


# Pulling the Digital Thread with Model Based Systems Engineering



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# Agenda

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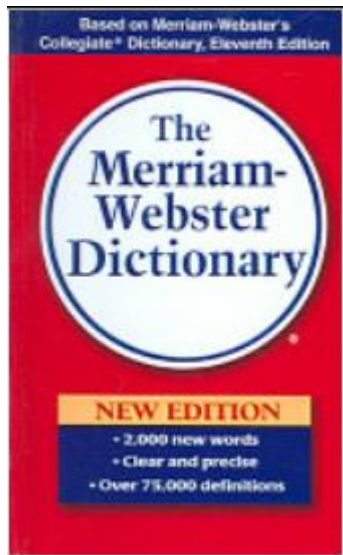
- MBE Vision
- Digital Thread Process
- Creating the Systems Digital Thread
- Pulling the Digital Thread through SW Development
- Pulling the Digital Thread through HW Development
- Benefits
- Lessons Learned

# First... Some definitions

## Digital Thread vs. Digital Twin

The **digital thread** refers to a **collaborative engineering framework** that digitally connects data flow and data views of a system throughout its lifecycle across traditionally “siloes” engineering functions.

The **digital twin** refers to a physics-based set of digital models representing a physical system, its surrounding environment and real time data feeds. The digital twin represents each unique as-built system instance and operational and environmental data unique to that specific serial number it represents.



**This Paper focuses on the Digital Thread**

# Model Based Engineering

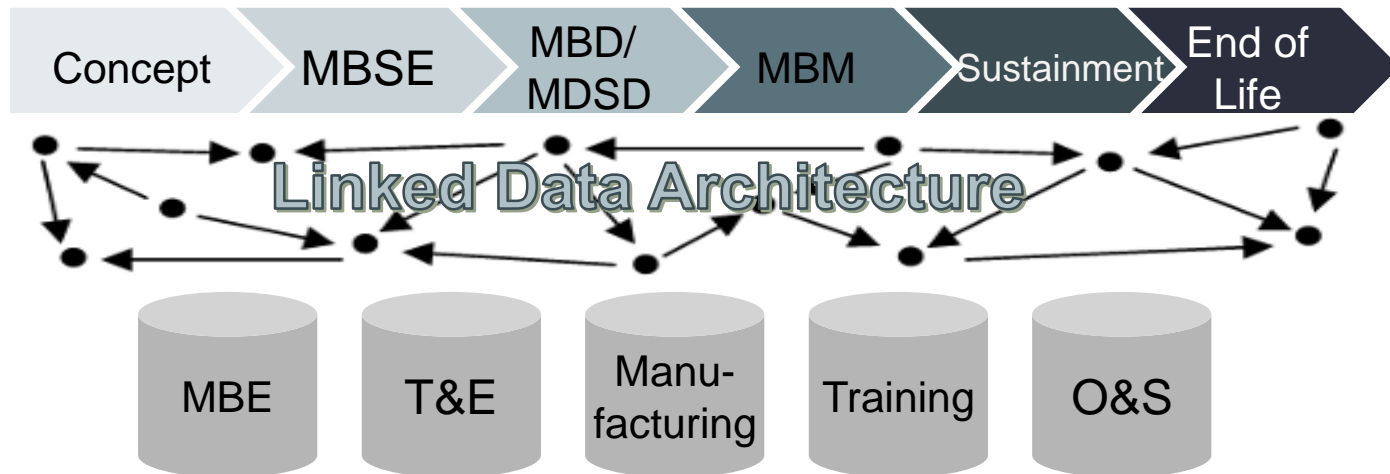
*Engineering solutions composed as a set of models **linked** through an **information** infrastructure forming a **Digital Thread** that provides **authoritative source of truth***

- Our model data is then turned in to **actionable information** as part of the overall design processes
- Our models become the source of information for deliverable documents which are **produced automatically**
- **Design decisions** are then **linked** and **consistent** across the solution space

**The Models are the Master**

# Digital Thread Process

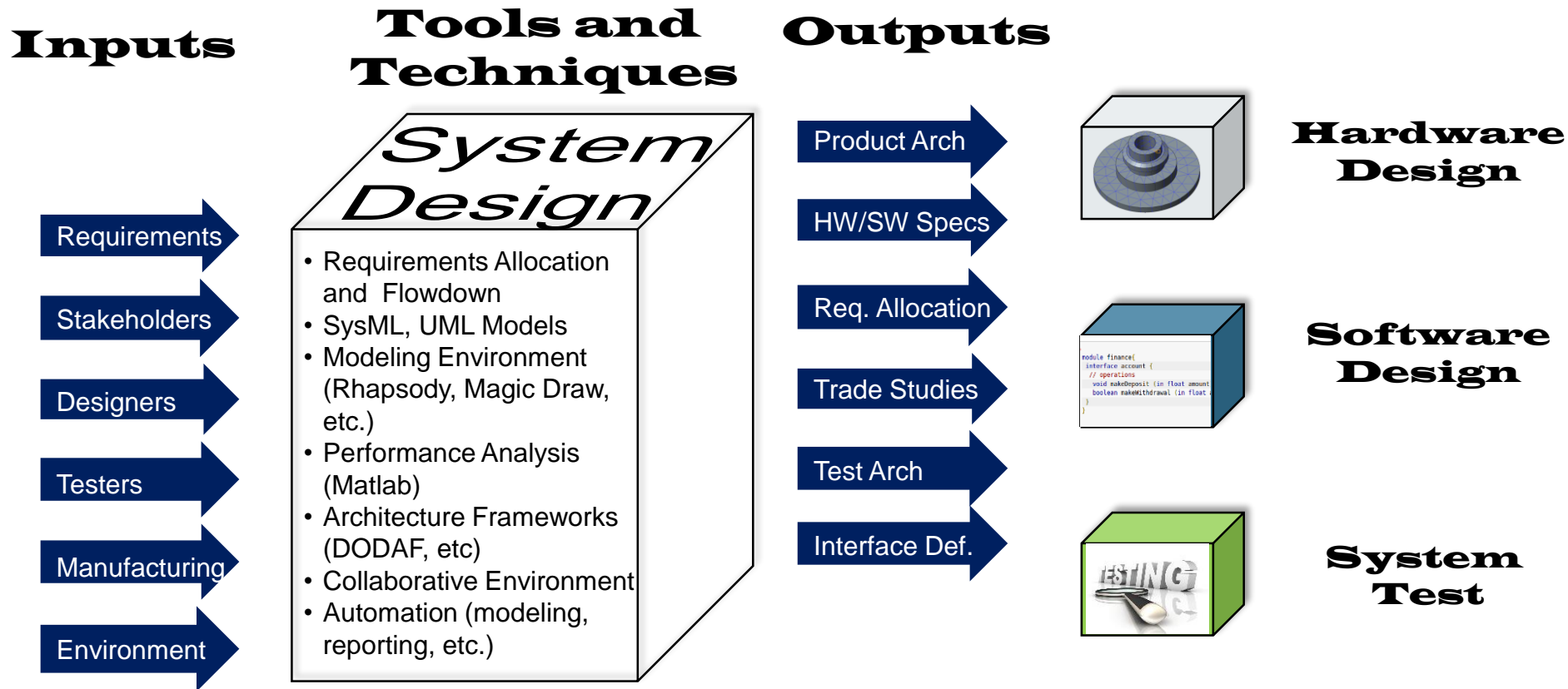
- Provides end-to-end information flow across the product lifecycle
- Enables a digitally linked data architecture (OSLC-enabled)
- Determines “what” information is important
- Enhances value-stream mapping and eliminates “air gaps”



MBSE = Model Based Systems Engineering  
MBD = Model Based Definition  
MDSD = Model Driven SW Development  
MBM = Model Based Manufacturing

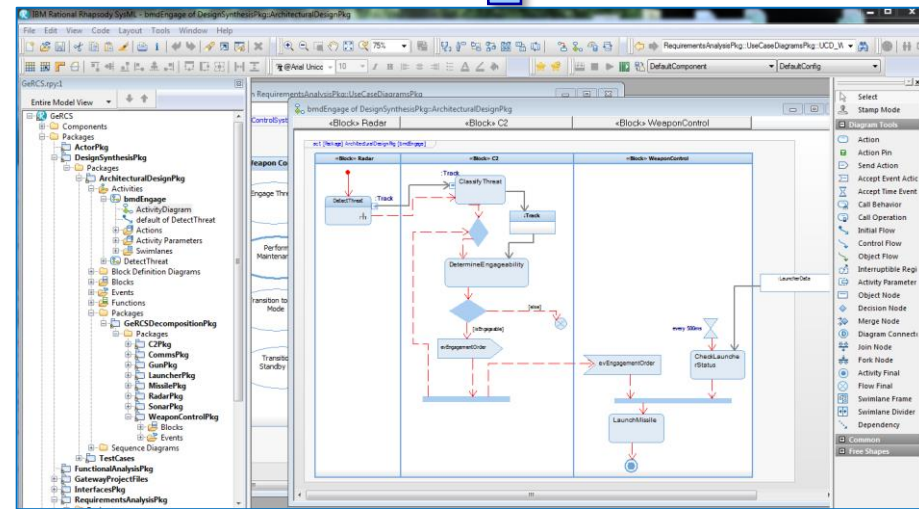
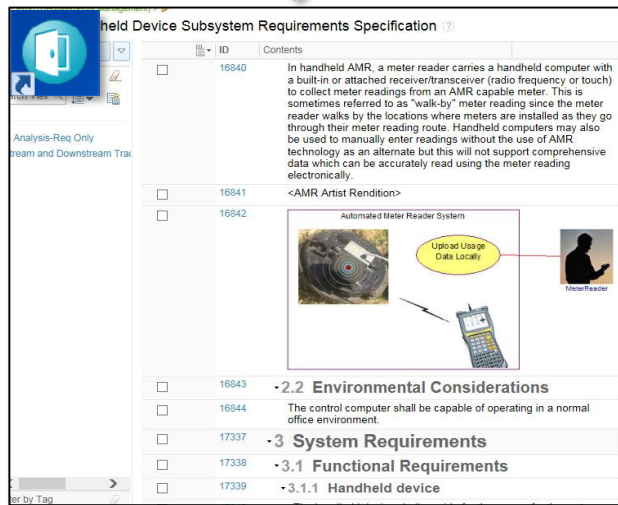
**Provides actionable information through upstream and downstream impact analysis**

# System Digital Thread



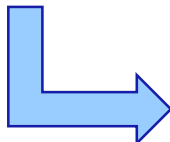
**MBSE enables our system design process to yield more accurate and consistent digital thread outputs**

# Creating the System Digital Thread



**Requirements Allocations/Flowdowns** - digital linkages between requirements in a requirements management tool (DNG)

**Generate Integrated SysML Model** - typically in Rhapsody or MagicDraw. Power Point and Visio SysML diagrams **do not** count

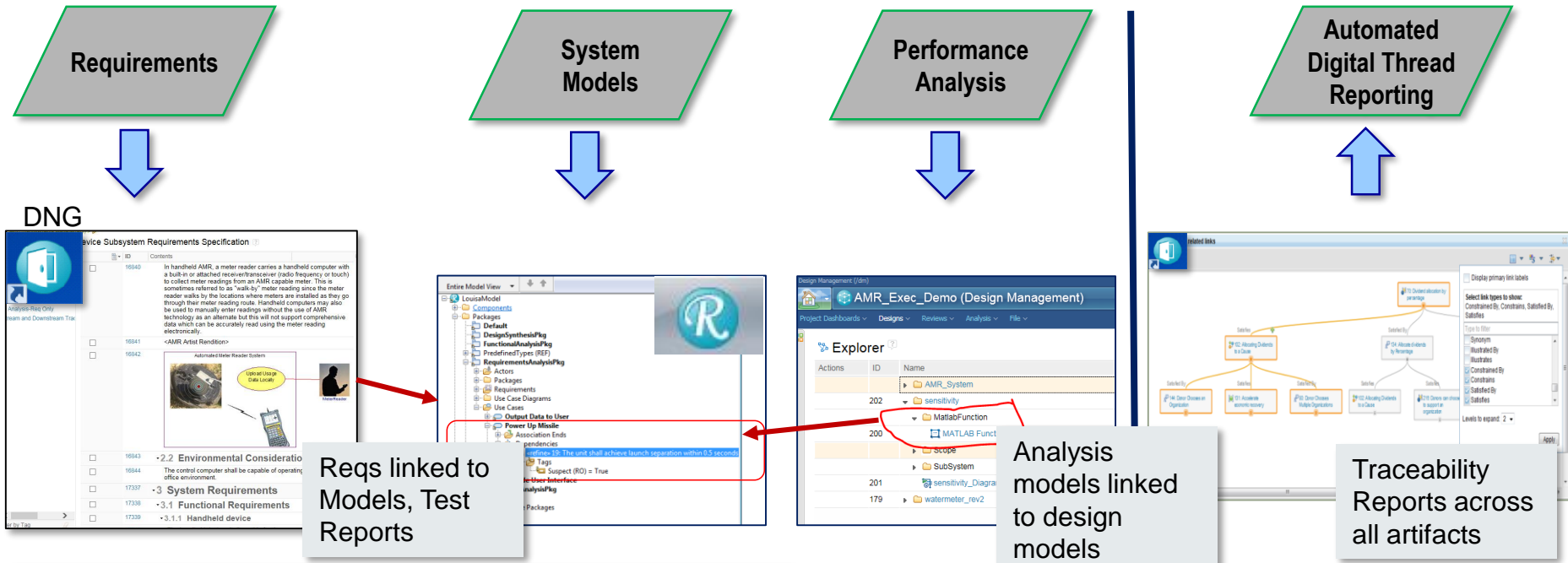


- System Requirements
- Software Requirements
- Hardware Requirements
- Test Requirements

## Use Case Modeling

- System Use Cases
- Behaviors
- Interfaces
- Functions

# Creating the System Digital Thread



**Requirements Allocations/Flowdowns** - digital linkages typically between requirements and the SysML/UML models, HW Design Models, test Artifacts (RQM) and analysis models

**System Design Model Traceability** – digital linkages between SysML models and other models such as UML models, HW design models, Test Artifacts and analysis models

**Automated Report Generation** – reports are generated automatically using the tools that contain the digital linkages.

- Software Requirements
- Hardware Requirements
- Test Requirements

## Reporting Actionable Information

- Requirement Traceability
- Verification Matrix
- Impact Analysis



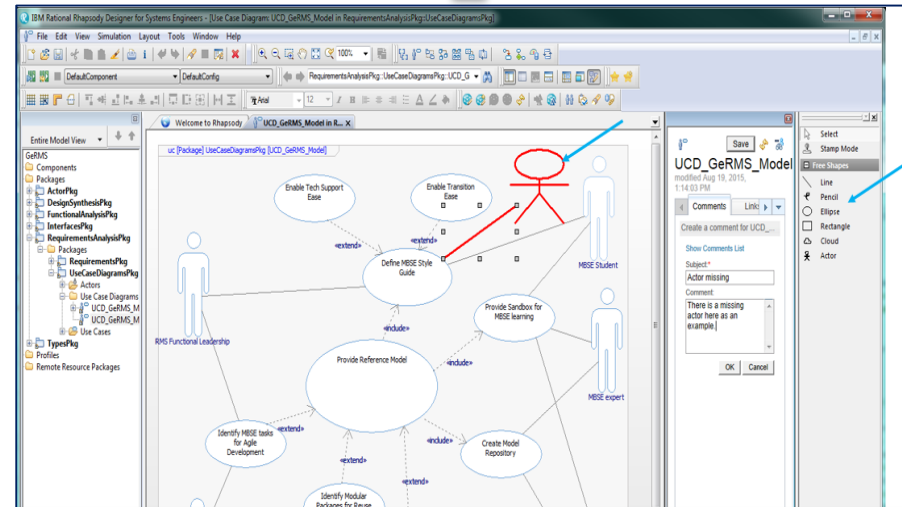
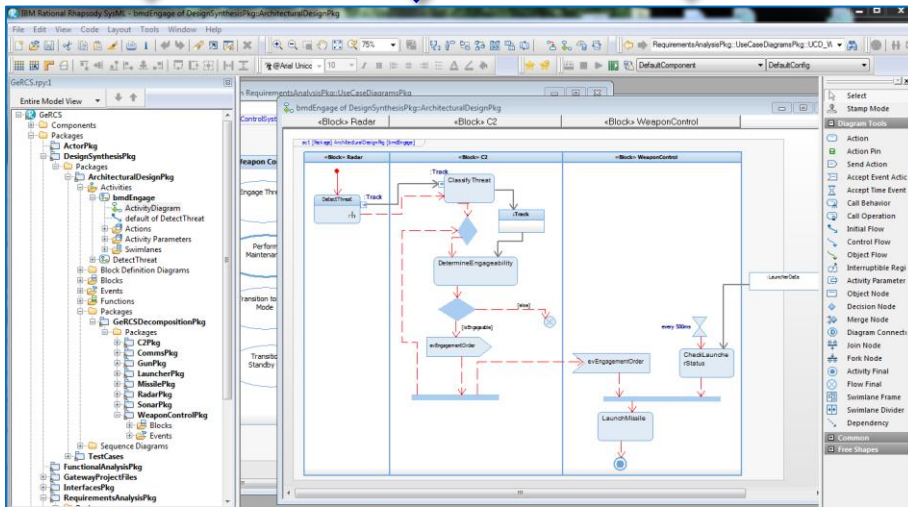
# Creating the System Digital Thread

SysML Model

Requirements Links

Performance Analysis Links

Reviewed Models and Digital Thread



**Generate Integrated SysML Model** - typically in Rhapsody or MagicDraw. Power Point and Visio SysML diagrams **do not** count

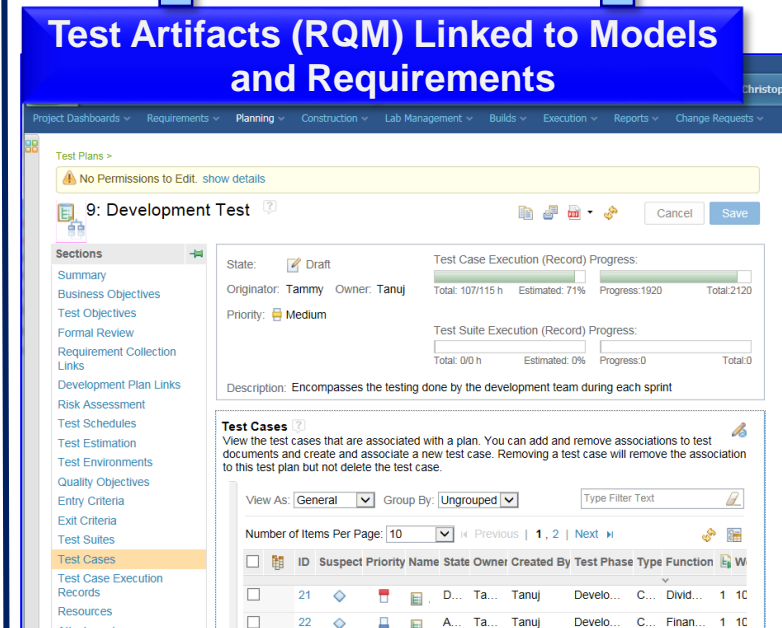
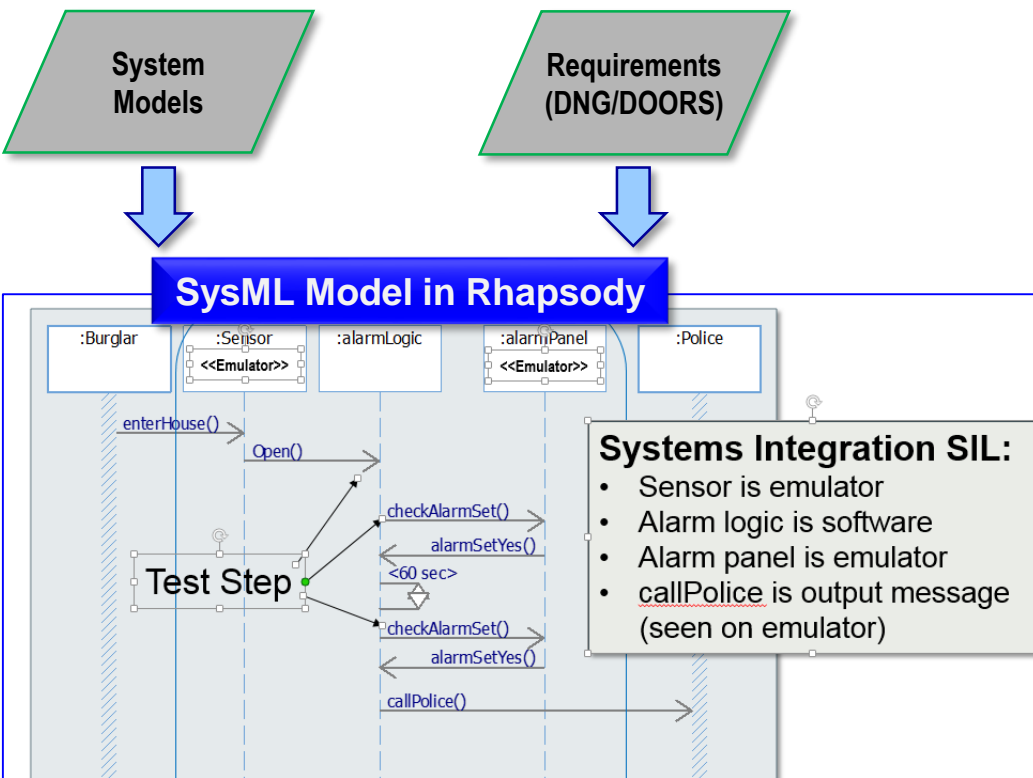
**Perform Model Based Peer Reviews** - typically in Rhapsody Design Manager (RDM) for Rhapsody or Collaborator for MagicDraw.

- System Use Cases
- Behaviors
- Interfaces
- Functions

Team Reviews

- Web-based (Don't need design tool)
- Comment directly on model (eliminate air-gap)
- Archives with Model View Versions

# Creating the System Digital Thread

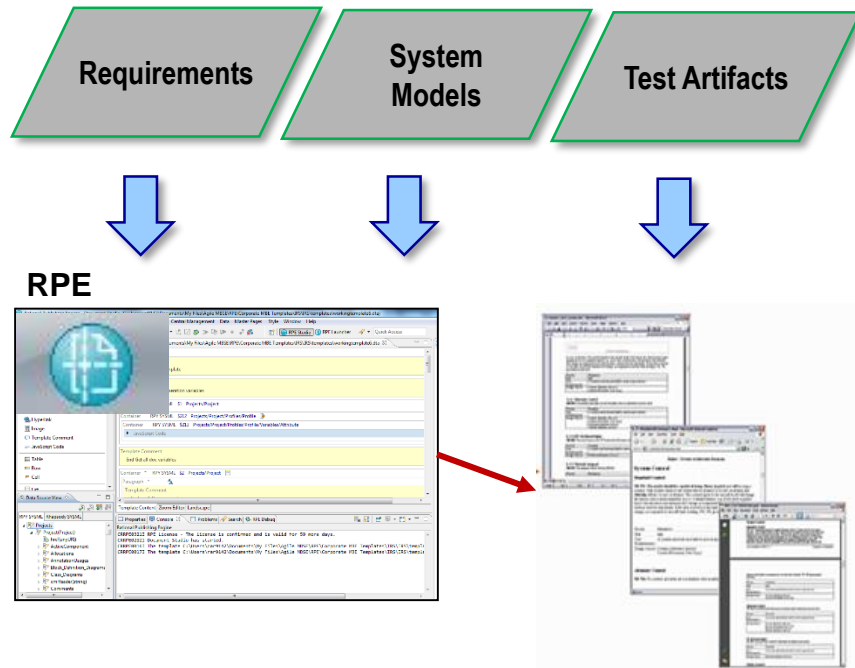


**Model Driven Testing** - Test Sequences, Vectors and Stimulators defined in models. Test artifacts (e.g., cases, plans, procedures) link to the model(s) to define the scope and interactions required for each test event.

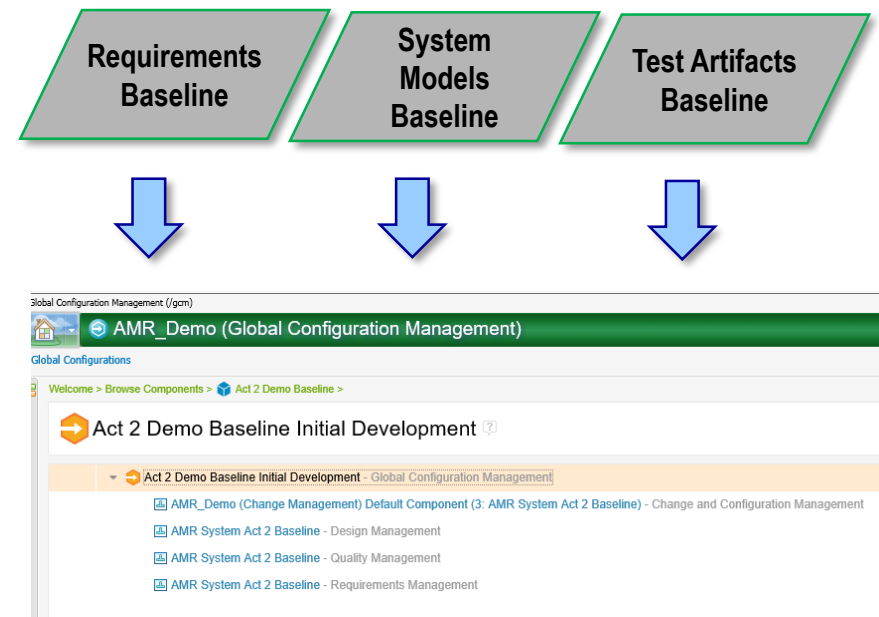
**Test Definition-** Test artifacts (e.g., cases, plans, procedures) linked requirements and model. Documents and reports automatically generated

**Test Artifact Development**

# Maintaining the System Digital Thread



**Automatic Creation of Derivative Artifacts** - typically with Rational Publishing Engine (RPE) for Rhapsody

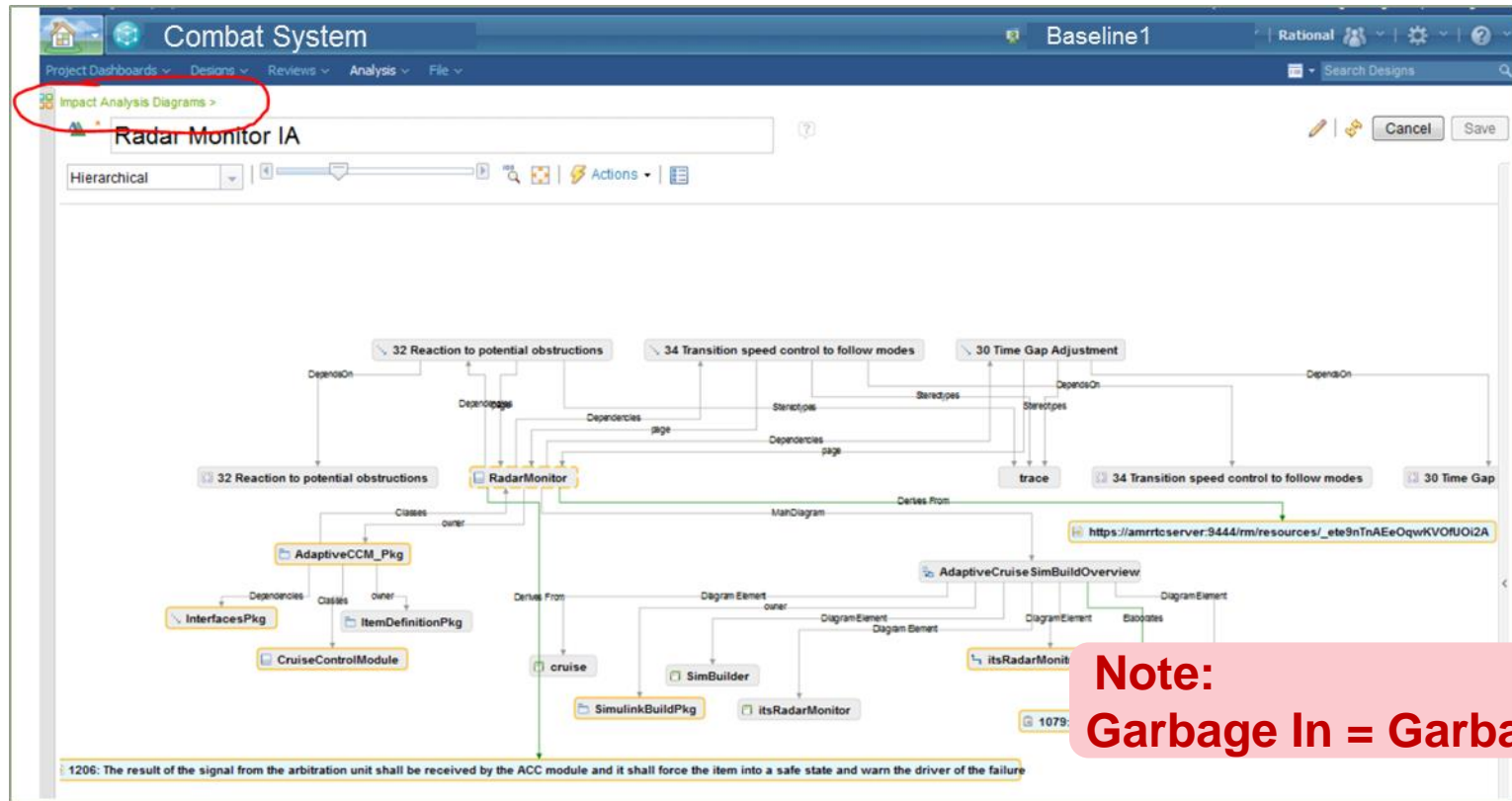


**CM of Models** – Configures baselines across multiple contributing applications forming a “configuration of configurations”

**Keeping the Digital Thread maintained is just as important as creating it in the first place**

# Getting Actionable Information Out

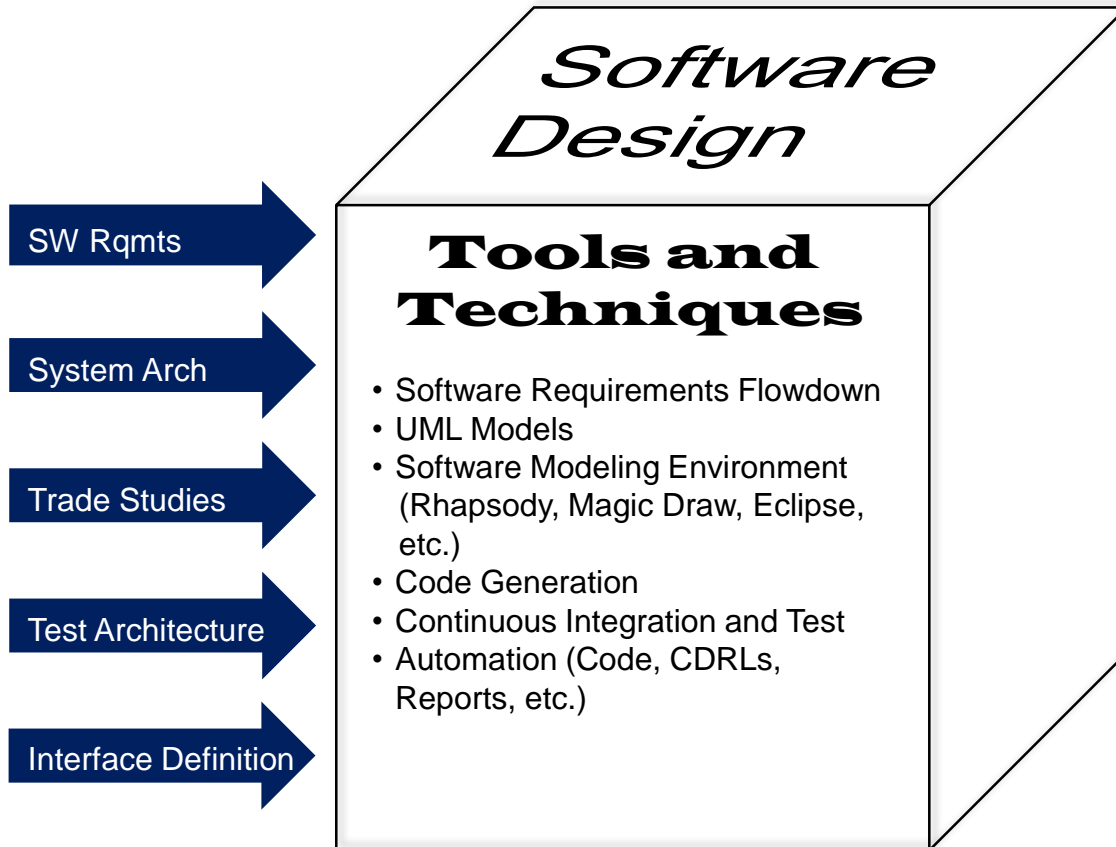
## Digital Thread Impact Analysis



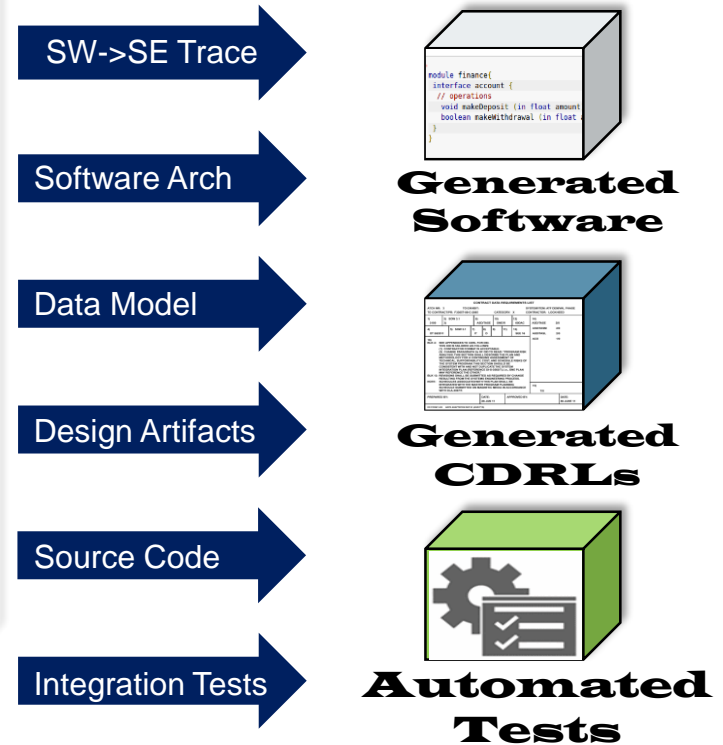
**Digital Thread rapidly and confidently identifies potential upstream and downstream impacts to design modifications.**

# Software Digital Thread

## Inputs



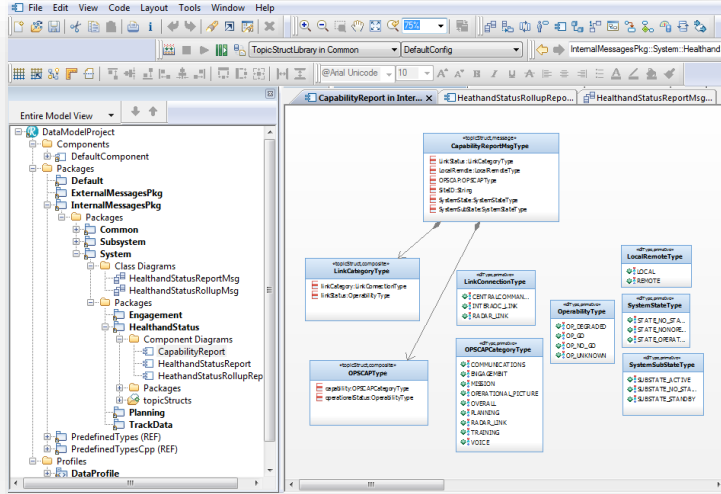
## Outputs



**Connecting the Digital Thread across engineering functions further enhances design consistency**

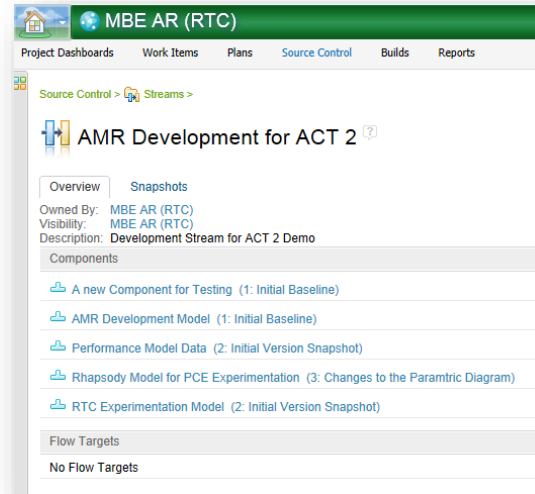
# Pulling the Digital Thread through Software

Create Software & Data Model in Rhapsody/RDM



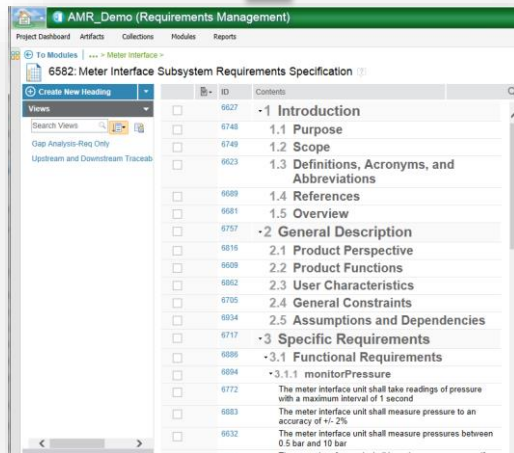
Trace to Model

Manage/Track Changes in RTC



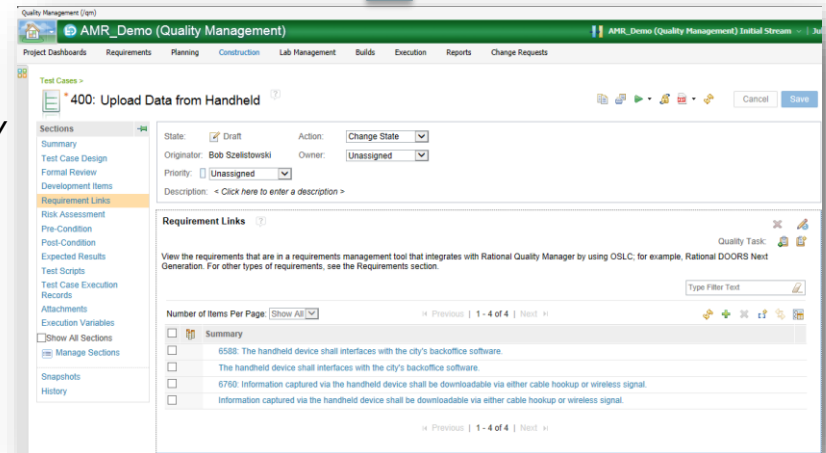
Continuous IV&V

Code Generated from Model



Requirements in DNG

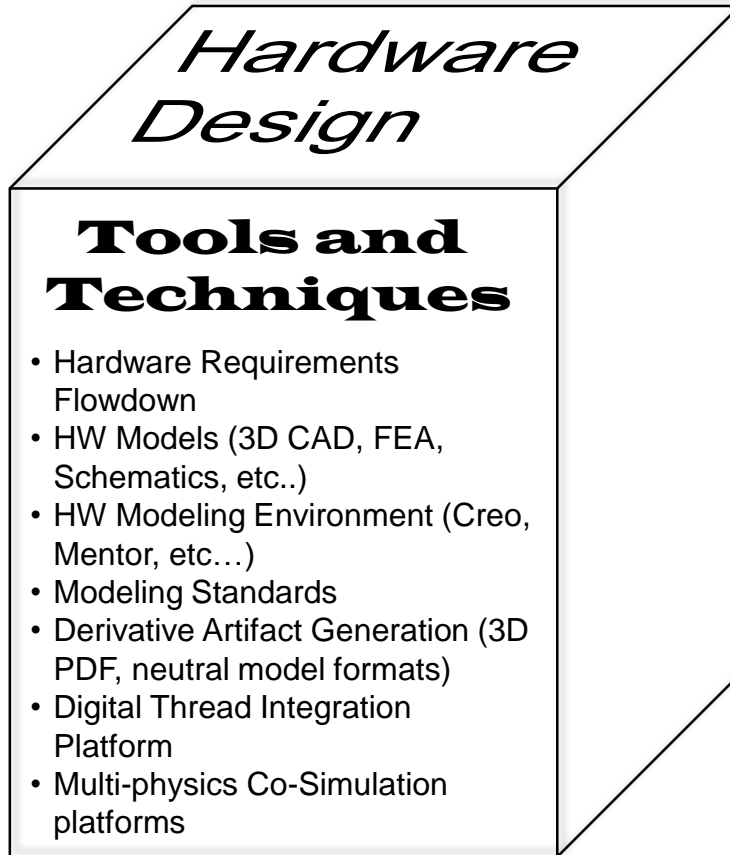
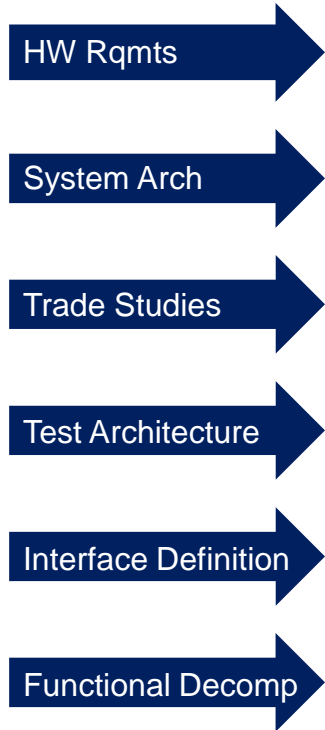
Validated by Test Case



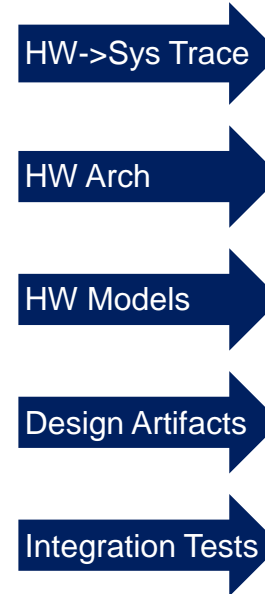
Test Cases & Execution Results in RQM

# HW Digital Thread

## Inputs



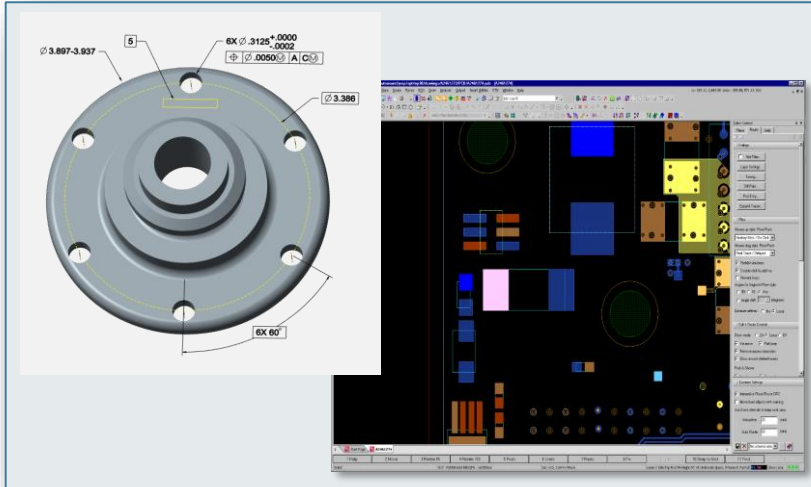
## Outputs



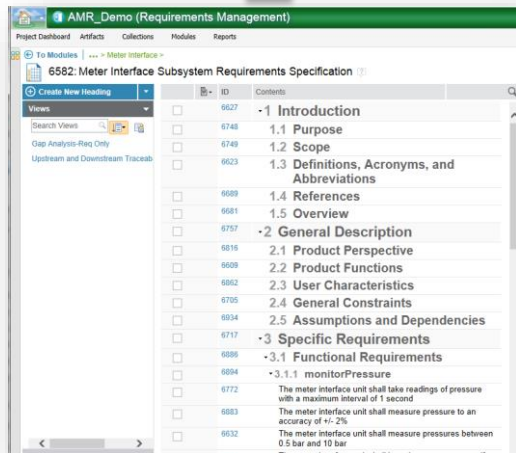
**The HW Digital Thread provides the basis for Model Based Manufacturing and the Digital Twin**

# Pulling the Digital Thread through HW

## Create ME/EE Design Models

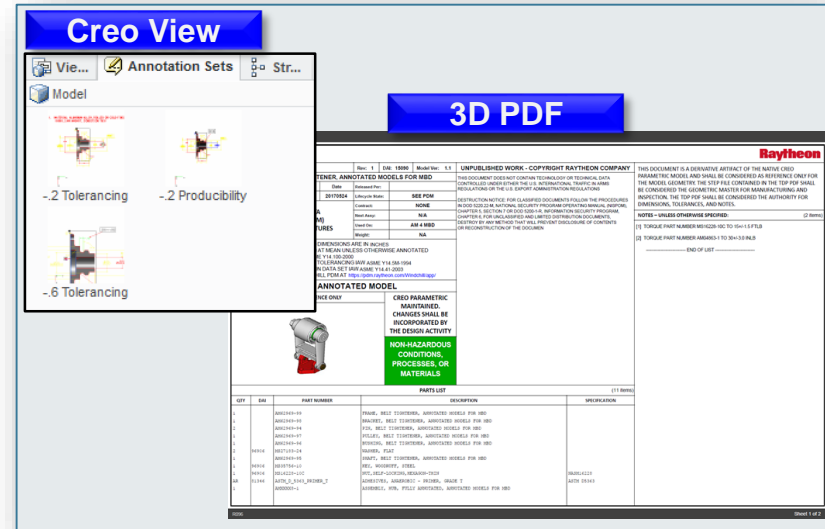


Trace to Model



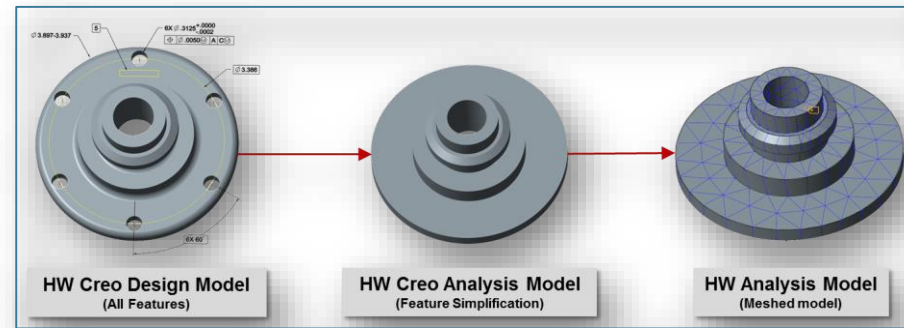
HW Requirements in DNG

## Model Based Peer Reviews



Derivative Artifacts Generated from Model

## Design Analysis and Optimization



Validated by Test Case

Analysis Models Linked and Sourced to Design Model



# MBE Digital Thread Benefits

- Because information is linked and does not live as stove-piped information in documents or disconnected models...
  - **Eliminate manual transfers**, data redundancy and increase data integrity (*removes “air gaps”*)
  - **Provides automated impact analysis** on proposed changes
  - Facilitates **traceability of design decisions** for life of design
  - Make **changes in one place** and propagate change through linkages (lowers risk of missing key work products or causing disconnects / escapes)
  - Can perform **early and continuous design refinement** with easy cross reference to design details
  - Models may be **re-used** across disciplines, across the life cycle of a program and across programs
  - Enforced rigor **reduces risk** associated with system complexity
  - **Communicate more effectively** across stakeholders because of the graphical nature of many types of models. (*shift defect detection curve to the left*)
  - Facilitates **knowledge transfer** of our system design decisions.



# Lessons Learned

- Technology is still emerging, we can't do everything we need to yet to eliminate all the "air gaps"
- Some 3<sup>rd</sup> party OEMs collaborate more openly with others
  - Digital Thread will only survive if tools integrate with each other through common standards... no one tool meets all needs
  - Need more collaboration amongst the tool vendors
- Customers are starting to ask for MBSE/MBE specifically in RFPs 😊... RFP language does not accurately reflect common MBE conventions or specifies the MBE digital thread vision but does not reflect the current state of technology 😞
- There is still a cultural barrier both within industry and with the Customer on MBE adoption. Good news is that we are all making headway

