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Software Specifications

TU Darmstadt,
13.11.2015,
Guido Schuh

People matter, results count.

Agenda

- Why do we need software specification?
- Software specification in an agile context
- Software – then and now
- What does software specification look like?

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- **Why do we need software specification?**
- Software specification in an agile context
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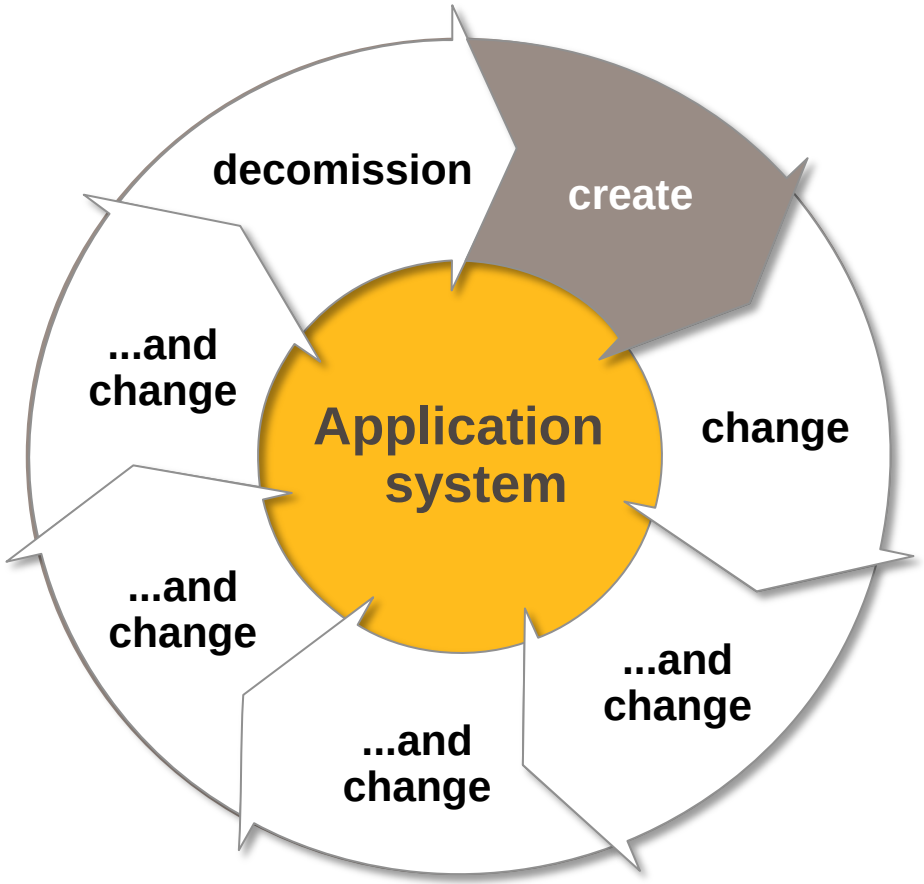
Business-critical application systems are operated and maintained for a long time



Specifications enable good system design and maintenance

New systems and changes can be described prior to implementation

- Basis for customer communications
- customer "sees" his system, even before it is built
- Reduces the risk of "building the wrong system"
- Reduces the risk of incomplete changes during maintenance

Goals of the software specification

The software specification describes an application system …

Comprehensive enough for customer

Detailed enough for developer

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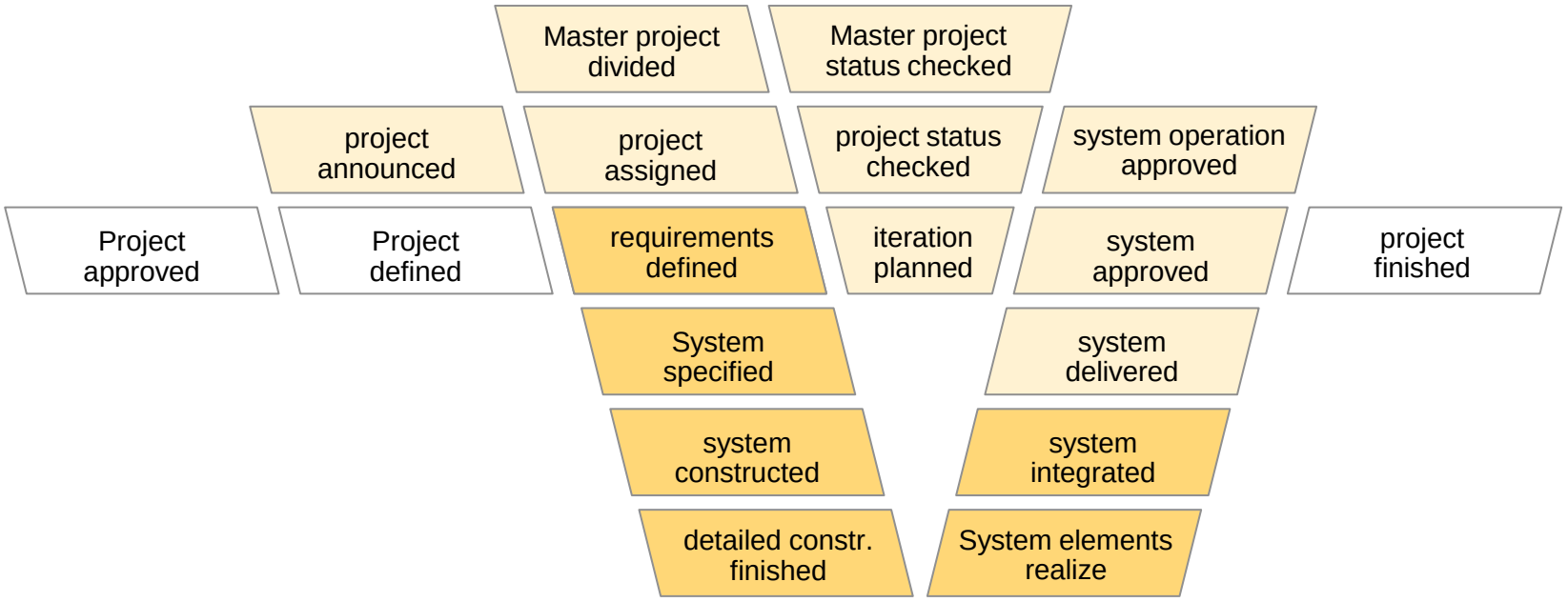
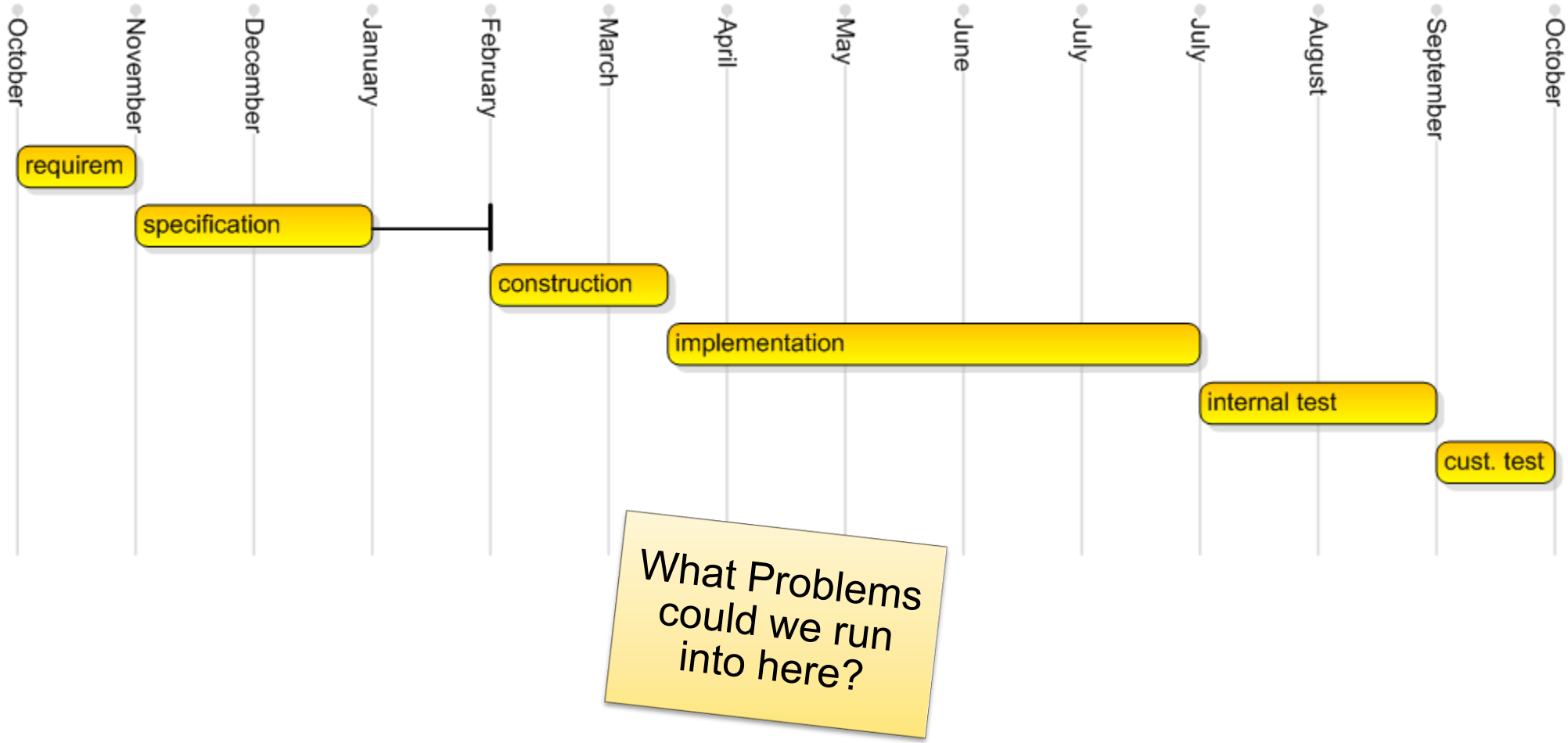
V-Modell XT: for waterfall projects AND iterative projects



Legende:

general management
project management
software development

The project plan we dream of in a waterfall model



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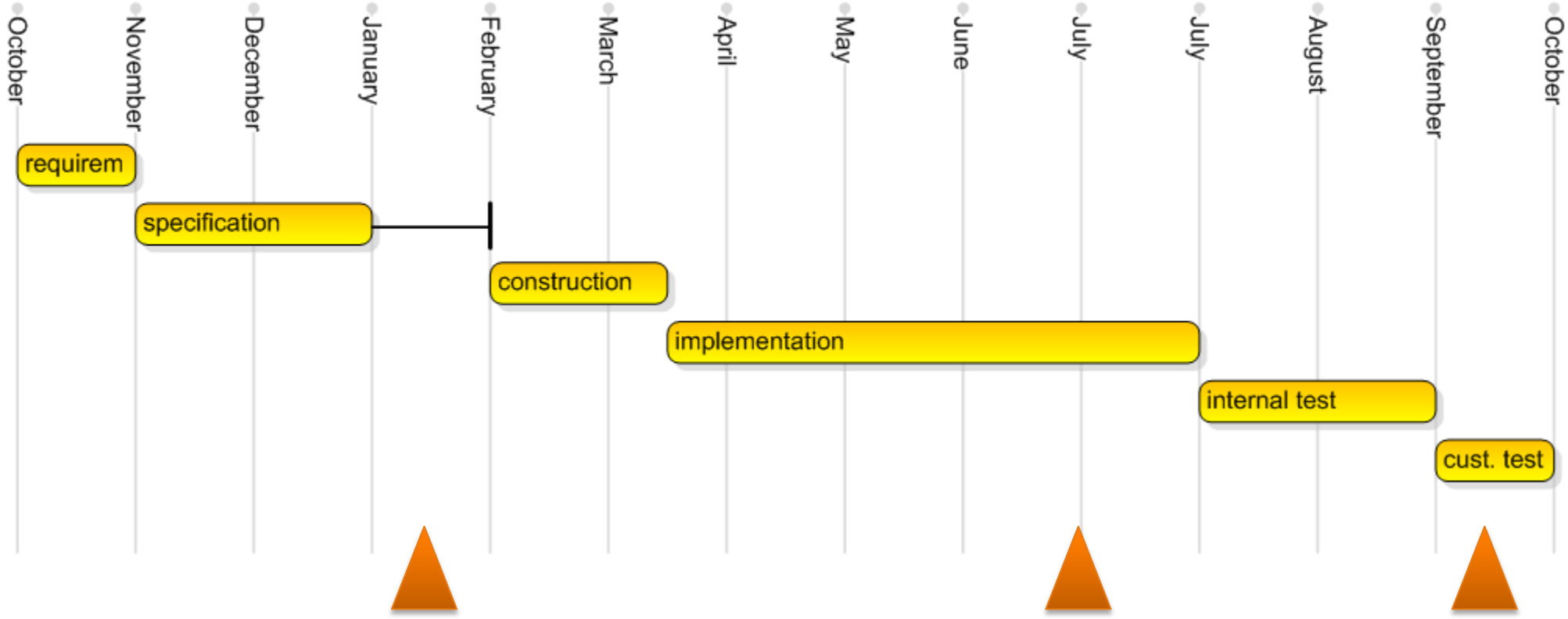
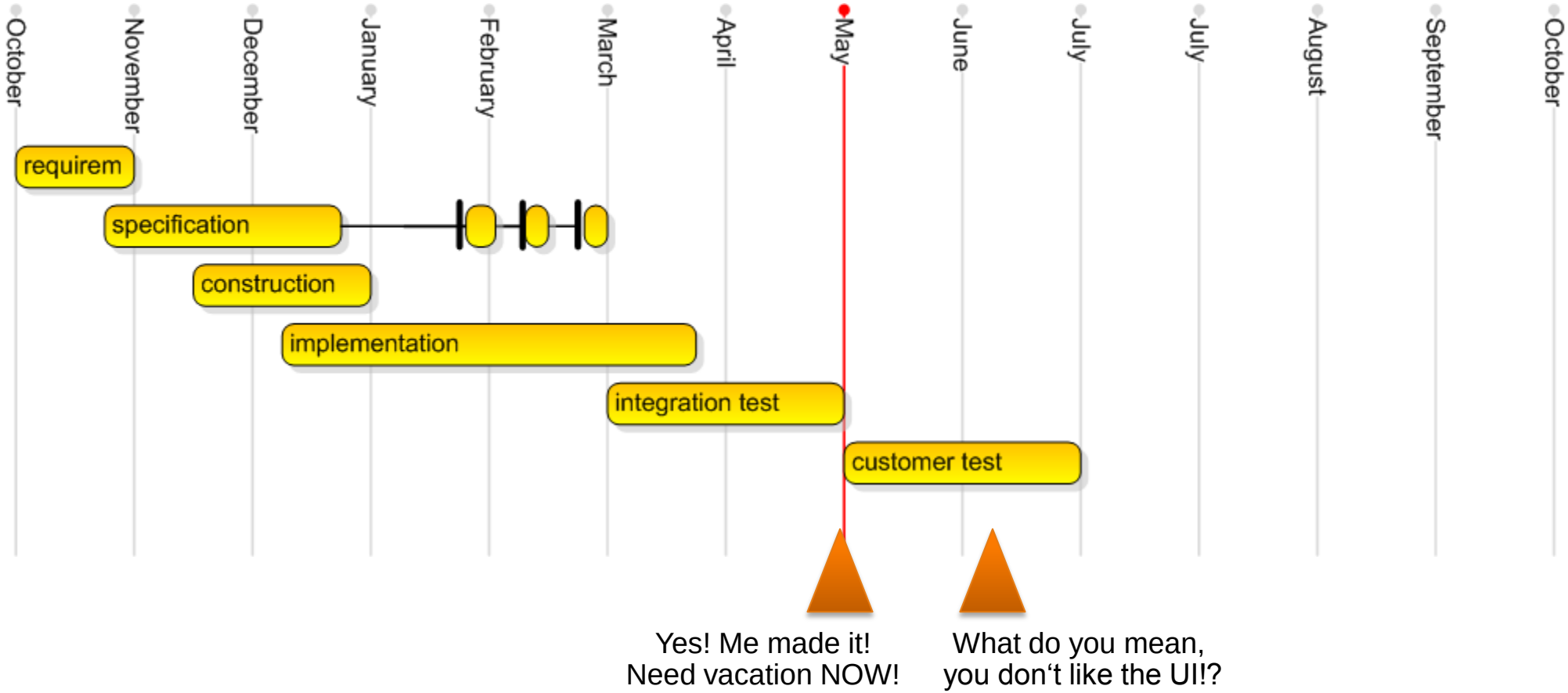


And you can be sure that some requirements change during implementation!

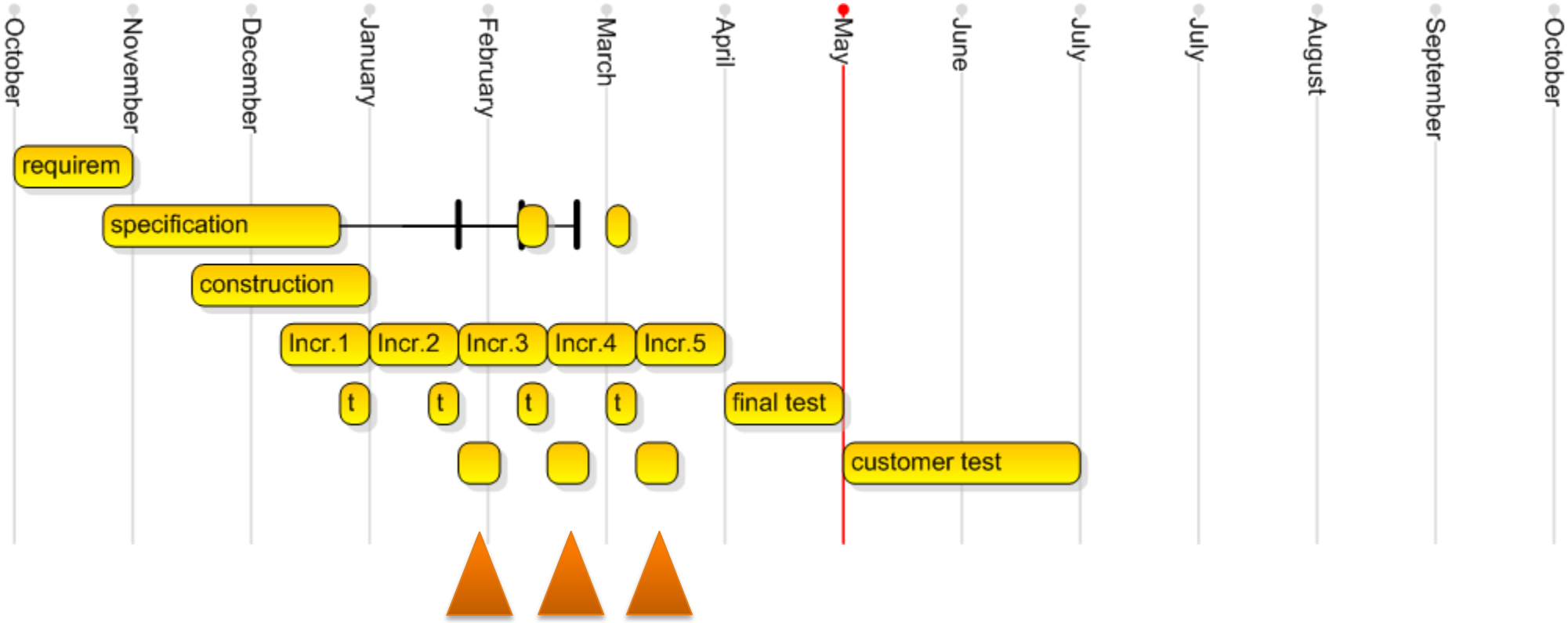
Wake up, we‘re going live at the end of July!!!

And the customer needs more time to test!

The usual project plan in a waterfall model

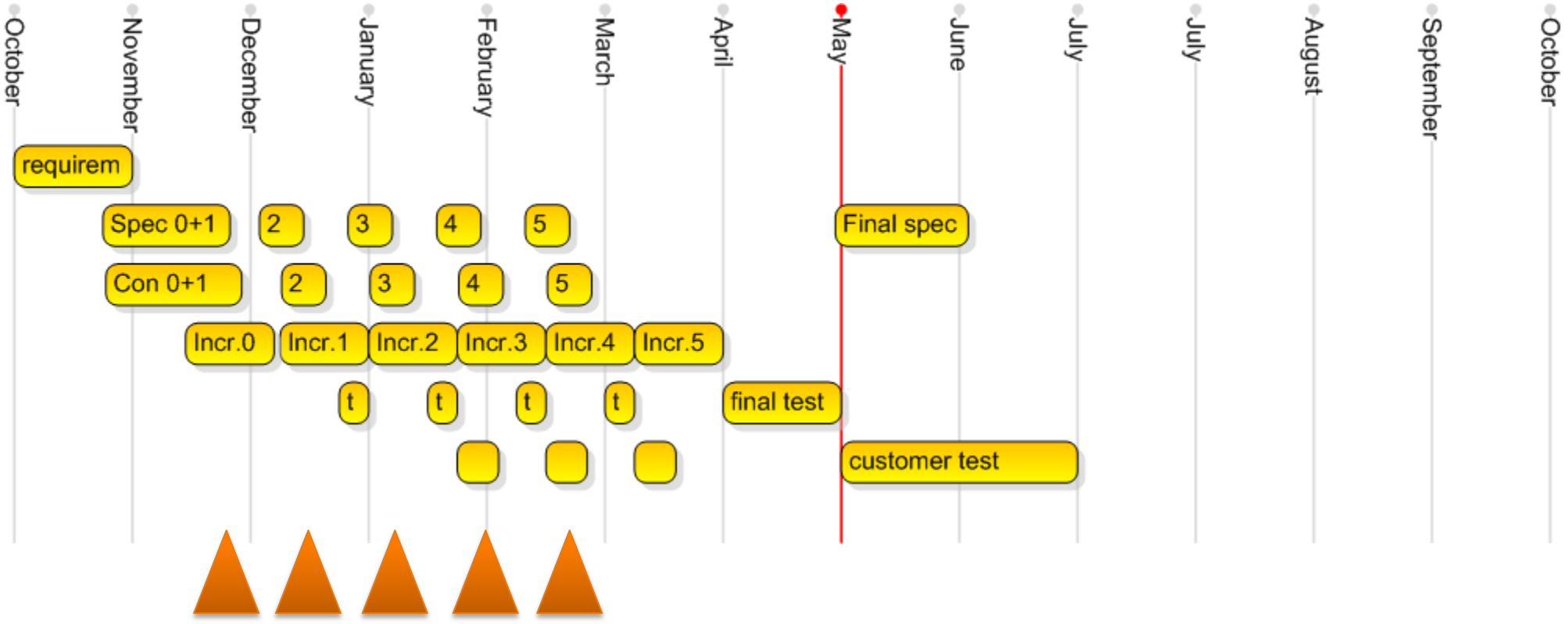


Incremental implementation



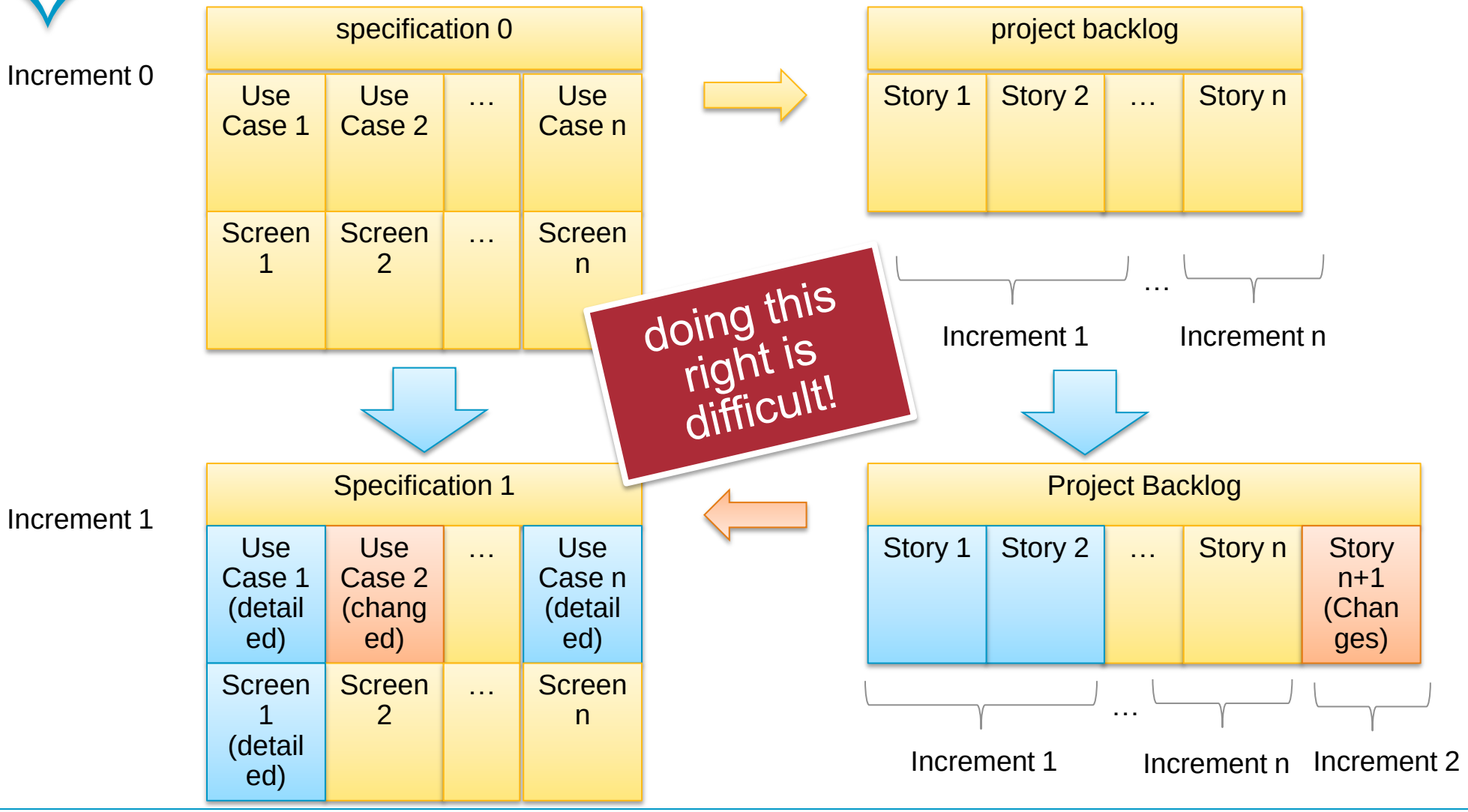
Customer, take a look at what we‘ve got and give us feedback!

Incremental specification, construction and implementation



Customer, take a
look at the current state
of the specificaton

specification vs. project backlog



specification vs. project backlog

Typical agile projects don‘t do specification

But we need to enable long-term maintenance

Microsoft Word as a tool feels outdated here!

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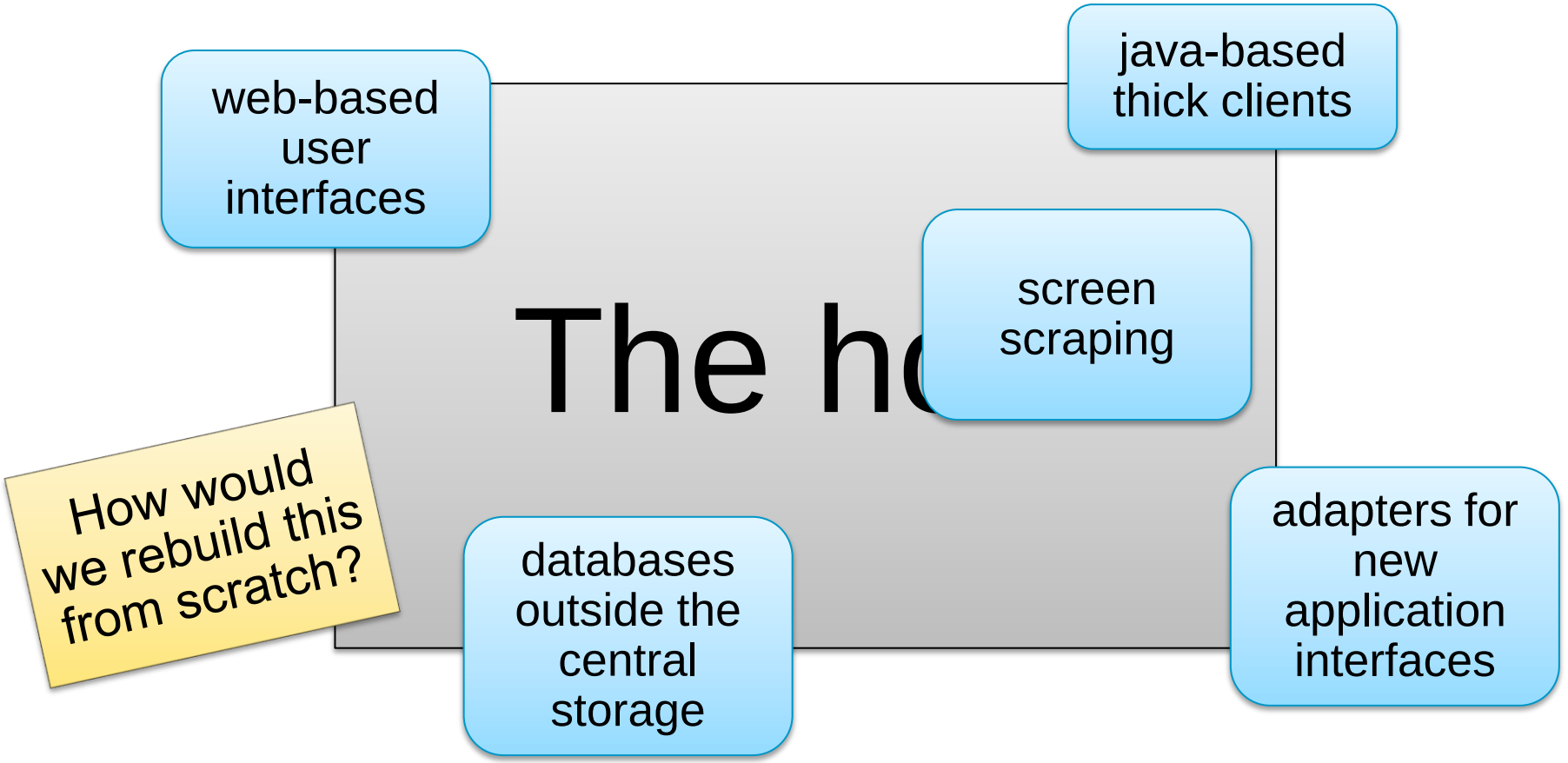
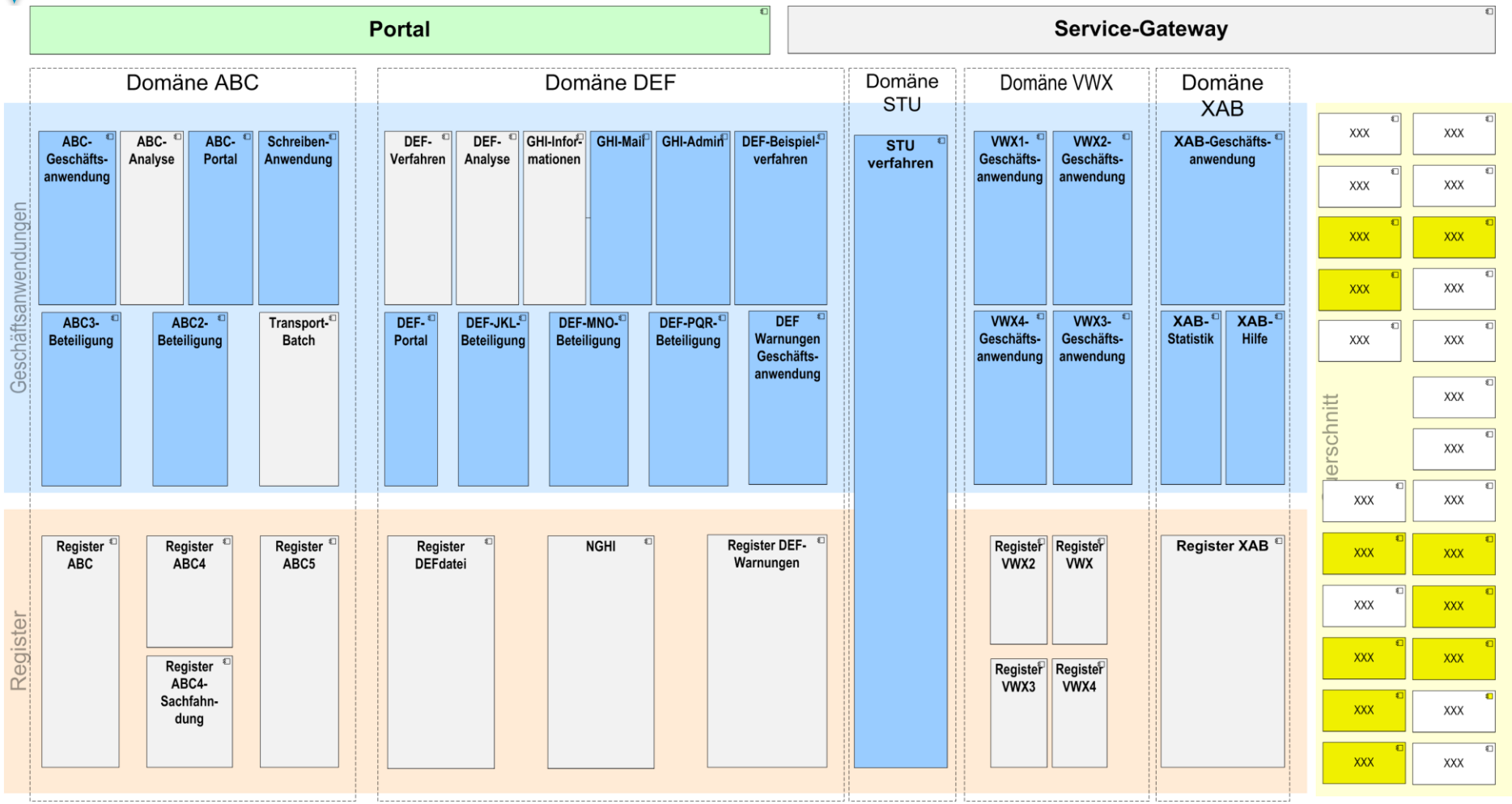
What software looked like in the 80s

The same software 20 years later



a more modern approach:
a network of independent applications



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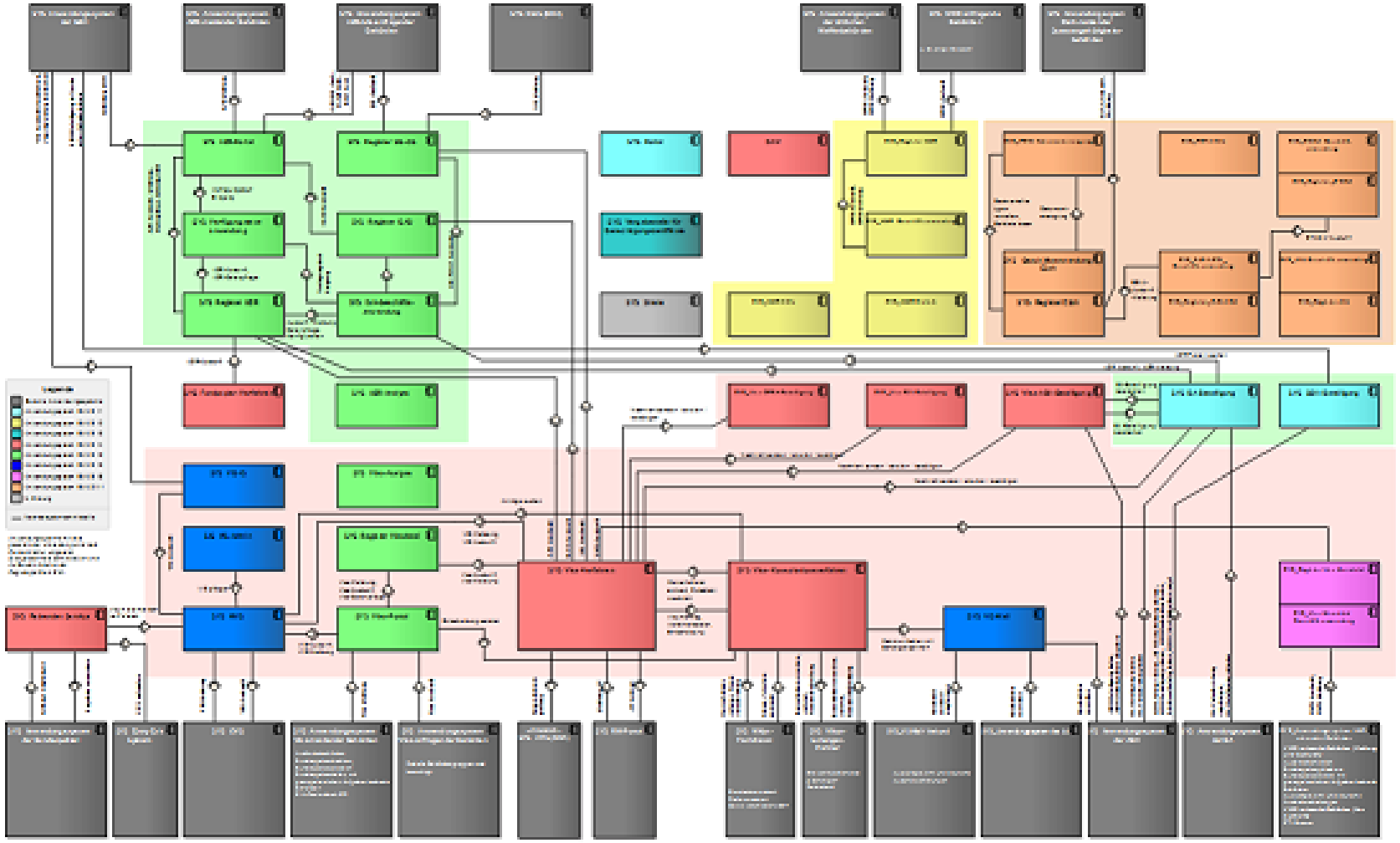

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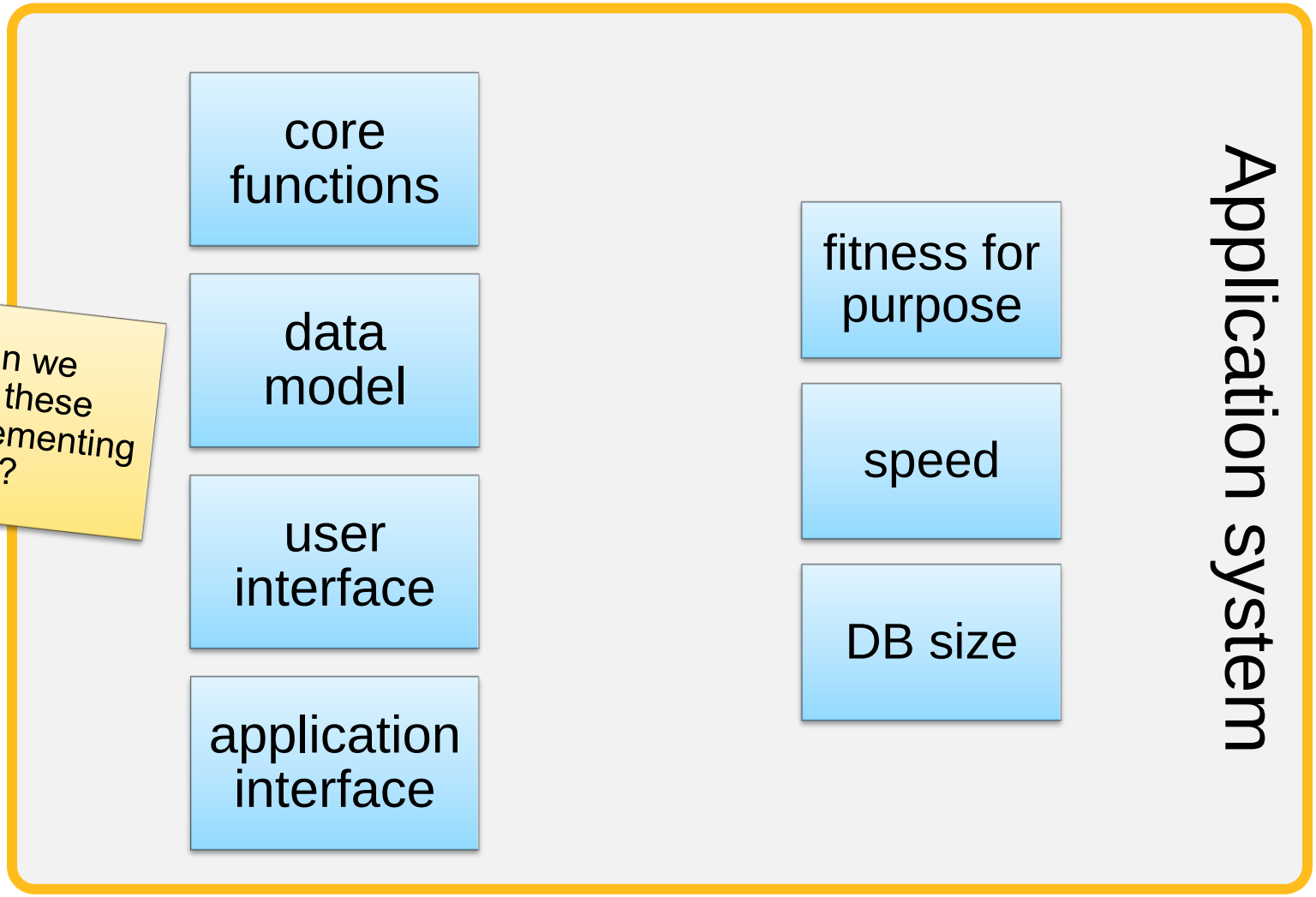
Parts of an application system

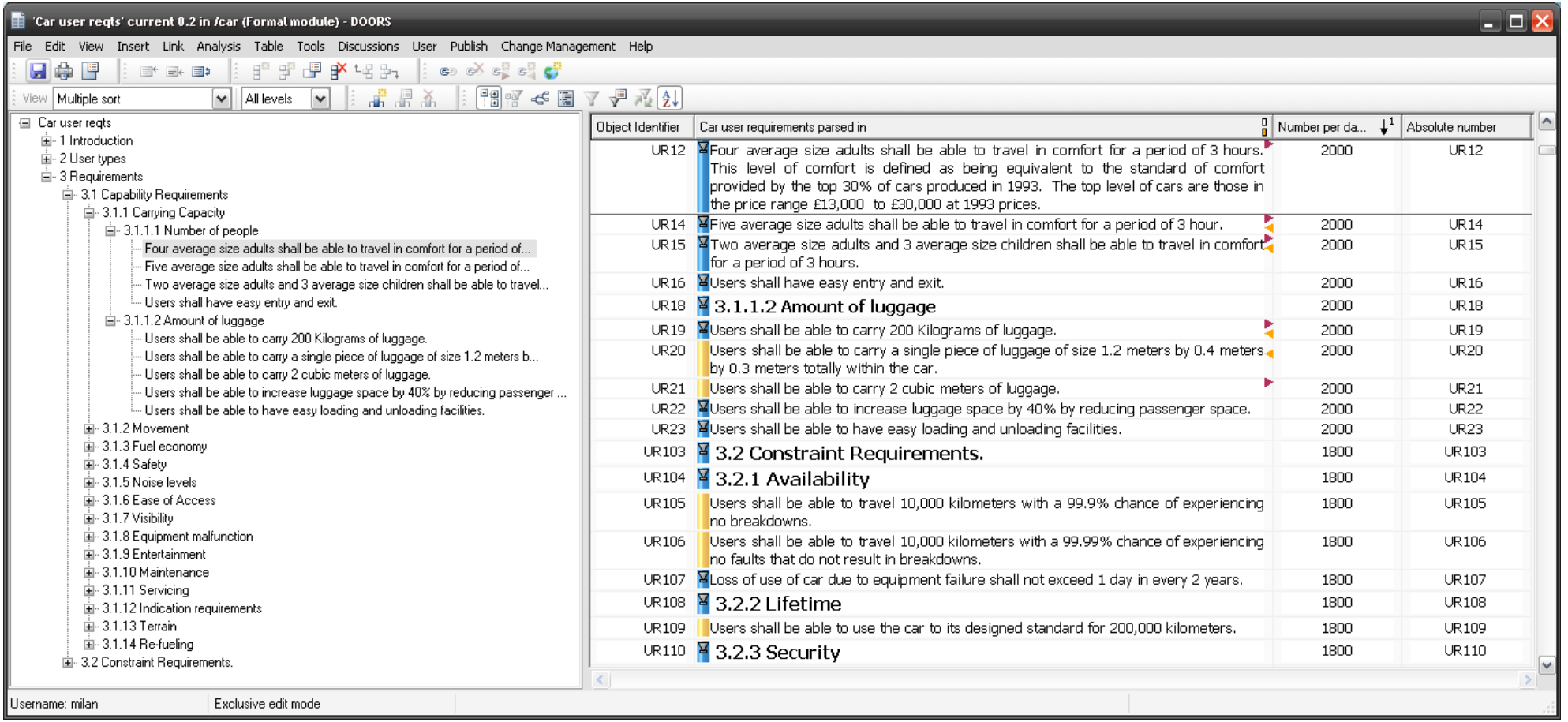


How can we describe these before implementing them?

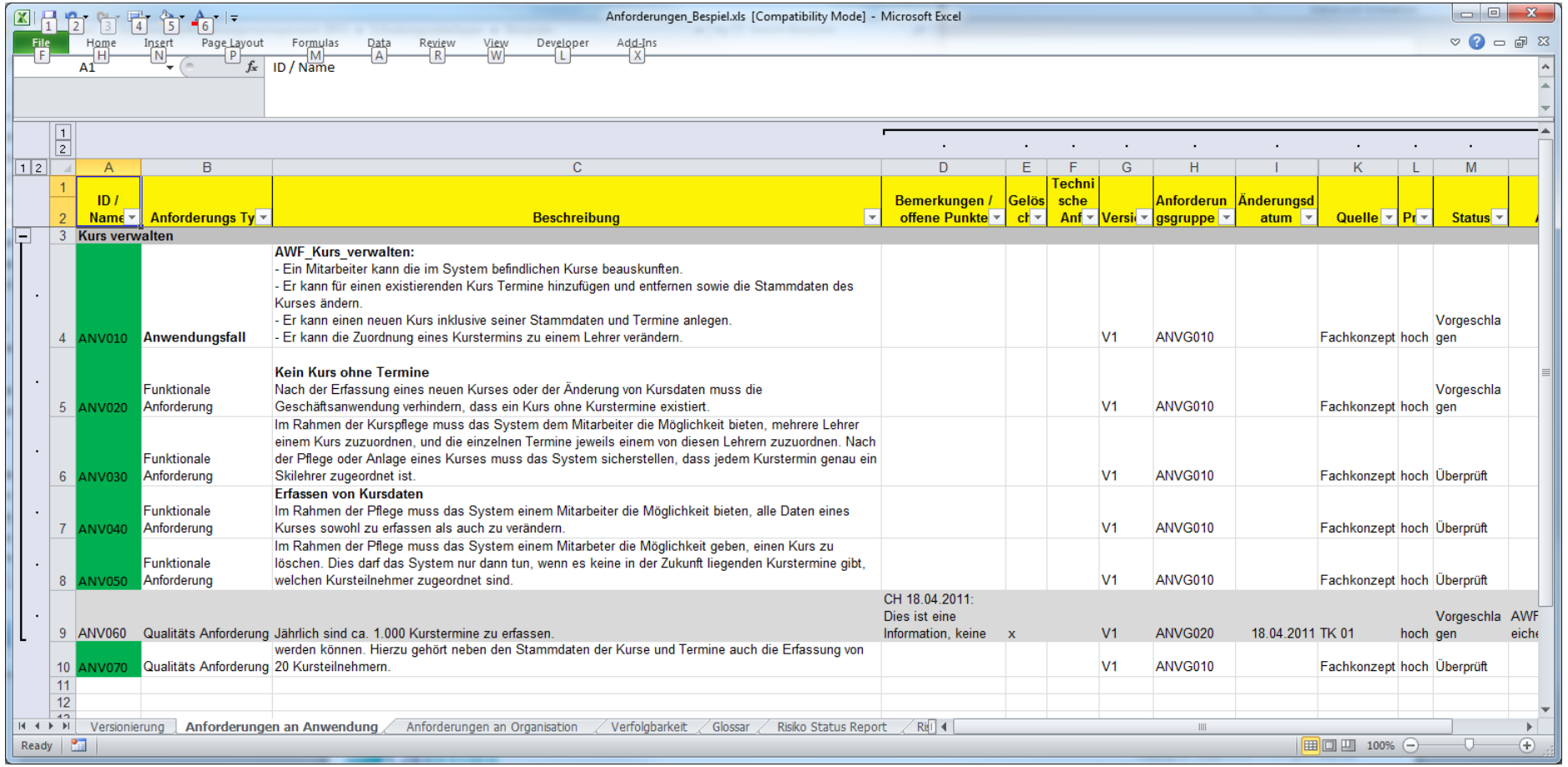
How can we describe these?

Description using…	Methods	Focus
• Pseudocode • unstructured Plaintext • Structured plaintext • UML-modelling • Screen prototyping	• Model-driven development • Rational unified process (use cases) • Agile / scrum (user stories)	• On core functions • On application interface • On user interface • On data?

Requirements + Specification in IBM Rational Doors



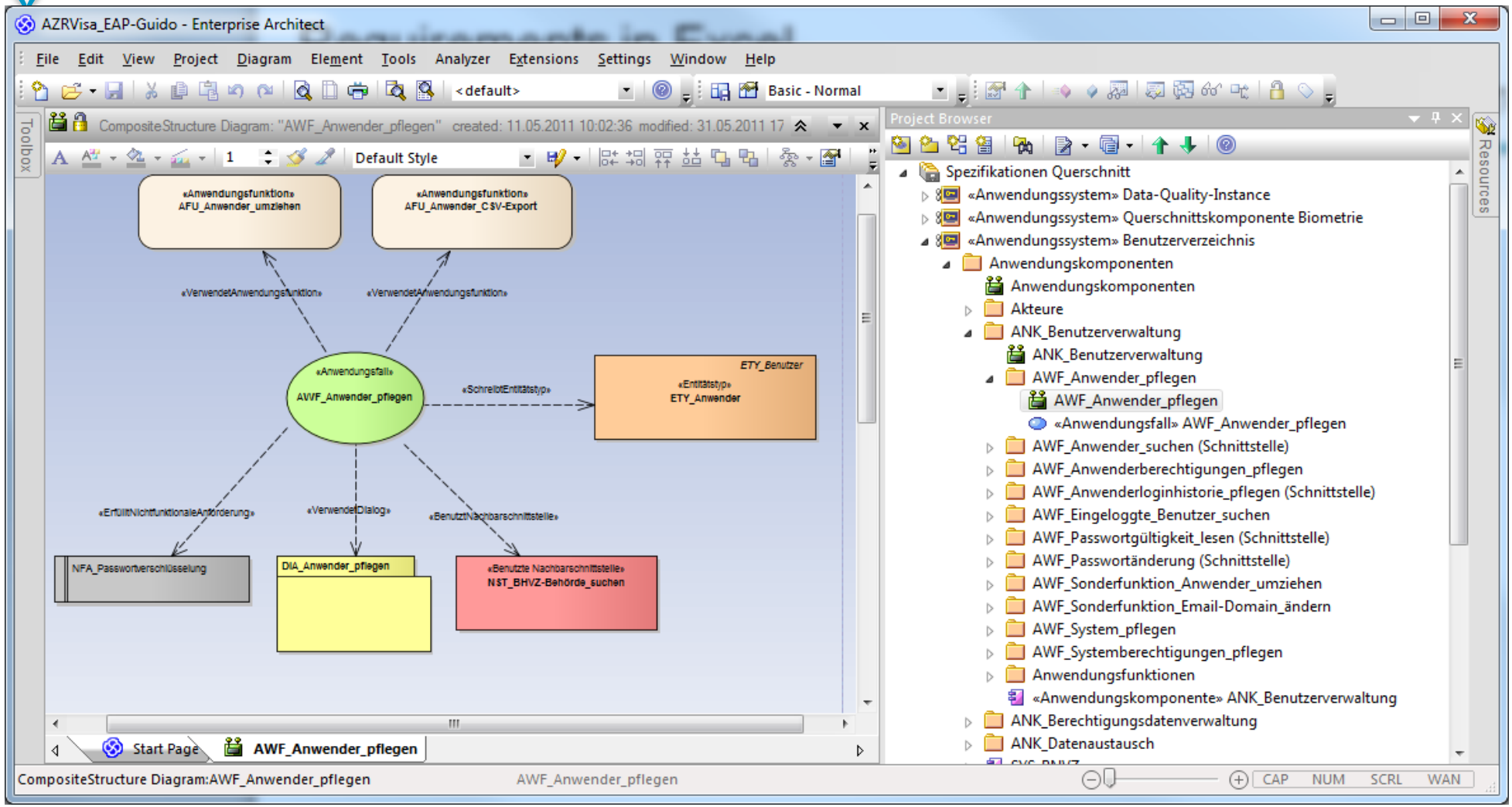
Requirements in Excel, Specification in Sparx Enterprise Architect and MS Word



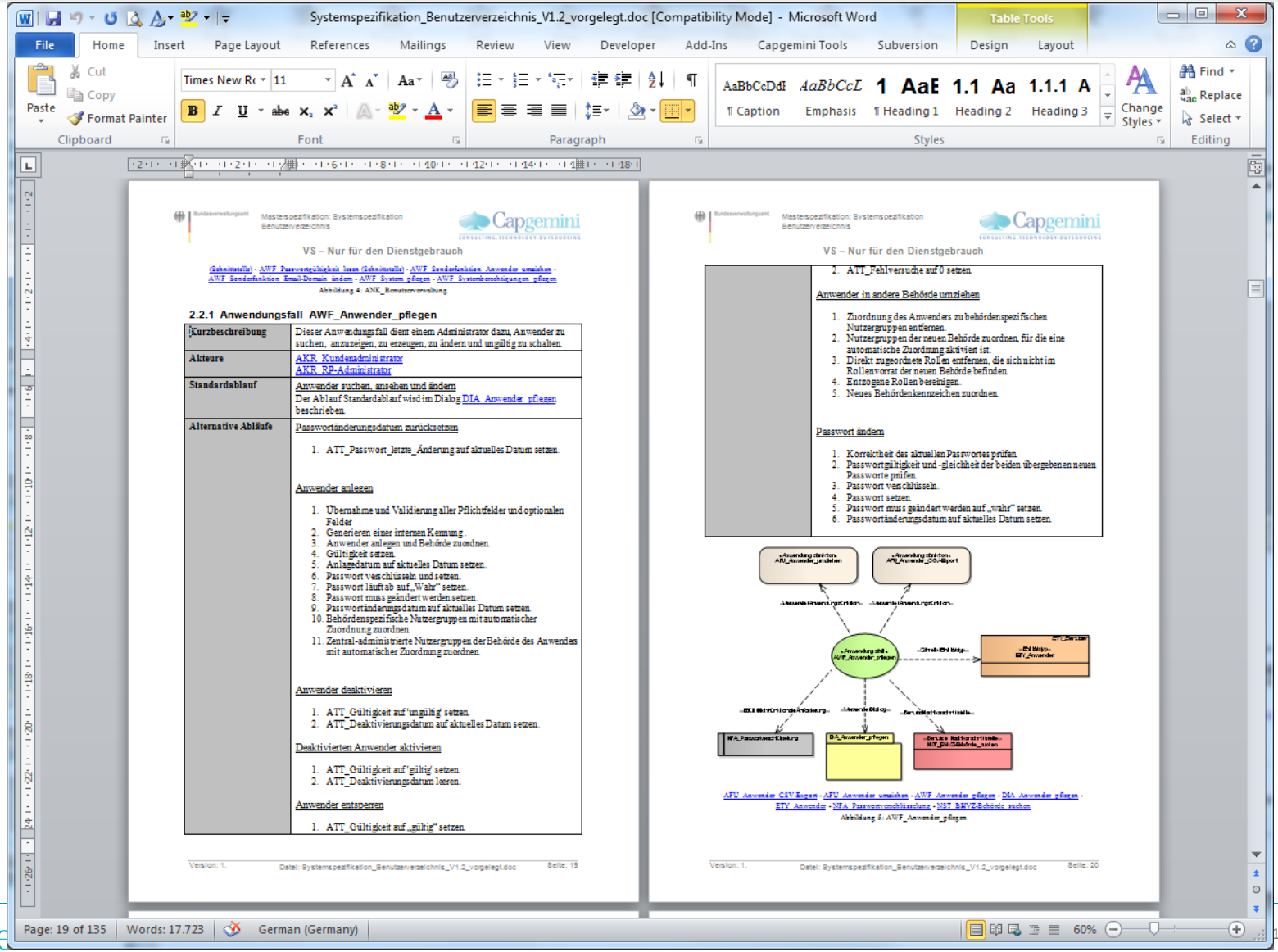
Anforderungen_Bespiel.xls [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel

ID / Name	Anforderungs Ty	Beschreibung	Bemerkungen / offene Punkte	Gelös ch	Techni sche Anf	Versi	Anforderungsgruppe	Änderungsdatum	Quelle	Pr	Status
Kurs verwalten											
ANV010	**Anwendungsfall**	**AWF_Kurs_verwalten:** - Ein Mitarbeiter kann die im System befindlichen Kurse beauskunften. - Er kann für einen existierenden Kurs Termine hinzufügen und entfernen sowie die Stammdaten des Kurses ändern. - Er kann einen neuen Kurs inklusive seiner Stammdaten und Termine anlegen. - Er kann die Zuordnung eines Kurstermins zu einem Lehrer verändern.				V1	ANVG010		Fachkonzept	hoch	Vorgeschlagen
ANV020	Funktionale Anforderung	**Kein Kurs ohne Termine** Nach der Erfassung eines neuen Kurses oder der Änderung von Kursdaten muss die Geschäftsanwendung verhindern, dass ein Kurs ohne Kurstermine existiert.				V1	ANVG010		Fachkonzept	hoch	Vorgeschlagen
ANV030	Funktionale Anforderung	Im Rahmen der Kurspflege muss das System dem Mitarbeiter die Möglichkeit bieten, mehrere Lehrer einem Kurs zuzuordnen, und die einzelnen Termine jeweils einem von diesen Lehrern zuzuordnen. Nach der Pflege oder Anlage eines Kurses muss das System sicherstellen, dass jedem Kurstermin genau ein Skilehrer zugeordnet ist.				V1	ANVG010		Fachkonzept	hoch	Überprüft
ANV040	Funktionale Anforderung	**Erfassen von Kursdaten** Im Rahmen der Pflege muss das System einem Mitarbeiter die Möglichkeit bieten, alle Daten eines Kurses sowohl zu erfassen als auch zu verändern.				V1	ANVG010		Fachkonzept	hoch	Überprüft
ANV050	Funktionale Anforderung	Im Rahmen der Pflege muss das System einem Mitarbeter die Möglichkeit geben, einen Kurs zu löschen. Dies darf das System nur dann tun, wenn es keine in der Zukunft liegenden Kurstermine gibt, welchen Kursteilnehmer zugeordnet sind.				V1	ANVG010		Fachkonzept	hoch	Überprüft
ANV060	Qualitäts Anforderung	Jährlich sind ca. 1.000 Kurstermine zu erfassen.	CH 18.04.2011: Dies ist eine Information, keine	x		V1	ANVG020	18.04.2011	TK 01	hoch	Vorgeschlagen	AWF eiche
ANV070	Qualitäts Anforderung	werden können. Hierzu gehört neben den Stammdaten der Kurse und Termine auch die Erfassung von 20 Kursteilnehmern.				V1	ANVG010		Fachkonzept	hoch	Überprüft

Requirements in Excel, Specification in Sparx Enterprise Architect and MS Word



Requirements in Excel, Specification in Sparx Enterprise Architect and MS Word



Requirements, tests, bugs, user stories in Bugtracking tool, Specification in a powerful Wiki

Idea: web based solution	Enables deep linking btw. all kinds of artifacts	Needs explicit versioning and branches
Use changes btw. versions	Difficult: Longform text editing in wiki source	Difficult: UML design in same versioning system as wiki text!?

Which is the right toolchain for our project?

customer standards

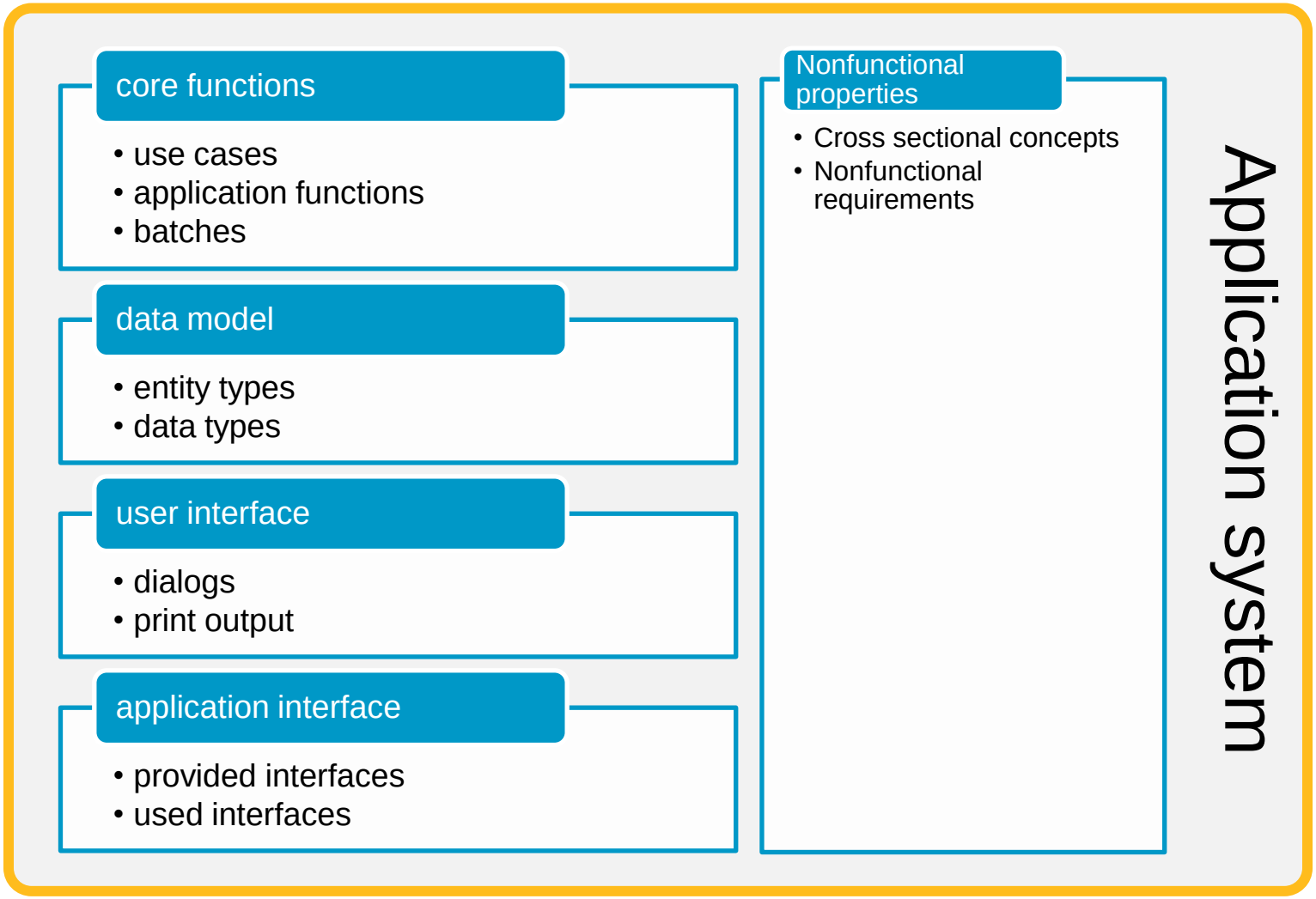
team know how

project size

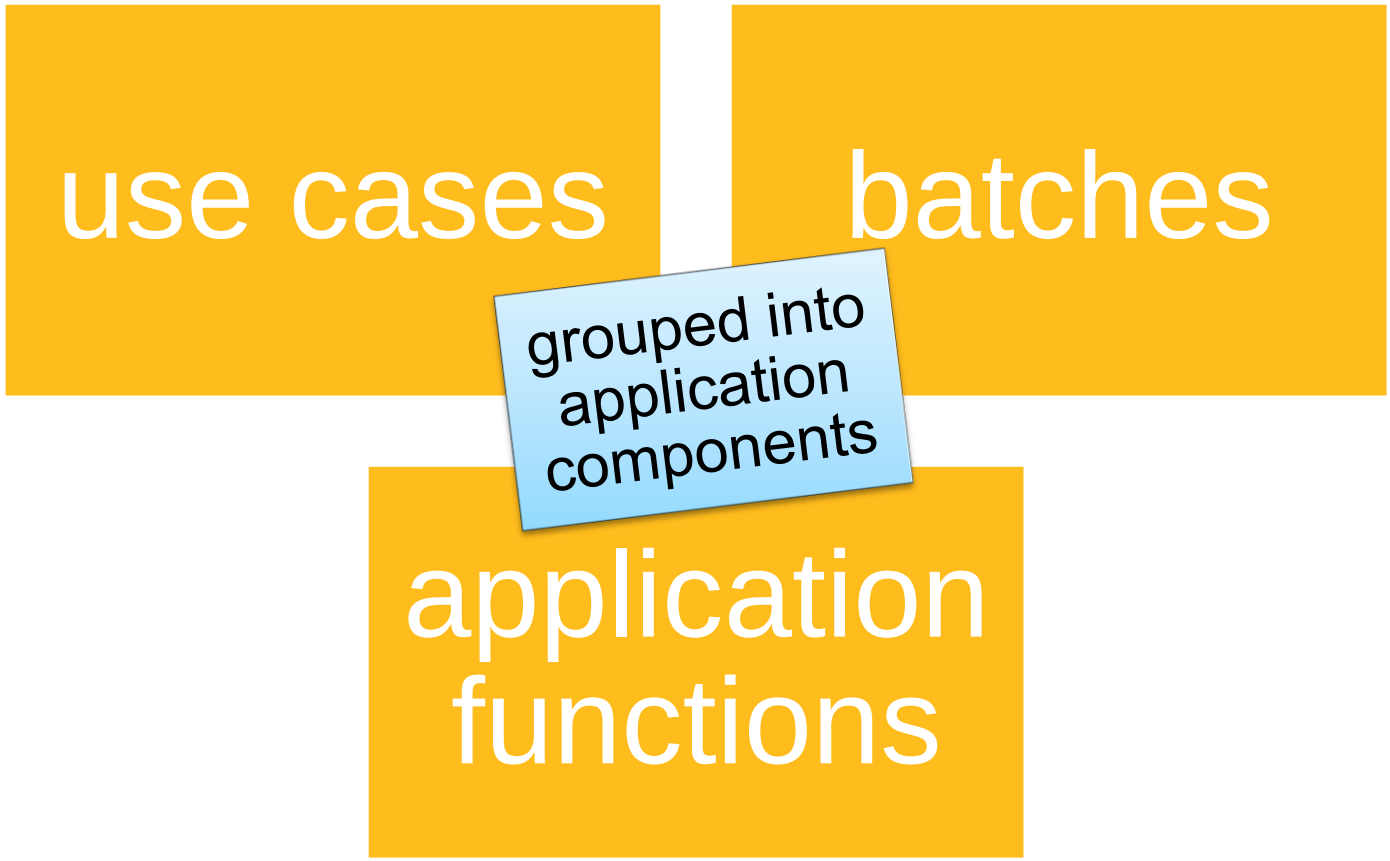
licence fees

…

Parts of an application system: Using the Capgemini specification method



The system‘s core functions

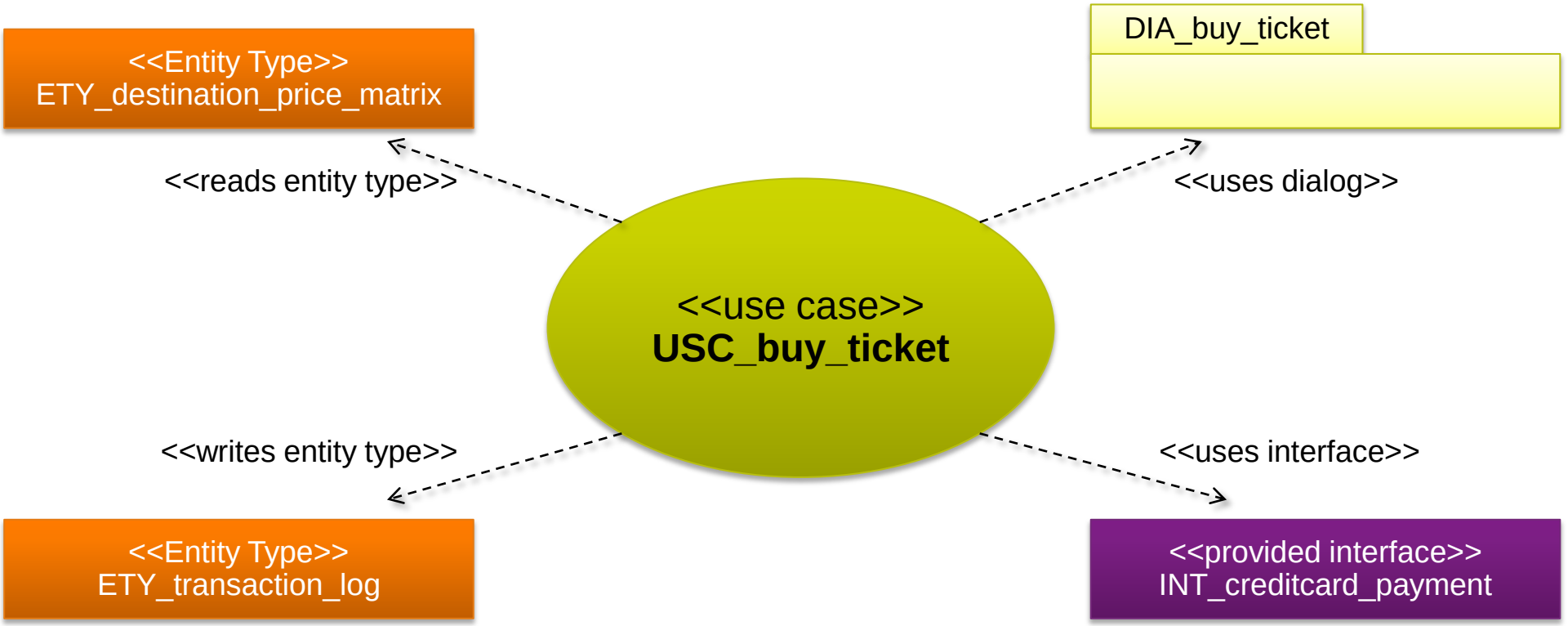


A use case describes a core functionality of the application system as a sequence of steps

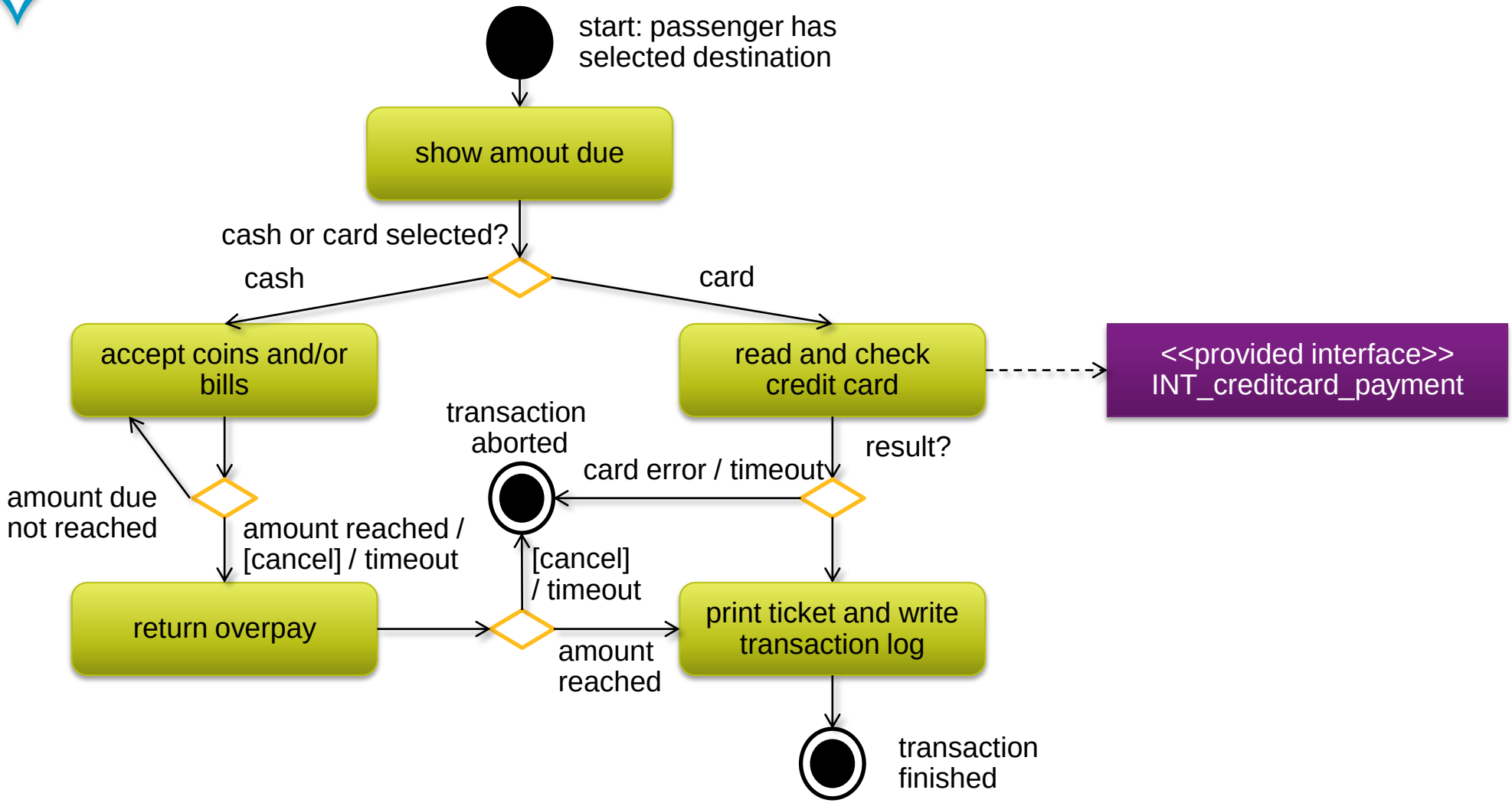
Use Case USC_pay_ticket

description	The passenger pays his public transport ticket using money or a credit card.
actor	ACR_passenger
precondition	The passenger has selected his destination.
standard sequence	Buy ticket with cash 1. Vending machine shows the amount due. 2. Passenger inserts at least the amount due in coins and/or bills. If he cancels the transaction or a timeout occurs before enough money is inserted, the machine returns his money and the use case ends. 3. Vending machine prints the ticket with current date and destination (print output PRO_ticket)
alternative sequences	Buy ticket with credit card …

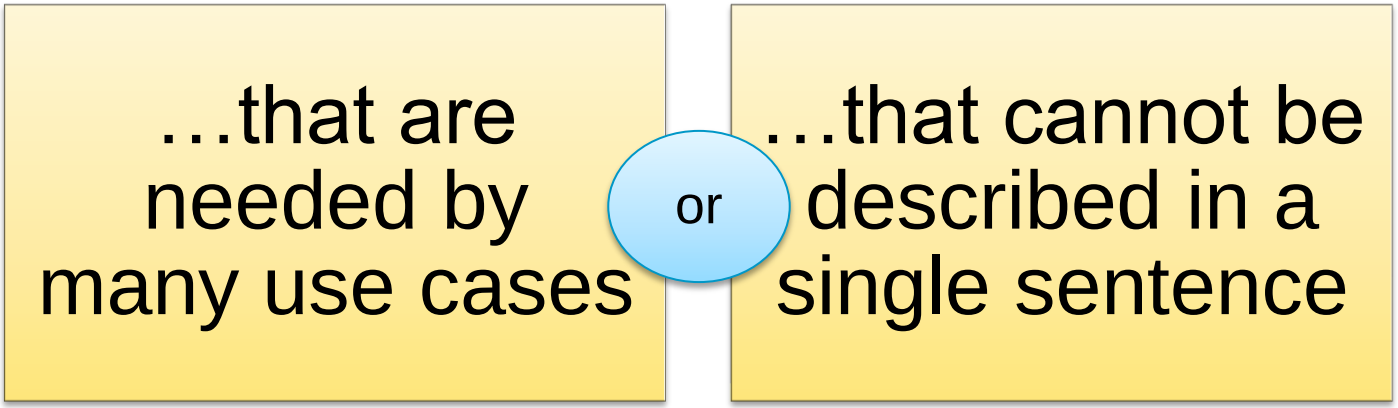
The use case diagram shows all artefacts connected to the use case



the activity diagram shows flow of steps for all sequences and interface usage



Use case functions encapsulate actions…



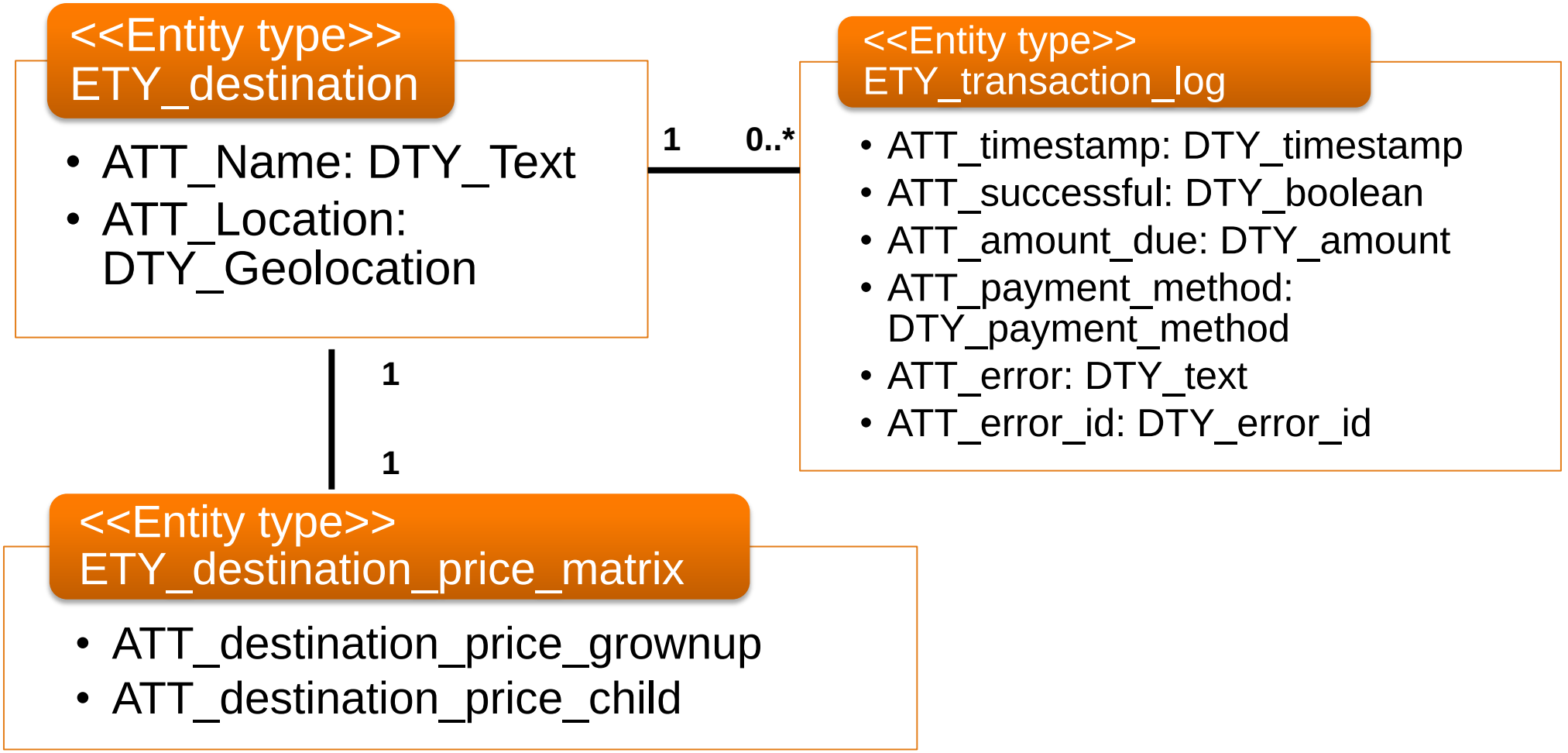
Batches…

are like use cases

but called on command line or via timers by operations people

The system‘s data model

Example: Data model of a ticket vending machine

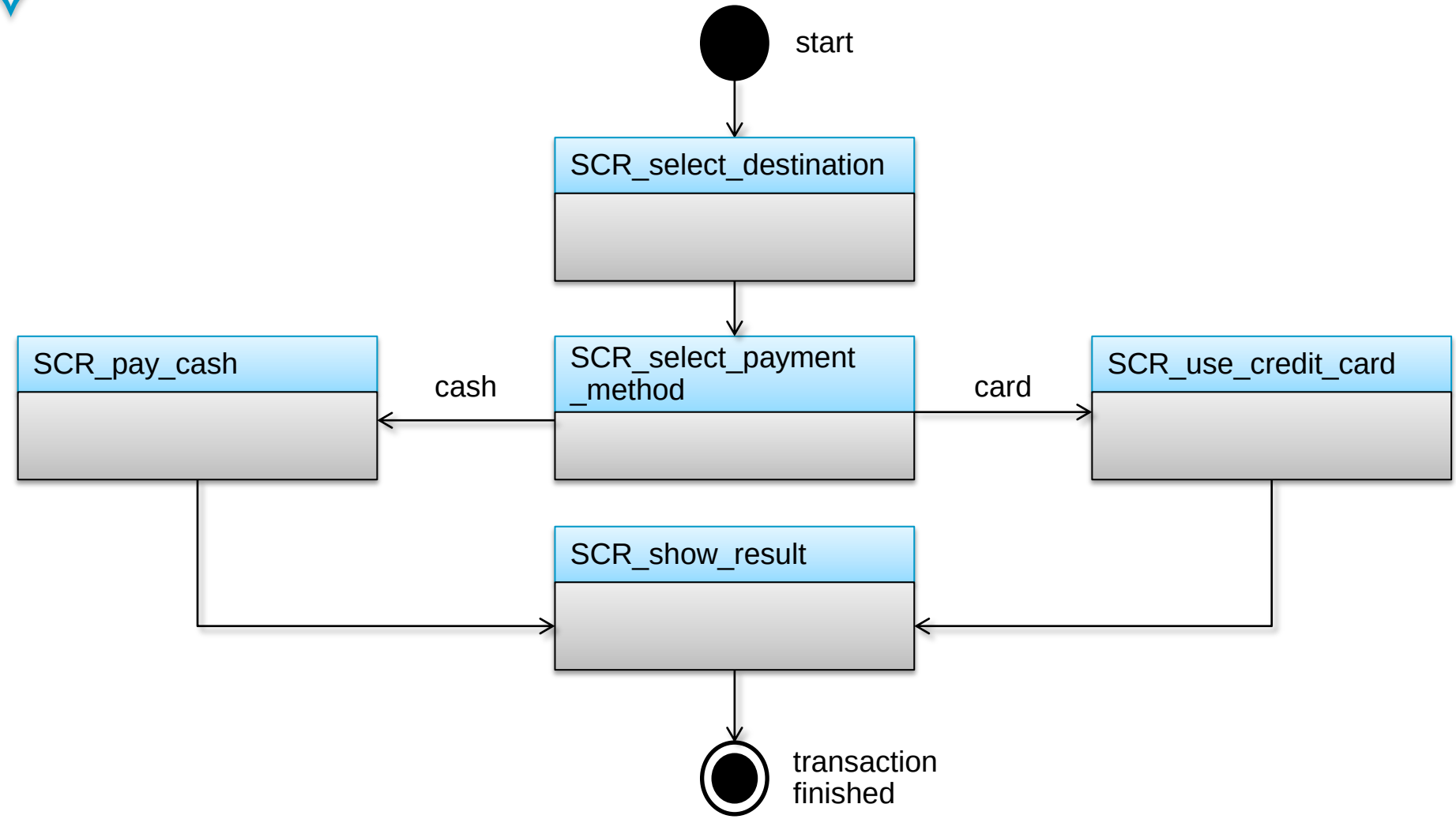


The system‘s user interface

dialogs

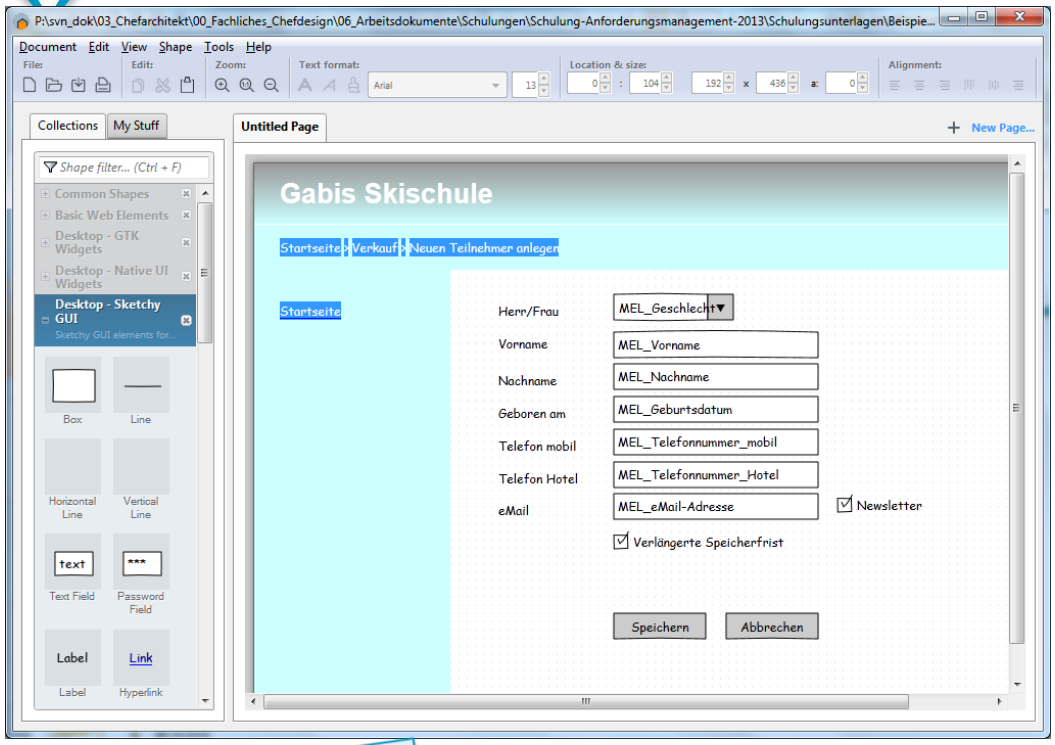
print outputs

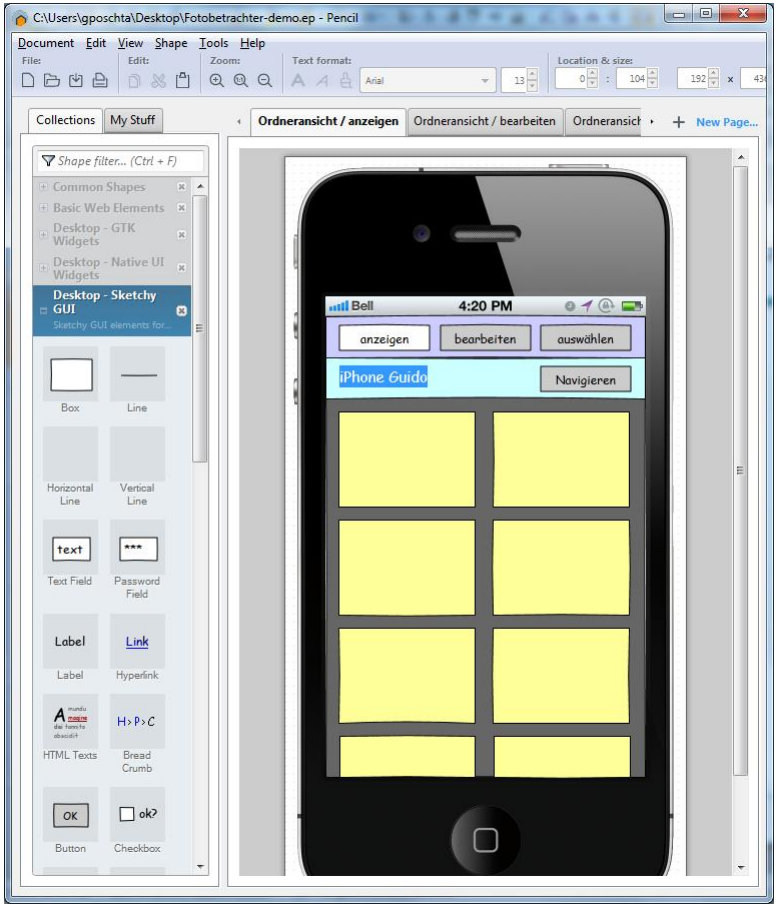
A dialog describes a sequence of screens. Example: DIA_buy_ticket



Screen mockups show a typical representation of the screen

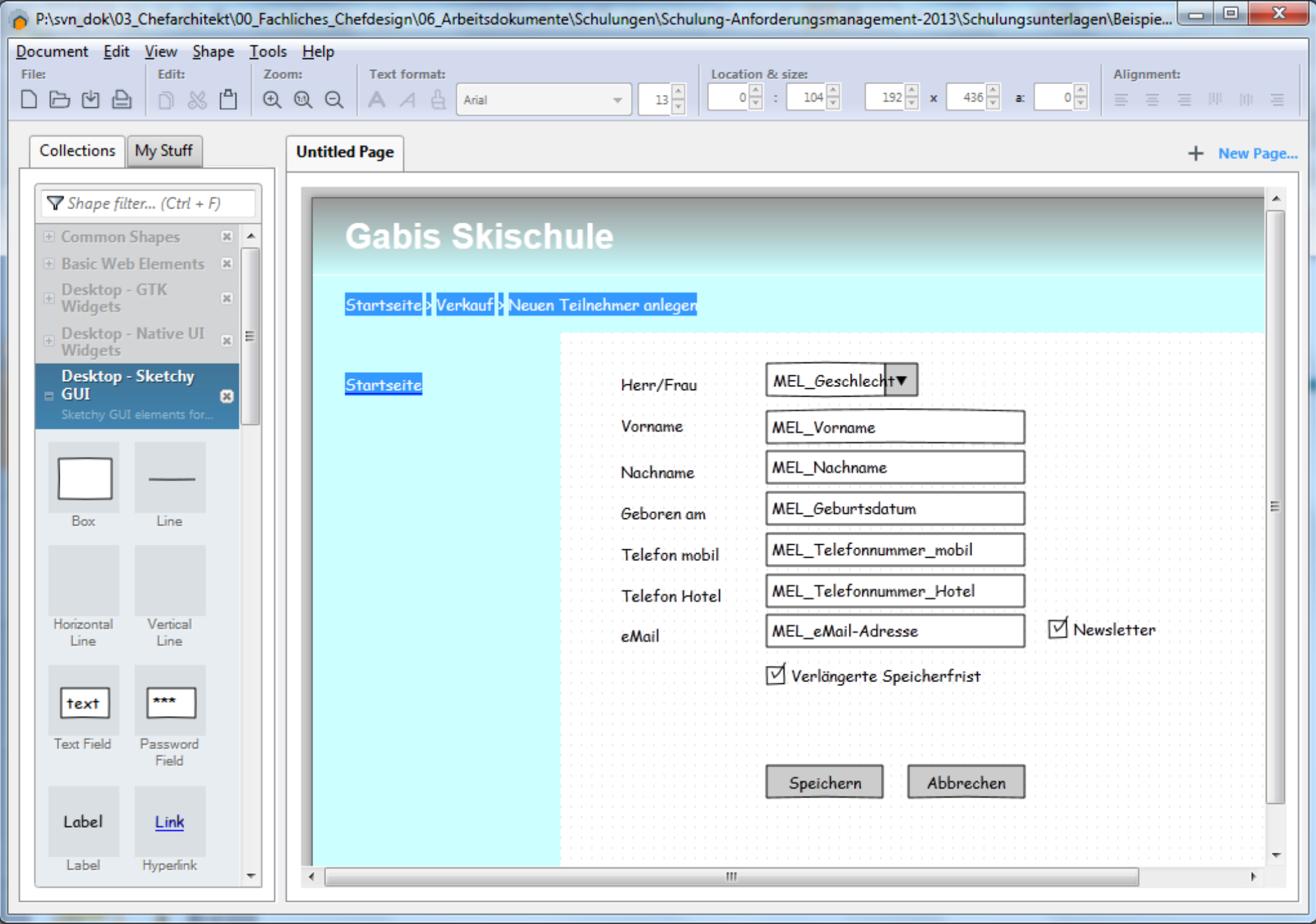
UI Prototyping tool “Evolus pencil”





Great tool for simple prototypes

Not powerful enough for detailed description of modern UI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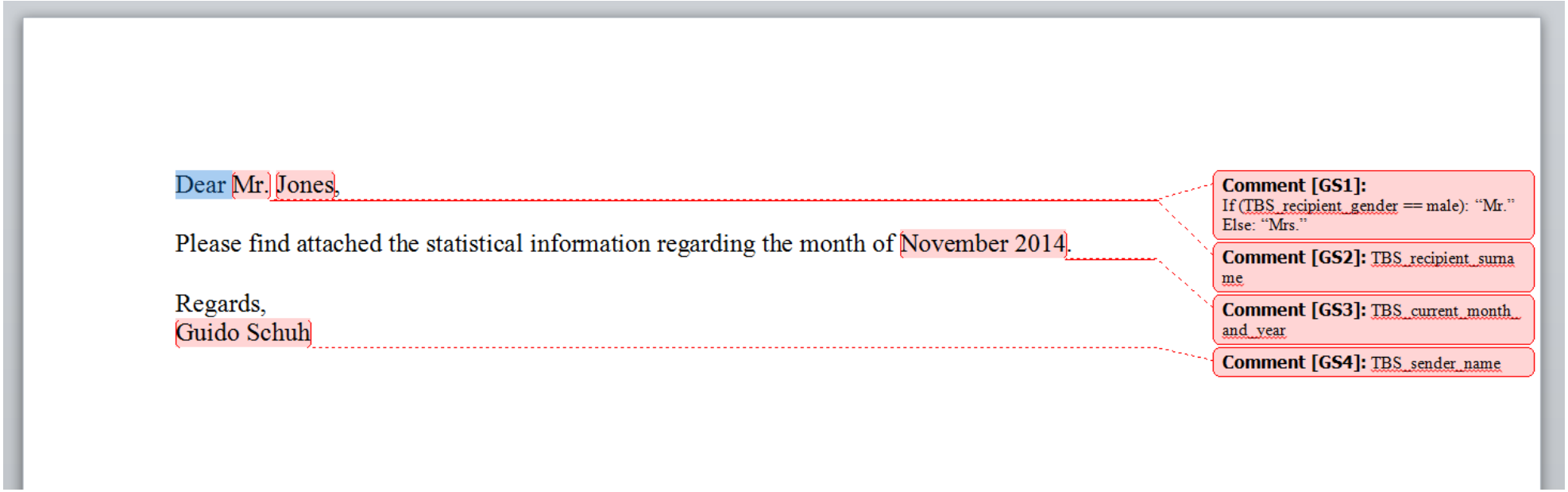
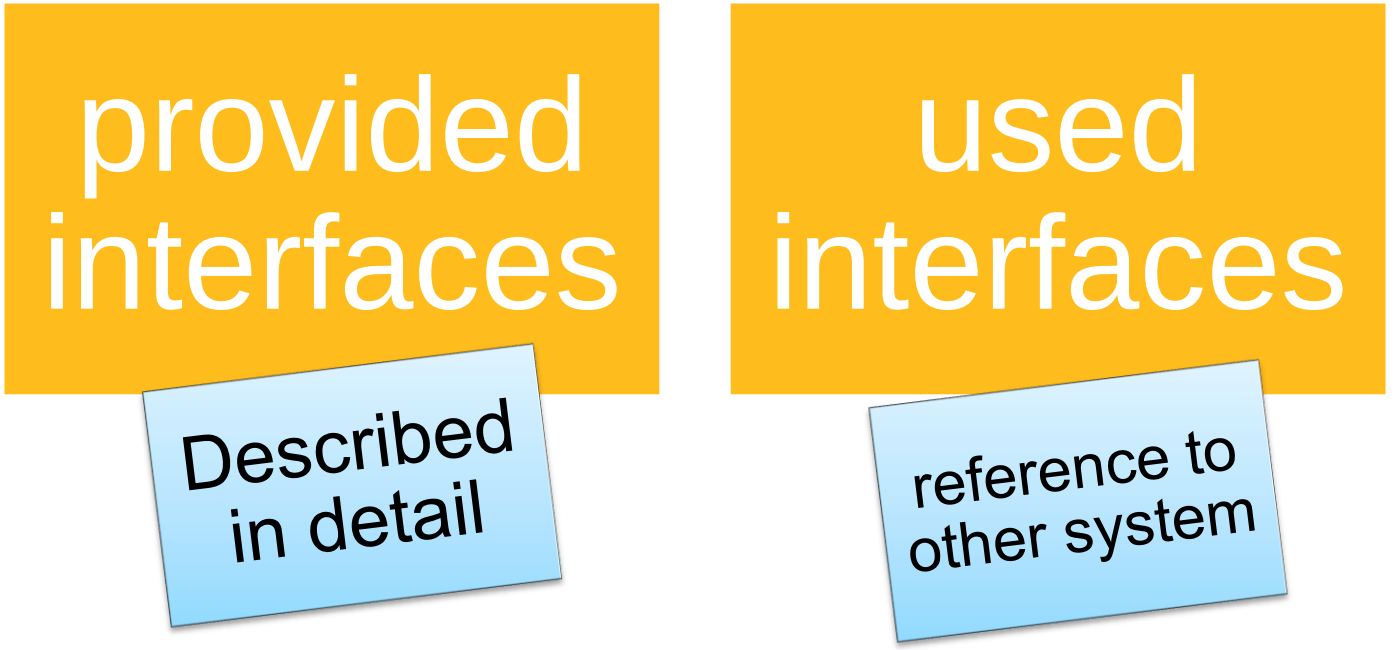
Document Edit View Shape Tools Help
File:
Edit:
Zoom:
Text format:
Arial
13
Location & size:
0 : 104 192 x 436 a: 0
Alignment:
Collections
My Stuff
Shape filter... (Ctrl + F)
Common Shapes
Basic Web Elements
Desktop - GTK Widgets
Desktop - Native UI Widgets
Desktop - Sketchy GUI
Sketchy GUI elements for...
Box
Line
Horizontal Line
Vertical Line
text
Text Field
***
Password Field
Label
Label
Link
Hyperlink
Untitled Page
New Page...
Gabis Skischule
Startseite > Verkauf > Neuen Teilnehmer anlegen
Startseite
Herr/Frau
MEL_Geschlecht
Vorname
MEL_Vorname
Nachname
MEL_Nachname
Geboren am
MEL_Geburtsdatum
Telefon mobil
MEL_Telefonnummer_mobil
Telefon Hotel
MEL_Telefonnummer_Hotel
eMail
MEL_eMail-Adresse
Newsletter
Verlängerte Speicherfrist
Speichern
Abbrechen

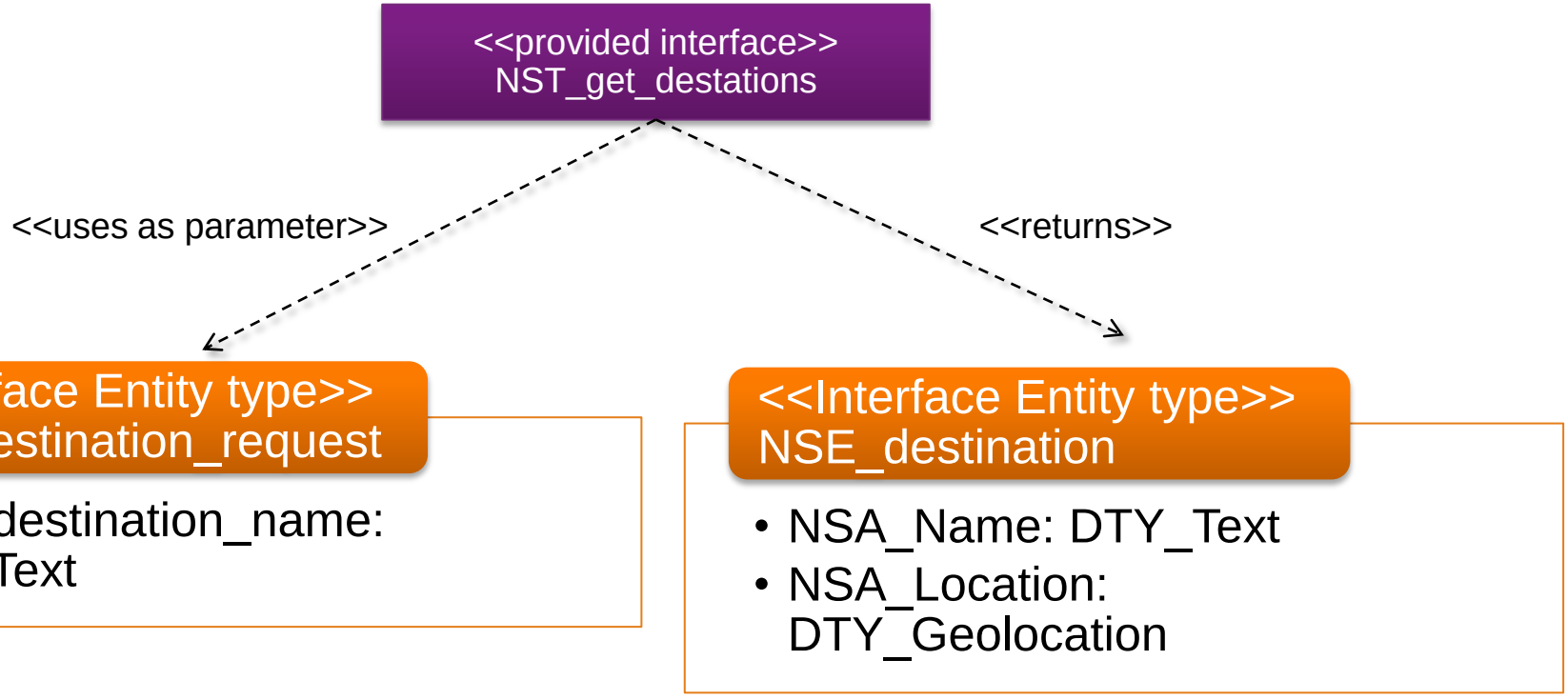
Print outputs



The system‘s application interface



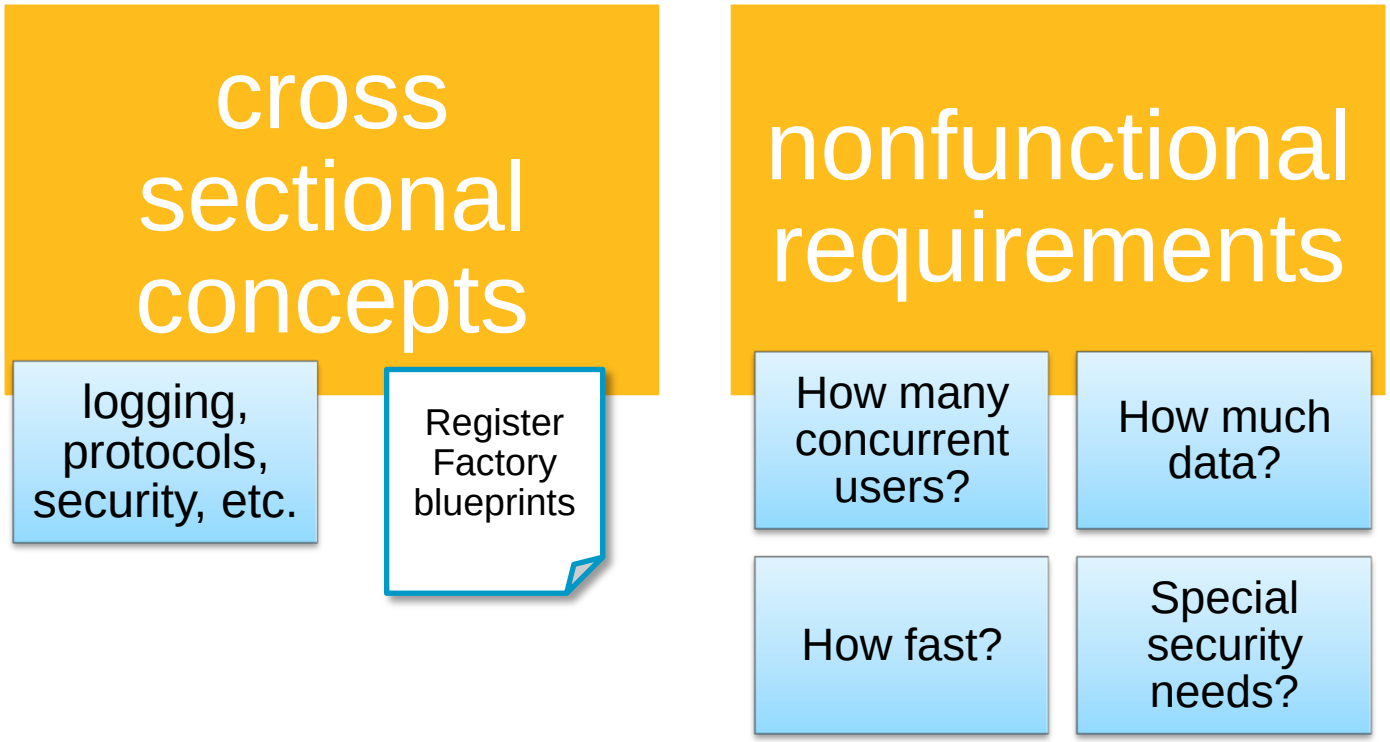
provided interfaces



Plus text description: Which use cases are called depending on given parameters

Typically, entities are returned in a tree structure, designed like data model

The system‘s nonfunctional properties



Summary

Choose your weapons

- Depending on project context
- Describe only what you need
- Describe it in the way that works for you and the customer

Divide and conquer

- From system landscape down to application function
- Keep every level straightforward

Track your changes

- From requirements
- To specification
- To implementation
- To test
- To delivery

Questions?

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People matter, results count.

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Together with its clients, Capgemini creates and delivers business and technology solutions that fit their needs and drive the results they want. A deeply multicultural organization, Capgemini has developed its own way of working, the Collaborative Business Experience™, and draws on Rightshore®, its worldwide delivery model.

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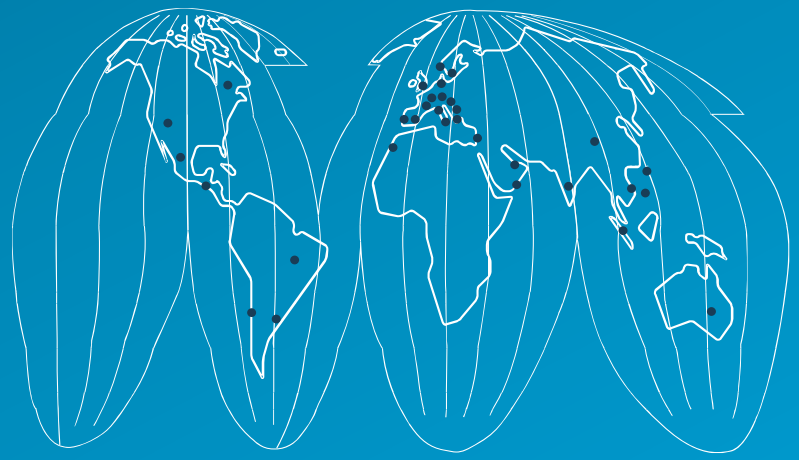

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