Mastering Systems Integration; Systems of Systems

by Gerrit Muller TNO-ESI, University of South-Eastern Norway]

e-mail: gaudisite@gmail.com

www.gaudisite.nl

Abstract

Most end-user functionality and services are realized by Systems of Systems. Many of these systems may include organizations and humans; the systems aren't technical artifacts anymore. These systems evolve over time individually and typically lack a centralized governance. The resulting end-to-end qualities depend on all consituent systems and their interoperability.

Distribution

This article or presentation is written as part of the Gaudí project. The Gaudí project philosophy is to improve by obtaining frequent feedback. Frequent feedback is pursued by an open creation process. This document is published as intermediate or nearly mature version to get feedback. Further distribution is allowed as long as the document remains complete and unchanged.

August 16, 2025

status: preliminary

draft

version: 0.2



Types of Systems of Systems

Directed - The SoS is centrally managed

Acknowledged - The SoS has recognized objectives, and active cooperation between SoS and constituent systems

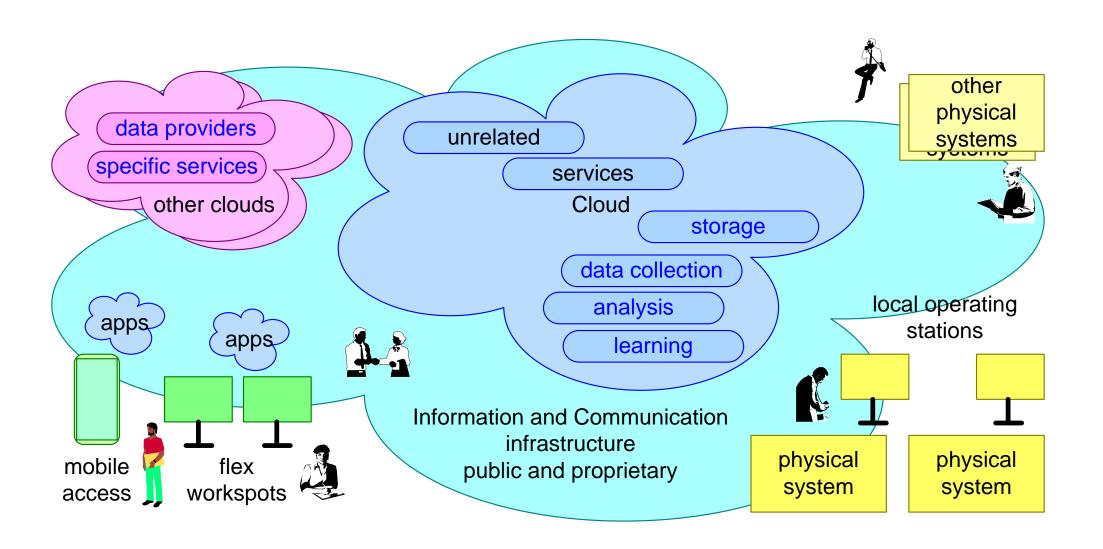
Collaborative - The constituent systems and stakeholders cooperate

Virtual - The SoS nature more or less emerge from the constituent systems

J. Dahmann and K. Baldwin. 2008. "Understanding the Current State of US Defense Systems of Systems and the Implications for Systems Engineering." IEEE Systems Conference 2008 in Montreal, 2008

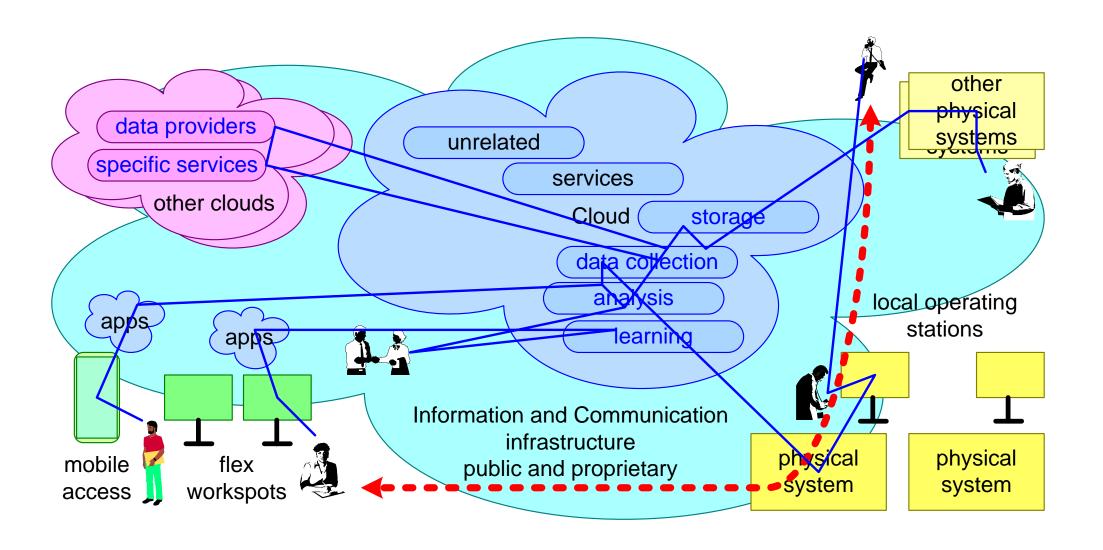


Where are the System Boundaries?



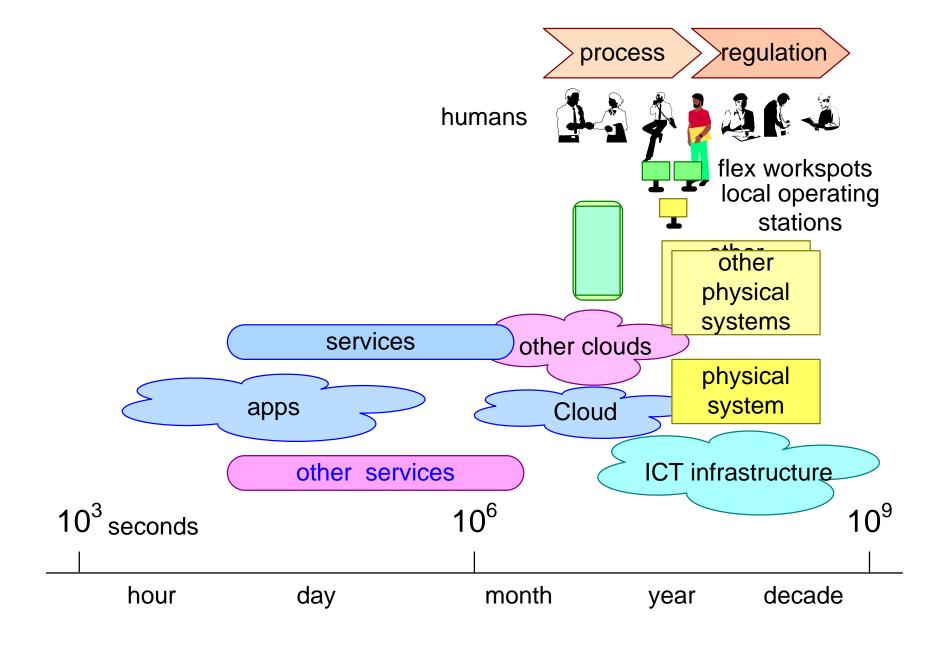


End-to-End Function



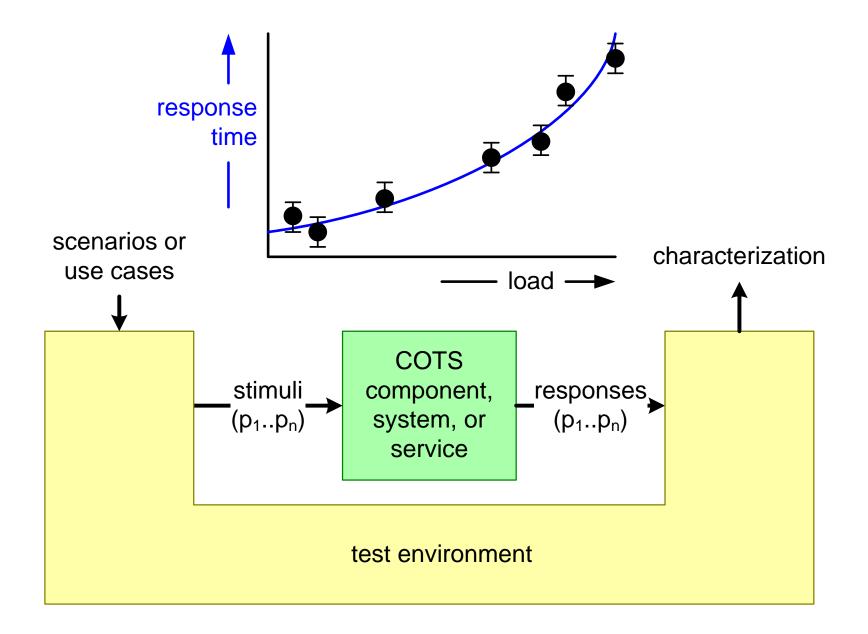


Varying Dynamics





Characterization of Black Box Parts





Summary

- Systems of Systems Integration continues in the field during operation
- Ownership and responsibility for end-to-end performance is ill-defined
- Your system may be blamed for problems with a root cause elsewhere
- End-to-end performance depends on a mix of
 - traditional technical systems
 - modern technologies like learning
 - humans in their organizational and societal context (psychological, social, political, economical, legal, etc.)
 - the physical context (location, climate, etc.) and laws of physics



Keywords from various SoS models in literature

Boardman and Sauser	Maier Operational	DeLaurentis	Dahmann and Baldwin
Autonomy	independence Managerial	Туре	Directed
Belonging	independence Geographic	Control (or autonomy)	Acknowledged
Connectivity	separation	adteriority)	Collaborative
Diversity	Emergent behavior	Connectivity	Virtual
Emergence	Evolutionary development		

