

In 2005, my colleagues and I from Advanced Technologies Integration (ATI) in Minneapolis worked together with developers from LPS to roll out a new system to do exactly that.

## Capabilities and Constraints

Two dynamics drive a system's architecture: What must it do? What boundaries must it work within? These define the problem space.

We create, and simultaneously explore, the solution space by resolving these forces, navigating the positive pole of required behavior and the negative one of limitations. Sometimes we can create elegance, and even beauty, when the answers to individual constraints mesh together into a coherent whole. I'm happy to say that the Creation Center project did just that.

On this project, we faced several incontrovertible facts. Some are just the nature of the business; others could change, but not within our scope. Either way, we regarded these as immutable. These facts make up the left column in Figure 4-1.

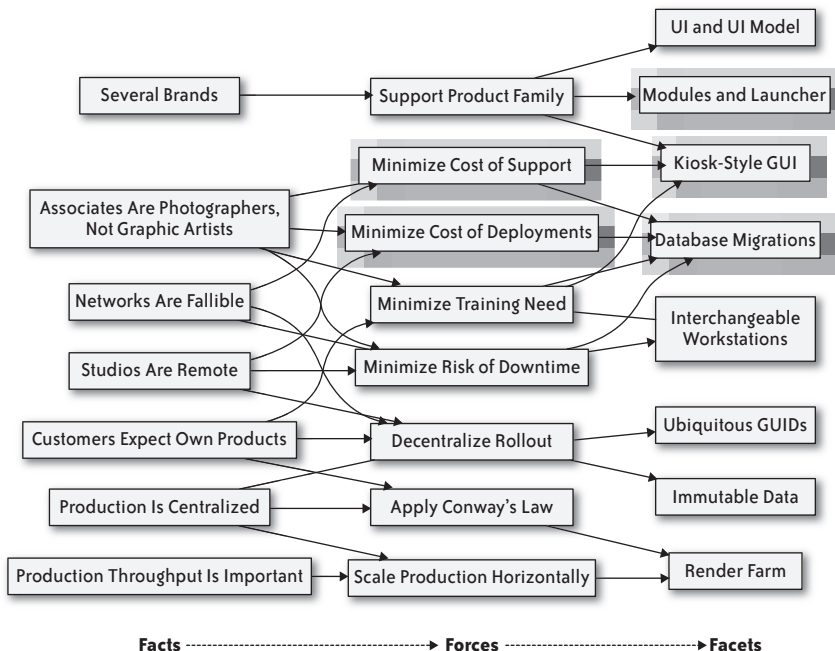


FIGURE 4-1. Facts, forces, and facets of Creation Center's architecture

### Several brands

LPS supports multiple brands today and could add more in the future. At a minimum, Creation Center would have two visually distinct skins, and adding skins should not require extensive effort.