




# Introduction to Domain-Specific Languages



**Dr. Markus Völter**

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# Introduction to Me :-)

**DSL Design and Implementation**  
**Domain Analysis**  
**Software Architecture**  
**Mitdenker**

**Consulting, Development,  
Speaking, Writing**




**Dipl. Ing. Technical Physics**  
**PhD Computer Science**



- Data Transformation, Diffing, Migration
- Laser machining programming, hardware description, capability mapping
- Wage and tax calculation
- Realtime data processing in medical systems
- Code pattern detection and transformation
- Clinical trial protocols, plus testing
- Document description and diffing
- Data processing in Big Science
- Tax calculation
- Data modeling and validation
- User interface modeling
- An embeddable functional programming language (KernelF)
- Treatments in digital therapeutics
- Social insurance
- Insurance product modeling
- Functional architecture in automotive systems
- Variability modeling

## Dr. Markus Völter

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Subject matter experts, or SMEs, own the knowledge and expertise that is the backbone of software.

But too often this rich expertise is not captured in a structured way and gets lost when translating it for software developers who then analyze, interpret and understand it before writing code.

With the rate of change increasing, time-to-market shortening and product variability blooming, this approach is increasingly untenable. It causes delays, quality problems and frustration for everybody involved.

We advocate for adopting a mindset that puts subject SMEs directly in control of "their" part of the software and lets developers focus on their core skill, software engineering.

**Here is how we achieve it:**

**DSLs for SMEs**

**Automate DSL to  
code transformation**

**Let devs build DSLs,  
IDEs, trafos and  
robust platforms**

# SUBJECT MATTER FIRST!

Here is how we achieve it:

DSLs for SMEs

Automate DSL to  
code transformation

Let devs build DSLs,  
IDEs, trafos and  
robust platforms





# Examples

Tax, Healthcare, Systems Engineering

# Tax Calculation

Structure oriented  
along the legal text

Gruppe für Bierdeckelsteuer

```
private tax SteuerAbsetzbar = min(Steuer, 2000)

private tax Steuer = EssenSteuer + GetränkeSteuer

private tax EssenSteuer = EssenNetto * 15%
    private tax EssenNetto : real

private tax GetränkeSteuer = GetränkeNetto * 7%
    private tax GetränkeNetto : real
```

10,000 fields and formulas  
1,000 validation rules  
100 SMEs  
10 years back  
significant yearly changes

DATEV



CLASSIFIED

Iterate over lists, count, sum  
Monthly and yearly data structures  
Time series and operations on them (Kf TT)  
Queries in order to construct derived data  
Data tables for parameter sets



Video von der OOP 2021

<https://youtu.be/q56wzLQkEho>

# Salary Calculation



```
val beitragsprozentArbeitnehmer: %% = 1.50%
val beitragsprozentArbeitgeber: %% = 1.50%
```

Percent Types

```
daten ArbeitslosenversicherungStamm {
  beitragsgruppe      : arbeitslosenversicherungBeitragsgruppe
  unternehmenRechtskreis0st : boolean
}
```

```
ergebnis [monatlich] ArbeitslosenversicherungErgebnis {
  arbeitgeberBeitrag : €€€
  arbeitnehmerBeitrag : €€€
}
```

Currenty Types

```
fun getSvBruttoGekürzt(rechtskreis0st: boolean, svBrutto: €€€): €€€
```

Decision Tables

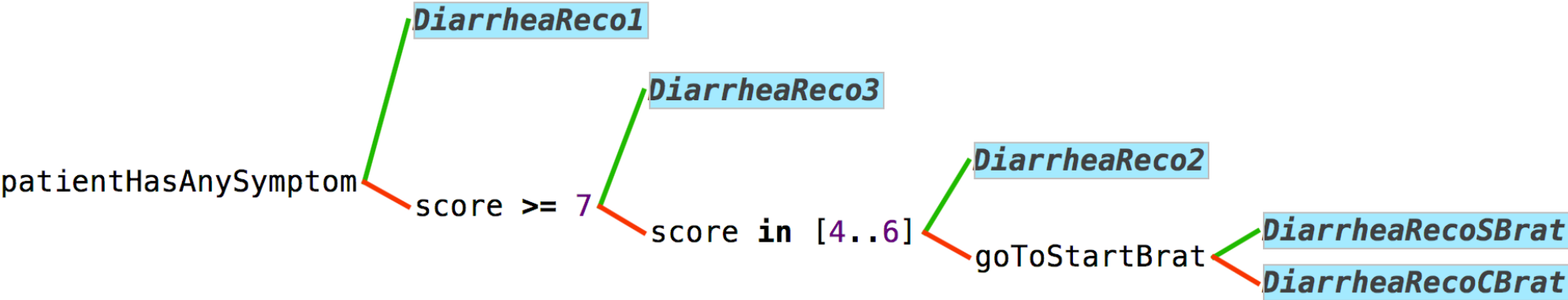
rechtskreis0st svBrutto > bbg0st svBrutto > bbgWest			wert: €€€
true	true		bbg0st
false		true	bbgWest
			svBrutto



**decision table** BpScoreDecisionTable(sys: bpRange, dia: bpRange) =

		dia					
		<= 50	[51..90]	[91..95]	[96..100]	[101..109]	>= 110
sys	<= 90	1	1	3	4	5	6
	[91..140]	2	2	3	4	5	6
	[141..150]	3	3	3	4	5	6
	[151..160]	4	4	4	4	5	6
	[161..179]	5	5	5	5	5	6
	>= 180	6	6	6	6	6	6

**decision tree** DiarrheaStoolsDecisionTree(score: DiarrheaStoolsOverBaseline, patientHasAnySymptom: boolean, goToStartBrat: boolean)





# Social Insurance

Mix between form style and  
„real“ language.

Name: UVG-Leistungen

## Unterhaltsvorschuss

Zeitangabe: laufend

Häufigkeit: monatlich einmal

Leistungskontext:

Leistungsart: Leer

Zählart: uvg

Anspruch Beginn: Anfang – Unbegrenzt: junger Mensch.geburtsdatum

Anspruch Ende: 01.01.1800 – 31.12.9999 : min(junger Mensch.geburtsda  
12 Jahre

Zeitraum für Berechnung: Anfang – Unbegrenzt: {standardzeitraum, standardze

zweckgebundene Leistung: ☐

dem Grunde nach: ☐

### Zeitraumbezogene Daten

nullwerte Anzeigen : **boolean** = 01.01.1800 – 31.05.2016 : **true**  
01.06.2016 – Unbegrenzt: **false**

berechnungsart : **berechnungsarttyp** = 01.01.1800 – 31.12.9999 :

Bezugsobjekte: << ... >>

Attribute:

bemerkung : **string** wird validiert

antragsdatum : **Datum**

## Nebenberechnungen

Name: Kindergeld für vollen Monat

(01.01.1800 – 31.12.9999 )

Rechnungsart: wenn: wird geboren mit junger Mensch als person dann voller  
sonst: taggenau

Begünstigtenprinzip: ☐

monatswert = Kindergeld 1. Kind

zwischenergebnisse = [<< ... >>]

endergebnis = monatswert

# Social Insurance

Mix between form style and „real“ language.

Yellow parts are scaffolding and cannot be removed.

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## Unterhaltsvorschuss

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Häufigkeit: monatlich einmal

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monatswert = Kindergeld 1. Kind

zwischenergebnisse = [<< ... >>]

endergebnis = monatswert

# CRC++

- \* T: Repository
  - \* C: stores the [Model]
  - \* P: Is the central hub to which the other components connect, at least logically
- \* T: Editor
  - \* R: interacts with the users
  - \* P: Can be graphical, textual, projectional, etc.
  - \* C: Updates the [PrimaryModel] based on user's editing gestures
- \* T: Processor
  - \* C: Updates the [PrimaryModel] automatically based on algorithms
  - \* C: Creates and updates the [DerivedModel] based on algorithms
    - \* E: Type checkers
    - \* E: Scope calculators
    - \* E: Model desugarers
  - \* R: Can create external artifacts
    - \* E: generators producing text
- \* D: Model {many}
  - \* P: Consists of nodes and edges typed based on a meta model
  - \* V: PrimaryModel {many}
    - \* P: Models that cannot be recomputed from others, always persistet
  - \* V: DerivedModel {many}
    - \* P: Models that are derived from other primary or derived models; optionally persisted
    - \* W: They can be persisted because recomputation can be expensive

# CRC++

\* T: Repository

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\* E: Scope cal

\* E: Model des

\* R: Can create

\* E: generator

\* D: Model {many}

\* P: Consists of

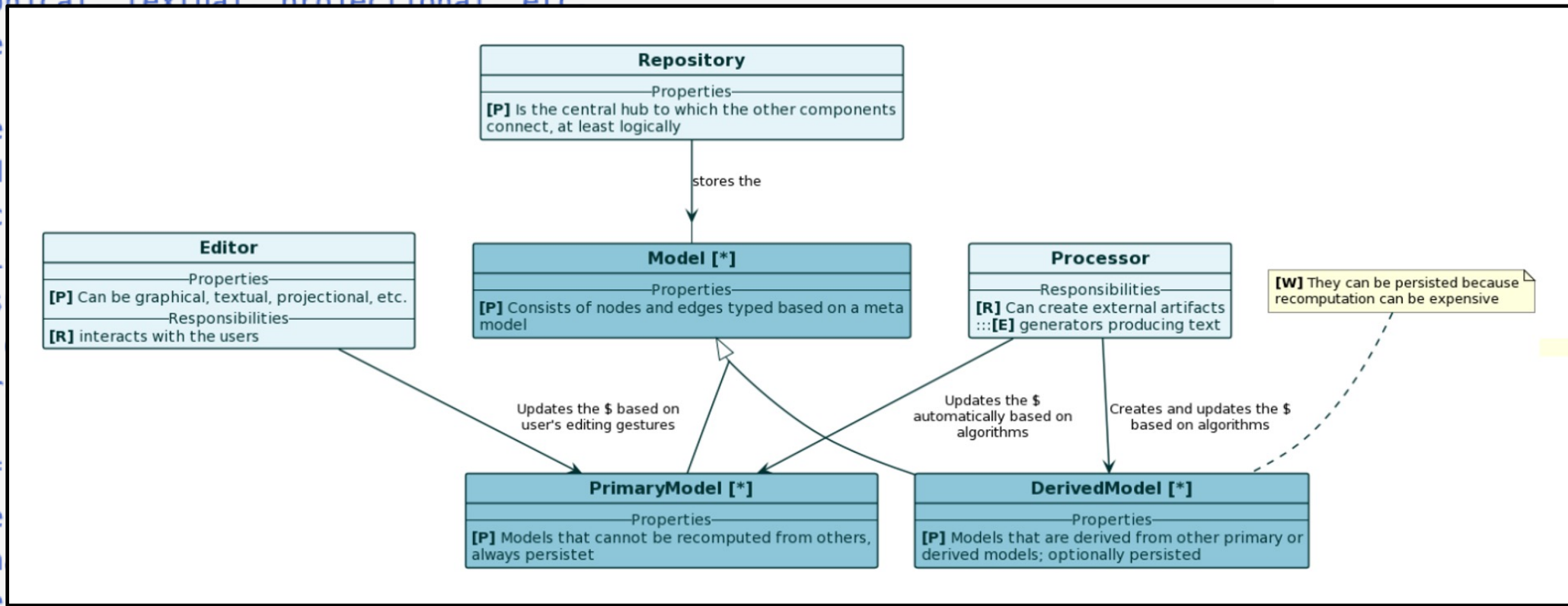
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\* P: Models that are derived from other primary or derived models; optionally persisted

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# Big Picture: How does knowledge get into software

Responsibilities (darker shade = care more )	Subject Matter Experts	Software Engineers
Caring about the intricacies of each subject matter instance		
Determining what is "correct" in terms of subject matter		
Writing and executing tests, the notion of coverage		
Use Arithmetic and conditional operators, case distinction, etc.		
Understand the core conceptual abstractions of a domain		
Complexity, Dependencies, Modularity, Cohesion		
Conceptual consistency (if needed)		
Finding and then building new abstractions		
Develop Languages, Generators and Tools		
Scalability, Performance, Security, Robustness, Availability		
Develop and run Build-, Test- and Deployment Pipelines		

# Useful for the following Domains

**Large and  
complicated  
subject matter**

**Experts that  
understand the  
subject matter**

**High rate of change  
within the domain**

**Long-lived domain  
or large variety  
within domain**

**Insurance [Product Definition]**

**Healthcare [Treatment algorithms]**

**Public Administration [Tax, Public Benefits]**

**Law and Legal [Contract Modeling]**

**A CAD program for the knowledge worker**

**A compiler for requirements**

# Tachographs

```
1 isore rest rule TimingPattern_07_ObjectsAcrossRows_Modified_TandA_897_1Iteration {
```

```
2 description: 1381R3.ARCHD.0609.TimingPatternLanguage_TestScenarioMap.xlsx
```

```
3 parameters: TimePeriodObjectTypA4
```

**patterns:**

	1	2	3	4	5	6
scenario				< TimePeriodObjectTypeA4 >		
scenario	TimePeriodObjectTypeA1 >					TimePeriodObjectTypeA6
scenario		< TimePeriodSpecifier2::Duration = 24 Hours	>			
scenario			< TimePeriodSpecifier3::Duration = 15 Minutes	>		
scenario					△ TimeSpikeObjectTypeA5	

**database** databaseOneElementAcrossRows

Type	Begin	End	Duration	Occurrence
eTimePeriodObjectTypA	500	550	50	

11

```
database databaseOneAndMoreIterationsHappy
```

Type	Begin	End	Duration	Occurrence
eTimePeriodObjectTypA	50	100	50	
eTimeSpikeObjectTypA				86000
eTimePeriodObjectTypA	86020	86030	10	

11

☐

# Testing

# Testing

```
Gruppe für Bierdeckelsteuer

private tax SteuerAbsetzbar = min(Steuer, 2000)

private tax Steuer = EssenSteuer + GetränkeSteuer

private tax EssenSteuer = EssenNetto * 15%
  private tax EssenNetto : real

private tax GetränkeSteuer = GetränkeNetto * 7%
  private tax GetränkeNetto : real
```

Automatic derivation  
of test structure  
from calculation schema



Automated coverage measurement  
for models and languages

```
multi test case TestBierdeckelsteuer [fail] {
  <no fiscalYear>
  Gruppe: Bierdeckelsteuer
  Knoten: <no taxUnderTest>
  □ Integrationstest
```

Direct Execution  
in the MPS IDE

	case unter2000 [ok]	case über2000 [failed]
<b>Bierdeckelsteuer</b>		
SteuerAbsetzbar	[ok] ? 8,90	[ok] ? 2000
Steuer	[ok] ? 8,90	[ok] ? 2200
EssenSteuer	[ok] ? 7,50	[ok] ? 1500
EssenNetto	50,00	10000
GetränkeSteuer	[ok] ? 1,40	[was: 700.00] ? 1,40
GetränkeNetto	20,00	10000

}

Intuitive capture of relevant  
data constellations and test expectations



# Testing

Tracing in the IDE

Trace Explorer: Test TestBierdeckelsteuer: über2000

- Presets: Test TestBierdeckelsteuer... [CaseDeclaration]
- EssenNetto: 10000 (über2000) [ValueCell]
- GetränkeNetto: 10000 (über2000) [ValueCell]
- SteuerAbsetzbar: 2000 ⇒ OK : String (6 ms) [NumberLiteral]
- actual: SteuerAbsetzbar ⇒ 2000 : BigDecimal (6 ms) [TaxEntry]
- tax SteuerAbsetzbar ⇒ 2000 : BigDecimal (6 ms) [TaxEntry]
- tax Steuer ⇒ 2200.00 : BigDecimal (5 ms) [TaxEntry]
  - tax EssenSteuer ⇒ 1500.00 : BigDecimal (2 ms) [TaxEntry]
  - tax GetränkeSteuer ⇒ 700.00 : BigDecimal (1 ms) [TaxEntry]
- exp: 2000 ⇒ 2000 : BigInteger [NumberLiteral]
- Steuer: 2200 ⇒ OK : String [NumberLiteral]
- EssenSteuer: 1500 ⇒ OK : String (1 ms) [NumberLiteral]
- GetränkeSteuer: 1,40 ⇒ FAILED : String [NumberLiteral]

Overlay of values  
over the calculation  
schema

Gruppe für Bierdeckelsteuer

```
private tax SteuerAbsetzbar = min(Steuer, 2000)
```

```
private tax Steuer = EssenSteuer ⇒ 1500.00 + GetränkeSteuer ⇒ 700.00 ⇒ 2200.00
```

```
private tax EssenSteuer = EssenNetto ⇒ 10000 * 15% ⇒ 1500.00
```

```
private tax EssenNetto : real ⇒ 10000
```

```
private tax GetränkeSteuer = GetränkeNetto ⇒ 10000 * 7% ⇒ 700.00
```

```
private tax GetränkeNetto : real ⇒ 10000
```

⇒ 2200.00



# Workflows

Teams, Generation and DevOps

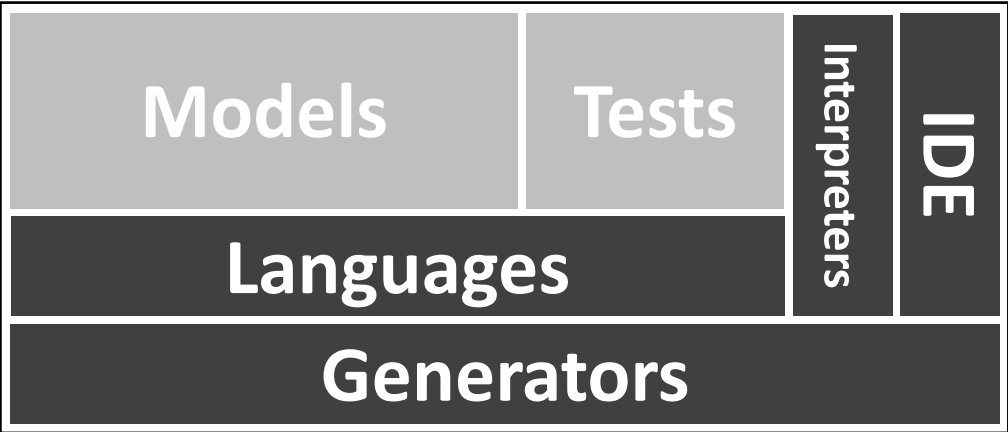
# Subject Matter Workflow

Specification and test  
of calculation rules

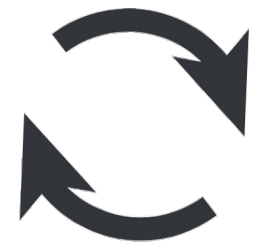


## Collaboration

based on well-defined  
and executable artifacts



Understand  
Describe  
Test  
Review

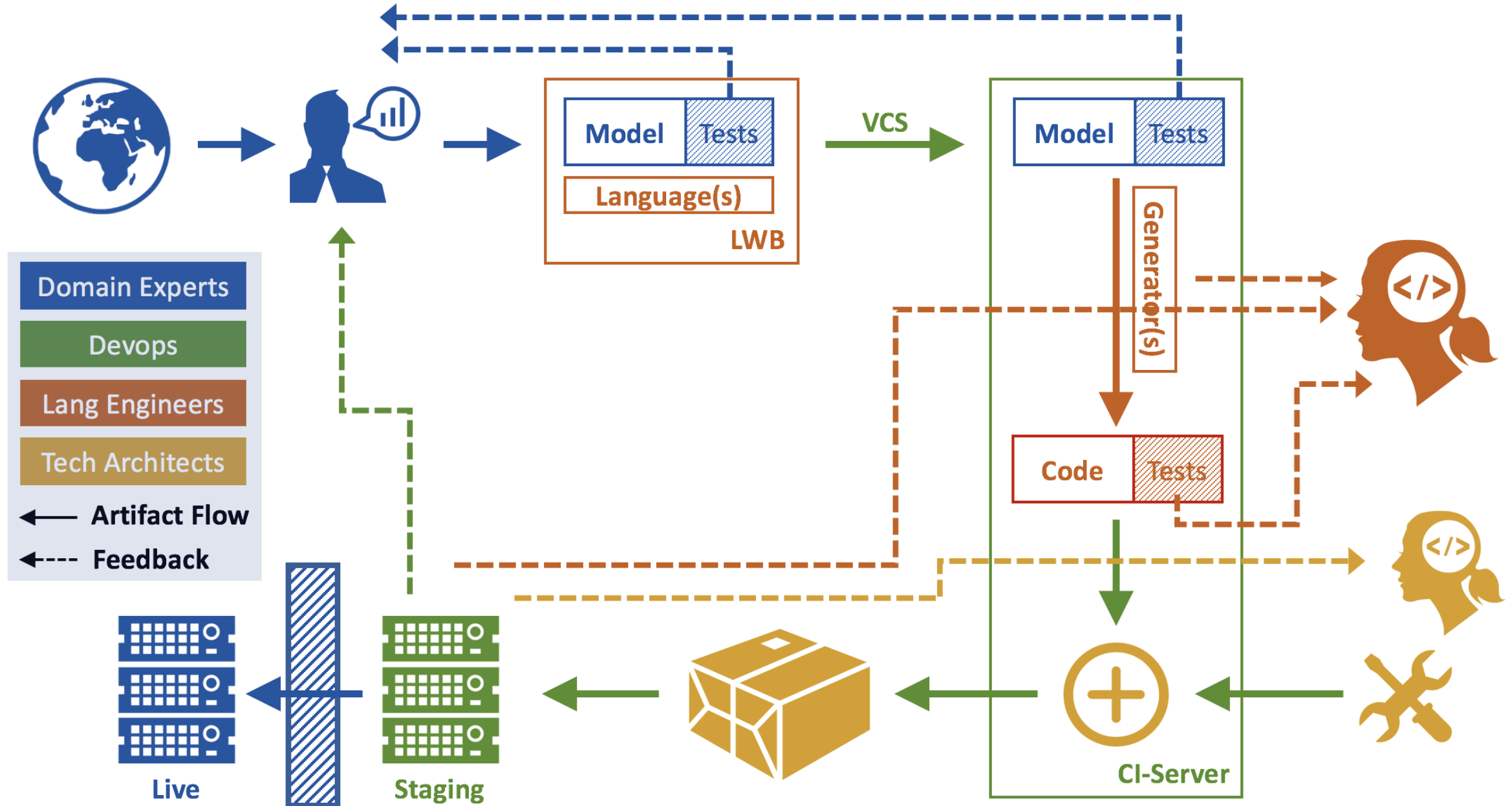


## Technical Workflow

Efficient and high-quality  
implementations for data center  
and on-premise apps



# DevOps Perspective



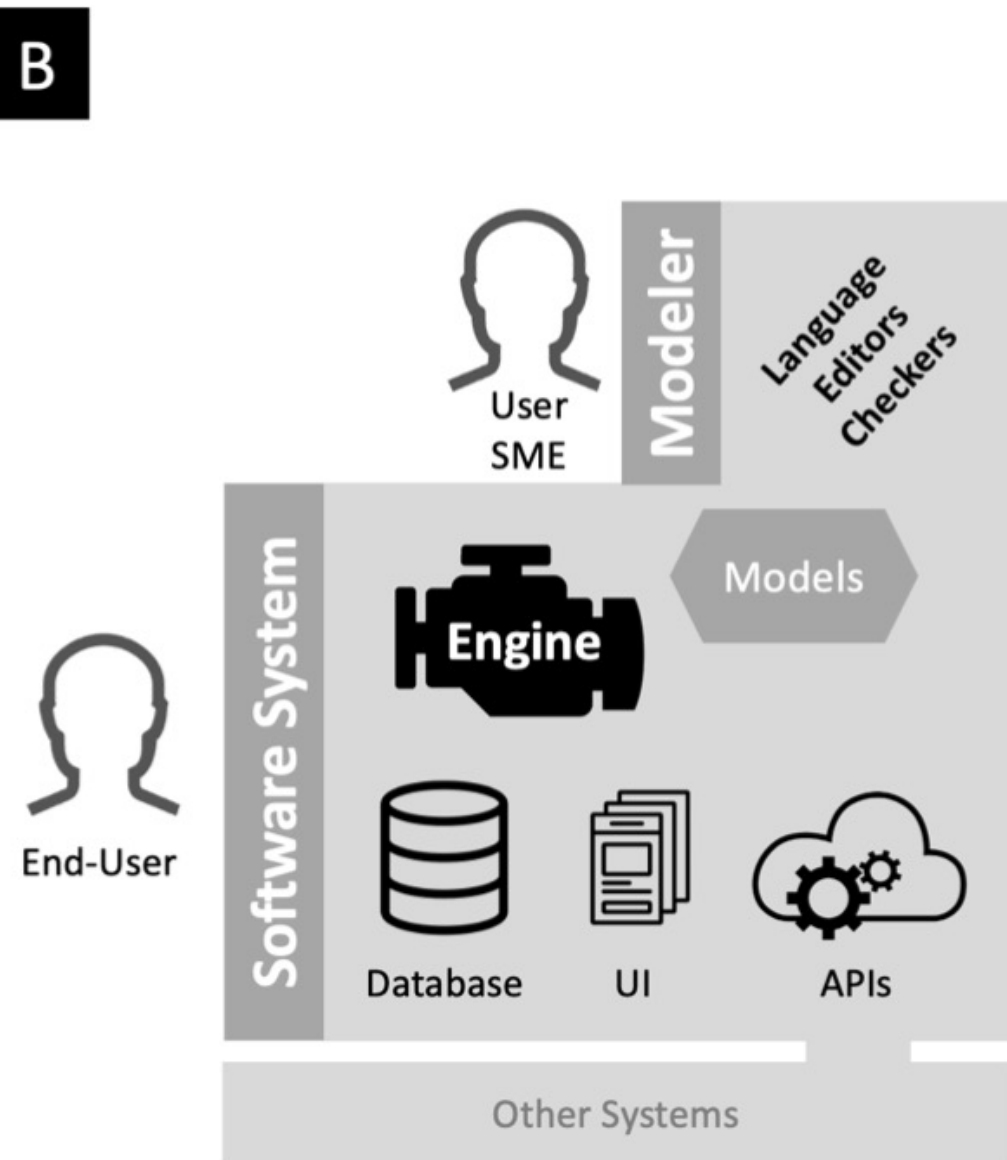
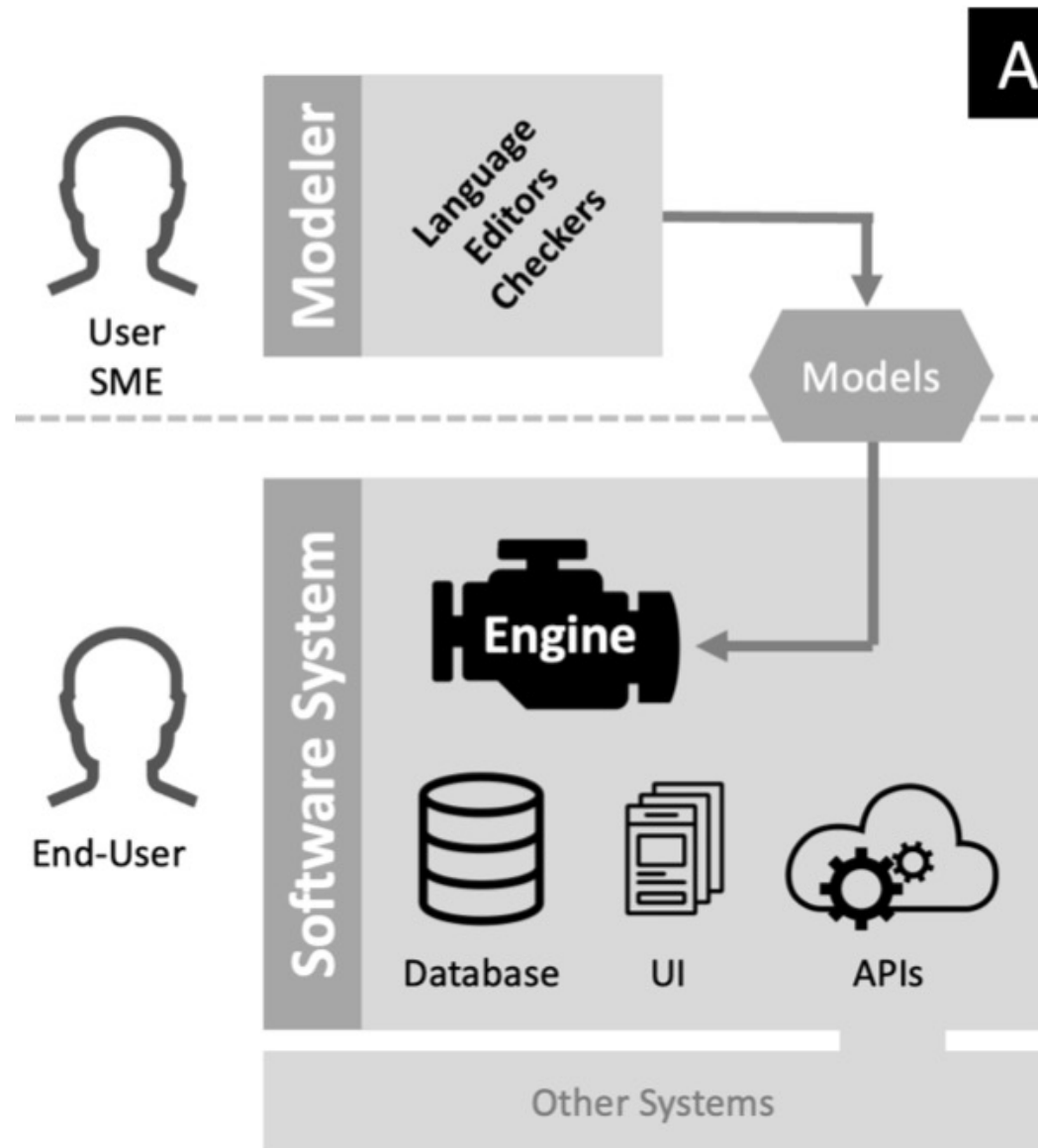




# Architecture

How to integrate DSL runtimes

# Runtime vs. Rest of the System



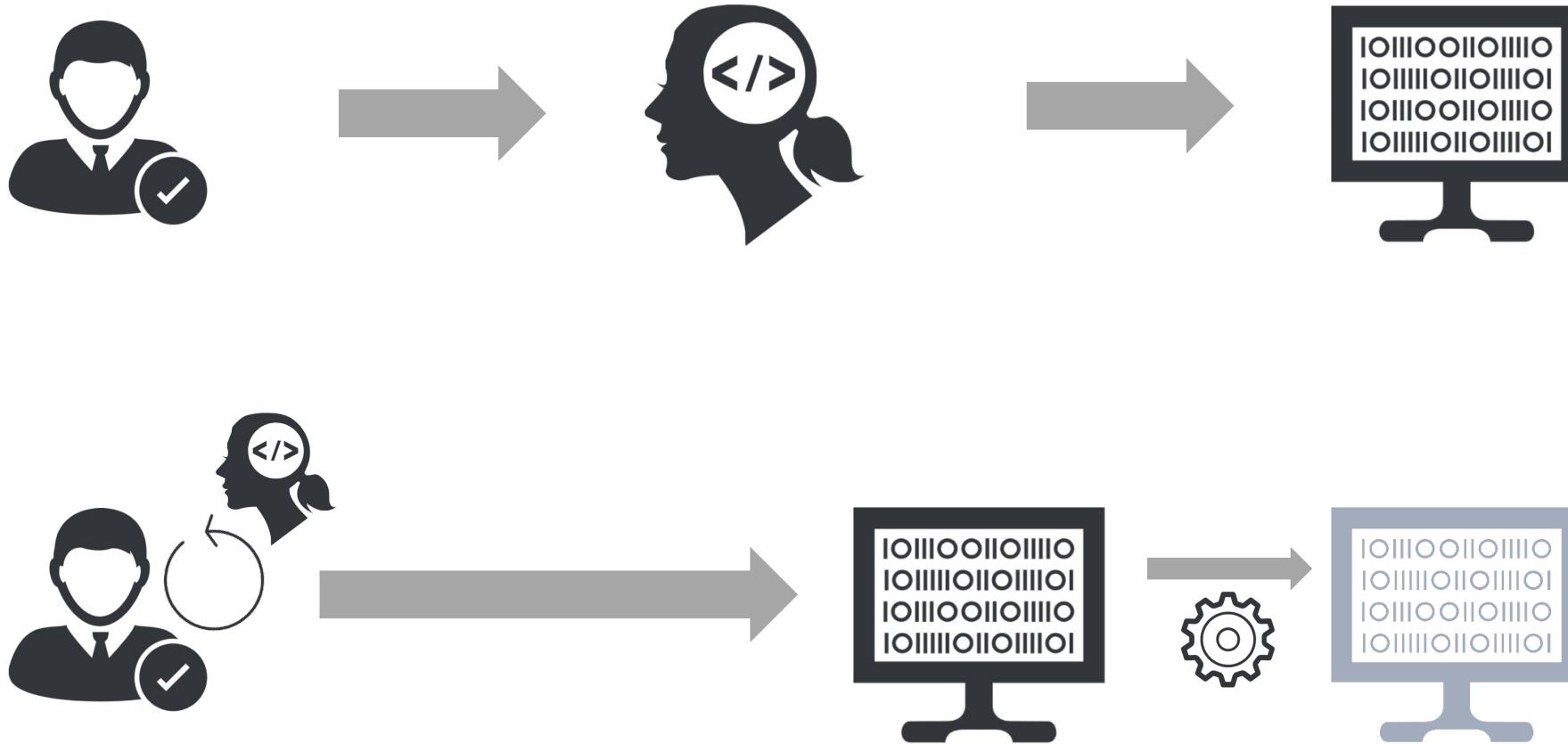




# Quality


**Why DSLs help with software quality**

# Direct “programming” by SMEs avoids misunderstandings



# Higher Level of Abstraction avoids low-level errors

```
TaxGroup_t *G__1699215591_Einzel_n_1_addGroupInstance_Aspekte_Erste_1_Einzel_n_1
    (TaxList_t *list, uint32_t index, bool tryFindInstanceFirst)
{
    TaxGroup_t *group = list->group;
    VALUE indexValue = NULL;
    TaxGroup_t *child = NULL;
    DLListElement_t *element = NULL;
    if (tryFindInstanceFirst)
    {
        child = getInstanceForLiteralIndex(list, index);
        if (child != NULL)
        {
            return child;
        }
    }
}
```



# Abstraction and Notation helps with Reviews

**decision table** BpScoreDecisionTable(sys: bpRange, dia: bpRange) =

		dia					
		<= 50	[51..90]	[91..95]	[96..100]	[101..109]	>= 110
sys	<= 90	1	1	3	4	5	6
	[91..140]	2	2	3	4	5	6
	[141..150]	3	3	3	4	5	6
	[151..160]	4	4	4	4	5	6
	[161..179]	5	5	5	5	5	6
	>= 180	6	6	6	6	6	6



# Simulators allow SMEs to “play” with stuff

Simulator MVP Simulator controls

0 days 00:00:00 >>> >>>>

---  
Sep 1, 2017 at 11:39:33

+ Inputs

Starting time: 2017-09-01 ... 11 39 33

Inputs for Diarrhea

Number of Stools Baseline 2

Patient has Ostomy ☐

Patient has Immuno-Oncology treatment ☐

Update Inputs Restart

Inputs for Fever

inputTemperatureUnit Celsius

Submit Inputs Restart

1/9/2017 11:39:33 100%

← Diarrhea ×

Have you had any of these symptoms?

Blood in stools and/or black tarry.  
Yes ☐ No ☒

Severe Cramping  
Yes ☐ No ☒

Fever  
Yes ☐ No ☒

Nausea/Vomiting  
Yes ☐ No ☒

Have you been confined to your home as a result of your diarrhea?  
Yes ☐ No ☒

Next

# **SM-level analyses are much easier to build**

**There are tax values declared as public, but they are never used.**

**You cannot add a temporal value and a scalar value.**

**Pre- and postconditions of function-like things are always met.**

**In your decision tree, the following alternative is not handled.**

**For all possible program executions, a dangerous state never occurs.**

**Not all security risks have been discharged through a mitigation.**

**The attack scenario X is classified HIGH RISK, but there's no mitigation.**

**The fault X is propagated from A to B but B does not handle it.**

**There's a resource contention betw. resources X and Y in scenario Z.**

Devs freed from SM details can **focus on platforms**  
Automatic translations capture **idioms and patterns**

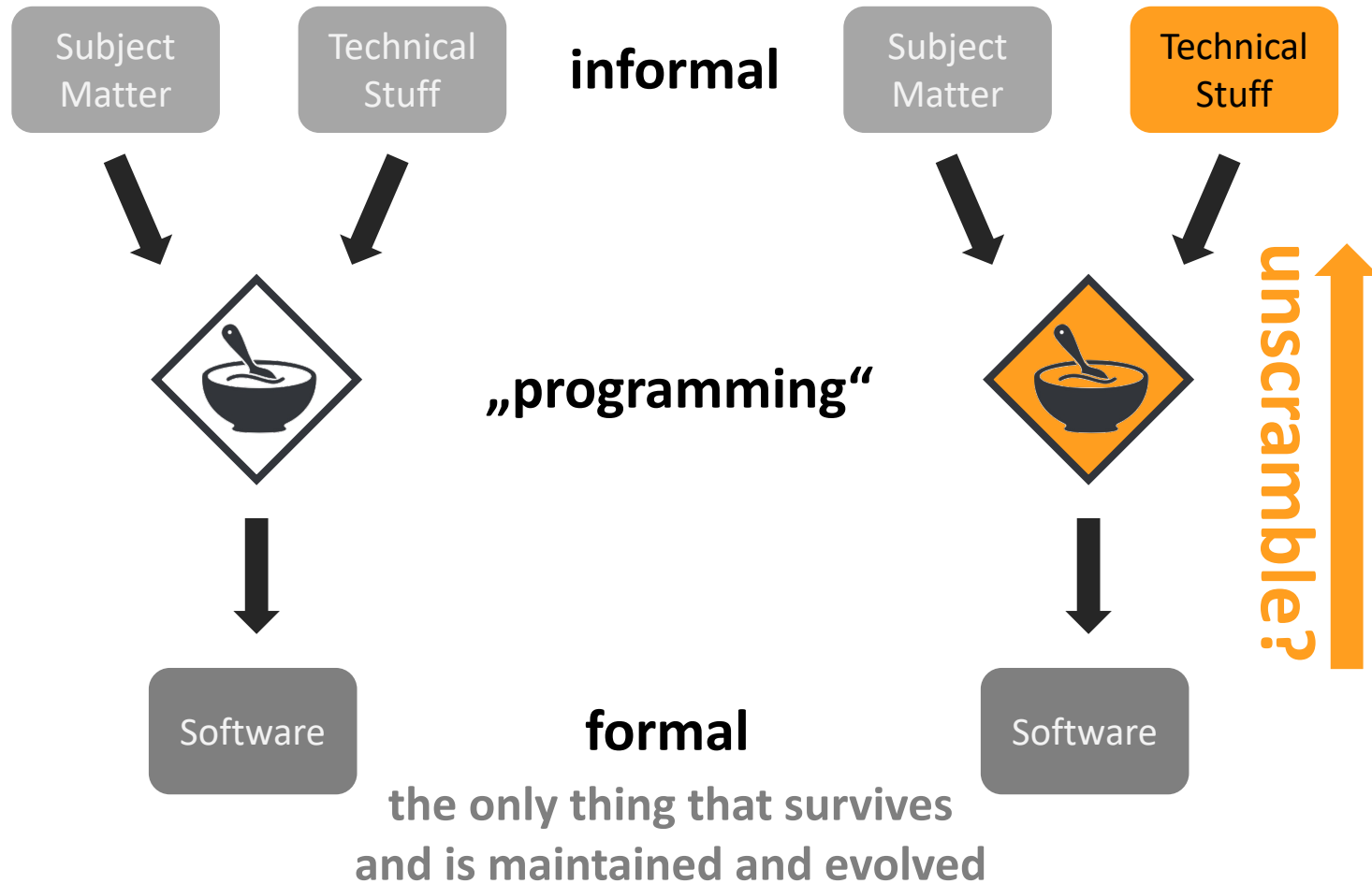
**SECURITY SAFETY**

SCALABILITY PERFORMANCE AVAILABILITY

MAINTAINABILITY TECHNOLOGY

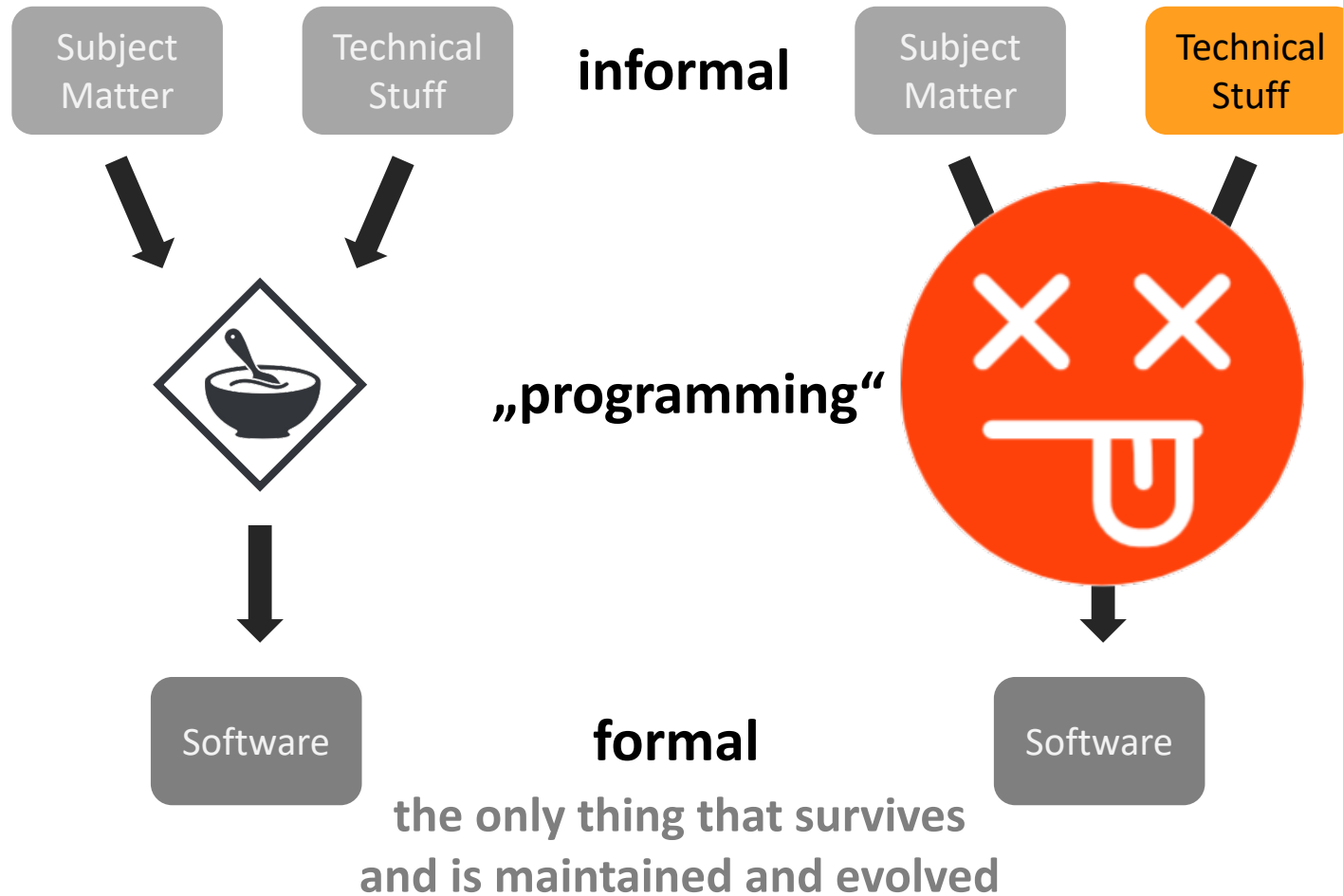
# Separation of SM and technology avoids legacy problem

so what do you do when you want to  
run that subject with new technology?

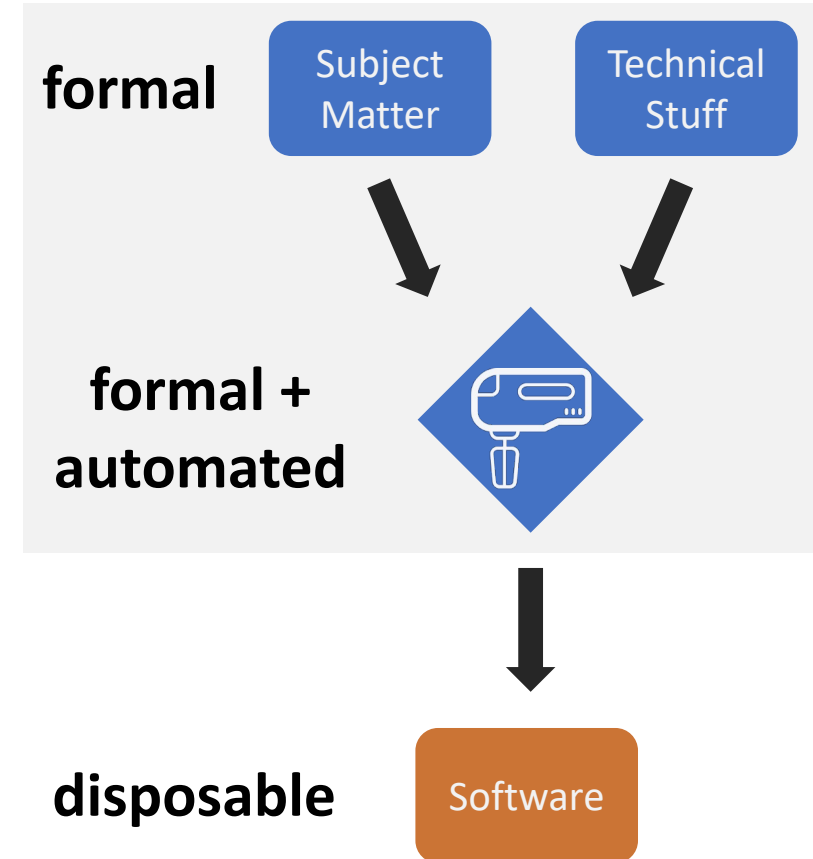


# Separation of SM and technology avoids legacy problem

so what do you do when you want to  
run that subject with new technology?



these now survive and are  
maintained and evolved







# Language?

When is something a language?

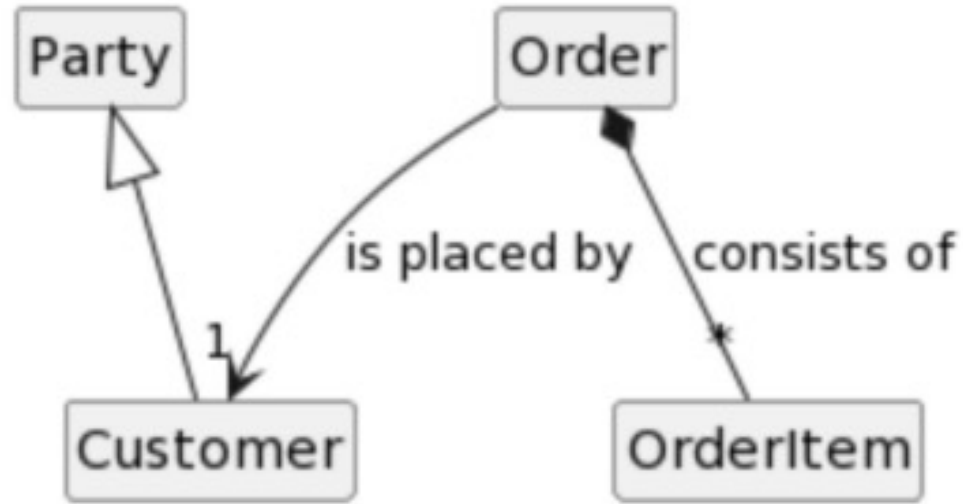
# When is something a language?

Glossary

# When is something a language?

Glossary

**Structured Glossary**

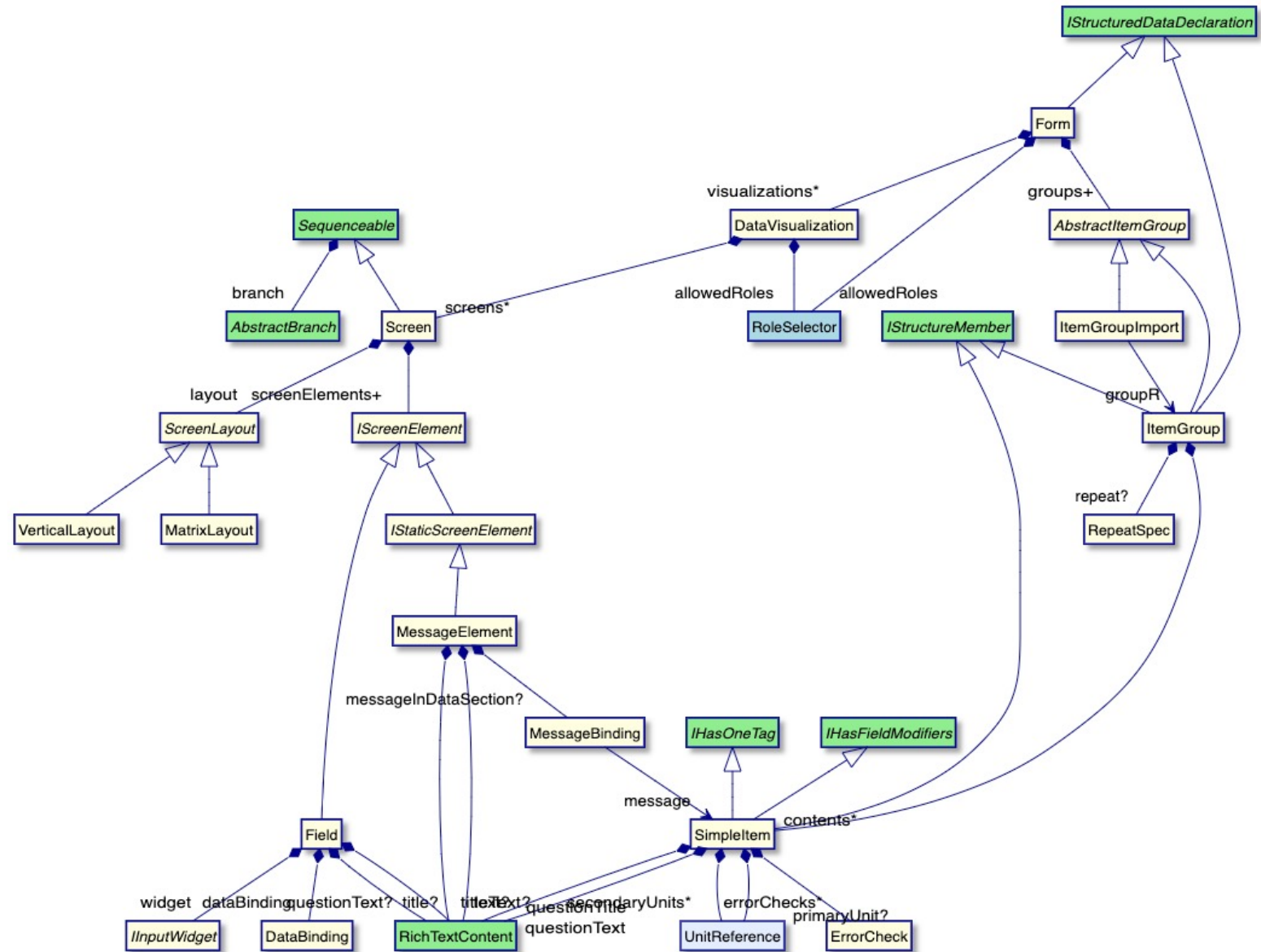


# When is something a language?

# Glossary

# Structured Glossary

# Metamodel



# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

**Validations**

```
if
  the X contains a Y
then
  this A over there cannot have
  more than 2 children of type B.
```



# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

**Serialisation Format**

```
FunCall name="myFun"  
  arg: NumLit value="10"  
  arg: PlusOp  
    arg: NumLit value="4"  
    arg: NumLit value="5"
```

```
<FunCall name="myFun">  
  <arg><NumLit value="10"/></arg>  
  <arg>  
    <PlusOp>  
      <arg><NumLit value="4"/></arg>  
      <arg><NumLit value="5"/></arg>  
    </PlusOp>  
  </Arg>  
</FunCall>
```

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

```
myFun(10, 4 + 5)
```

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

```
+(int, int)    → int
+(int, real)   → real
+(real, int)   → real
+(real, real)  → real
+(string, *)   → string
+(*, string)   → string
```

```
val(<name>, <type>, <init>) → typeof(type)
# typeof(type) > typeof(init)
```

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

Semantics



# When is something a language?

**Glossary**

**Structured Glossary**

**Metamodel**

**Validations**

**Serialisation Format**

**Syntax**

**Type System**

**Semantics**

**Too informal.**



# When is something a language?

Glossary

**Structured Glossary**

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**Too informal.**

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

**Metamodel**

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

**Semantics**

**That's just a data model.  
Or a domain model.  
Or an OO structure.  
Or a schema.**

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

**Metamodel**

**Validations**

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

**Semantics**



**That's just a data model.**

**Or a domain model.**

**Or an OO structure.**

**Or a schema.**

**With Validations.**

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

**Metamodel**

**Validations**

**Serialisation Format**

Syntax

Type System

**Semantics**



**That's just a data model.**

**Or a domain model.**

**Or an OO structure.**

**Or a schema.**

**With Validations.**

**And a way to store.**

# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

Semantics

**Finally, a language!**



It's about syntax, stupid!



# When is something a language?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

Semantics

**A serious language :-)**

**Find more details at:**

<https://medium.com/@markusvoelter/when-is-something-a-domain-specific-language-83b7eff79ed4>

# What about frameworks and libraries?

**Glossary**

**Structured Glossary**

**Metamodel**

**Validations**

**Serialisation Format**

**Syntax**

**Only what the programming language supports.**

**Type System**

**Only those that relate to the language, not the domain.**

**Semantics**

**Interpreters are simple, generators are hard**

# What about internal DSLs?

The DSL is defined with the means of the host language.  
as opposed to using external, specialised language definition tools.

**not** whether the DSL code and GPL code  
are syntactically mixed or not.

```
test Data Access <no polarion id> tags: <none> screenshot << ... >>
```

```
Initial Setup: <none>
```

```
check timeline [must be run]
```

```
requirement Data collected by forms must be accessible
```

```
description
```

```
day 1 A assert expression events<V1|<no stateFilter>>.last.stateIs(ready)
```

```
U complete task Task1 with Form DataAccess_Form
```

```
IG1 | f1 = 10
```

```
A assert expression data<IG1>.last.owningEvent.isEvent<V1> is true
```

```
A event is completed V1
```

```
checking rule check_Step {  
  applicable for concept = Step as step  
  overrides <none>  
  do not apply on the fly false  
  
  do {  
    node<AbstractBranch> b = step.branch;  
    boolean usesSkip = b.descendants<concept = StepSkipExpr, +>.isNotEmpty;  
    if (step.isSkippable()) {  
      if (step.branch.isInstanceOf(BranchExpression)) {  
        if (!usesSkip) {  
          error "can't use skippable here" → step.branch;  
        }  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

# What about internal DSLs?

Glossary

Structured Glossary

Metamodel

Validations

Serialisation Format

Syntax

Type System

Semantics

```
"20.seconds ++ 1.minutes" should "be equal to 80.seconds" in {  
  20.seconds ++ 1.minutes shouldBe 80.seconds  
}
```

Scala

```
val myHtml = html {  
  table {  
    th {  
      td { /* .. */ }  
      td { /* .. */ }  
    }  
    for (i in 1..10) {  
      tr {  
        td { /* .. */ }  
        td { /* .. */ }  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Kotlin

```
describe UsersController, type: :controller do  
  before do  
    allow(controller).to receive(:current_user).and_return(nil)  
  end  
  
  describe "GET #new" do  
    subject { get :new }  
  
    it "returns success" do  
      expect(subject).to be_success  
    end  
  end  
end
```

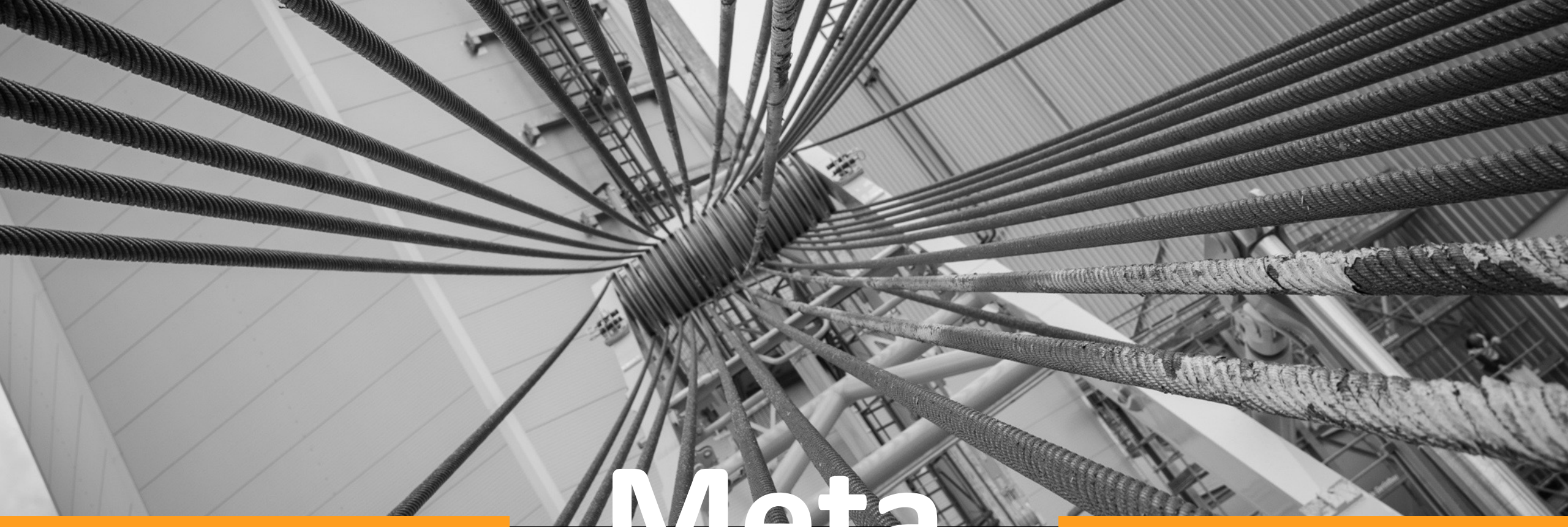
Ruby

Depending on the language. Often just trees w/o parens. or “exploits” of syntactic freedom. Metaprogramming.

Often none in dynamically typed langs, some of it in Scala.

Interpreters are simple, generators are hard



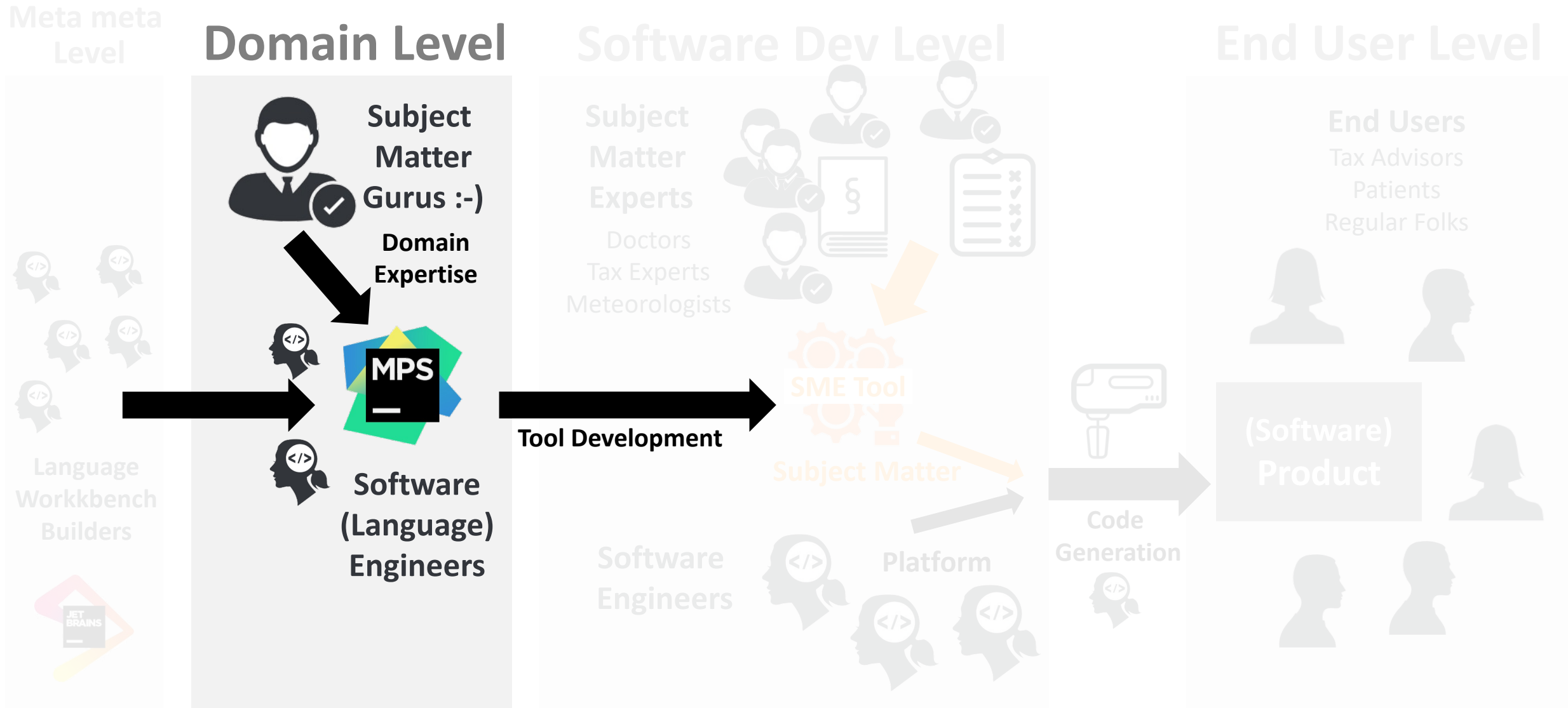


# Meta

**How to build the languages, IDE and generators**



# Big Picture: How does knowledge get into software



# Language Workbenches



Xtext

{S} spoofax



Rascal

Tools for building  
languages  
and their IDEs

# Language Workbench



Xtext

{S} spoofax



Rascal

Open Source Language Workbench

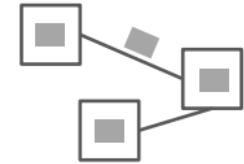
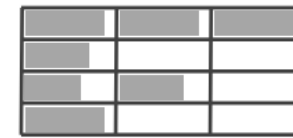
Projectional Editor that supports  
a wide variety of notations

Robust support for language  
modularity and composition

Support for all relevant language aspects:

Structure • Editor • Type System • Constraints • Intentions  
Refactorings • Interpretation • Code Generation  
Code Completion • Find References • Goto Definition  
Version Control • Diff/Merge ...





from



**Really not your Daddy's Parser Generator!**

# Language Workbench

JET  
BRAINS

Developer Tools Team Tools Learning Tools Solutions Store    

MPS

[What's New](#) [How It Works](#) [Learn MPS](#) [Services](#)

[Download](#)



Create your own domain-specific language

DOWNLOAD



WATCH VIDEO

WHY  
MPS?

```
[X] Cookies and IP addresses allow us to deliver and improve
our web content and to provide you with a personalized
experience. Our website uses cookies and collects your
IP address for these purposes. Learn more
```

```
-----
| JetBrains may use cookies and my IP address to
| collect individual statistics and to provide me with
| personalized offers and ads subject to the Privacy
| Policy and the Terms of Use. JetBrains may use
| third-party services for this purpose. I can revoke
| my consent at any time by visiting the Opt-Out page.
|
| [Y]es, I agree    [N]o, thanks
|
|-----
```

```
~ root#
```

# Language Workbench – the future



MODELIX

[About](#)

[Documentation](#)

[News](#)

Modelix is a open source platform that aims to bring modeling on the web. Modelix goal is to allow editing models in the browser and to interact with models and services around them over web-standard APIs. Right now Modelix can act as a drop in replacement to create webbased editor for existing languages in JetBrains MPS.



## See Modelix in action!

Get started with our example projects and try modelix yourself.

[Read more ...](#)



## Contributions welcome!

We do a Pull Request contributions workflow on **GitHub**. New contributors are always welcome!



## Join the discussion on Slack!


Sign up to the MPS community Slack and join us in #modelix

[Read more ...](#)



# Language Workbench – the future

[Documentation](#)[Showcase](#)[Playground](#)[Support](#)

Built to bring language engineering to  
the next level\_ 

Langium is an open source language engineering tool with first-class support for the **Language Server Protocol**, written in **TypeScript** and running in **Node.js**.

This future-proof technology stack enables domain-specific languages in VS Code, Eclipse Theia, web applications, and more.



# Language Workbench – the future



## Monaco - The Editor of the Web

The Monaco Editor is the code editor that powers [VS Code](#). A good page describing the code editor's features is [here](#). It is licensed under the MIT License and supports Edge, Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Opera. The Monaco editor is not supported in mobile browsers or mobile web frameworks. Find more information at the [Monaco Editor repo](#).



**CodeMirror**

[Examples](#) [Documentation](#) [Try](#) [Discuss](#) [GitHub](#) [Version 5](#)

## Extensible Code Editor

CodeMirror is a code editor component for the web. It can be used in websites to implement a text input field with support for many editing features, and has a rich programming interface to allow further extension.

# Language Workbench – the future



LlonWeb

Language Interfaces on the Web

Follow

[Overview](#) [Repositories 7](#) [Projects 1](#) [Packages](#) [Teams 1](#) [People 9](#) [Settings](#)

README.md



## LlonWeb -- Language Interfaces on the Web

The language engineering community around [MPS](#) is working on bringing a projectional language workbench into the cloud/browser. A rough vision of how the result could look like is summarized in [this paper](#). As of now, several relatively independent activities (are|have been) going on, including

- ProjectIt/Freon by Jos Warmer, Anneke Kleppe (<https://www.projectit.org/>), a set of components and associated meta-languages geared towards creating projectional editors in the cloud/browser,
- [MPSServer](#) by Strumenta. It is an http and websockets server that can be started from standard and headless MPS to permit interaction with MPS from outside it. It permits to read and modify models, trigger builds, get typesystem information, etc. There is also a TypeScript client library available on NPM. It is called [MPSServer-client](#)
- [WebEditKit](#) by Strumenta. It is a prototypal framework for defining projectional editors that can interact with MPS through MPSServer
- [Modelix](#) by itemis, an open Source platform for models on the Web
- Sergej's Service APIs (Sergej) [short description, URL]
- JetBrains Projectional Web Editor (Alex) [short description, URL]
- [StarLasu](#) by Strumenta. It is a set of libraries to define and work with ASTs in Kotlin, Java, Python, TypeScript. They have been used in production for years

View as: **Public** ▼

You are viewing the README and pinned repositories as a public user.

You can [pin repositories](#) visible to anyone.

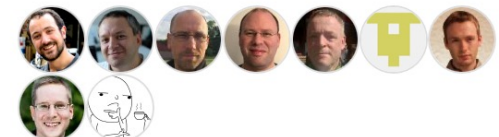
[Get started with tasks](#) that most successful organizations complete.

### Discussions

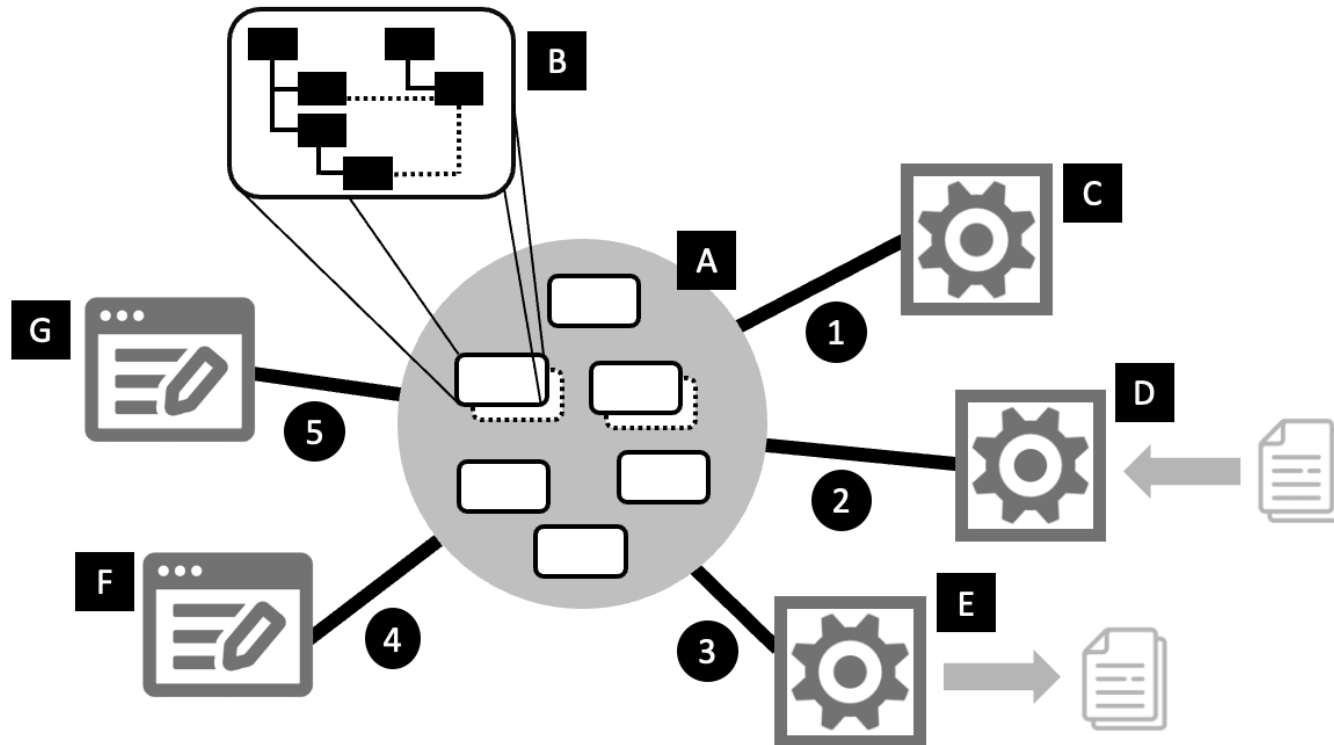
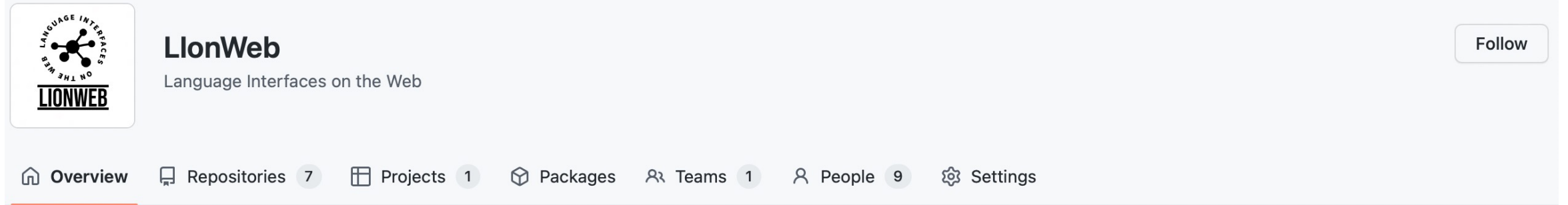
Set up discussions to engage with your community!

[Turn on discussions](#)

### People



# Language Workbench – the future



**The LlonWeb initiative aims to facilitate the community-based development of language engineering and modeling tools on the web.**

1. Protocols for communication between participating software components
2. Meta-meta model as well as a reference architecture
3. APIs to access models and metamodels and to encapsulate the protocols
4. Hub for the developers of such components and to empower other software developers to develop web-based modeling solutions.

# Roll your own – what do you need?

A robust M3

- represent models in memory,
- persist them somehow using a metamodel-specific serialization format (not a syntax, see my last post),
- provide an API to read, traverse and modify models,
- and to support a rudimentary but generic way of editing them.

Model  
API

```
modelelement.getChildren(role: string)

modelelement.getReferences(role: string)

modelelement.getPropertyValue(propName: string)
```

Meta  
Model  
Def

```
Machine.getStates() : list<State> {
  (list<State>)this.getChildren("states");
}

State.getName() : string {
  (string)this.getProperty("name")
}

Transition.getTarget() : State {
  (State)this.getReference("target").deref()
}
```

**Find more details at:**

<https://medium.com/@markusvoelter/the-minimum-infrastructure-for-running-languages-and-models-da922aa3b4b4>



Store  
Query  
Notification





# Language Design

# Growing a DSL on top of Kernelf

- Robust existing language and interpreter
- Initial "Demoware" very quick
- Good foundation for wow-features (Tables, Visualization)
- „Trap door“ for complex exceptions
- Step-wise DSL-ification

Primitive Types and Literals • Basic Operators • Conditionals • Decision Tables and Trees • Lists • Records • Dates • Temporale Types • Functions • Constants • Test Cases • Interpreter • Coverage Analyzer • etc.

Kernelf  
Functional

<https://github.com/IETS3/iets3.opensource>  
<https://build.mbeddr.com/overview.html>



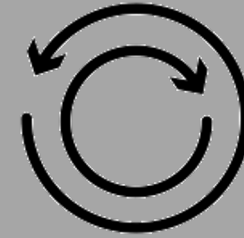
# Growing a DSL on top of Kernelf

## Domain-specific Abstractions

Declarative

Additions

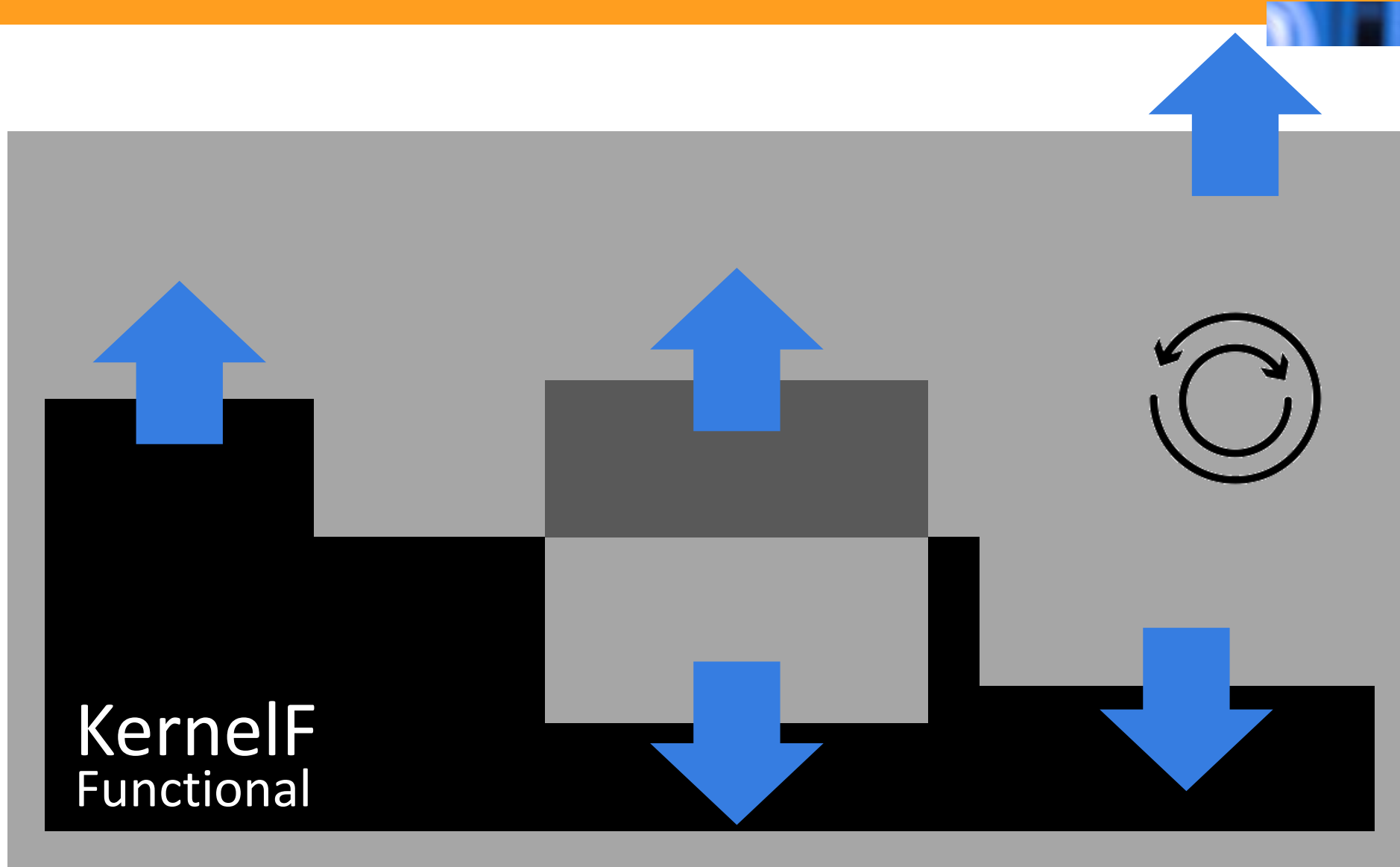
Replacements  
(Declarative)



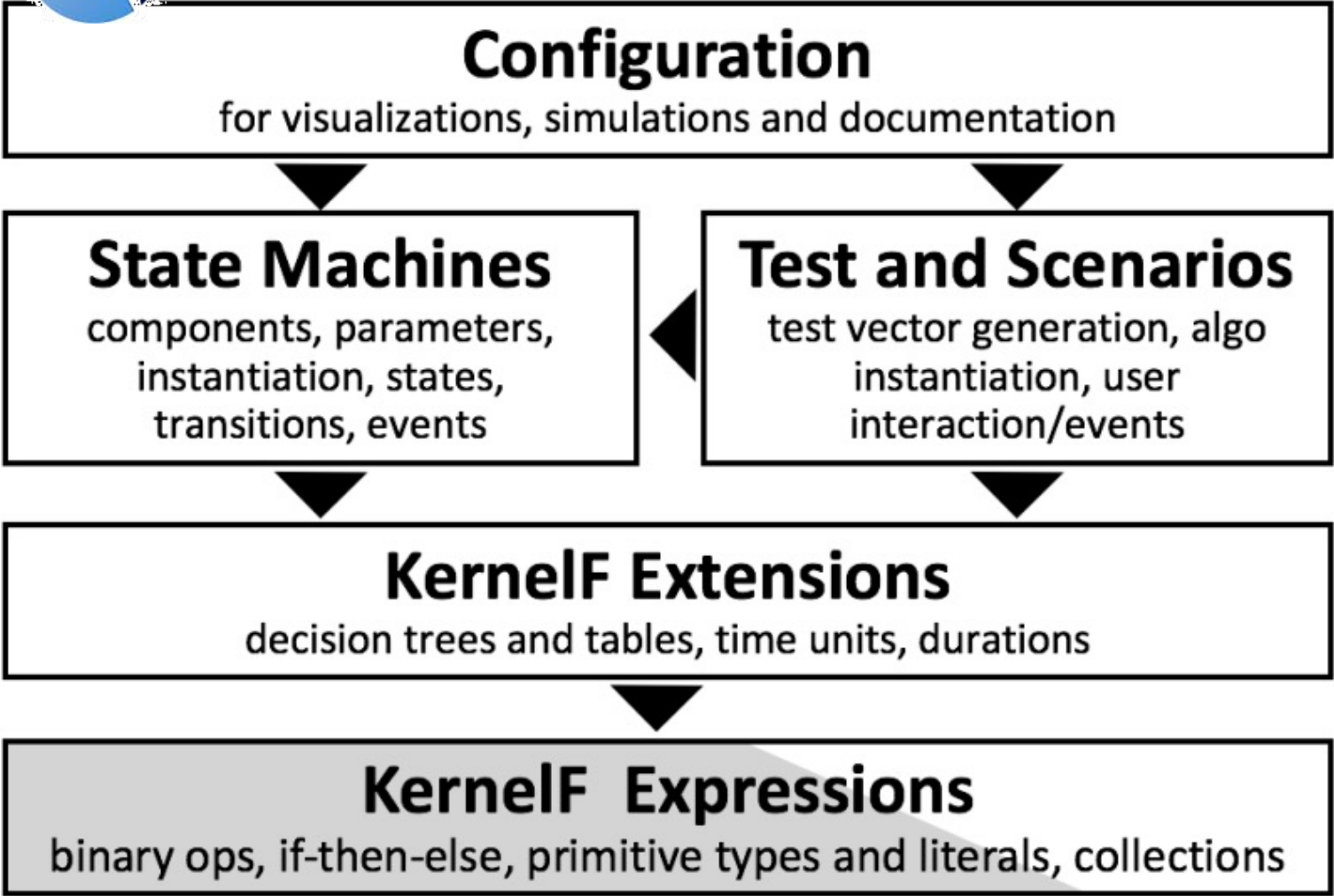
Kernelf concepts  
you don't need

Kernelf  
Functional


# Growing a DSL on top of Kernelf



# Language Architecture and Sizes



Language Part	# of concepts	percentage of total
Expressions (KernelF)	83	31%
Expressions (Extended)	63	23%
State Machines	29	11%
Testing, Scenarios	41	15%
Configuration	54	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>100%</b>

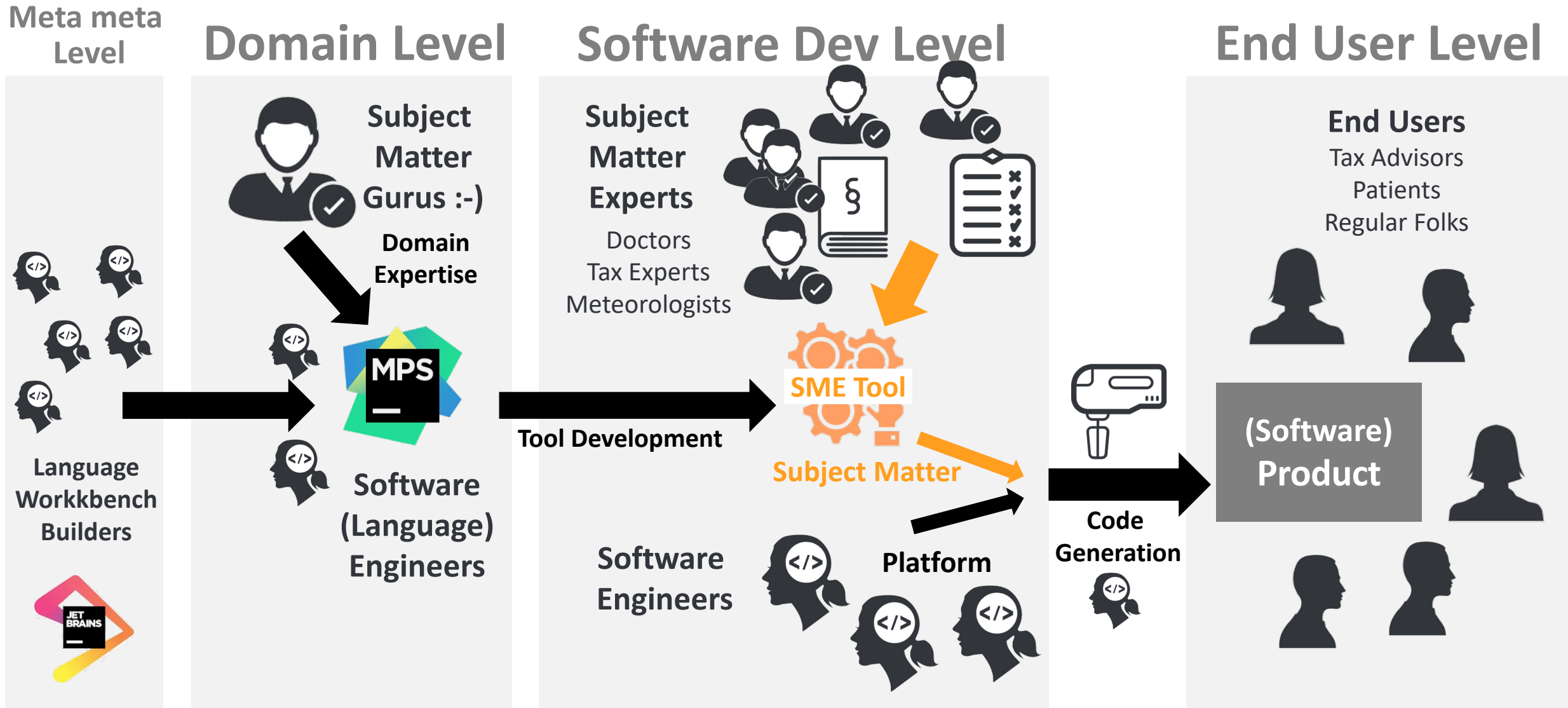


Kind	Language	# of concepts
DATEV-proprietary	payroll.dsl.core	166
	payroll.dsl.test	32
	payroll.dsl.institution	26
	payroll.dsl.migration	7
Developed for DATEV and then open sourced	kernelf.datetime	27
	kernelf.temporal	24
Use as-is from KernelF	KernelF	120
	<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>



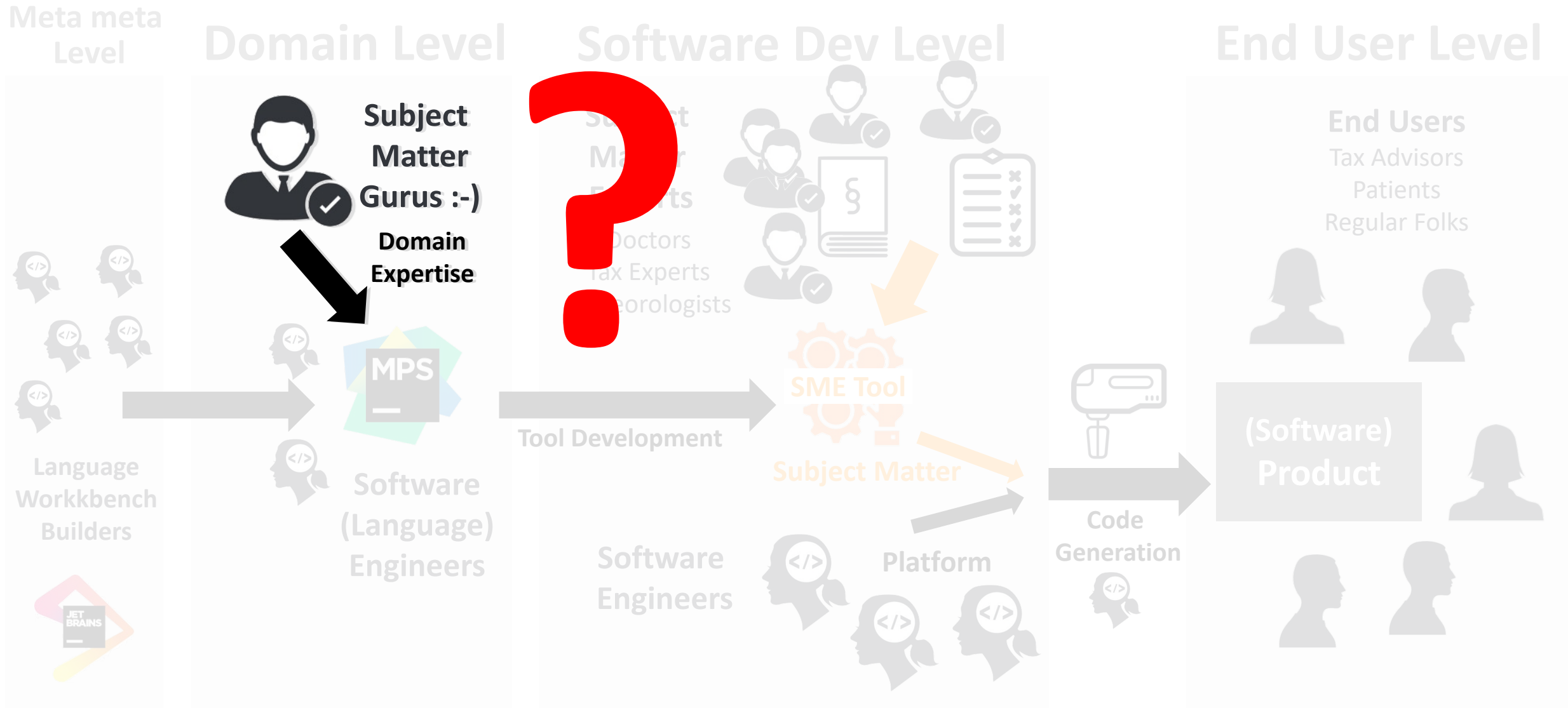
# Domain Analysis

# Big Picture: How does knowledge get into software



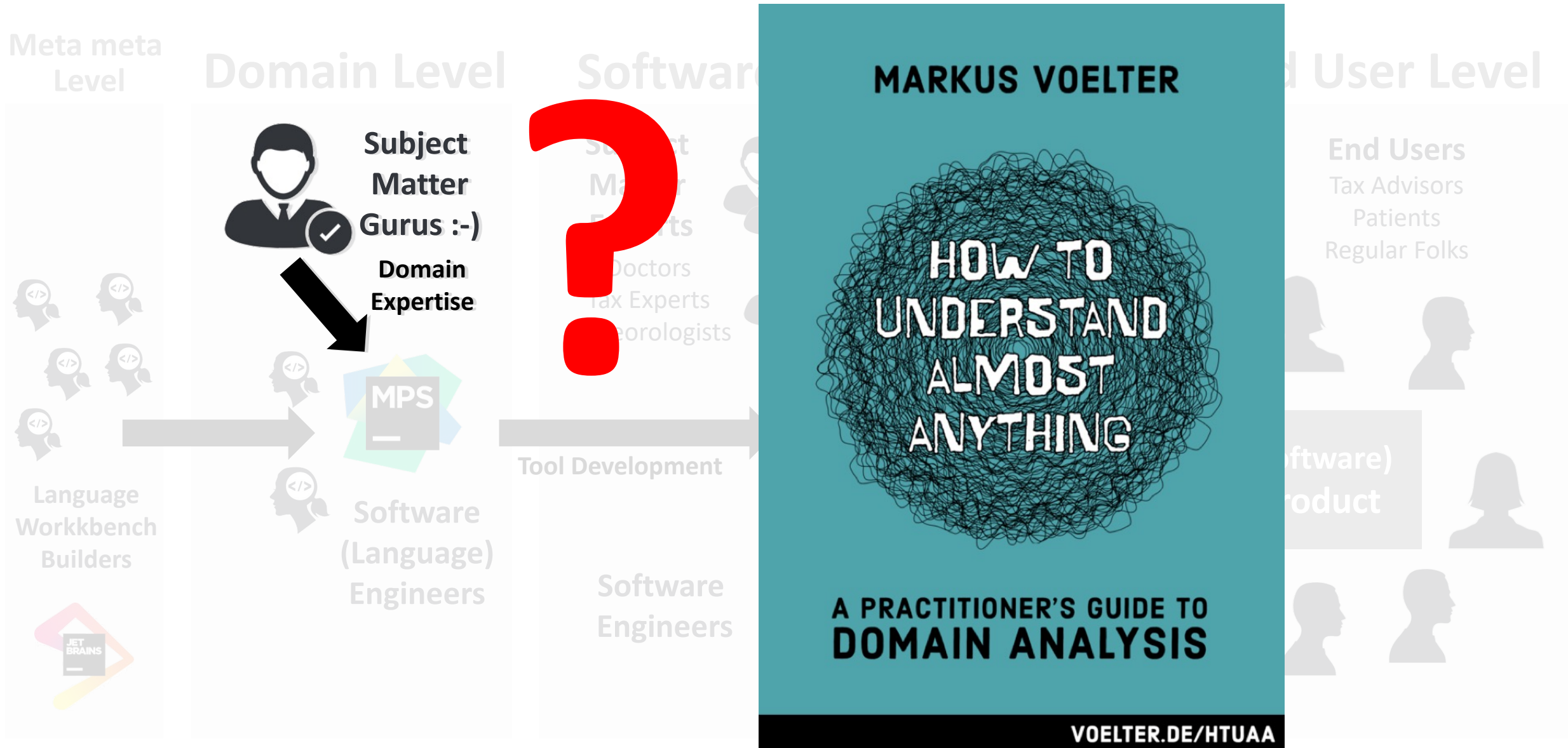


# Big Picture: How does knowledge get into software

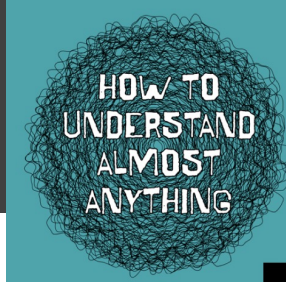




# Big Picture: How does knowledge get into software



# People are key



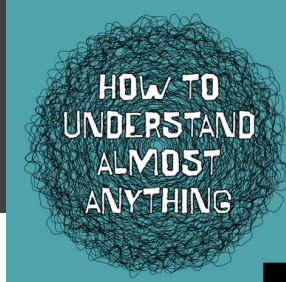
HOW TO  
UNDERSTAND  
ALMOST  
ANYTHING

**MARKUS VOELTER**  
A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO  
**DOMAIN ANALYSIS**

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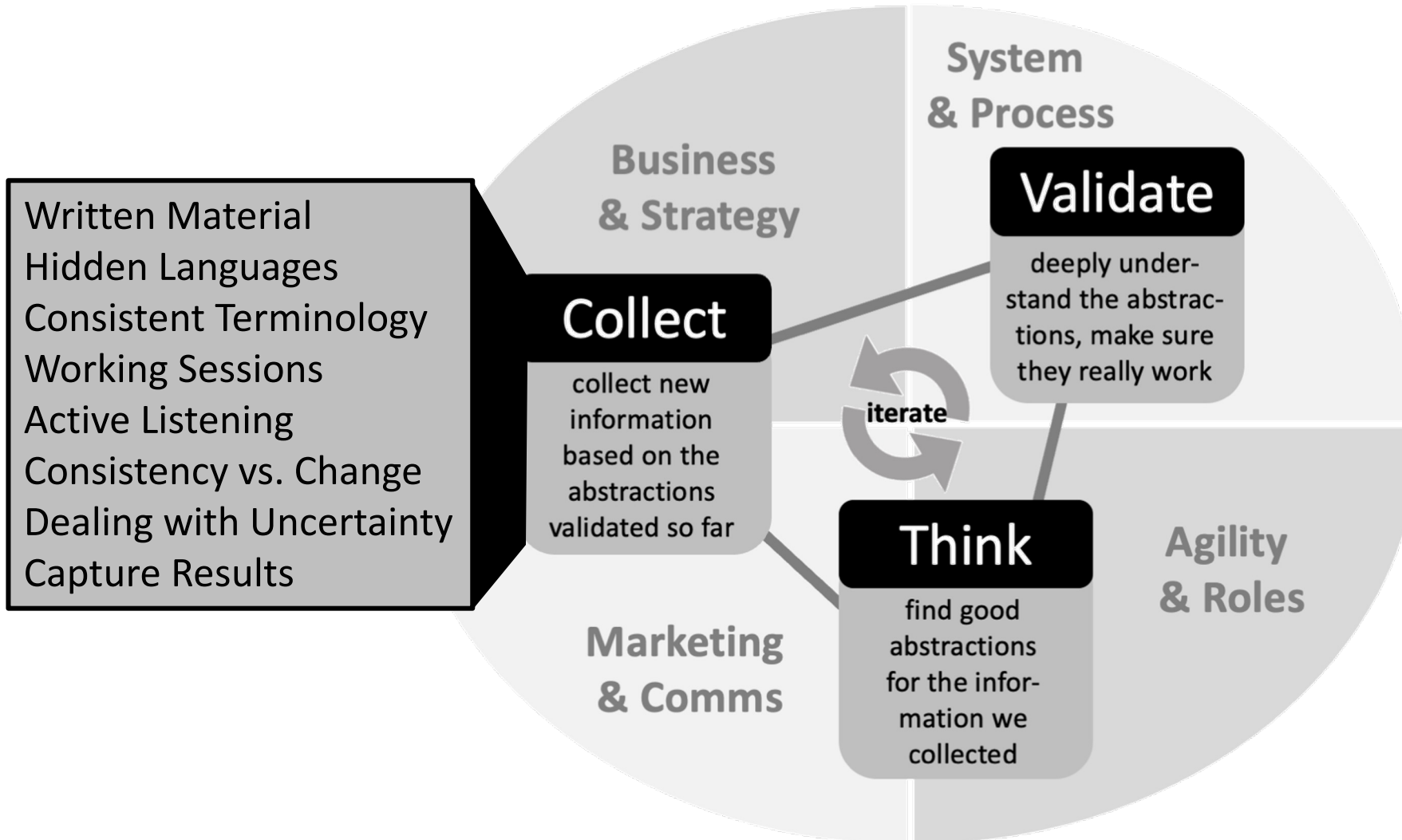


# High-Level Process

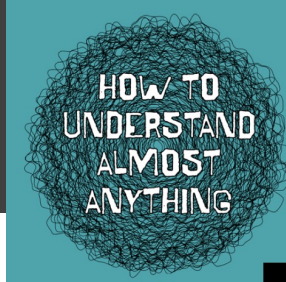


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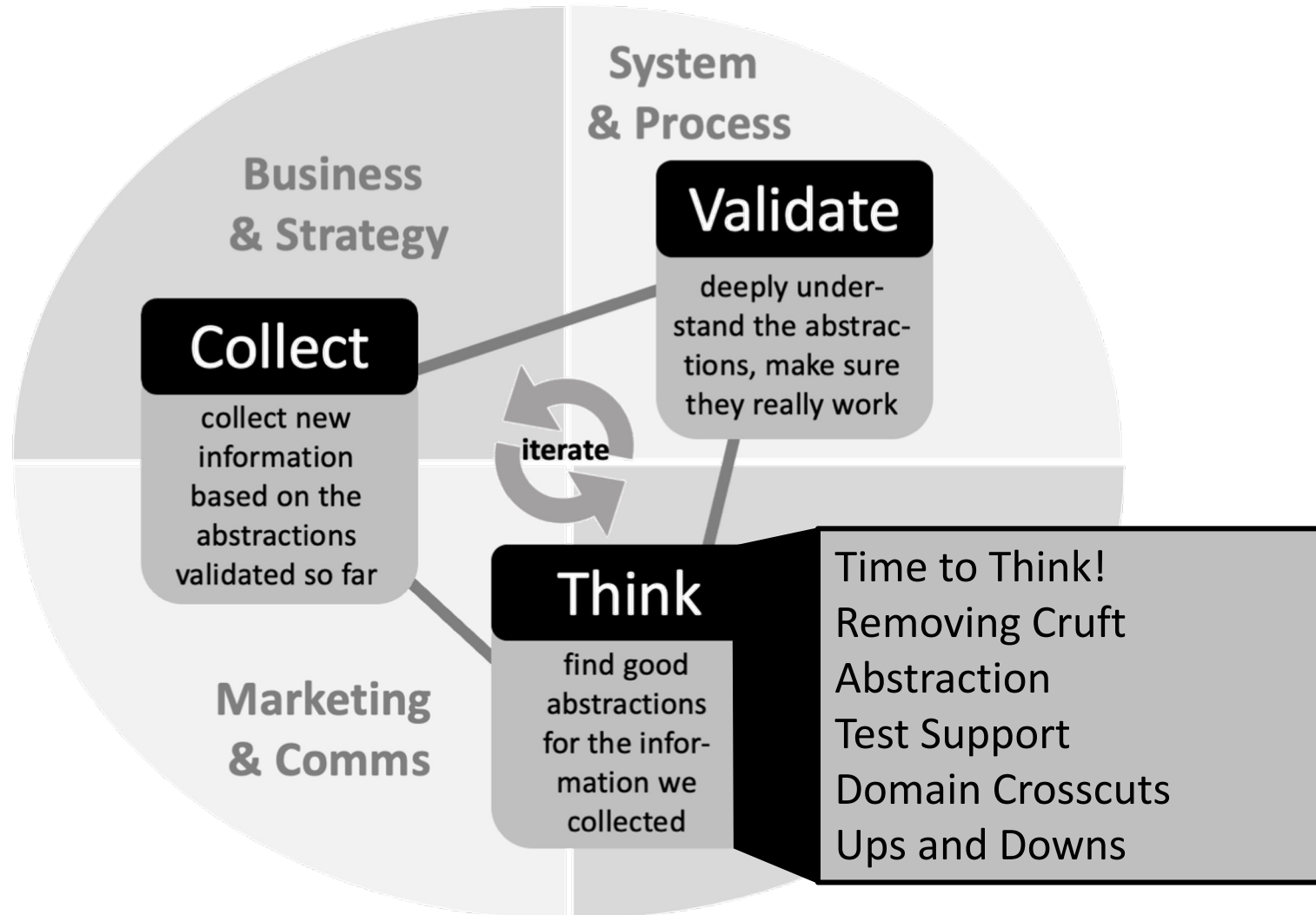


# High-Level Process

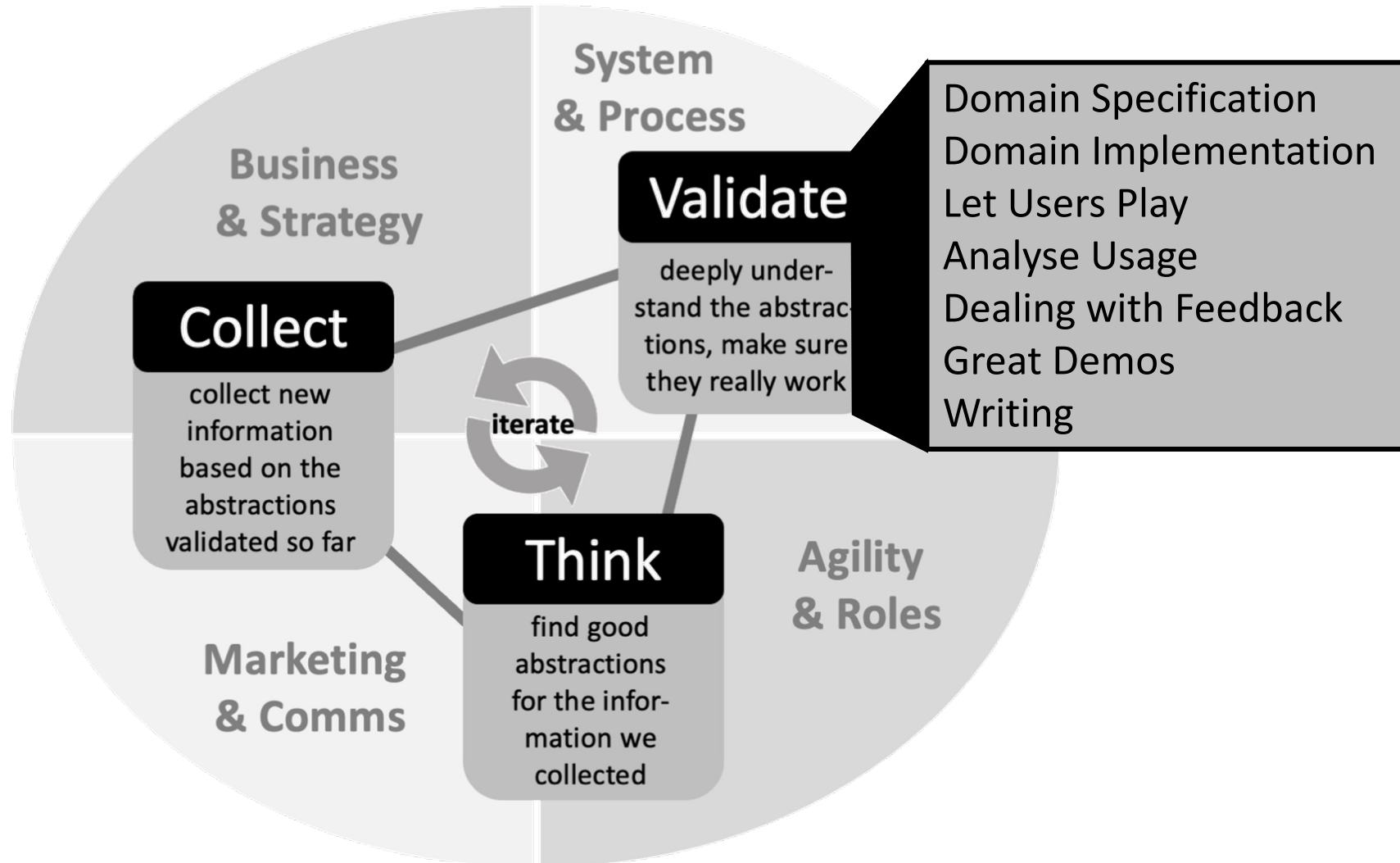


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# High-Level Process







Wrap Up





# Things to read and watch

## **MPS**

<http://jetbrains.com/mps>

## **KernelF**

<https://github.com/IETS3/iets3.opensource>

## **Artikel: Why DSLs? A collection of anecdotes**

<https://www.infoq.com/articles/why-dsl-collection-anecdotes>

## **Paper: Fusing Modeling and Programming into Language-Oriented Programming**

<http://voelter.de/data/pub/markusvoelter-ISOLA2018-final.pdf>

## **Paper: The Design, Evolution and Use of KernelF**

<http://voelter.de/data/pub/kernelf-icmt.pdf>

## **Video/Presentation: Build your own Language: Why & How?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BvpBLzzprA>

## **Video/Presentation: Language-oriented Business Applications**

<https://voelter.de/data/presentations/voelter-splash-i-LOBA.pdf>



# Things to remember

Use DSLs to allow SMEs to contribute directly.

Translate DSL models to code on top of platforms.

Direct SME input and easier validation will improve SM quality.

Platforms + Transformations will reduce/avoid low-level errors.


Software engineers build languages, IDEs, platforms and trafoS.


Maintain these artifacts instead of the final software product.


Use language workbenches like MPS or Xtext for meta tooling.

**Enjoy work (more) :-)**

**Dr. Markus Völter**

 voelter.de

 voelter@acm.org

 @markusvoelter