Knowledge Management Meeting March 28, 2006

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Plug for ISR Forum – June 2

- 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

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

- Rest rooms
- Lunch
- Break out rooms

Introductions

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

Revised Schedule for Today

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

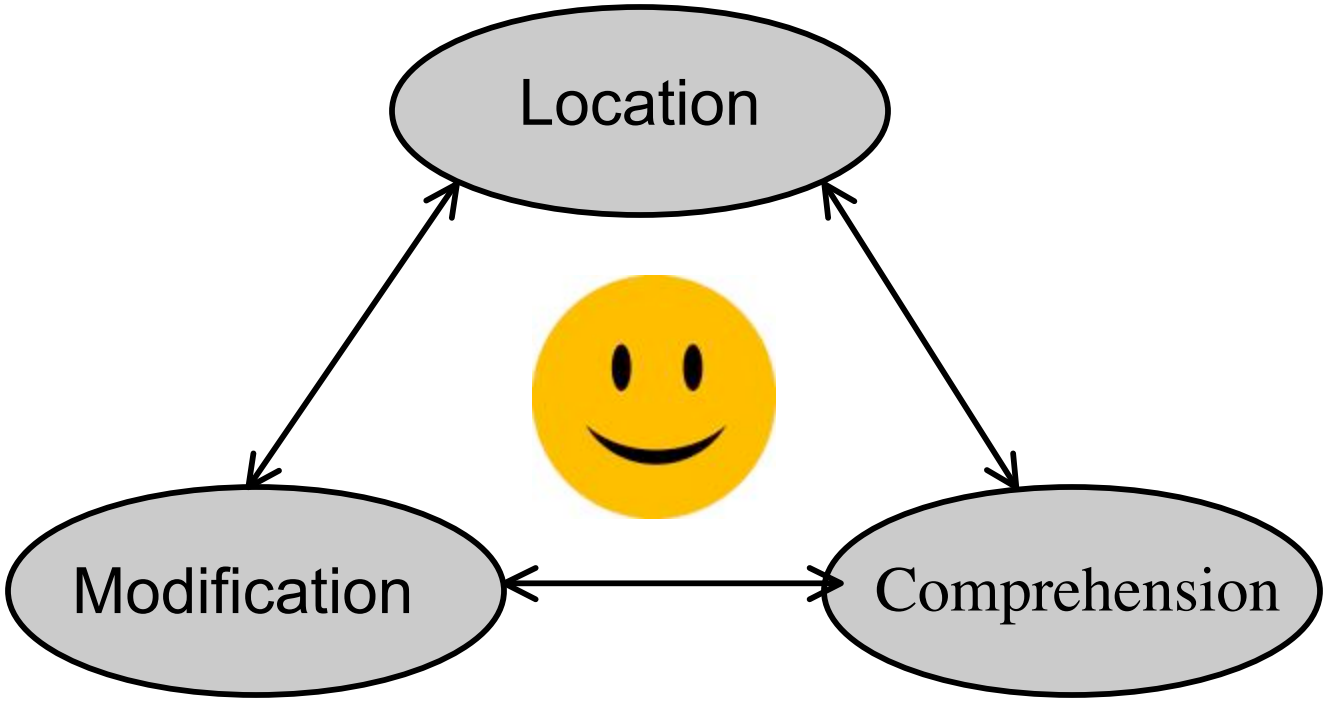
Talk Objectives

- 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.

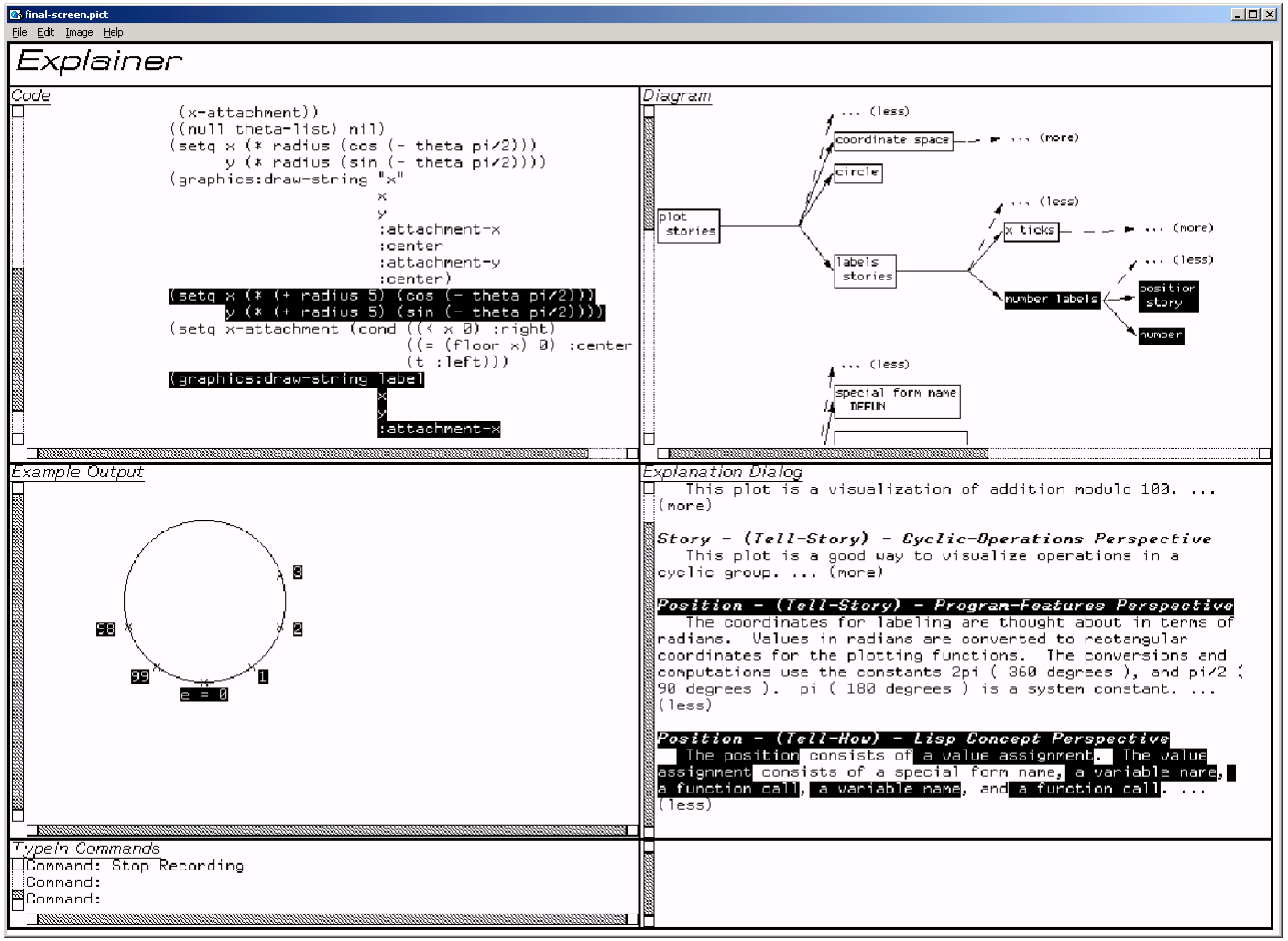
- Warnings of a cynic of sorts.

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

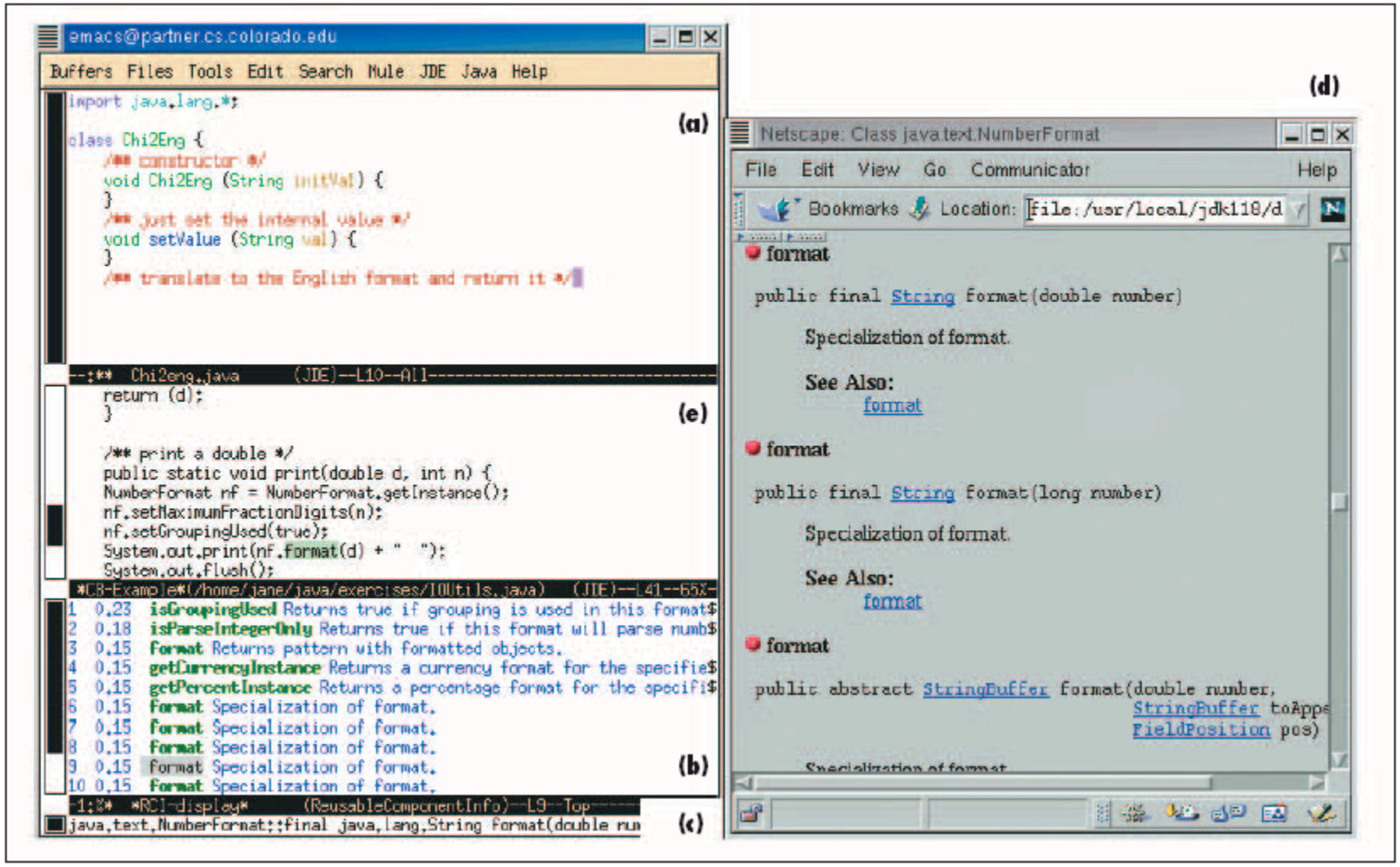


Explainer [Red93]

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



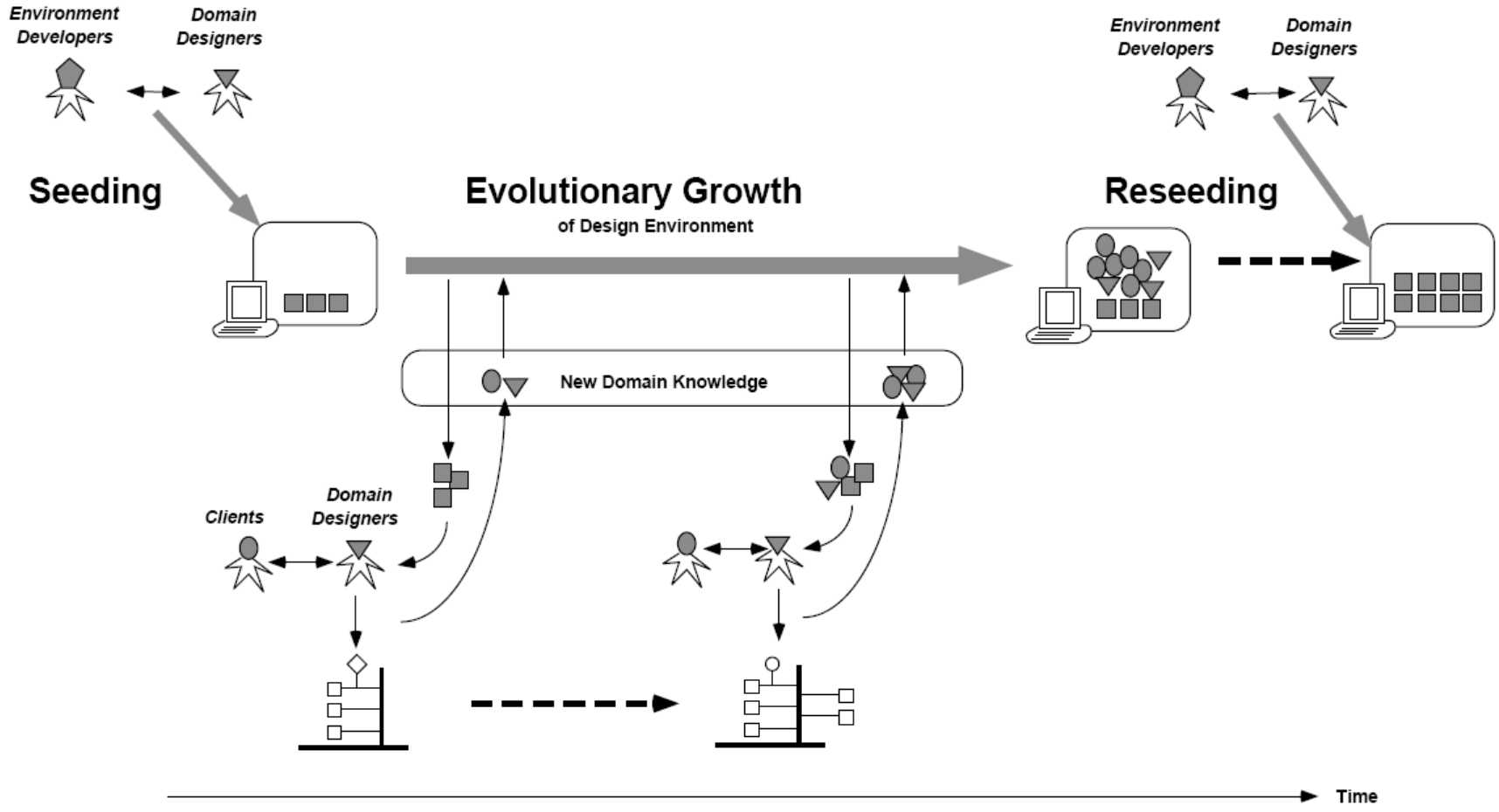
Codebroker [Ye03]



Lessons (1)

- 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]



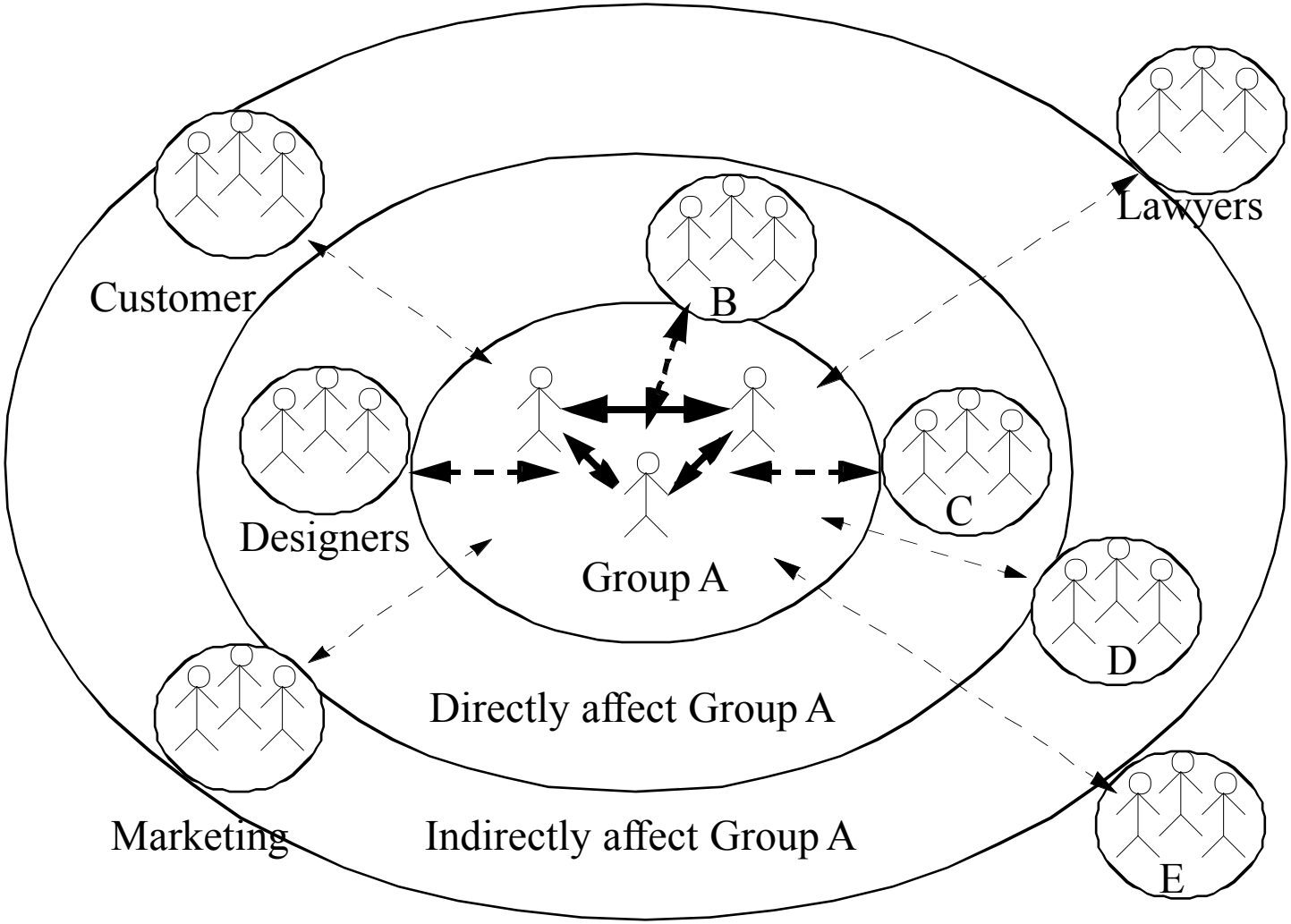
Lessons (2)

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.

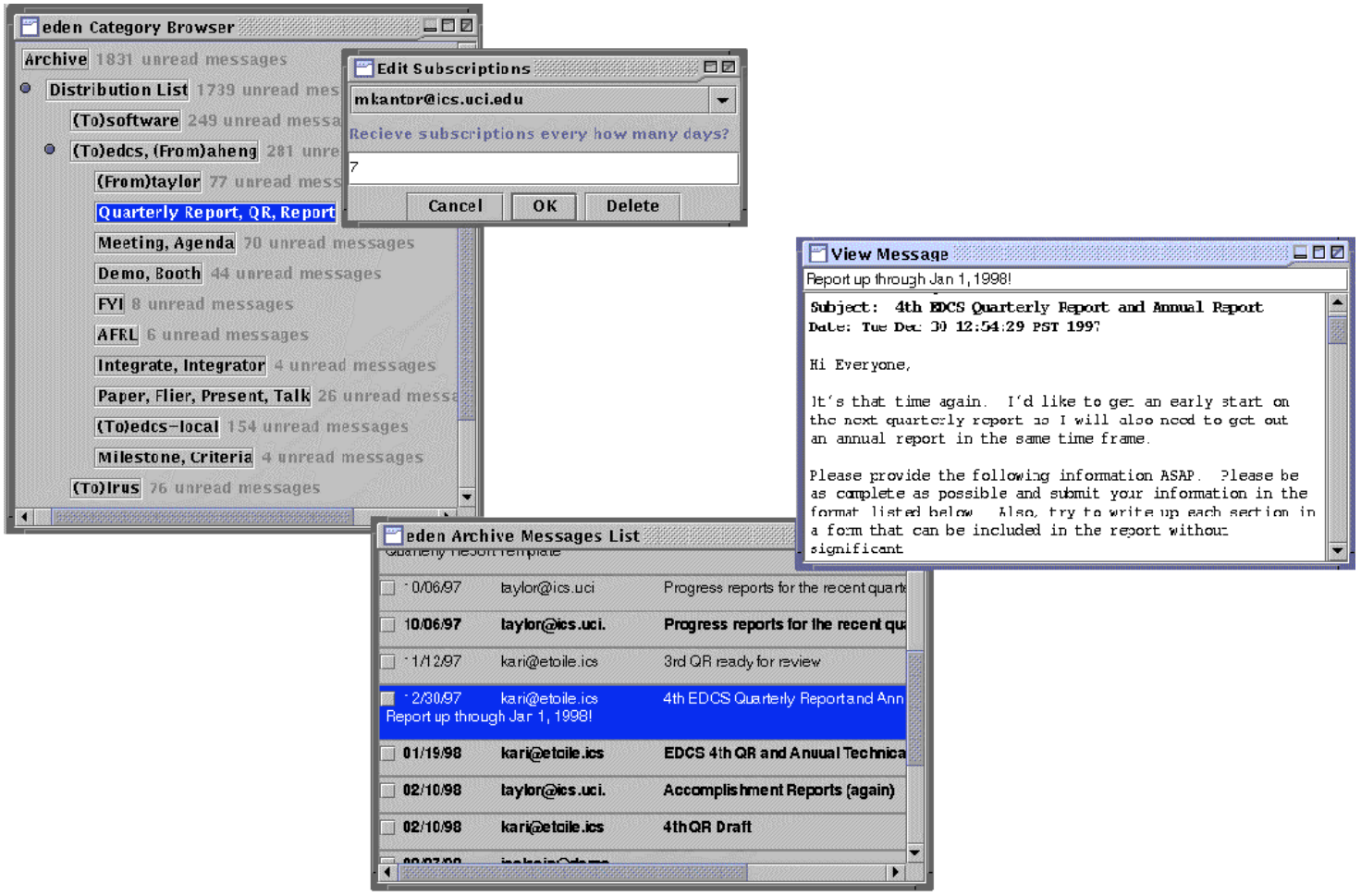
  (applied to a design environment of network maintenance)

Modeling Social Aspects of Knowledge Reuse [KZR97]



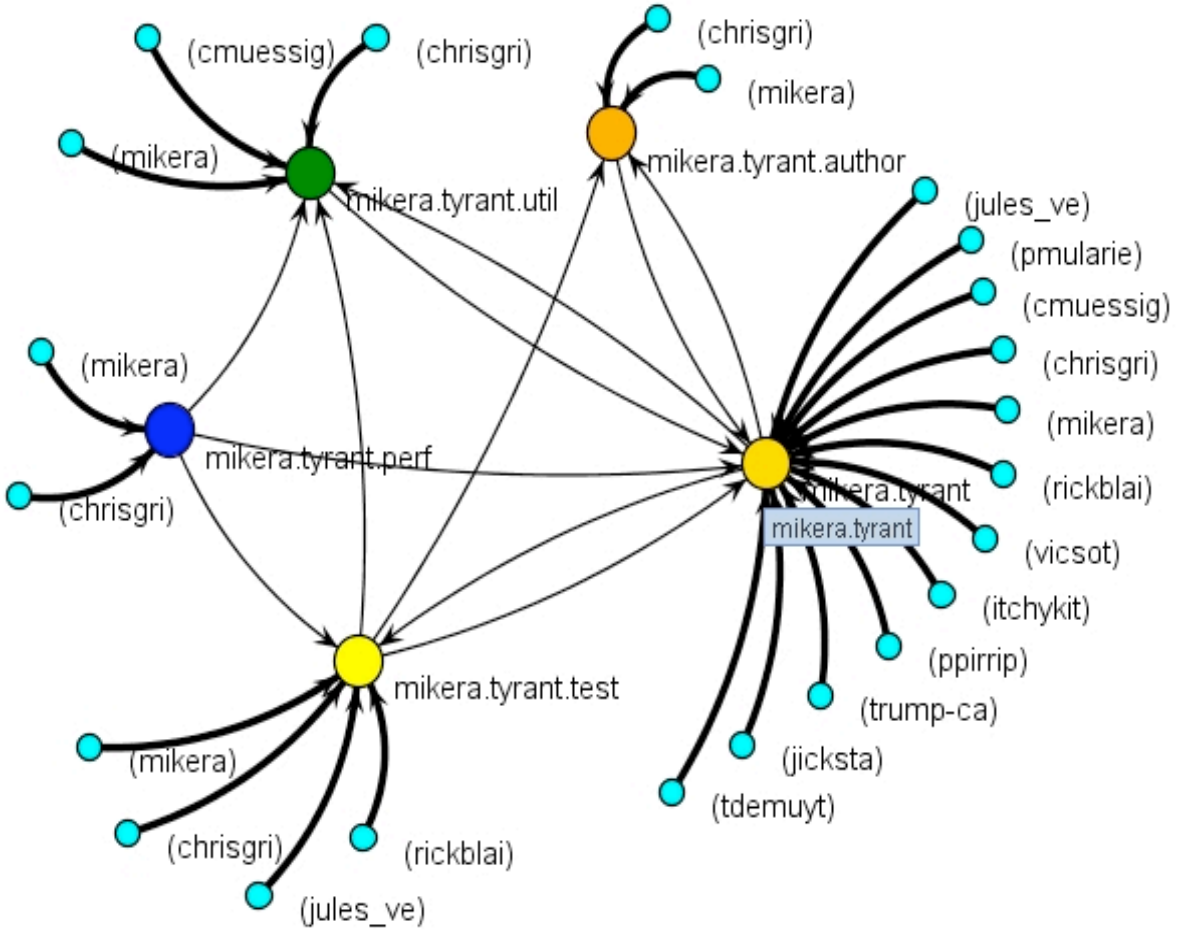
Knowledge Depot [KZR97]

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



Ariadne [TQdS+05]

- Visualizing Social Call Graphs

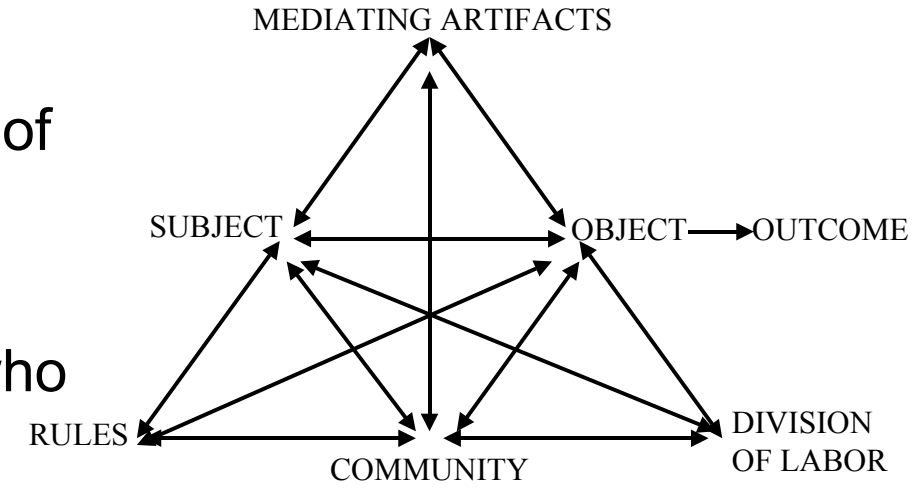


Lessons (3)

- 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]

- 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.

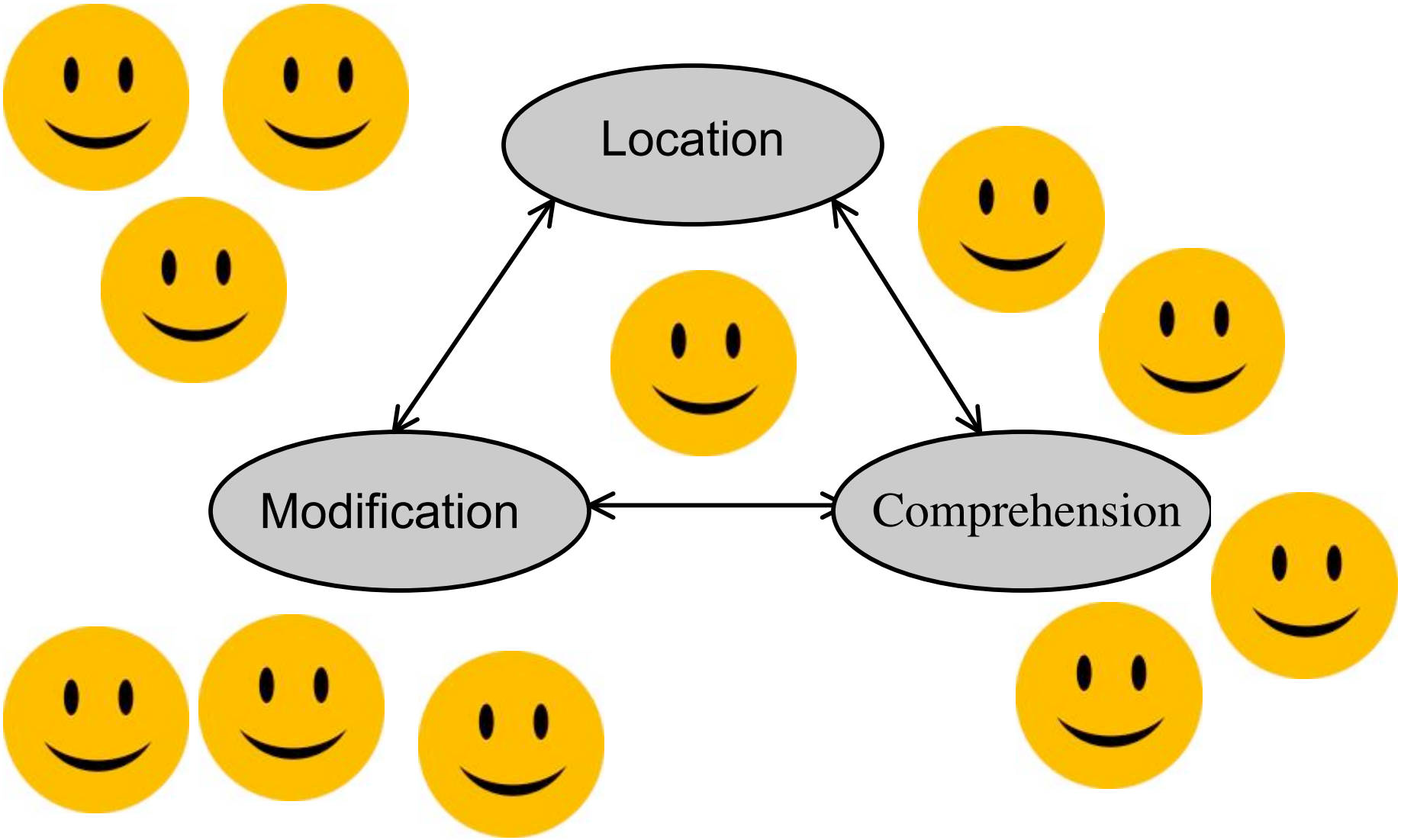


Engeström Activity System Model

Lessons (4)

- 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



Summing up …

- 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?

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

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Extra Slides

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  - matching
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