

Knowledge Management Meeting

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- Industry and Academic Talks
- Poster / Demo Session / Mixer with Students and Faculty
- And more
- See Debi Brodbeck, brodbeck@ics.uci.edu, for details



Schedule for Today

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1000 – 1030 Arrival, Welcome, Introductions

1030 – 1115 Thomas Herring, SCE, KM in Nuclear Power

1115 – 1200 David Redmiles, UCI, Experiences in KM
Related Software

1200 – 1300 Lunch, Break, and Networking

1300 – 1345 Moderator TBD, NASA conference whole group
discussion

1345 – 1415 Break out, small group discussions

1415 – 1430 One sentence summaries and farewells

Other Logistics

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- Rest rooms
- Lunch
- Break out rooms

Introductions

Who you are and why you came / what
your interest is in today?

Revised Schedule for Today

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1000 – 1030 Arrival, Welcome, Introductions

1030 – 1130 Thomas Herring, SCE, KM in Nuclear Power

1130 – 1145 Stew Sutton, Aerospace, New Forum Software

1145 – 1245 Lunch, Break, and Networking

1245 – 1330 David Redmiles, UCI, Experiences in KM
Related Software

1330 – 1400 Moderator TBD, NASA conference whole group
discussion

1400 – 1430 Break out, small group discussions

Homework: Short summaries from breakouts for next
meeting in June at Aerospace Corp.

Experiences Related to Knowledge Management Software

Knowledge-Based Systems

Domain-Oriented Design Environments

Intelligent User Interfaces

Group Memory

Design Rationale

Activity Theory

Distributed Cognition

Talk Objectives

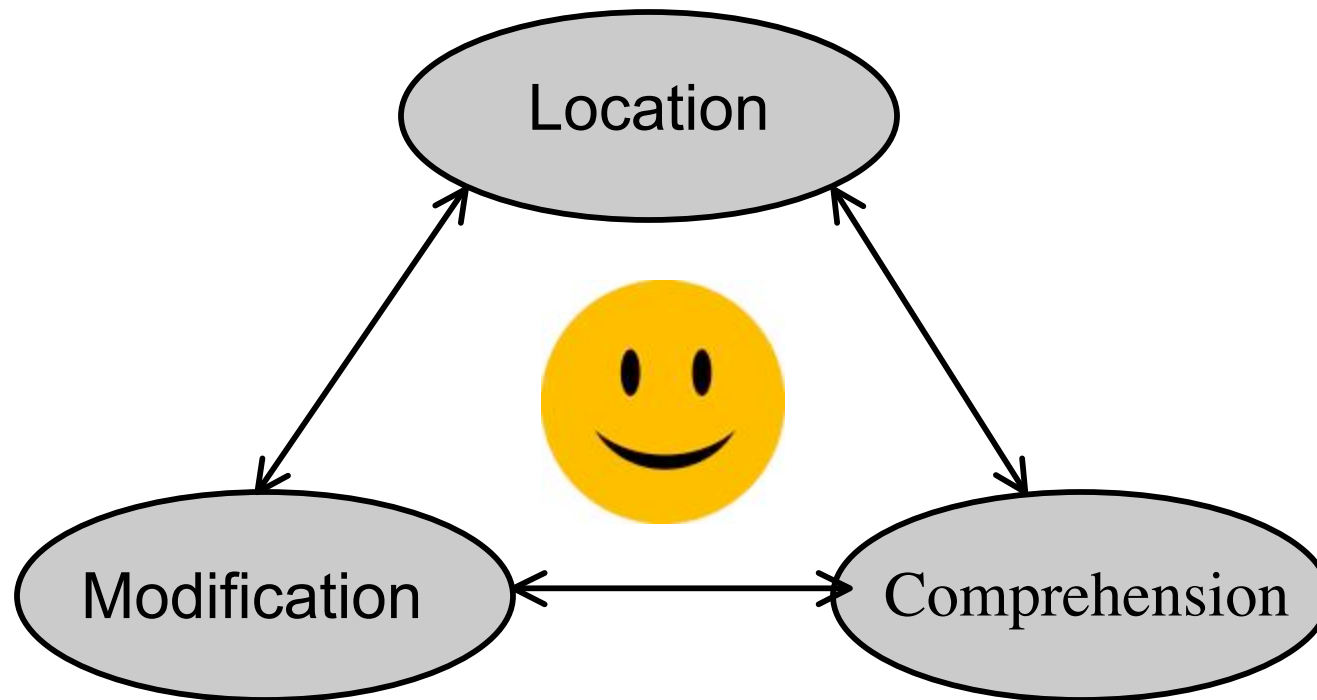
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- To let you know about some things that have been tried and the degree or conditions under which they have met success.
- To convey the conclusion that knowledge-based systems are affected by factors beyond individual end users and individual user interfaces.
- To stimulate your thinking about the role of software tools in knowledge management.

- Preaching to the converted.
- Warnings of a cynic of sorts.

L-C-M Model of Knowledge Reuse [Red93]

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Explainer [Red93]

- Library of Programming Examples for a Graphics API
- Hypermedia with *Extreme* Granularity
- Incremental [Minimal] Explanation
- Multiple Perspective
- Human Performance Variability Reduced

The screenshot displays the Explainer software interface, which is divided into several panes:

- Code:** Contains Lisp code for plotting a circle and drawing labels. The code includes comments and function calls like `(graphics:draw-string "x")` and `(graphics:draw-string label)`.
- Diagram:** A hierarchical tree diagram showing the structure of the code. It includes nodes like `plot stories`, `coordinate space`, `circle`, `labels stories`, `x ticks`, `number labels`, `position story`, and `number`.
- Example Output:** A circular plot with several points labeled with numbers (e.g., 98, 99, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100). The plot is a circle with points labeled with numbers, and the text "B = 0" is visible at the bottom.
- Explanation Dialog:** A dialog box providing detailed explanations of the code. It includes sections like **Story - (Tell-Story) - Cyclic-Operations Perspective** and **Position - (Tell-Story) - Program-Features Perspective**.
- TypeIn Commands:** A section at the bottom for entering commands, with a list of commands: `Command: Stop Recording`, `Command:`, and `Command:`.

Codebroker [Ye03]

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The image shows two windows side-by-side. The left window is Emacs, displaying Java code for a class `Chi2Eng` and a static method `print`. The right window is Netscape, displaying the Java documentation for `java.text.NumberFormat`.

(a) Emacs window showing the source code for `Chi2Eng`:

```
import java.lang.*;

class Chi2Eng {
    /** constructor */
    void Chi2Eng (String initVal) {
    }
    /** just set the internal value */
    void setValue (String val) {
    }
    /** translate to the English format and return it */

```

(b) Emacs window showing the source code for `print`:

```
return (d);
}

/** print a double */
public static void print(double d, int n) {
    NumberFormat nf = NumberFormat.getInstance();
    nf.setMaximumFractionDigits(n);
    nf.setGroupingUsed(true);
    System.out.print(nf.format(d) + " ");
    System.out.flush();
}

```

(c) Emacs window showing the source code for `NumberFormat`:

```
java.text.NumberFormat:final java.lang.String format(double num

```

(d) Netscape window showing the Java documentation for `java.text.NumberFormat`:

```
public final String format(double number)
    Specialization of format.

See Also:
    format

public final String format(long number)
    Specialization of format.

See Also:
    format

public abstract StringBuffer format(double number,
    StringBuffer toAppendTo,
    FieldPosition pos)
    Specialization of format

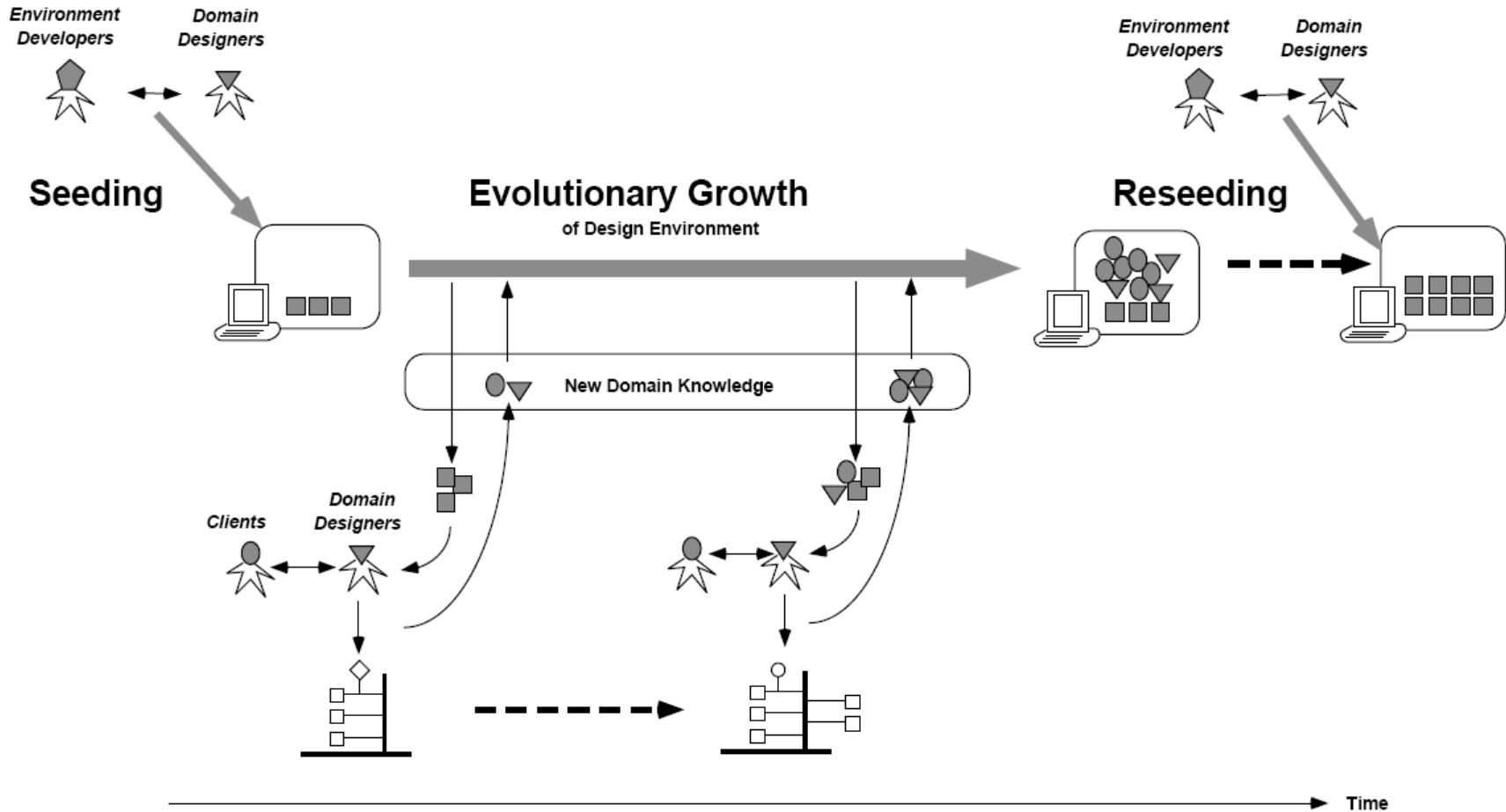
```

Lessons (1)

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- Knowledge reuse *infrastructure* is expensive.
 - Somehow has to input the knowledge
 - Someone has to maintain the knowledge
- Knowledge reuse adheres to a cost benefits equation.
 - Those who input / maintain / re-use must benefit more than the overhead required (which also implies that the tool is both useful and usable)
- Works when organizational goals and software support are aligned.
 - *Explainer* had a limited intention – support one API
- By the way, tools must be simple and adoptable by end users
 - I left many features out of *Explainer*

S-E-R Model of Knowledge Maintenance [FGMcC+01]



Lessons (2)

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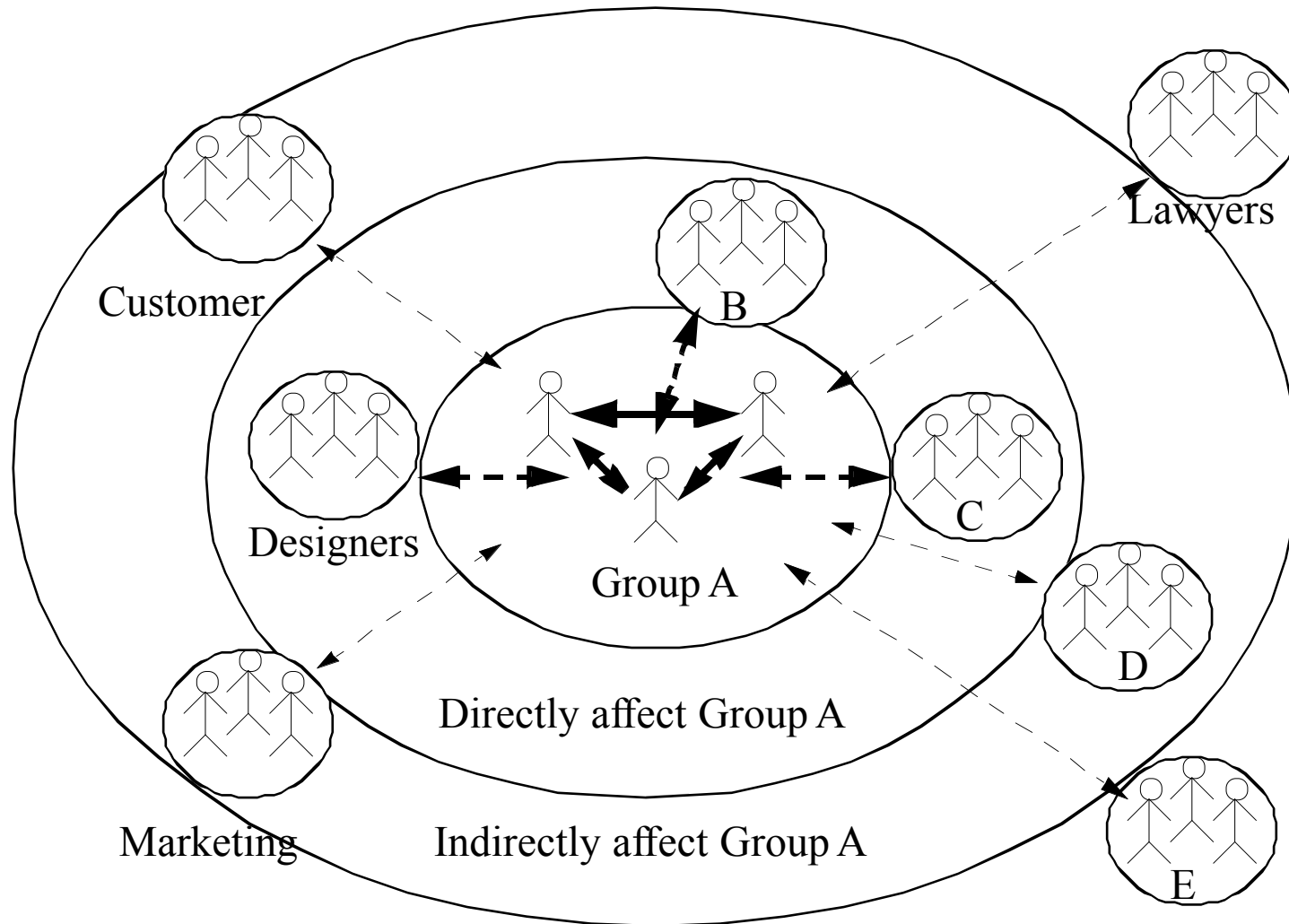
All of lessons 1 and ...

- Knowledge was being authored for future readers.
 - Hard problem?
- Focusing of attention was part of knowledge authoring.
 - Agents attached to artifacts provided one solution.
 - Also hard problem of anticipation.
- End users had to be involved in knowledge maintenance.

(applied to a design environment of network maintenance)

Modeling Social Aspects of Knowledge Reuse [KZR97]

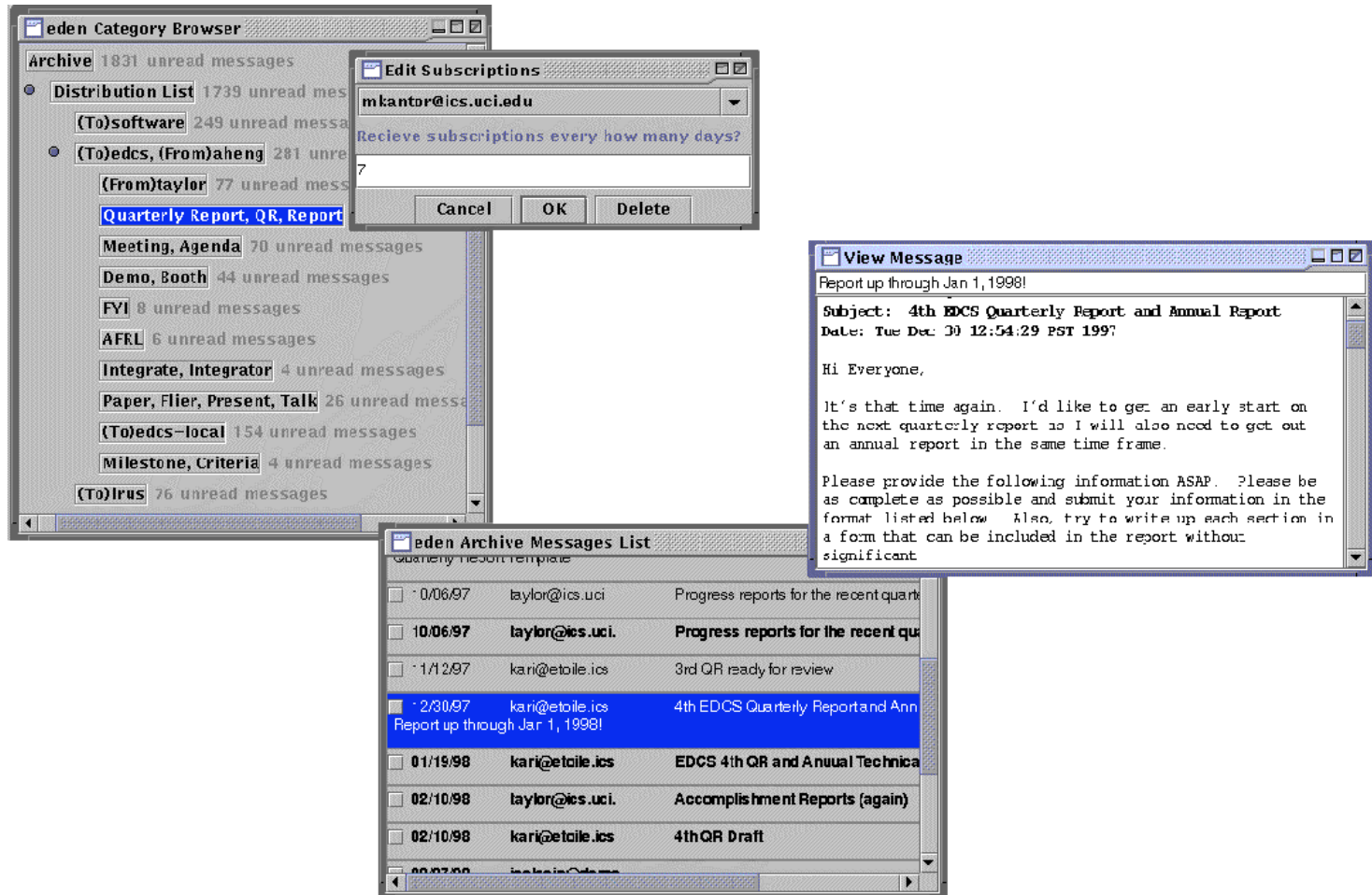
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Knowledge Depot [KZR97]

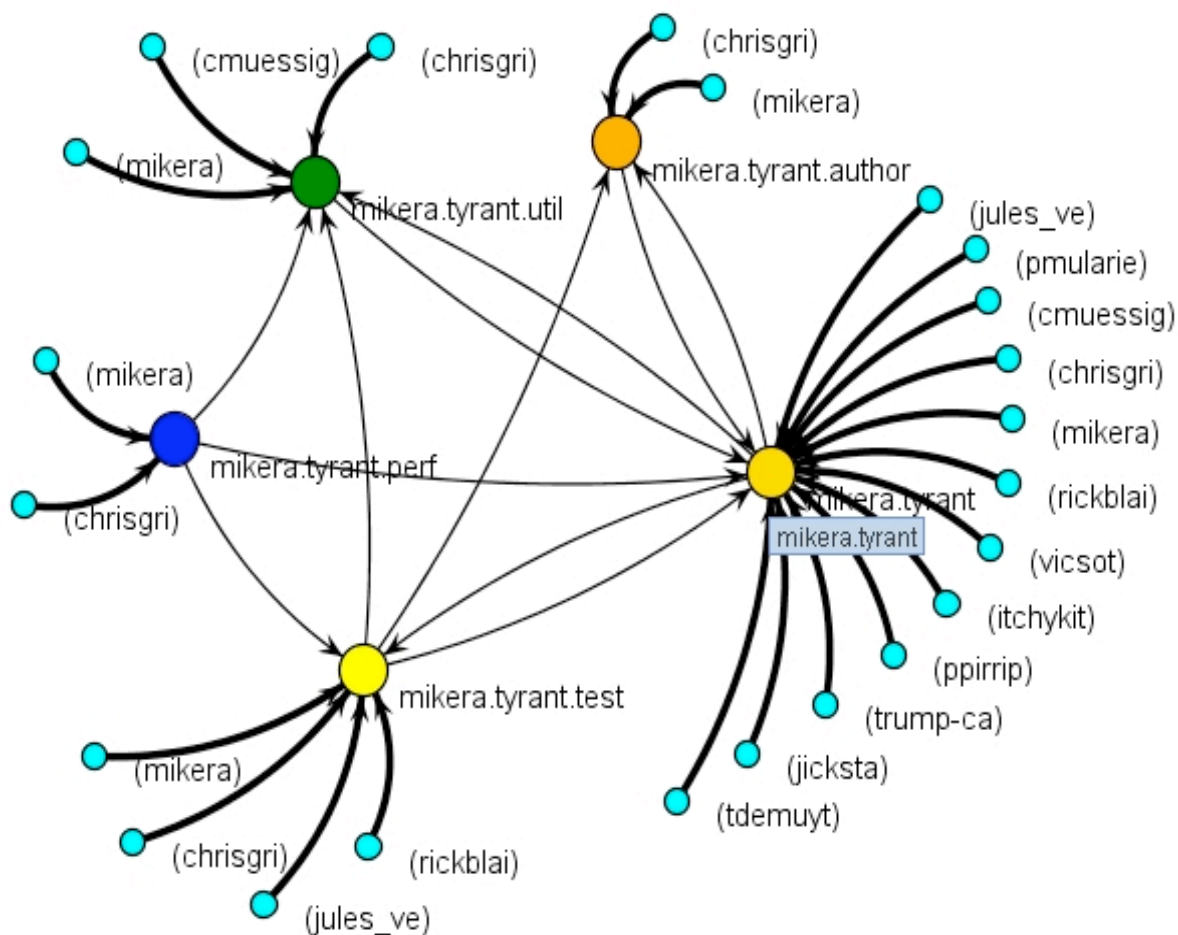
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- Group memory extracted from email
- Socially constructed categories
- Individual subscriptions for *awareness*



Ariadne [TQdS+05]

- Visualizing Social Call Graphs



Lessons (3)

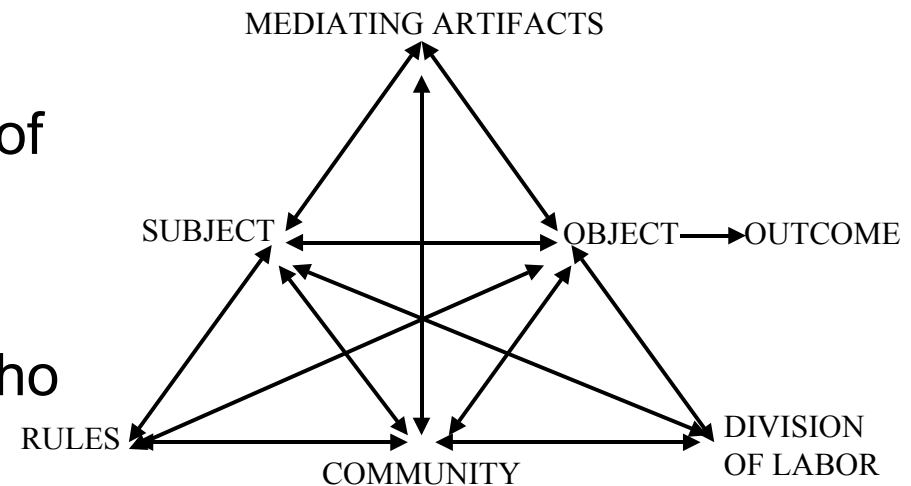
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- Design and knowledge extend beyond the individual to the social and organizational groups.
- Software tools should similarly extend beyond the individual interface.

Modeling Activity [deSR03] [CSR02]

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- Subjects are people within a community that work with objects to obtain an outcome.
- Rules determine the behavior of subjects and their interaction with objects.
- Division of labor determines who performs what actions.
- Mediating artifacts help subjects manipulate objects and obtain outcomes.
- Mediating artifacts have a history with respect to a community.



Engeström Activity System Model

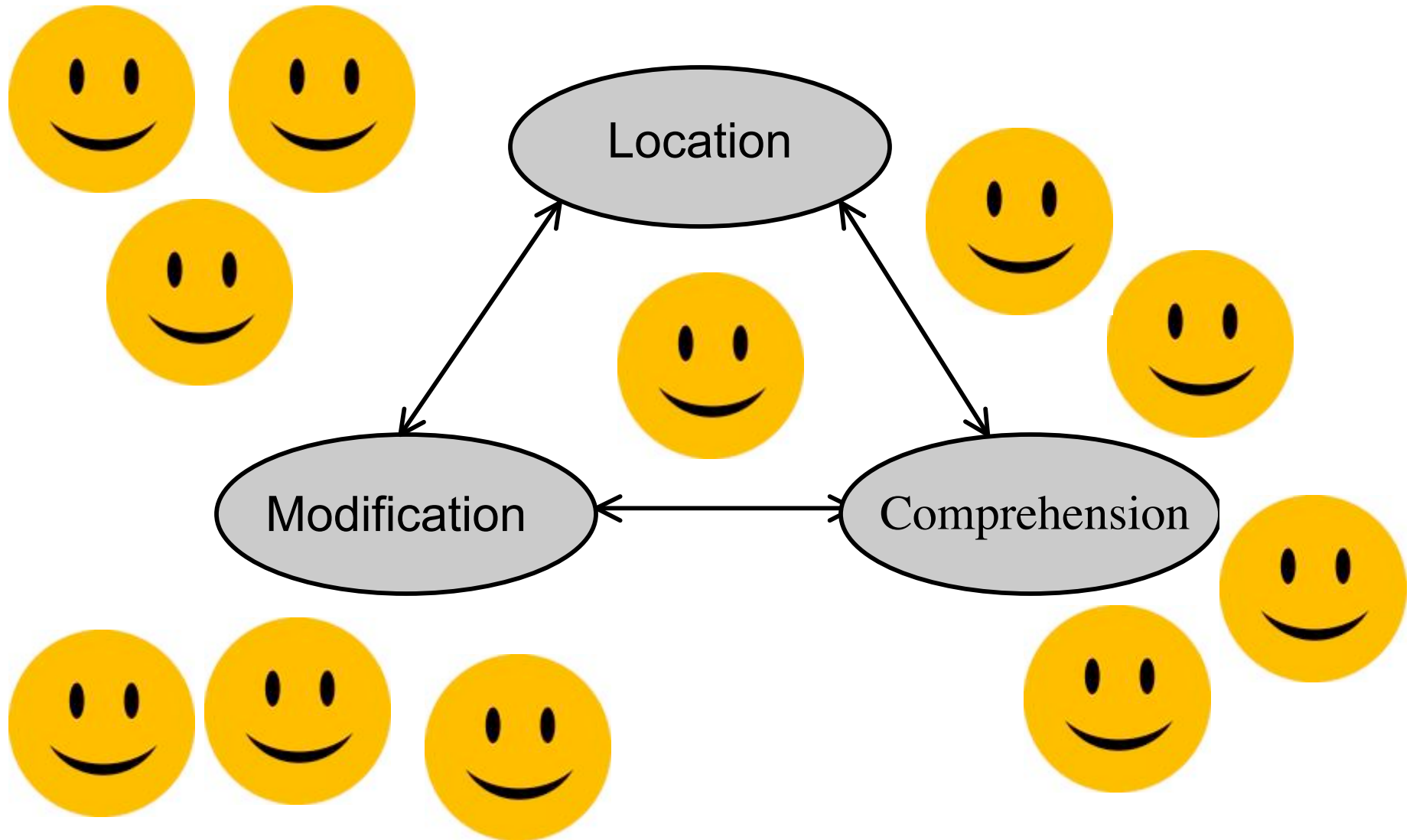
Lessons (4)

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- Identify the stakeholders in the process.
- Help ensure that technology is designed to the users, other stakeholders, and the organization.
- Work toward alignment between users' rewards and business' needs.
- Work toward alignment between the rewards of the designers of the device and both the end users' and business' needs.
- **Requires human interpretation or transmittal / is dynamic like a process and not static like a literal datum**

Coming Full Circle – Human and Social Dimensions

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Summing up ...

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- Undeniably, there is a critical role for software in organizations and in general technologies for manipulating knowledge-based artifacts.
- However, a great deal more work is needed to understand the limitations of our knowledge-related technologies.
 - Maintenance, interpretation, cost, ...
- Communities and a culture for knowledge management is essential.

Hope?

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- There is hope in collective endeavors
 - Wikipedia
 - Open source
- These efforts apply to knowledge artifacts.
- Are people still the best investments?

References

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- Collins, P., Shukla, S., Redmiles, D. Activity Theory and System Design: A View from the Trenches, Computer-supported Cooperative Work, Special Issue on Activity Theory and the Practice of Design, Vol. 11, No. 1-2, 2002, pp. 55-80.

Extra Slides

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Modes of Collaboration

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-
- Unrestricted Gift
 - State UC Micro Grants
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 - matching
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