

# SEBoK: a guide to the systems engineering body of knowledge

Presented by a panel of contributors to SEBoK



## Panelists

- Rick Adcock, Cranfield University
- Dick Fairley, IEEE Computer Society
- Dave Olwell, Naval Postgraduate School
- Garry Roedler, Lockheed Martin
- Massood Towhidnejad, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University



## Agenda and goals for this panel session

- Agenda
  - Short presentations by the panelists
  - Q&A with the attendees
- Goals:
  - To indicate the role of SEBoK within the larger context of systems engineering
  - To address your questions and concerns
  - To receive feedback for improvements

## Presentation topics

- Dick: brief overview of SEBOK wiki and usage statistics
- Rick: editorial board structure; past & planned evolution of SEBoK
- Garry: SEBoK related standards, systems engineering handbook, and certification
- Dave: SEBoK Parts 6 & 7 plus relationship of GRCSE to SEBoK
- Massood: relationships between systems engineering and software engineering
- Dick: moderate Q&A and panelists' comments

## SEBoK

- SEBoK is a **guide** to the systems engineering body of knowledge
- SEBoK has 7 parts
  - Each part has knowledge areas
  - Each knowledge area has topics
  - Each topic provides a summary and references for further reading

## The 7 parts of SEBoK

- Part 1: SEBoK Introduction
- Part 2: Systems
- Part 3: SE and Management
- Part 4: Applications of Systems Engineering
- Part 5: Enabling Systems Engineering
- Part 6: Related Disciplines
- Part 7: SE Implementation Examples

## SEBoK wiki

- SEBoK is implemented as an online, interactive wiki

URL: [sebokwiki.org](http://sebokwiki.org)

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## www.sebokwiki.org

The screenshot shows the SEBoK wiki homepage. The main heading is "Guide to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBoK)". Below the heading, there is a search bar and a "Log in" button. The main content area contains the following text:

The Guide to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBoK) was created by the **Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering (BKCASE)** project.

Systems engineering is an interdisciplinary approach and means to enable the full life cycle of successful systems, including problem formulation, solution development and operational sustenance and use. Those new to Systems Engineering can find introductory articles which provide an overview of systems engineering, place it in historical context, and discuss its economic value in Part 1 of this body of knowledge.

The BKCASE Project began in the fall of 2009. Its aim was to add to the professional practice of systems engineering by creating two closely related products:

- Guide to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBoK)
- Graduate Reference Curriculum for Systems Engineering (GRCSE)

The SEBoK came into being out of a recognition that the systems engineering discipline could benefit greatly by having a living authoritative guide closely related to those groups developing guidance on advancing the practice, education, research, work force development, professional certification, standards, etc.

At the beginning of 2013, BKCASE transitioned to a new governance model with shared stewardship between the **Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC)**, the **International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSSE)**, and the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society (IEEE-CS)**. This governance structure was formalized in a memorandum of understanding between the three stewards that was finalized in spring of 2013. The stewards have reaffirmed their commitment to making the SEBoK available at no cost to all users, a key principle of BKCASE.

Please see <http://www.bkcase.org> for more information.

**Welcome to SEBoK v. 1.3.1**

On behalf of the BKCASE Editorial Board and the three SEBoK steward organizations, welcome to SEBoK v. 1.3.1.

The SEBoK provides a compendium of the key knowledge sources and references of systems engineering that are organized and explained to assist a wide variety of users. It is a living product, accepting community input continuously, with regular refreshes and updates.

This version was released 5 December 2014, and contains a number of minor updates to references and text. There is no significant change to SEBoK content for this update. For a summary of the changes made for v. 1.3.1 see the **Letter from the Editor**. See **Acknowledgements and Release History** for a full description of the current and all previous SEBoK versions.

**BKCASE History, Motivation, and Value**

The **Guide to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBoK)** is a living authoritative guide that discusses what is included in the discipline, how the discipline should be structured to facilitate understanding, and what documents are the most important to the discipline. The curriculum guidance in the **Graduate Reference Curriculum for Systems Engineering (GRCSE)** (Pyster and Owell et al. 2012) makes reference to sections of the SEBoK to define its core knowledge. It also suggests broader program outcomes and objectives which reflect aspects of the professional practice of systems engineering as discussed across the SEBoK.

Between 2009 and 2012 BKCASE was led by Stevens Institute of Technology and the Naval Postgraduate School in coordination with several professional societies and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), which provided generous funding. More than 75 authors and many other reviewers and supporters from dozens of companies, universities, and professional societies across 10 countries contributed many thousands of hours writing the SEBoK articles; their organizations provided significant other contributions in-kind. For additional information on the BKCASE authors, please see the **Acknowledgements and Release History** article.

The left sidebar contains a "Quick links" section with items like "Main Page", "Letter from the Editor", "BKCASE Governance and Editorial Board", "Acknowledgements and Release History", "How to Read the SEBoK", "Download SEBoK PDF", "Copyright Information", "Clear the SEBoK", "About the SEBoK", and "SEBoKs". Below that is a "Table of Contents" section listing parts 1 through 7, and a "Navigation" section with links for "Knowledge Areas", "Topics", "Use Cases", "Case Studies", "Vignettes", "Glossary of Terms", "Acronyms", and "Primary References".



[www.sebokwiki.org](http://www.sebokwiki.org)

**Download SEBoK PDF**

**Parts**

**Knowledge Areas**

**Topics (3-5 page articles on key topics)**

**EEE Technology Humanity**

**Reference to wider knowledge**

**Topic Article**

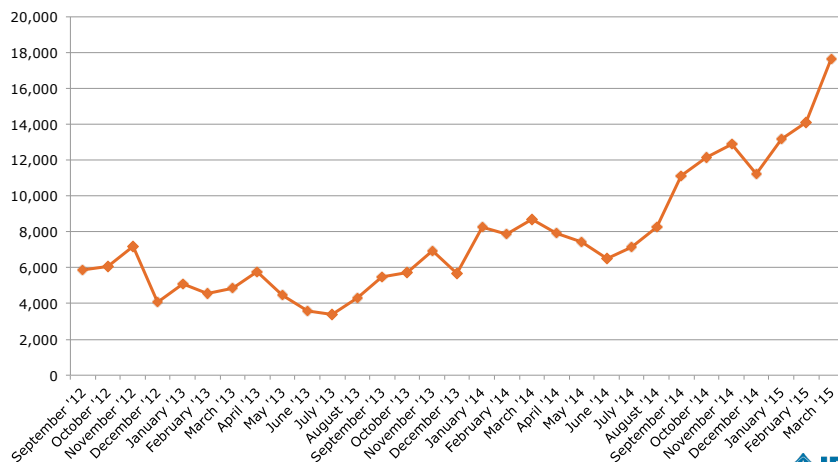
**Glossary item**

**Linked article**

**Explanatory Text (2000 words)**

**Primary Reference**

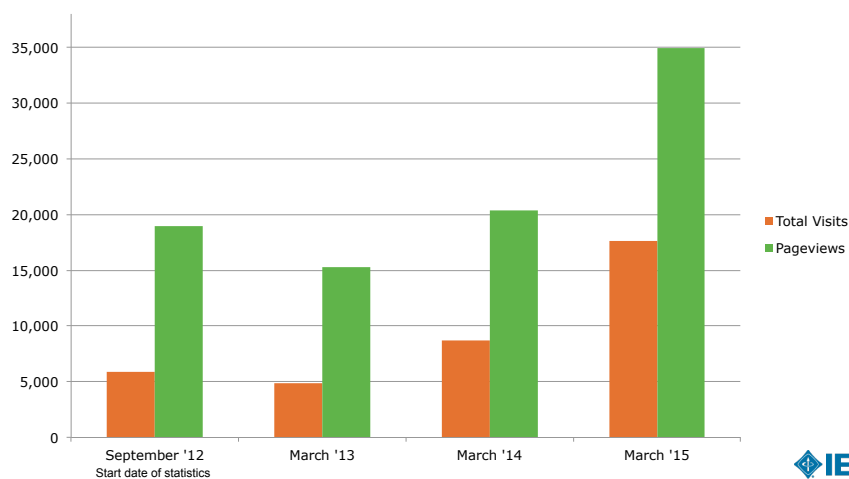
## Visits per month



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## Snapshot March



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## SEBoK stewards and editorial board


- The SEBoK stewards are:
  - INCOSE
  - IEEE Computer Society
  - Systems Engineering Research Center
- SEBoK content is managed by an editorial board

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## Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering



**SEBoK**



*Guide to the Systems Engineering  
Body of Knowledge*




**GRCSE**

*Graduate Reference Curriculum  
for Systems Engineering*

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## Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering




**SEBoK**


***Guide to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge***

- A living authoritative guide to the knowledge most relevant and important to the advancement of Systems Engineering
- Discusses what is included in the discipline,
- how this knowledge can be structured to facilitate understanding,
- what sources are most important to the discipline.


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## Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering



### *Graduate Reference Curriculum for Systems Engineering*




- ▣ Curriculum guidance for systems engineering master's program.
- ▣ Knowledge coverage against the SEBoK
- ▣ broader program guidance and advice
- ▣ Broad based curriculum framework, tailor-able, advisory and useful
- ▣ While setting some agreed minimum baseline of what SE Masters education needs to be

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## Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering

- ▣ BKCASE is a partnership between three well known organizations
  - International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE),
  - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society (IEEE-CS),
  - Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC).
- ▣ The detailed content and use of SEBoK, GRCSE and any future products are now driven by a **BKCASE Editorial Board**.

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## Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering

The BKCASE products continue to provide a living, shared and authoritative guide to the full scope of Systems Engineering Knowledge, becoming the most used reference in the world to guide systems engineering graduate education and systems engineering practice. -

### BKCASE Vision 2014

- By continuing to work towards aligning technical initiative and research, competency models, certification programs, textbooks, standards and guides, graduate programs, and related workforce development initiatives around the world to BKCASE our sponsors can enhance their ability to
  - Share, use, evolve and co-create value from that knowledge with their stakeholders.
  - Providing a framework for the education, development and recognition of all those involved in the professional practice of Systems Engineering.
  - Better describe the place Systems Engineering holds in complex problem resolution and thus shape and grow that role.

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## [www.BKCASE.org](http://www.BKCASE.org)

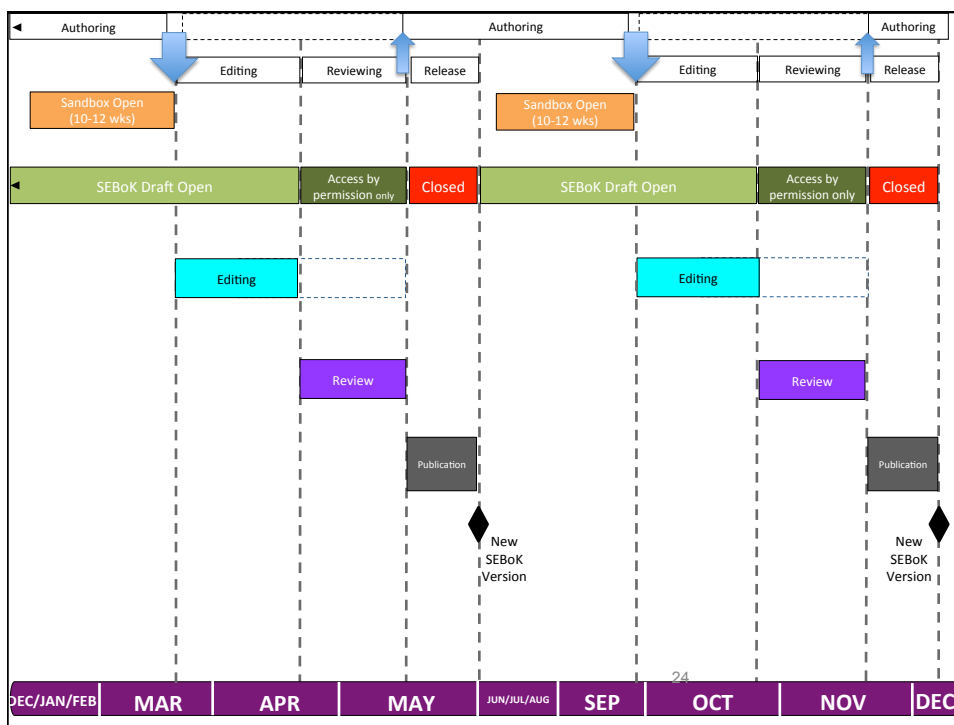
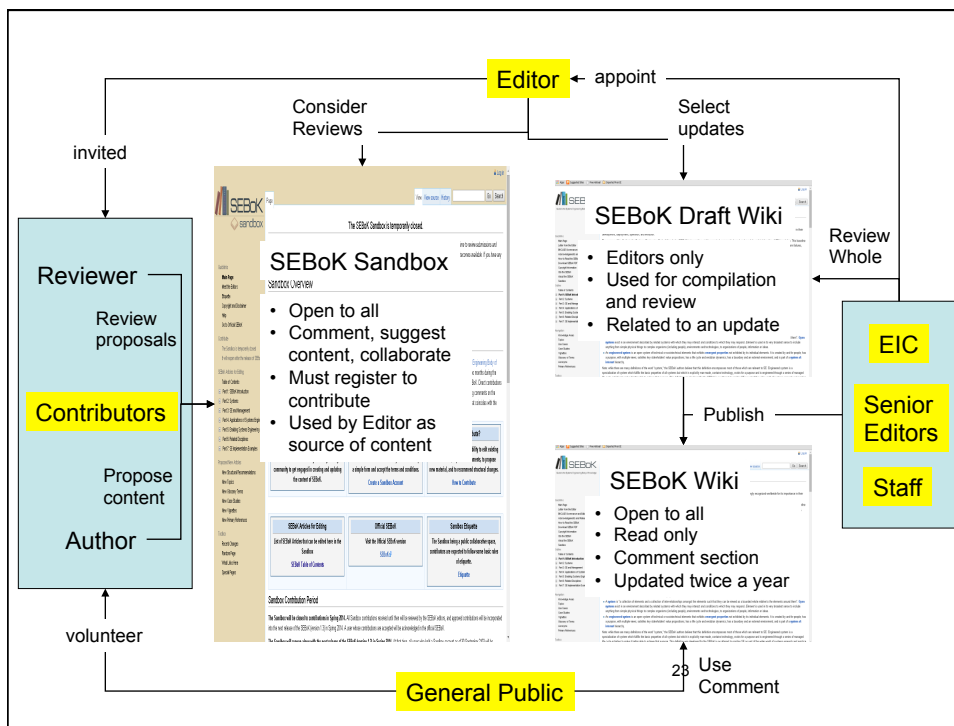
The screenshot shows the BKCASE website homepage. The main header reads "Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, SEBoK, GRCSE, Sandbox, How to participate, About BKCASE, Papers & Articles, FAQ, Links, and Contact Us. The "News" section lists recent updates: "January 24th, 2015 New BKCASE Videos Read More", "December 5th, 2014 SEBoK v. 1.3.1 Released Read More", and "August 7th, 2014 First BKCASE Sponsor Read More". A search bar is present. The "Sponsors" section features the INCOSE FOUNDATION logo. A "BKCASE Newsletter" sign-up box is at the bottom left. The main content area includes a "BKCASE Vision" section with a quote: "The BKCASE products continue to provide a living, shared and authoritative guide to the full scope of Systems Engineering Knowledge, becoming the most used reference in the world to guide systems engineering graduate education and systems engineering practice." - BKCASE Vision 2014. It also mentions the project's start in 2009 and lists key areas: "textbooks, graduate programs, and related workforce development initiatives around the world align with BKCASE." A list of bullet points at the bottom right of the screenshot repeats the vision points from the top slide.

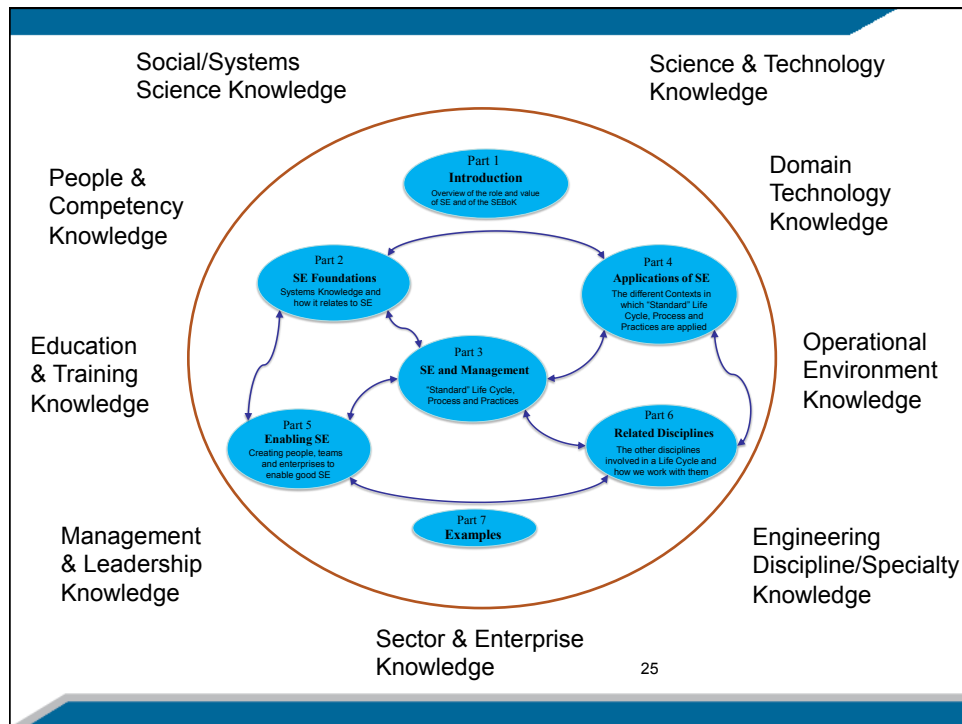
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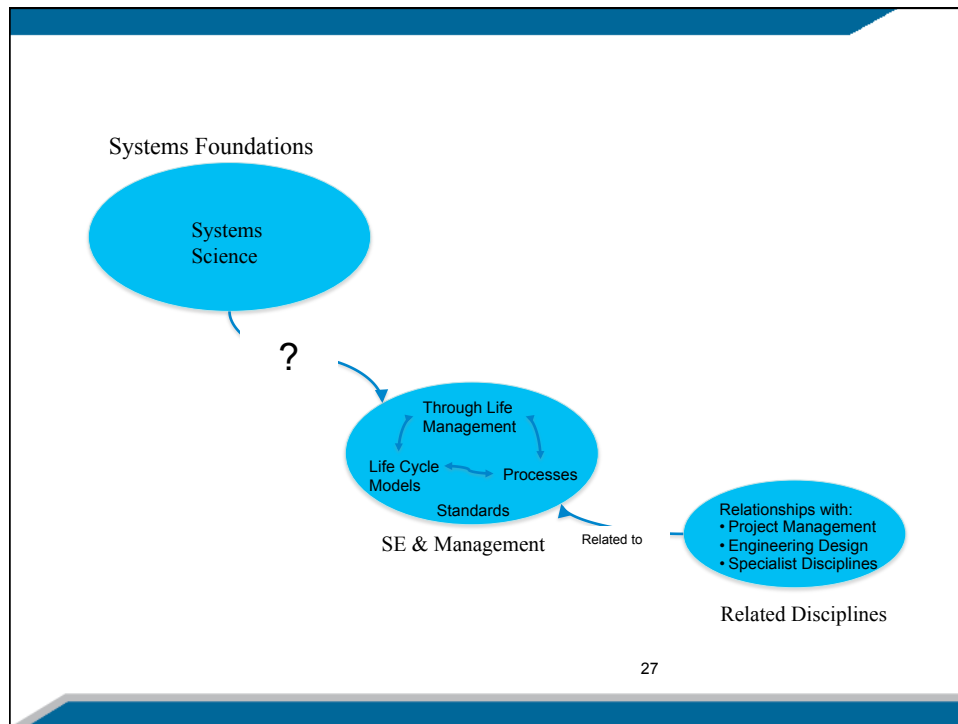




## SEBoK Content

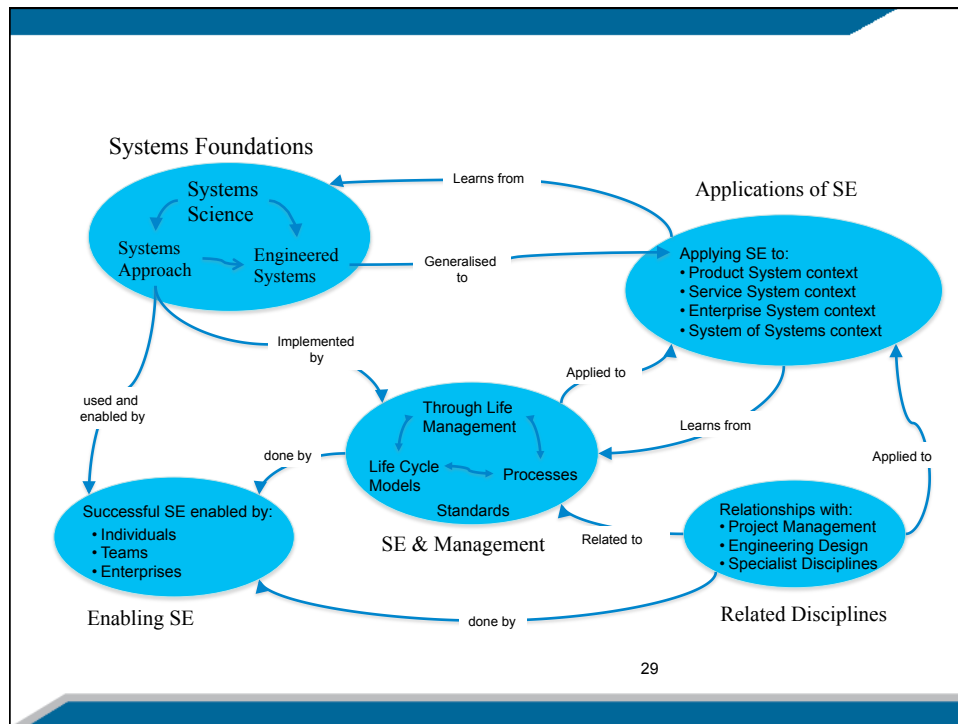
- SEBoK cover knowledge created by or directly relevant to SE education and practice
- This includes:
  - Key SE Standards on Life Cycle and Process
  - Application of Life Cycle and Process in different contexts
  - Related Systems Foundations
  - Knowledge on how to enable SE in organisations
  - Relationships with related disciplines
- This SE knowledge sits within a context of related Systems, Management and Engineering Bodies of Knowledge

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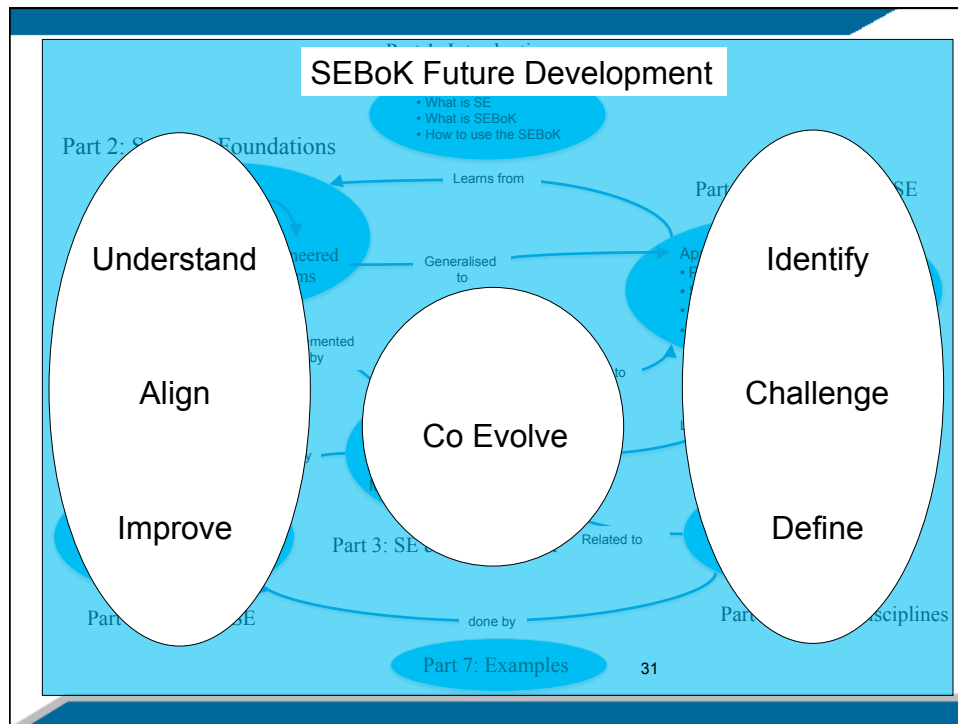
## SEBoK starting point

- The SEBoK start from previous work, building out from SE standards:
  - ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 & INCOSE Handbook
- And existing links to other disciplines and BoK
  - Including both PMIBoK and SWEBoK
- Part of the initial aspiration was to include stronger links to foundational systems science knowledge



## SEBoK development

- There is a very wide range of systems science knowledge, not all relevant to SE, from this we identified:
- **Systems Approach** to complex problems:
  - Implement within SE standards
  - And applied by people, team and organisations
  - Also gives another link to related disciplines
- **Engineered Systems:**
  - Contain technology (HW, SW and People), often in social, public or business context
  - Generically organised into Product, Service, Enterprise and SOS contexts
  - To which standards SE Life Cycle and Process can be applied
  - Again, this application is shared with related disciplines
- We recognise that much of our new knowledge comes out of these applications



## Future Evolution

- Understand, Align and Improve:
  - Systems Science foundations
  - Available systems methods, tools, patterns, etc.
  - Competency, roles, people, etc.
- Co Evolve:
  - Life Cycle and Process standards
  - Relationships (in particular SW and HW design)
- Identify, Challenge, Define:
  - Product and Service in different domains
  - Enterprise and Systems of Systems scope
  - Model Based SE transformation
  - Life Cycle scope and tailoring



## Presentation topics

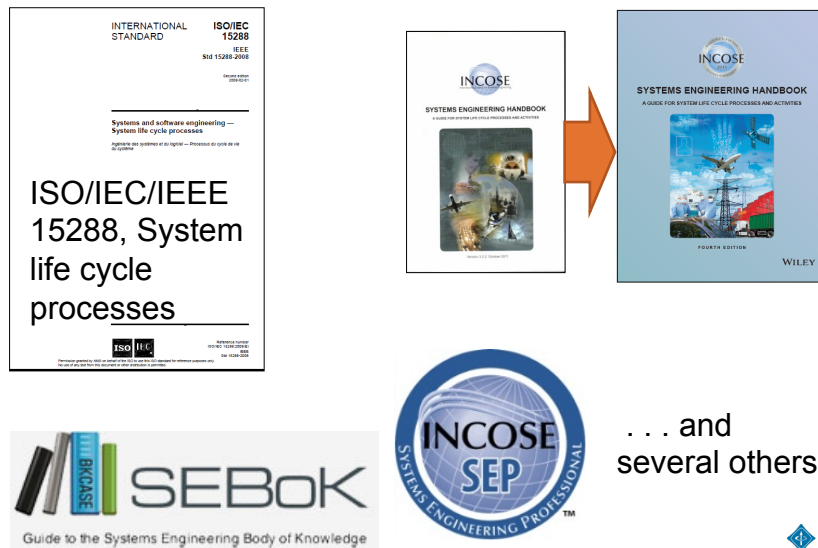
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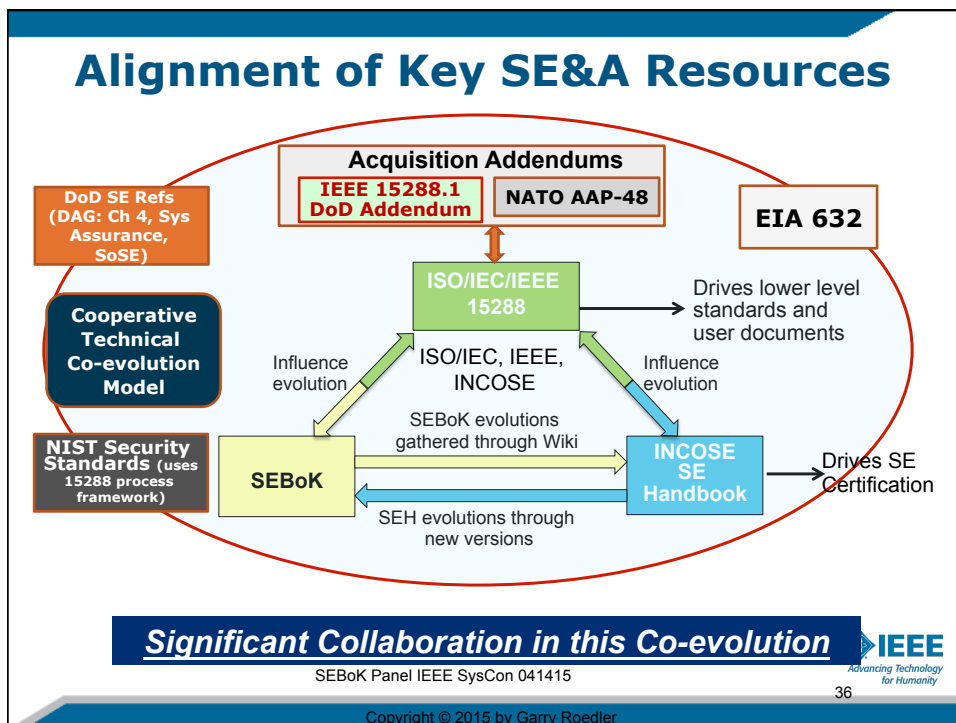
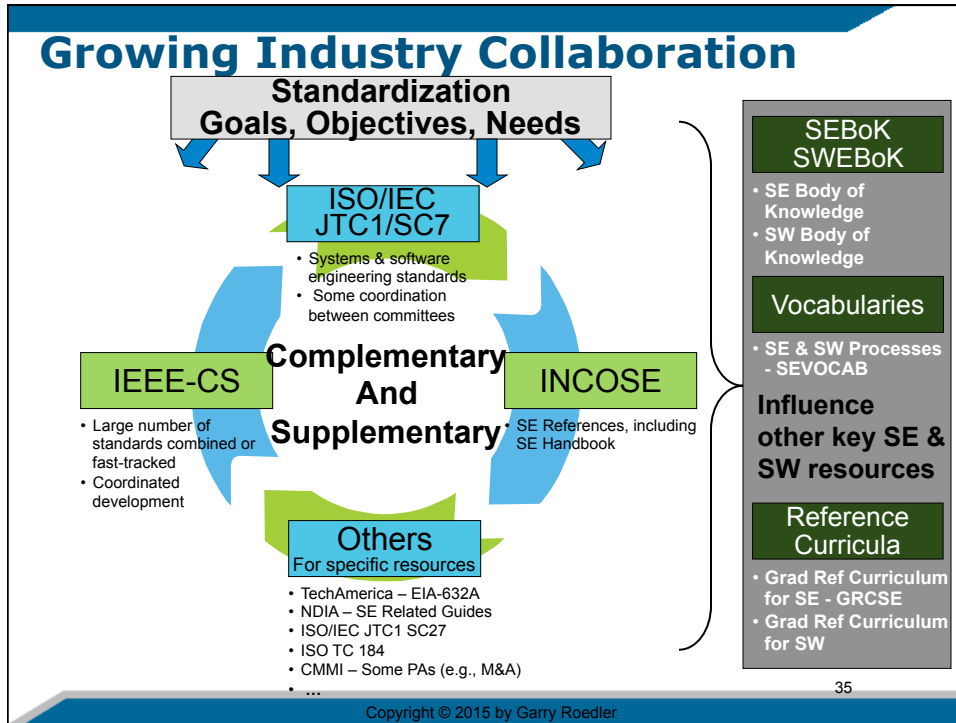
## Systems Engineering Landscape



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## ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 scope and focus

- Provides a common, comprehensive & integrated framework for describing and managing the full life cycle of systems for:
  - Small, medium and large organizations
  - Internal self-imposed use, as well as providing a basis for contractual arrangements (i.e., any agreement)
  - Applicable to most domains
  - Applicable to any life cycle model
- Defines a set of processes, concepts, and associated terminology
  - Can be applied at any level in system structure across its life cycle
  - Not sequential or one-way to apply
  - Allows for concurrent process application and concurrent stages

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Source: Adapted from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7/WG7 presentation on ISO/IEC 15288.

## ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 scope and focus (2)

- Applies to man-made systems configured with one or more of the following:
  - Hardware, software, humans, or processes
- Focuses on “what”, not “how”
- Includes tailoring process
- Includes guidance for application to System of Systems (SoS)

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## Expanded Scope to Better Address Full Life Cycle

**Changing Scope of SE Resources**

*Capability Evolution*

**The new scope better accommodates the early SE decisions and SoS perspective**

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## Revised ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 Processes and Structure

**Technical Mgt processes**

**Technical processes**

**Tailoring**

**Organizational Project Enabling Processes**

**Agreement processes**

**ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:**

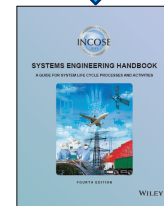
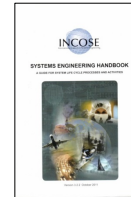
- Comprehensive – most orgs & domains
- Has 30 Processes in 4 Process Groups
- Includes interaction of project & org.
- Full life cycle – stages – holistic view
- Based on proven practices

Adapted from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7/WG7 presentation on ISO/IEC 15288.  
Author – Roedler.

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## INCOSE SE Handbook

- INCOSE SE Handbook (SEH)
  - Reflects the state-of-the-practice of Systems Engineering (SE)
  - Based on ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288
    - Further elaborates the processes and activities to execute the processes
  - Aligns well with the SEBoK – which reflects state-of-the-art
  - Inputs from the entire INCOSE Technical Community
  - Serves as a reference to practices and methods that have proven beneficial to the SE community at large
- Version 4 planned to be published soon
- Purpose
  - Defines the discipline and practice of SE
  - Provides an authoritative reference



SEH serves as the basis for the CSEP & ASEP exams

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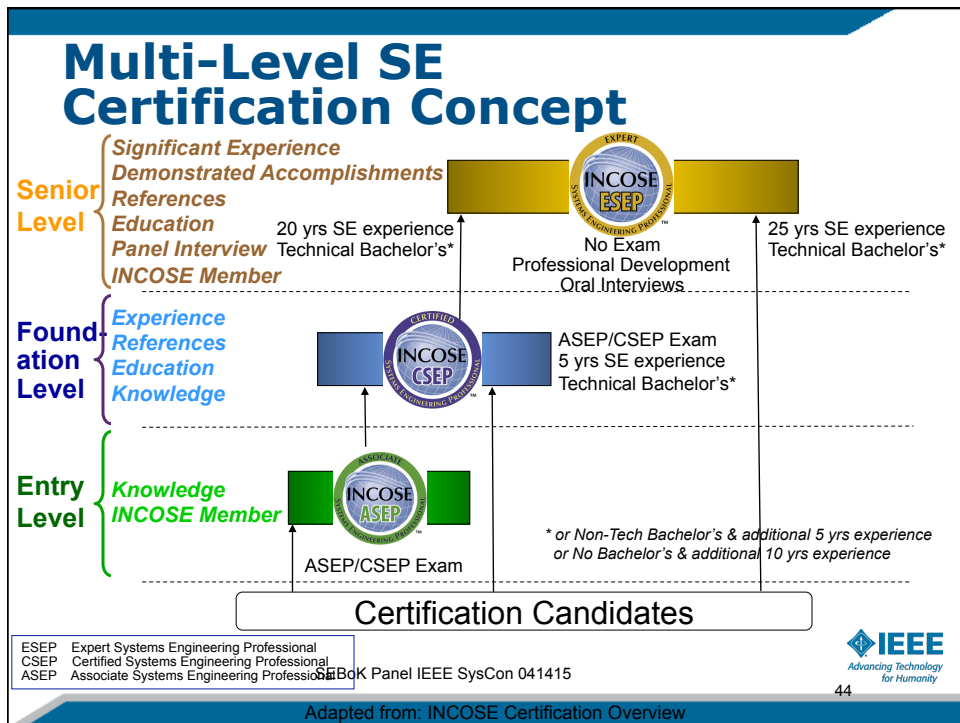
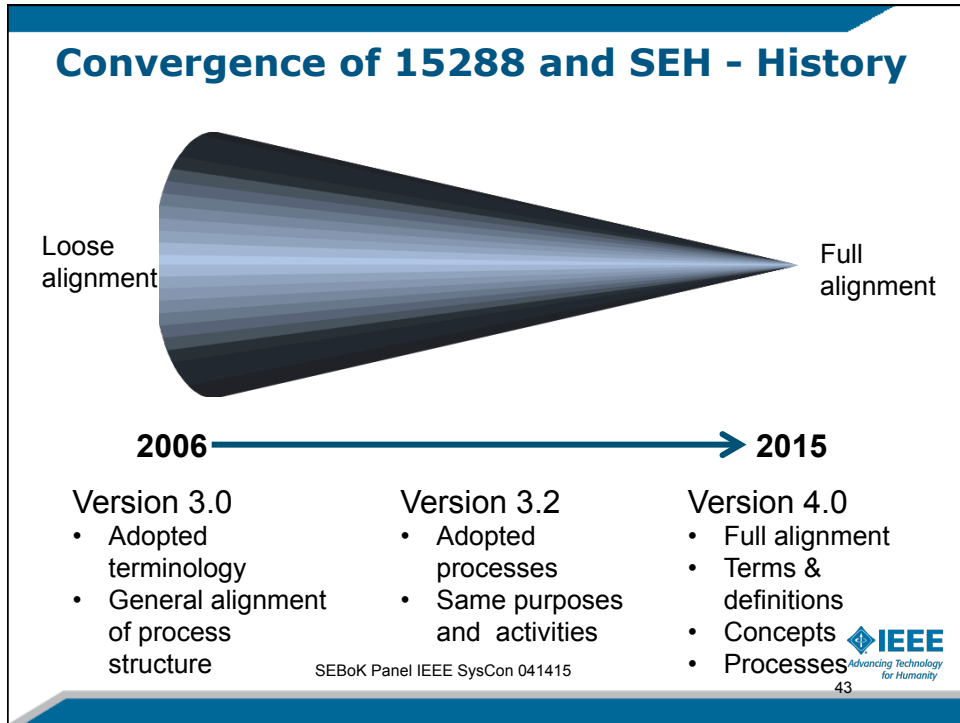
## SEHv4 Drivers for Change

- Alignment with the **ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2015** updates
- Refresh the Technical content based on SE state-of-the-practice with the latest inputs from the **INCOSE technical Working Groups (WGs)**
- Add new content consistent with the **SE state-of-the-practice**
- Be consistent with the **Guide to the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBoK) version 1.3** to the maximum extent practicable ([www.sebokwiki.org](http://www.sebokwiki.org))

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## 14 Functional Areas Recognized for Systems Engineering Experience

- CSEP needs at least 1 year in each of 3 or more areas
- ESEP needs at least 2 years in each of 6 or more areas
- SE Technical Areas
    - Requirements Engineering
    - Design Development
    - System Integration
    - Qualification, Verification, and Validation
  - SE Support Areas
    - Specialty Engineering
    - Process Definition
    - Training
    - Tool Support
    - Quality Assurance
  - SE Management Areas
    - Technical Planning
    - Technical Effort Assessment
    - Risk and Opportunity Management
    - Baseline Control
  - Other SE Areas
    - To allow for the variety of SE across domains

Successful candidates must have balanced experience across multiple areas



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Adapted from: INCOSE Certification Overview

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## Part 6: Related Disciplines

- Systems Engineering and Software Engineering
- Systems Engineering and Project Management
- Systems Engineering and Industrial Engineering
- Systems Engineering and Procurement/Acquisition
- Systems Engineering and Specialty Engineering

## Specialty engineering

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ■ Integration of Specialty Engineering           | ■ System Assurance  |
| ■ Reliability, Availability, and Maintainability | ■ Electromagnetic Interference/ Electromagnetic Compatibility |
| ■ Human Systems Integration                      | ■ Resilience Engineering                                      |
| ■ Safety Engineering                             | ■ Manufacturability and Producibility                         |
| ■ Security Engineering                           | ■ Affordability   |
|  | ■ Environmental Engineering                                   |



## Part 7: Implementation examples

Case Studies	
<b>HST</b>	Hubble Space Telescope
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>Radiation</b>	Medical Radiation
<b>FBI VCF</b>	FBI Virtual Case File System
<b>MSTI</b>	Miniature Seeker Technology Integration
<b>Infusion Pump</b>	Next Generation Medical Infusion Pump

Vignettes	
<b>Bag Handling</b>	Denver Airport Baggage Handling System
<b>VA Sub</b>	Virginia Class Submarine
<b>Route Mod</b>	UK West Coast Route Modernisation Project
<b>Water Mgmt</b>	Singapore Water Management
<b>FAA AAS</b>	FAA Advanced Automation System
<b>Light Rail</b>	Standard Korean Light Transit System

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## Graduate Reference Curriculum for Systems Engineering

- GRCSE describes a process for curricular design
- GRCSE suggests content to be included in SE curricula
- GRCSE suggests an architecture
- GRCSE describes how to implement itself
- GRCSE discusses program assessment

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## GRCSE

- Influencing curricular discussions across the world
- Influential in the design of new curricula in the US and in Italy
- Influencing curricular reviews of existing curricula across US and the world
  - Content checklist and weighting
  - Especially the addition of systems science to SE curricula.
- Informing the discussion of program criteria for graduate systems engineering accreditation
  - Used in the UK for the review of the Cranfield program by the UK Council on Engineering

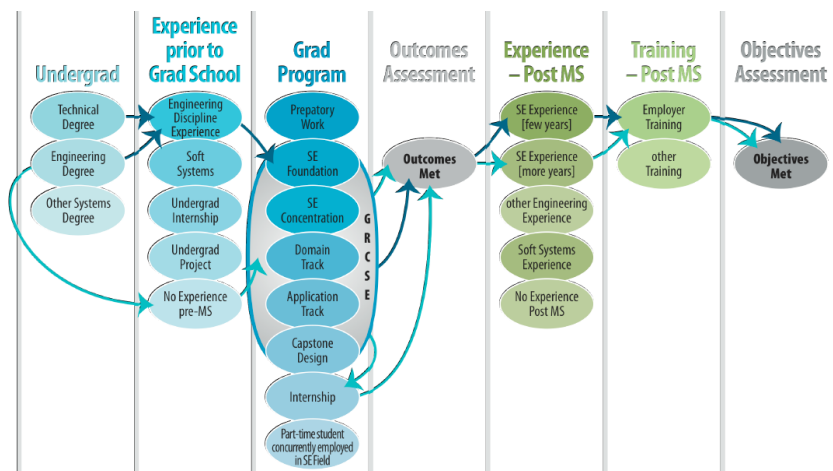
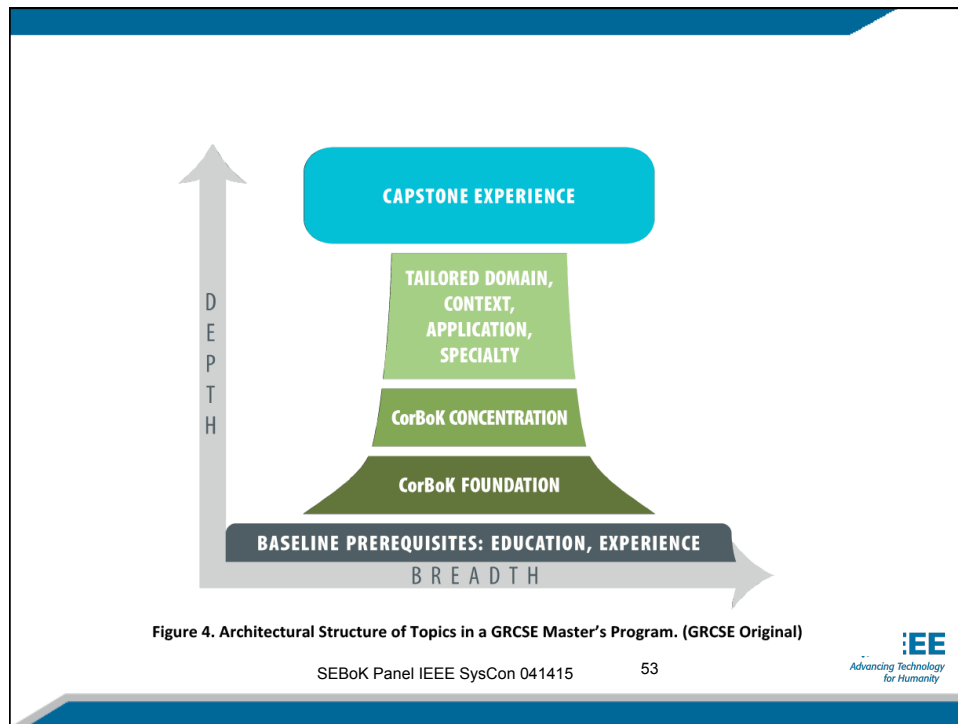


Figure 1. The Diversity of Education Pathways Accommodated in GRCSE. (GRCSE Original)



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## Software and System Engineering History

- First System Engineering text book appeared around 1960
- Software Engineering term was first introduced at NATO conference in 1968
- First SE Body of Knowledge 2012
- First SwE Body of Knowledge 2004
- SE graduate curriculum recommendation - GRCSE 2012
- SwE graduate curriculum recommendation – GSwE 2009

## Why SEs should be interested in Software

- Most systems have some software component
- Software plays a dominant role in operation of some systems (Software Intensive Systems)
  - The software development and maintenance cost almost equals all other costs for development of jet fighter
  - “We no longer build aircraft, we build flying computers” President of Boeing

## SwE in the SEBoK

- SEBoK Part 6: Related Disciplines, includes a SwE Knowledge Area
- Includes the following Articles
  - The Nature of Software
  - An Overview of the SWEBOK Guide
  - Key Points a Systems Engineer Needs to Know about Software Engineering
  - Key Points a Systems Engineer Needs to Know about Managing a Software Team
- The aim is not to reproduce the SWEBOK, but to give Systems Engineers an insight into Software and Software Engineering

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## Common Myth: SwE is a specialized SE

- Artifacts: SE deals with physical entity BUT SwE deals with invisible entity
- Scope/Domain: SE deals with Broad range of domains BUT SwE mainly deals with software
  - Therefore SE must have breadth of knowledge, and SwE must have depth
- Education: Typical SE has background in EE and ME, BUT typical SwE has CS

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## SE and SwE Commonalities (10,000 feet view)

- Similar Development Phases
  - Acquisition, Requirement, Design, Construction, Testing, Maintenance
- Similar Development Life Cycle
  - Waterfall, V, Iterative, Agile, etc.
- Similar Development Methods/Techniques
  - Component Base, Model Based, Reuse, etc.
- Similar Management Techniques
  - Project, Quality, Configuration, etc.

## SE and SwE Learning from each other

Systems Engineering Methods Adapted to Software Engineering	Software Engineering Methods Adapted to Systems Engineering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Stakeholder Analysis</li> <li>•Requirements Engineering</li> <li>•Functional Decomposition</li> <li>•Design Constraints</li> <li>•Architectural Design</li> <li>•Design Criteria</li> <li>•Design Tradeoffs</li> <li>•Interface Specification</li> <li>•Traceability</li> <li>•Configuration Management</li> <li>•Systematic Verification And Validation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Model-Driven Development</li> <li>•UML-SysML</li> <li>•Use Cases</li> <li>•Object-Oriented Design</li> <li>•Iterative Development</li> <li>•Agile Methods</li> <li>•Continuous Integration</li> <li>•Process Modeling</li> <li>•Process Improvement</li> <li>•Incremental V&amp;V</li> </ul>

## Things that SEs need to know about SW & SwEs (1)

- Project Management
  - Software Estimation is typically inaccurate
  - Increasing # of SwEs may result in project delay
    - Communication plays a major role
    - Cohesive teams are very successful
  - SwEs are not interchangeable
  - Software Metrics include product and process data
    - Both are necessary for SW project management
  - Software Development (trends)
    - More Iterative and More Agile

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## Things that SEs need to know about SW & SwEs (2)

- Seemingly minor change may require major work
- Minor change may introduce major defect/side effect
- Some quality attributes may be evaluated subjectively
- Almost every software product is unique
- Software Testing is at best a sampling process
- Software requirements is more prone to change
  - Be wary of requirement creep
- Software typically serves as a glue between components

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## SE and SWE: present and future challenges

- SE and SWE have long common history and share many things
- Some problems in SE are due to lack of understanding of nature of SW and SWE
- As we move to Cyber Physical systems both SE and SWE will need to change:
  - Become more closely integrated
  - But develop key specialist skills
  - As part of a general move to integrated through life Management & Engineering

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