

# What is Composition? Why is it Hard?

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Material includes insights gained from Gerrit Muller, John Shaw, Lee Pike, David Hardin, Bashar Nuseibeh, and others.

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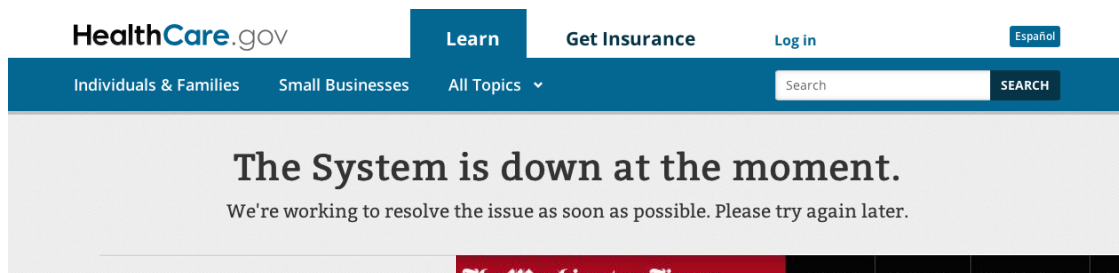
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Building trust every day

## State of the Practice

- Systems (esp. those with significant software) do not to integrate easily or reliably.
- This will continue with systems of systems



**Software glitches leave Navy Smart Ship dead in the water**



## Integration and Composition

- Organizations tend to have a “Parts” focus.
  - For “parts”, well-established:
    - Certification procedures
    - Engineering workflow
    - Documentation procedures
    - Artifact management (SCM, CAD, ERP, Docs)
    - ...
- Integration is approached as static activity “wiring together” different subsystems
  - Focus is on composability of simple interface types
  - Behavior of the composed system is secondary, if considered at all
  - Non-functional attributes (especially performance) may be considered, but not from a reasonable basis
- **Little understanding or focus on key performance parameters**

## Typical Order of Integration Problems

1. The (sub)system does not build.
2. The (sub)system does not function.
3. Interface errors.
4. The (sub)system is too slow.
5. Problems with the main performance parameter, such as image quality.
6. The (sub)system is not reliable.

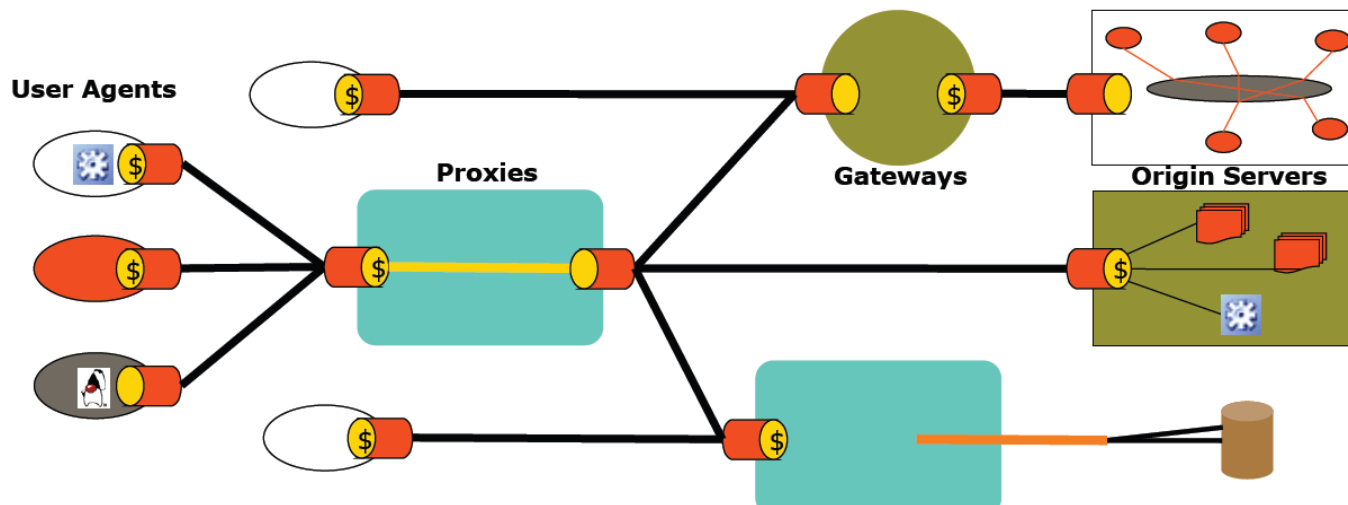
List from: *Gerrit Muller: Why is System Integration Understood So Poorly?*  
*2016 Kongsberg System Engineering Event*

## A Change in Focus

- **Composition** is creating new or improved **capability** from a set of parts
  - Not “wiring”, but behavior
  - Dynamic view of the system
  - Must require less effort and time than constructing from scratch
- Integration is a continuous, repeatable **process** not an event
  - It occurs before systems are built
  - Models are continuously updated with data
  - **Fail Early** rather than **Fail Late**
- Analysis of composition should have **analytic rigor**
  - Simulations are expensive and incomplete
  - Often simulations require “nearly complete” software
  - If possible, we would like **proof** or **optimal result**
- “Parts” should be easily reconfigurable to meet new nonfunctional goals
  - “Integration Architectures” vs. “Functional Architectures” (c.f. Evan’s talk)
    - **Functional Architecture:** What we want the system to do
    - **Deployment Architecture:** How the pieces are assembled

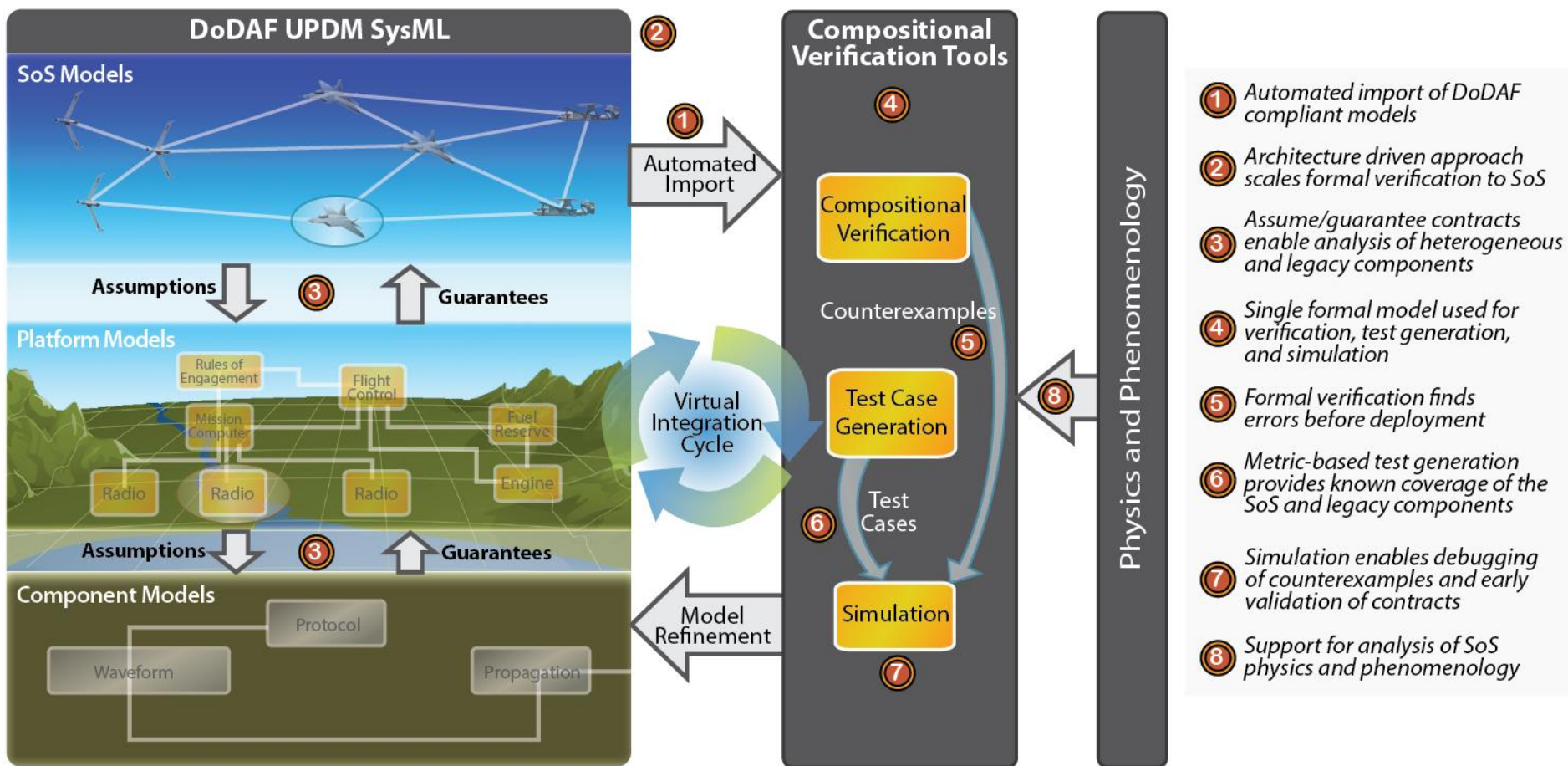
## This is not entirely new

- Web services illustrate many of these properties
  - Excellent separation of mechanism from function
  - For well-architected systems, excellent horizontal scalability
  - Straightforward interoperability through shared protocols
  - Strong CI practices in industry



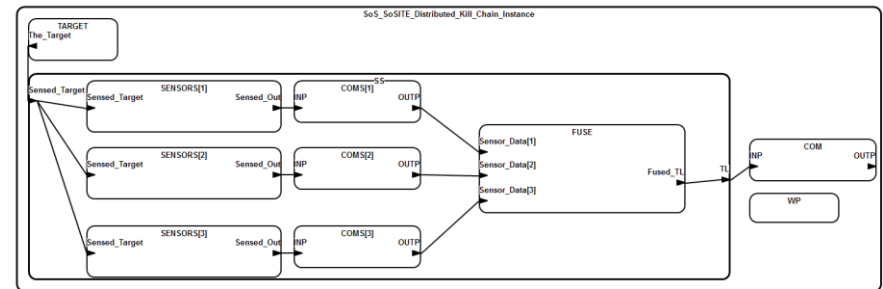
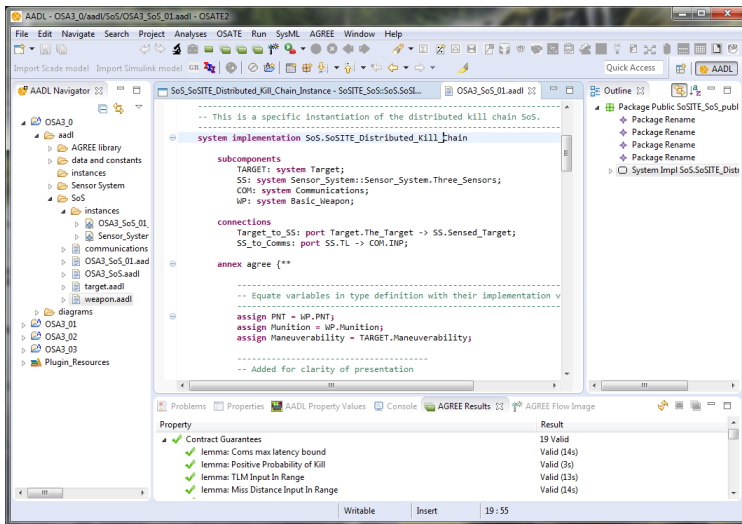
- Substantial improvement on the **deployment architecture** of previous systems
- However: few constraints on Size, Weight, and Power; Latency is unpredictable; security is uncertain, etc.

# Towards Integration Supported By Proof



# Architectural Modeling Using AADL

- Architecture Analysis & Description Language (AADL)
  - SAE Standard for Modeling System Architectures
- Developed under DARPA DSSA Program for U.S. Army Applications
- Textual and Graphical Modeling Notation

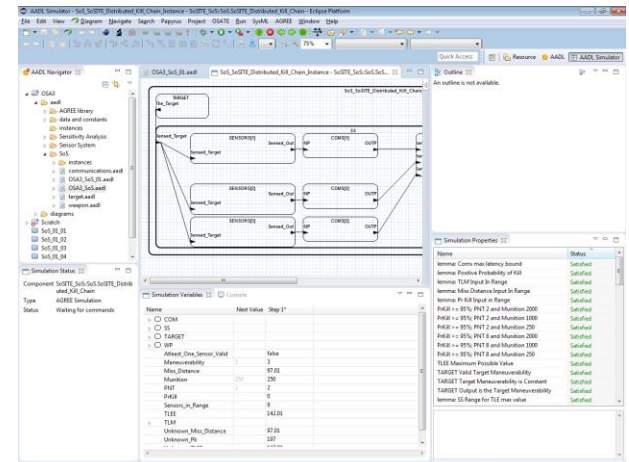
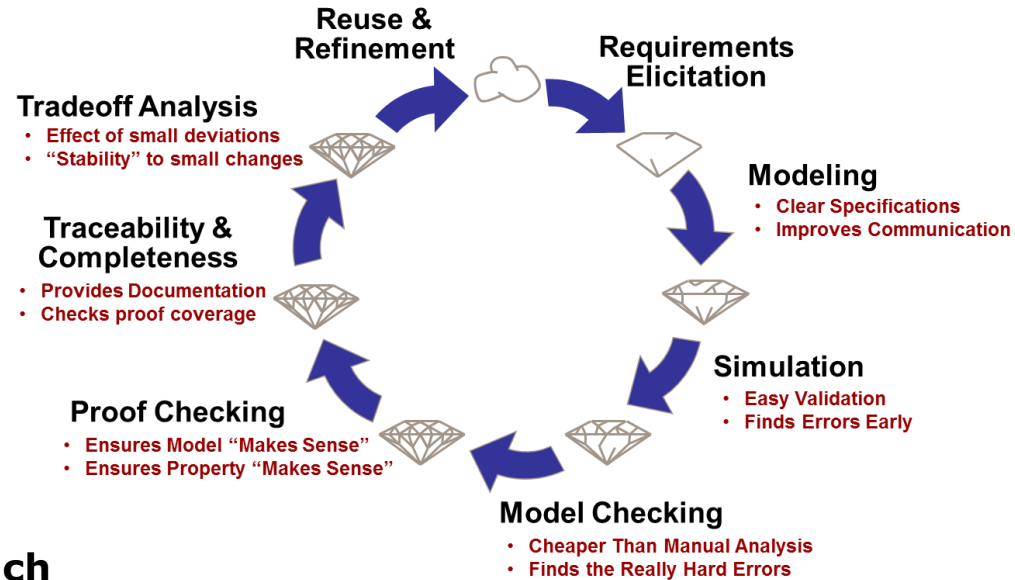


- Open Source Tools (OSATE) Provided by Software Engineering Institute (SEI)
- Semantics More Completely Defined than SysML
- Contains Embedded System Constructs that SysML Lacks
  - Supports non-functional analyses of architectures (performance, fault propagation)
- Extensible Through Annexes: our contract language is called AGREE



# Towards a “Capability IDE” and System Engineering Process

- You are not done when you get a proof
- A good specification environment IDE needs:
  - Symbolic Simulator (exploration)
  - Compositional proof
  - Contract checker (realizability)
  - Specification checker (vacuity)
- Analogous to a good programming IDE
  - Editor, Debugger, Profiler, etc.
- SoSITE progress: **Specifier’s Workbench**
  - Symbolic simulator
  - Automated traceability support
  - Completeness analysis
  - In progress: System optimization (using Pete Manolios’ Inez tool)
- Improvements driven by feedback from several projects
  - SoSITE: Systems-of-systems verification, parametric proof
  - HACMS, CVFCS, SwPI, CRP: System verification
  - MFD: subsystem testing and verification



## Composability and Complexity

- Current architecture description languages (SysML, AADL) and tools intermix **functional** and **deployment architecture**
  - Explicit “bindings” of functionality to threads, processes, physical resources
  - Makes architectures rigid, makes proofs complex
  - [Fred Brooks] separating essential complexity from accidental complexity
- Deployment should be automated
  - Non-functional performance parameters drive deployment binding process
    - Iterative binding generation throughout development cycle
    - No surprises
  - ADL support for synthesis and pre-verified architectural patterns
  - Richer ADLs look more like programming languages
- Multiple, independent analyses for functional and non-functional aspects
  - Capability proofs depend on schedulability, isolation, etc.
  - Principled mechanism for “passing the buck”

## Challenges

- Composition requires **isolation**
  - Interactions must be specified in terms of interfaces
  - Software can be rife with hidden interactions:
    - Memory boundary violations
    - Starvation/misuse of resources
- Composition requires **trust boundaries**
  - Which components can I trust and how much?
  - Encryption, Authentication and non-repudiation of communications
  - C.f.: Charlie Miller Jeep car hack (Chrysler: 1.4M vehicle recall)
  - Middleware can become “switchboard” exposing all data
- Analysis requires **model fidelity**
  - HACMS: “fly what you analyze”
- Promising new technology
  - seL4 (Data61) microkernel with proofs of memory non-interference
  - Ivory / Rust programming languages ensure memory safety
  - Recent work in homomorphic encryption allows data translation without breaking encryption!

## Recap

- Current organizational focus is on **parts** (components)
- Integration focus is on **wiring** and **static architectures**
- Focus should shift to **capabilities** and **behavior**
  - **Fail Early**
  - Determine KPPs and model them into architecture
  - Analytic rigor should be used
    - proofs when possible
  - Testing is too late, too expensive, and too incomplete
- Deployment architecture should be iterative and semi-automated
  - Increasing use of synthesis
  - Deploy throughout design cycle
- Systemic approaches should be used to ensure isolation
  - Partitioning, microkernels, and memory-safe languages