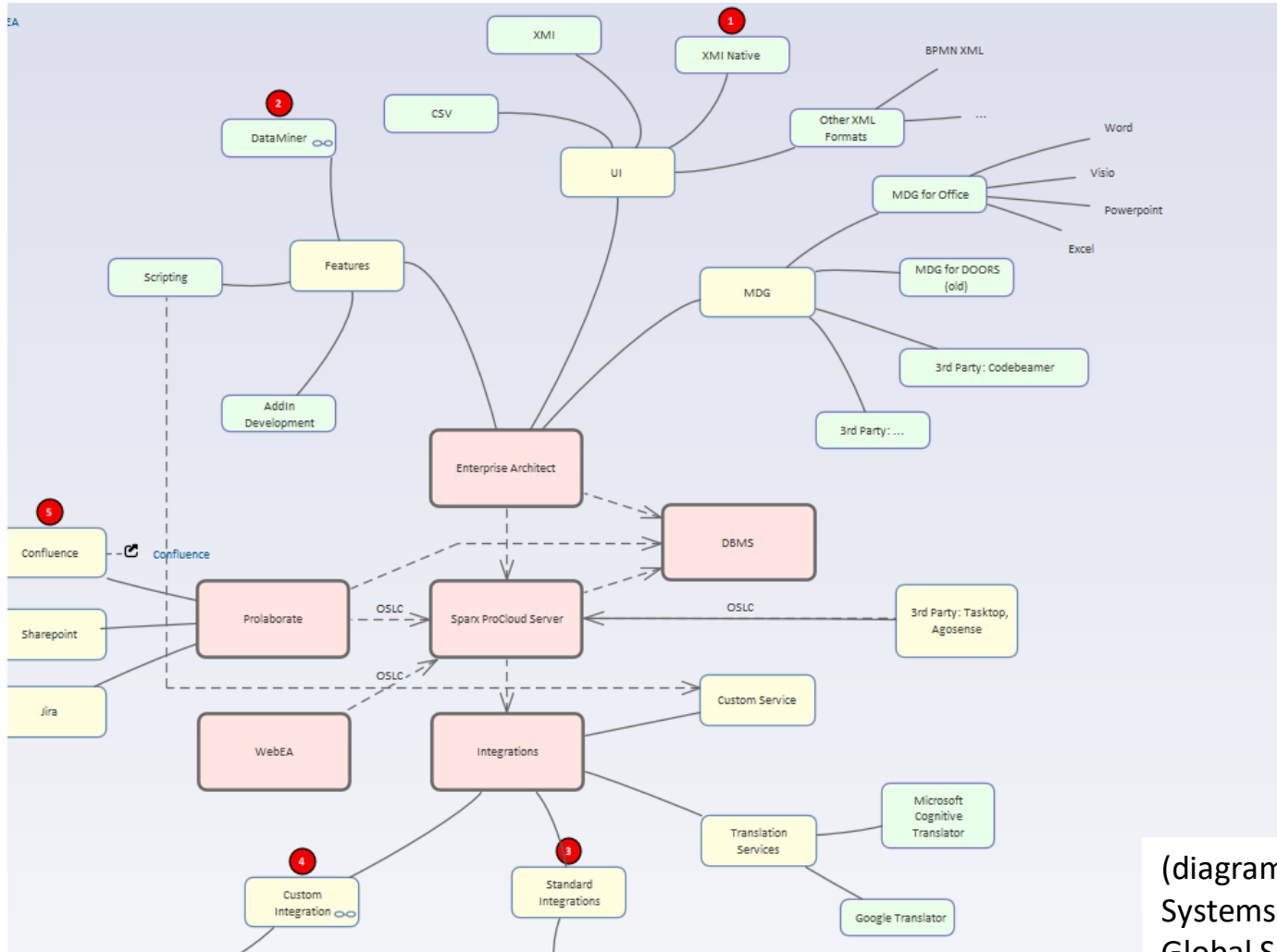- PLEASE do this – initial shock of EA can be an issue

Harvesting & Integrating

Pull existing knowledge into EA to make it more useful, faster

Harvesting & Integrations

(diagram from Peter Lieber, Sparx Systems Central Europe, in EA Global Summit 2020)
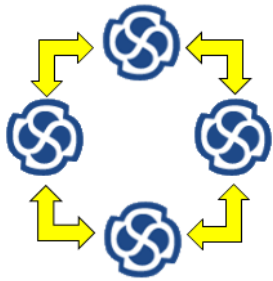
Harvesting - Where to start

- All kinds of data….
  - Requirements / solutions from previous projects
  - Standards – which new project might refer to
  - Test results
  - Settings from existing solutions (!)
  - Org charts
  - Project 'boilerplate' introductions
- …anything else you
  - know to be true and which
  - WILL be useful (not *might* be)

Harvesting & Integrations

- 2-way updates are harder, but MUCH more useful

- See Peter Lieber's talk on integrations
    - Via Pro Cloud Server to lots of tools
    - Via Prolaborate to lots more...

- Make sure data has an owner, a lifecycle, quality checking, and a <u>purpose</u>

Governance Approaches

If you're going to use a shared repository, you'll need to make sure everyone can play nicely together. And even re-use each other's knowledge. Here are some things to think about.

"Governance is BORING…

….until you spend all week making some changes, then find you started from the wrong place…"

Governance - 1

LOTS   LITTLE

Amount of knowledge sharing

Examples:
- Designs based on an existing Architecture
- Processes using other processes

$$aModel \neq bModel$$

Examples:
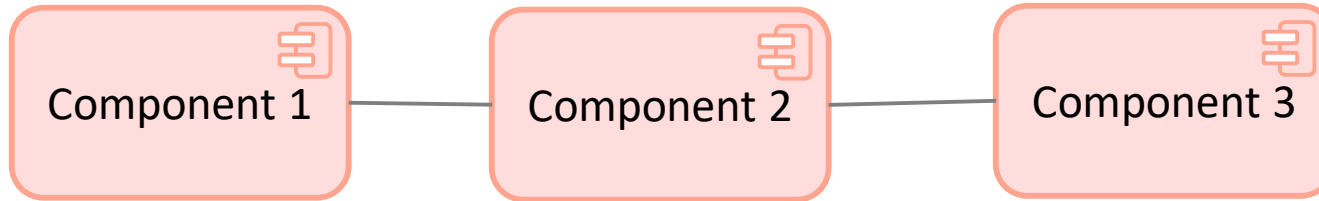- New requirements gathering
- New user stories

Governance:
- Very strict – adding to the architecture is a big deal (steady state)
- Instance approach?

Governance:
- Style & structure only
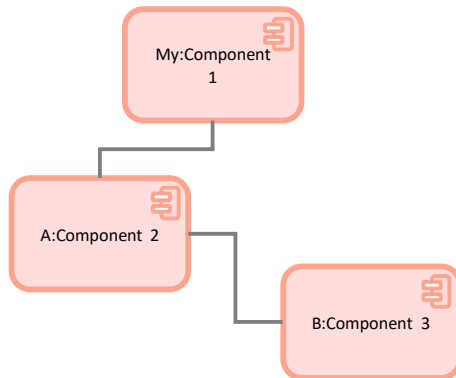
Instance-based team working

Component 1 — Component 2 — Component 3

Our Architecture – read-mostly, updates tightly controlled

My Project

Dynamic design

Static design

My:Component 1

A:Component 2

B:Component 3

My:Component 1

A:Component 2

B:Component 3

* New operation on existing component

Write-mostly modelling

Project A

Project B

Project C
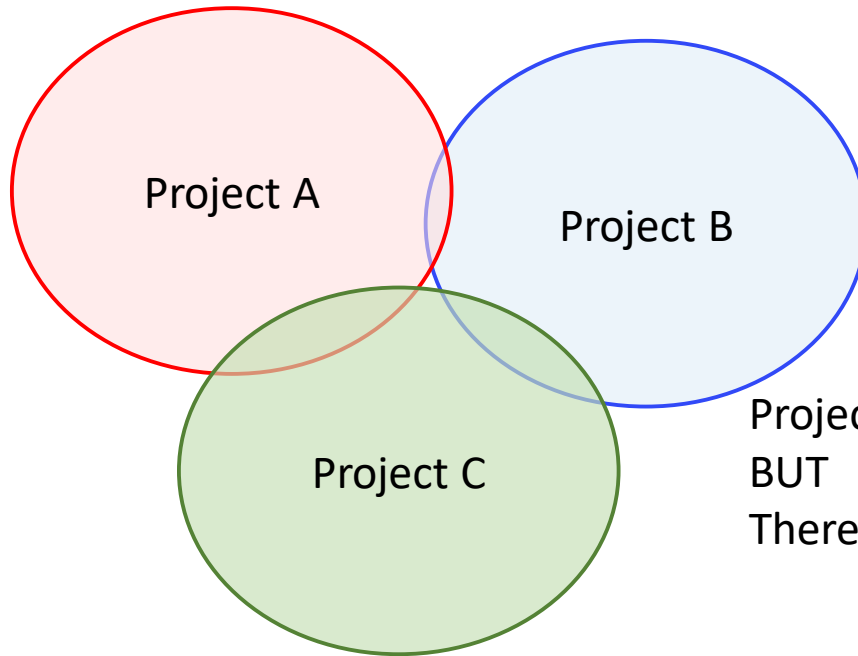
Projects are mostly creating new stuff
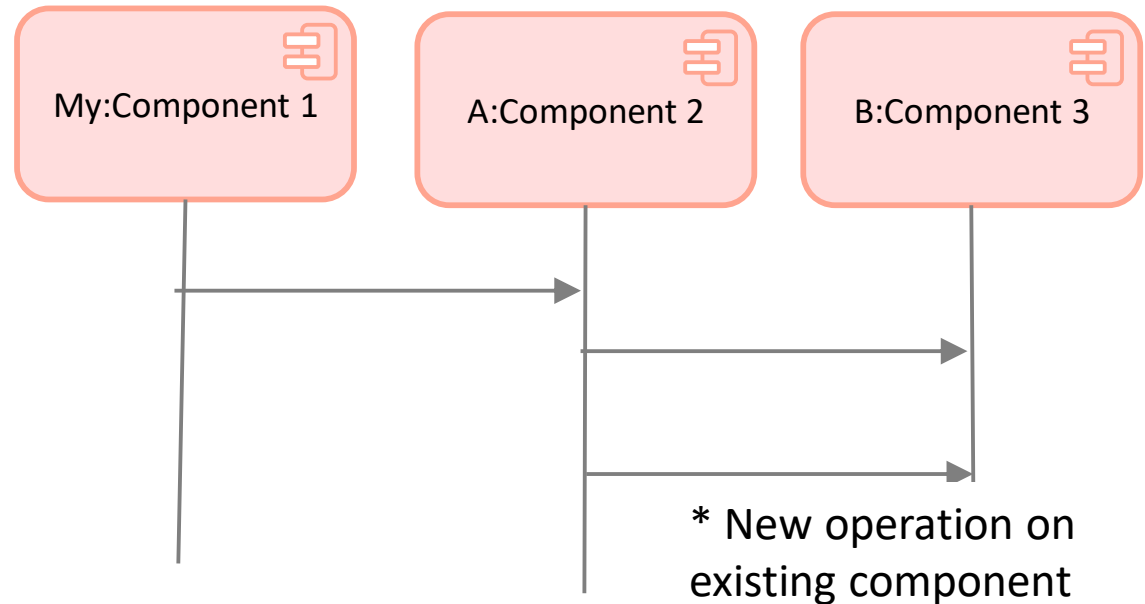
Write-mostly modelling

Projects are mostly creating new stuff
BUT
There will usually be overlaps:

- Processes use common organisation roles
- Requirements have common stakeholders
- …etc…

Write-mostly modelling

Project A
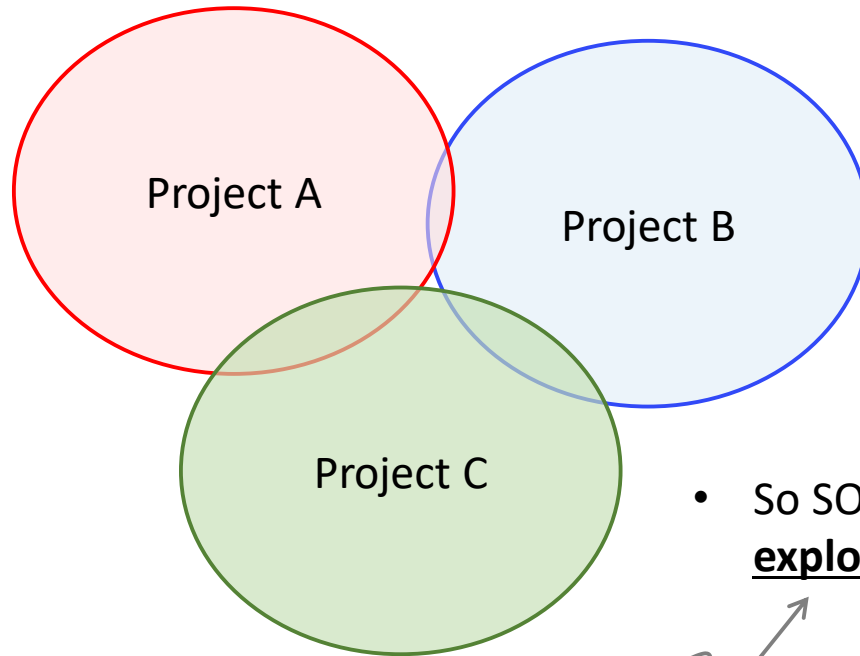
Project B

Project C

- So SOME governance will still be needed to **exploit** overlaps

  - Can be lightweight

Same stakeholder having requirements in different projects is a useful thing to know. Try to find-out that using Visio…

Governance – 3 – Best time to fix

- Fixing AFTER modelling has finished is bad and hard
  - BAD – team may already have got it wrong
  - HARD – what were they really trying to do?
  - HARD – who pays ?

- Fixing in-flight is also hard – but not so much
  - Need to understand the rules before they start
  - Apply rules as they model: MDG, Profiles, Model Expert etc
  - Check before they are complete
    - Model Expert, and ….

Summary

Approach
- Get a senior sponsor
- Make use of EA part of a process

Scaling
- Lots of options
- If you are serious, look at remote hosting

Harvesting
- Do some – fill our model with interesting stuff
- Lots of technical options

Governance
- Pick an approach which suits your modelling
- Fix sooner, not later

I'm available to help your team.
See
Remote mentoring from Ability Engineering

ability engineering ltd
Training, Consulting and Mentoring

EA and UML training, remote support & mentoring

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- eaModelExpert.com