

The logo features the word "FORRESTER" in a white, serif, all-caps font, centered within a dark green oval. The oval is set against a dark blue background with faint, light blue wavy lines radiating from behind it.

FORRESTER®

Why Consider The Mainframe When Developing New Workloads?

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Principal Analyst

Forrester Research

March 4, 2010

Agenda

- Backgrounds color perspectives
- A historical perspective – the way we were ...
- Present perspectives – what we have learned...
- Future perspectives – charting a path forward...
- Summary

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Full disclosure of my perspective biases

- Coverage – primarily Applications issues / IT mgt issues
 - Apps modernization, rationalization, portfolio mgt, skills / staff
 - I don't (directly) cover hardware, system software, but field most of the migration / modernization inquiries
- Background – 28 years in IT – apps dev & mgt
 - State of Massachusetts - consultant
 - Boston University – programmer / analyst
 - Cullinet Software – ERP developer, consultant, director
 - Arbella (divested from Kemper) – apps director
 - National Council on Compensation Insur. (NCCI) – apps director
 - GiGa Information Group, acquired by Forrester Research

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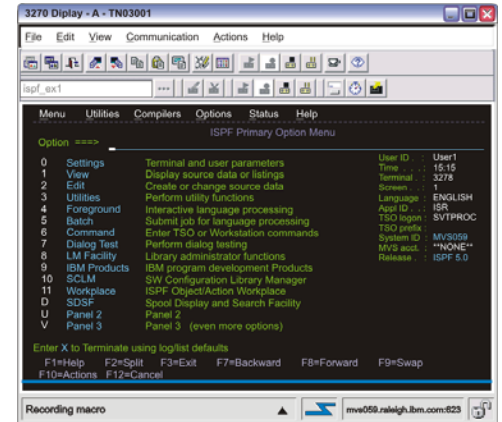
In simpler times, we had ...



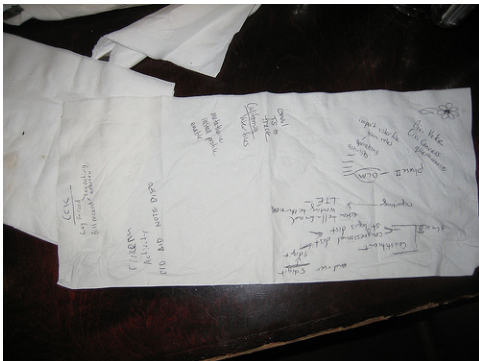
Servers



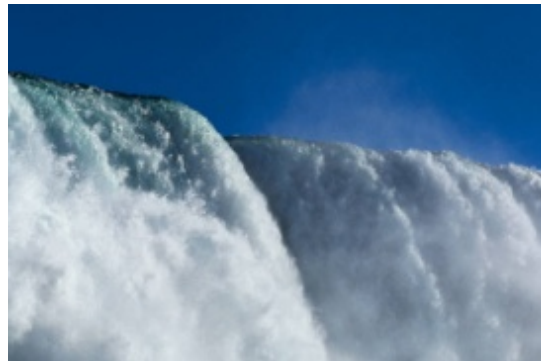
Geeks



IDEs



Requirements



Methodology



Security


But we lost control ...



Source: <http://www.sinepil.org/imaj/Redingot/one-flew-over-the-cuckoos-nest-scene.jpg>



Decades of change brought new challenges

- ✗ Islands of data 
- Source of truth?
- Dis-connectivity
- Rogue IT, processes
- “Coding cowboy”

- Islands of e-data
- Source of truth?
- Dis-connectivity
- Rogue e-IT
- Process still an issue

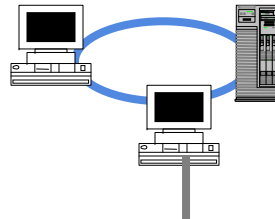


Early Mainframes



Centralized control

PCs, client-server



Departmental control

E-Biz

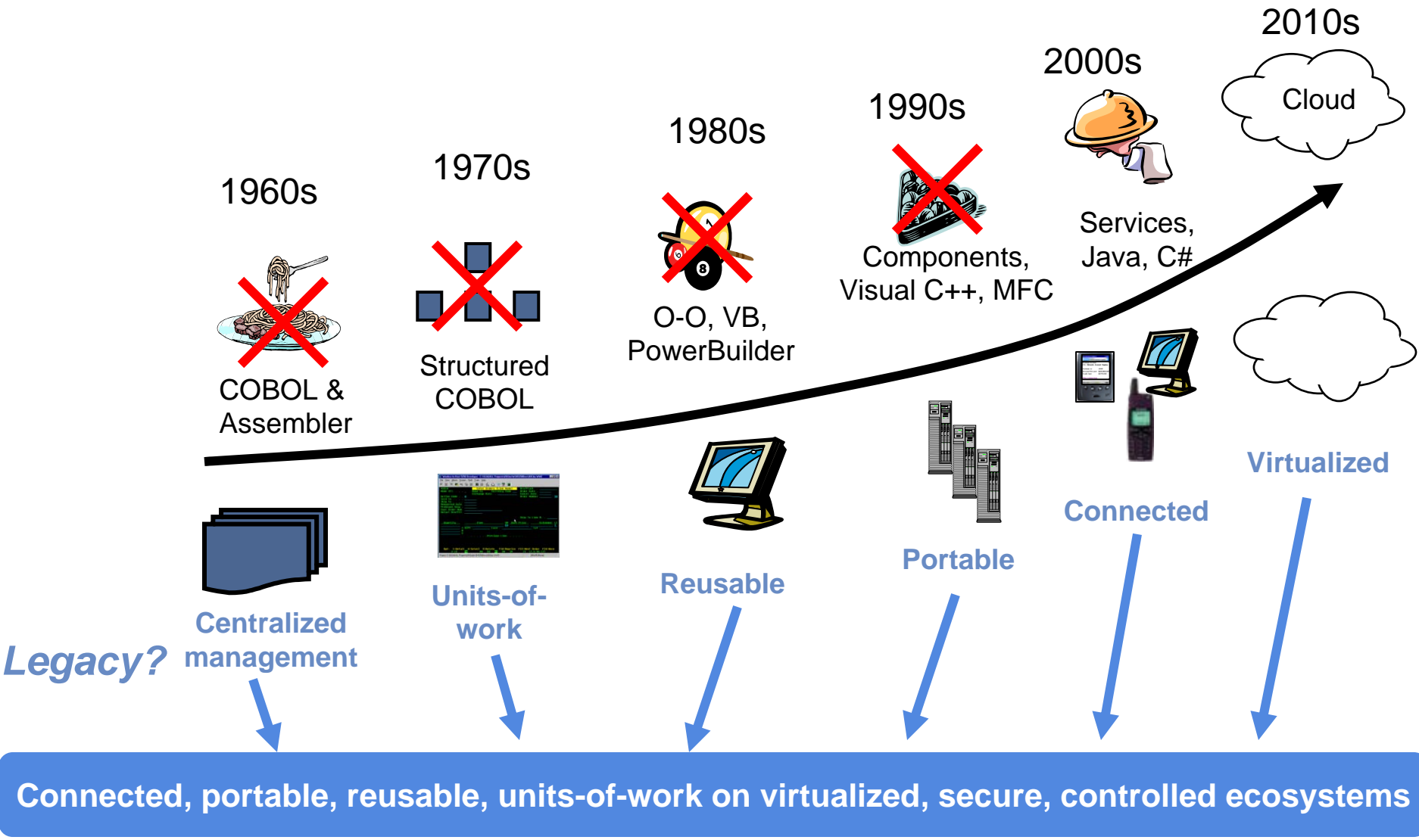


Re-centralize control

Cloud



Leaving us with 5 decades of IP “legacy”



Reusable, portable, connected virtualized & centrally managed

Why wouldn't you leverage the best parts of that legacy for new workloads?

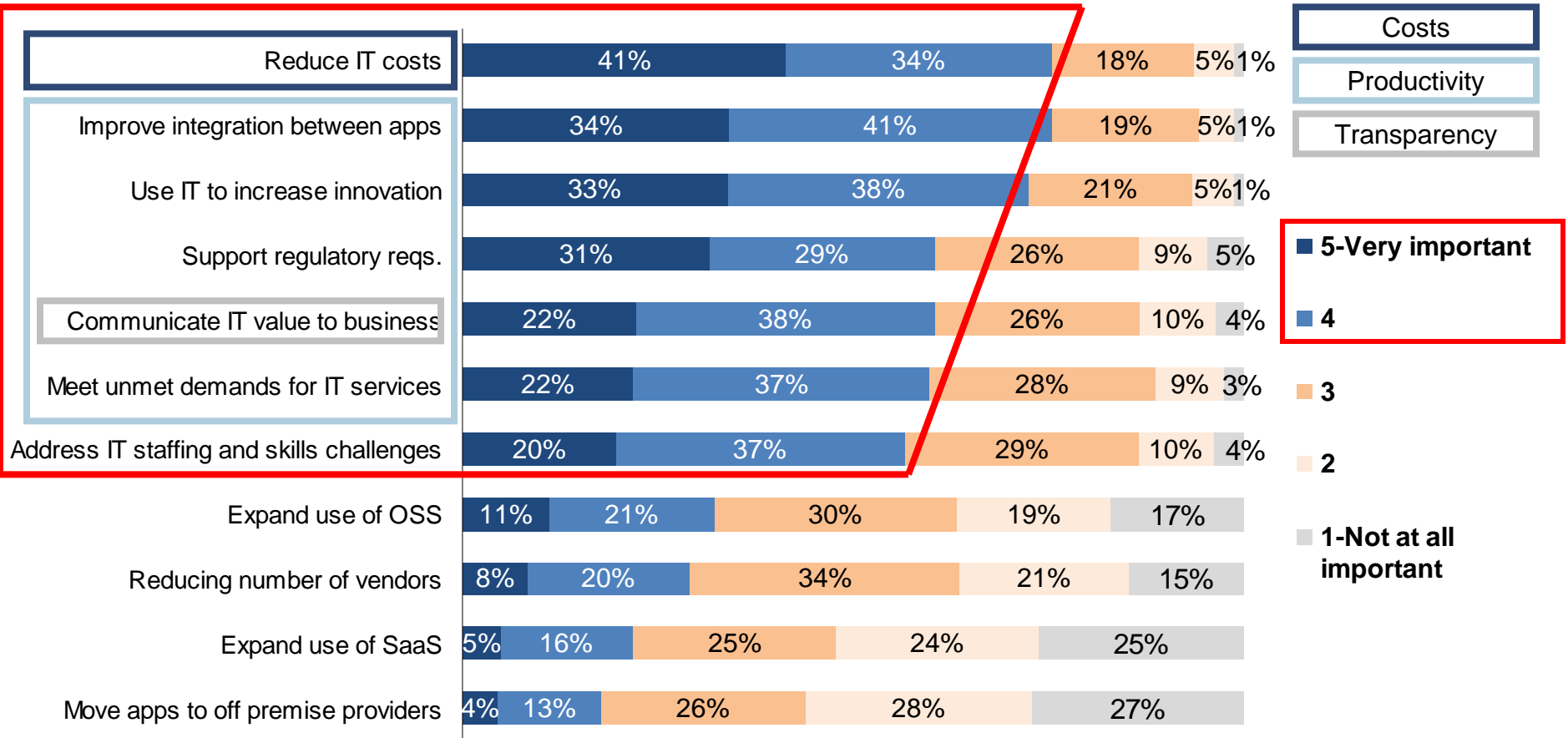
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What are IT executives top priorities?

Productivity, costs, transparency are top concerns

“Thinking of your firm’s current planning cycle, how important are each of the following goals?”

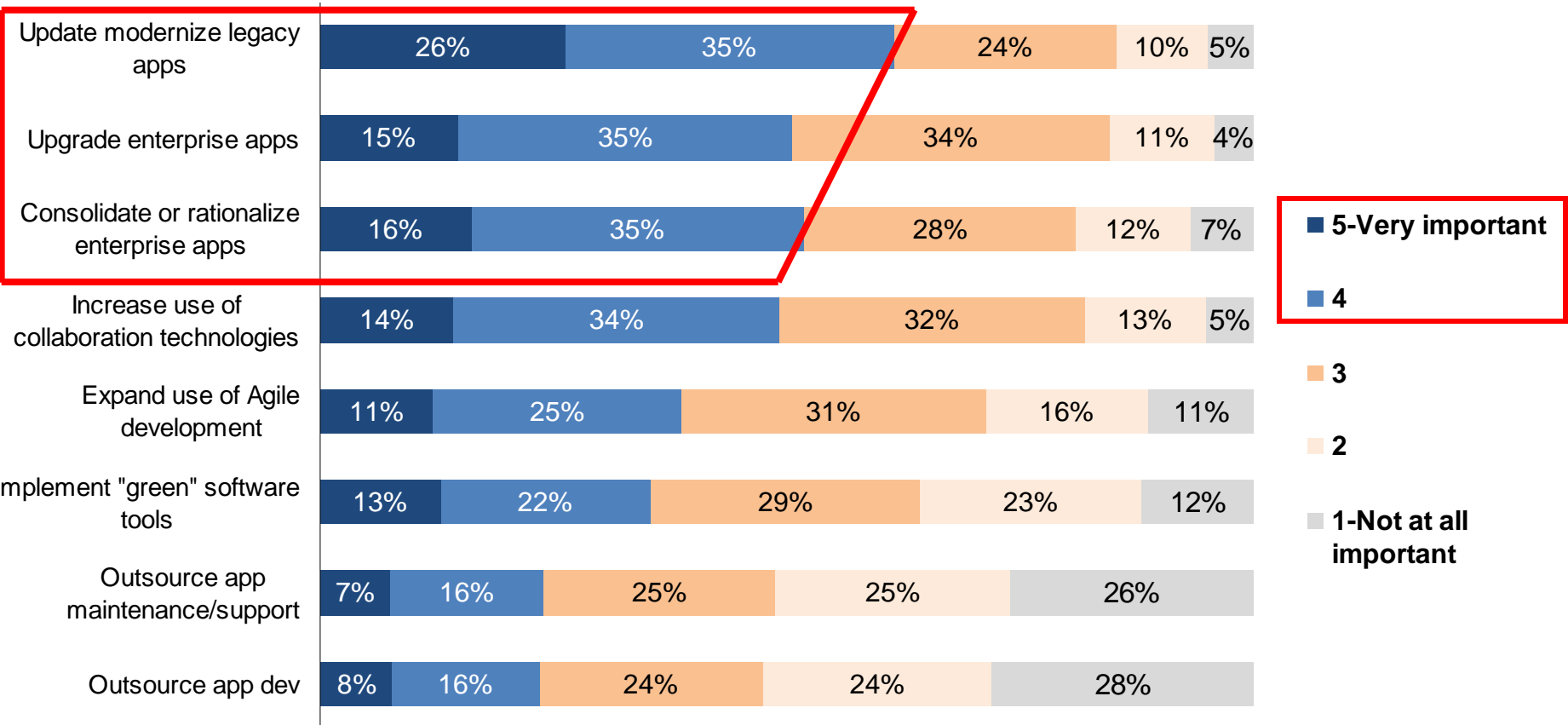


Base: 1,114 custom software decision-makers at North American and European enterprises and SMBs

Source: Enterprise And SMB Software Survey, North America And Europe, Q4 2008

And application modernization is top priority

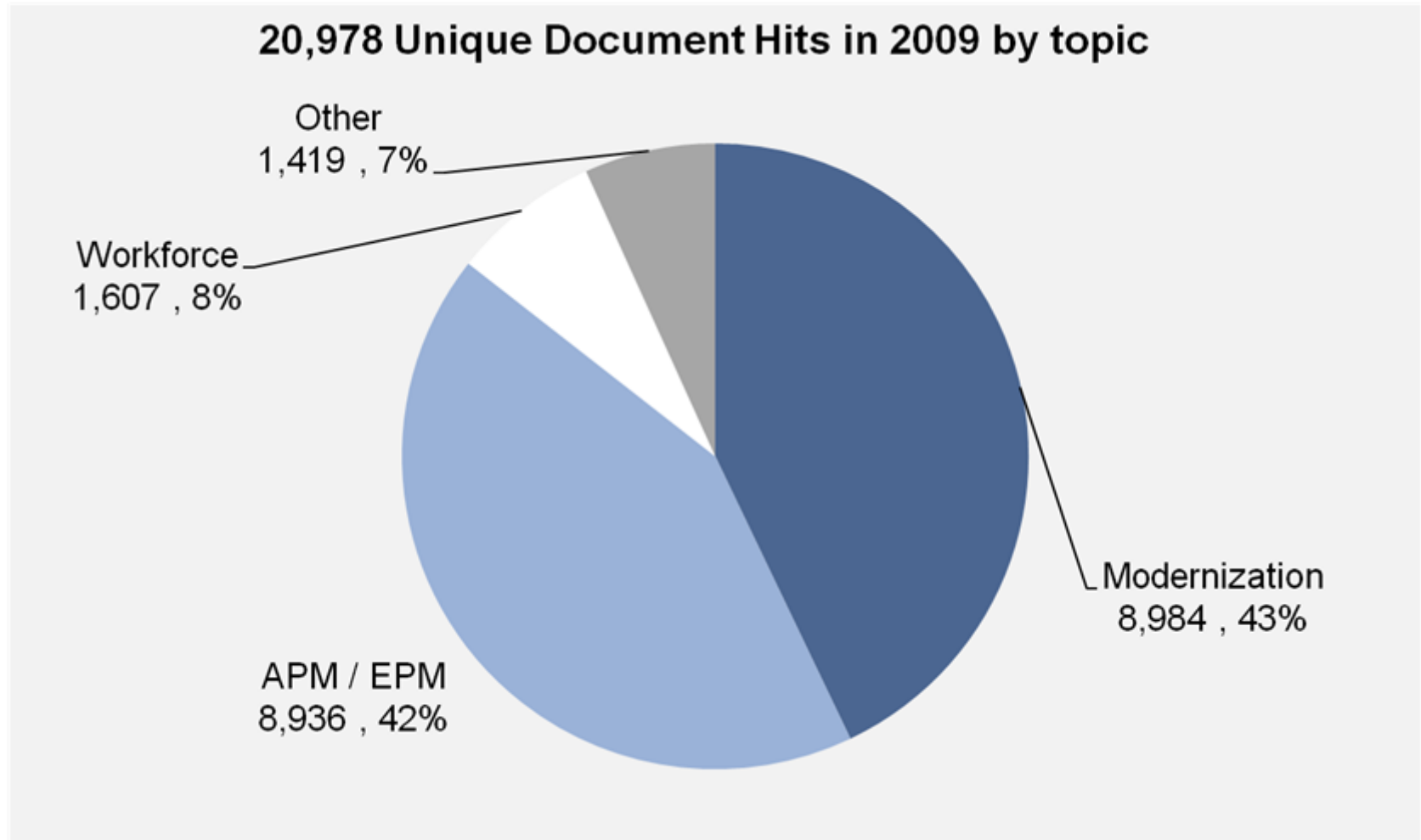
“Thinking of your firm’s current planning cycle, how important are each of the following **software** initiatives?”



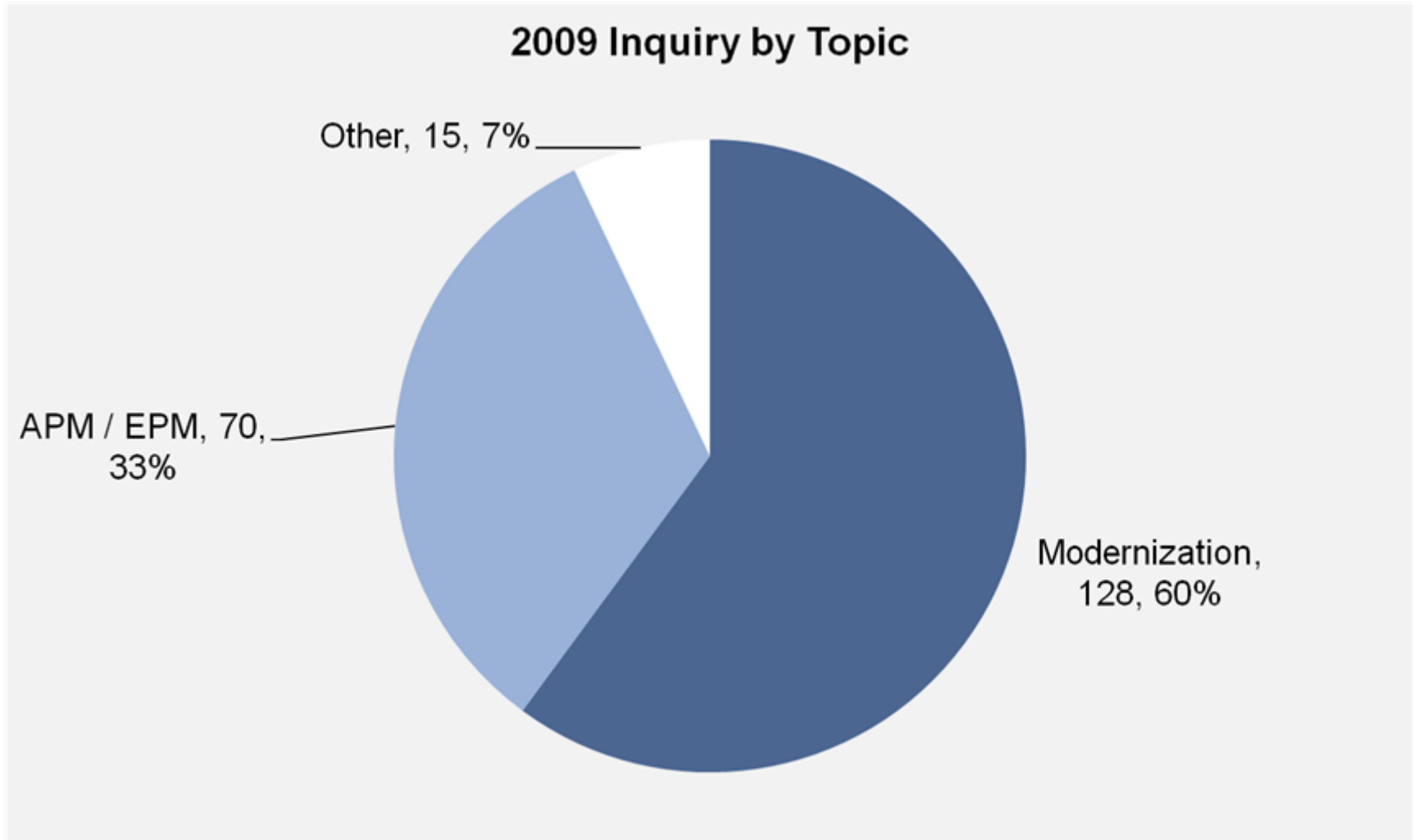
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My APM / modernization research is hot



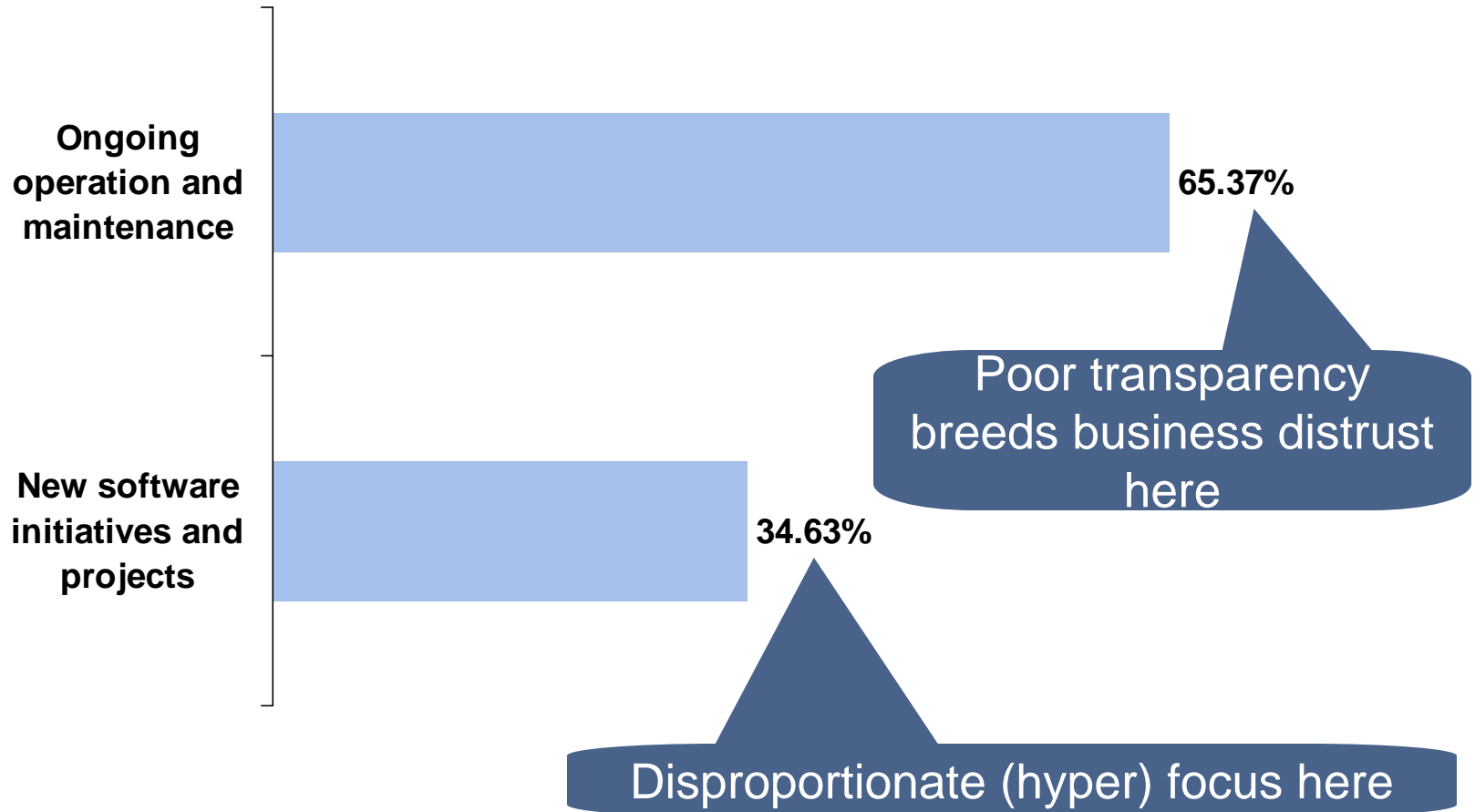
My APM / modernization inquiry is hot



What does the “heat” indicate?

We have to deal with some of the bad legacy ...

“For 2009, approximately what percent of your firm’s combined capital and operating budget for software will go to new initiatives and projects versus ongoing operations and maintenance?”

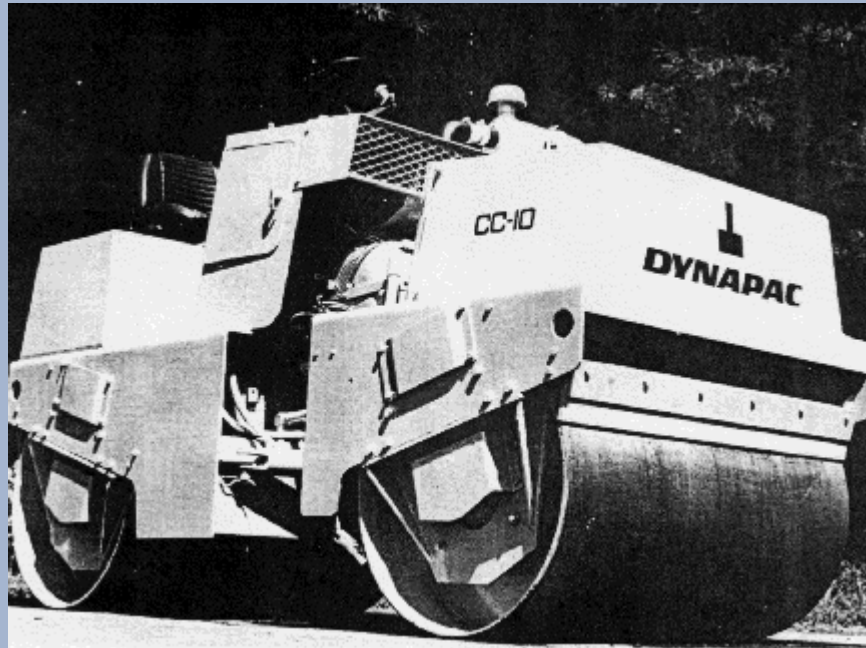


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We've tried 1-size-fits-all ... it doesn't ...



This is not a modernization strategy ...

It's a new day, baby... we're heterogeneous

Server + OS = workload-appropriate vehicle

z/OS



Linux



Wintel



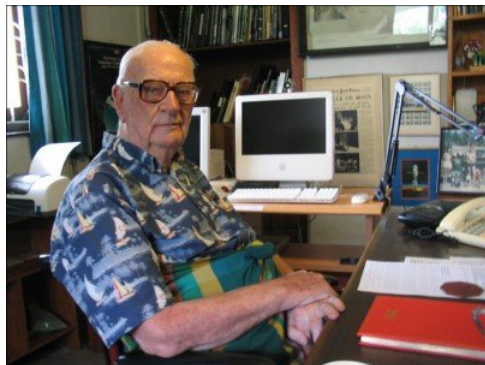
Unix



Our staff are heterogeneous ...

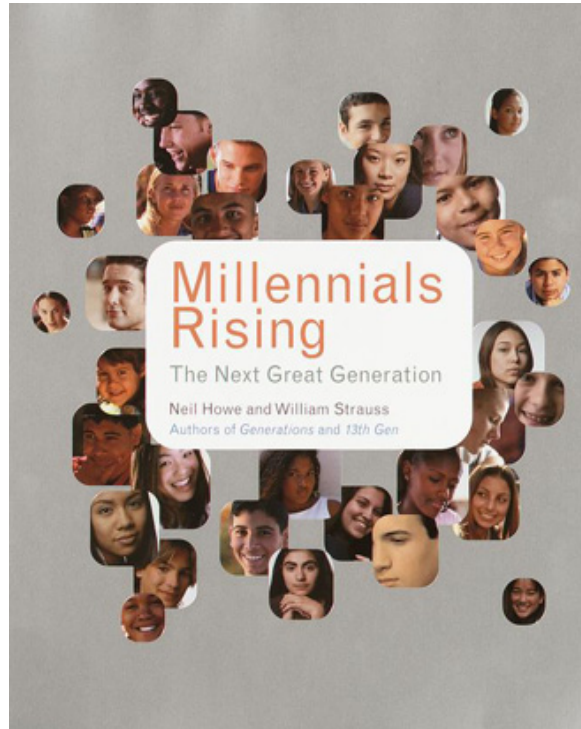


The geeks
have aged ...



Amy Marash

New generations to attract...



<http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/brainiac/0375707190.jpg>

Some have styles
that will push the
traditional boundaries ...



Source: http://s3.amazonaws.com/readers/socyberty/2007/10/02/64355_0.jpg

Applications will always be heterogeneous

Small, nimble, and totally fit-for-purpose



Old and still cool



'57 Chevy



New, sleek & sexy



Maybach Exelero

... Heavy freight haulers



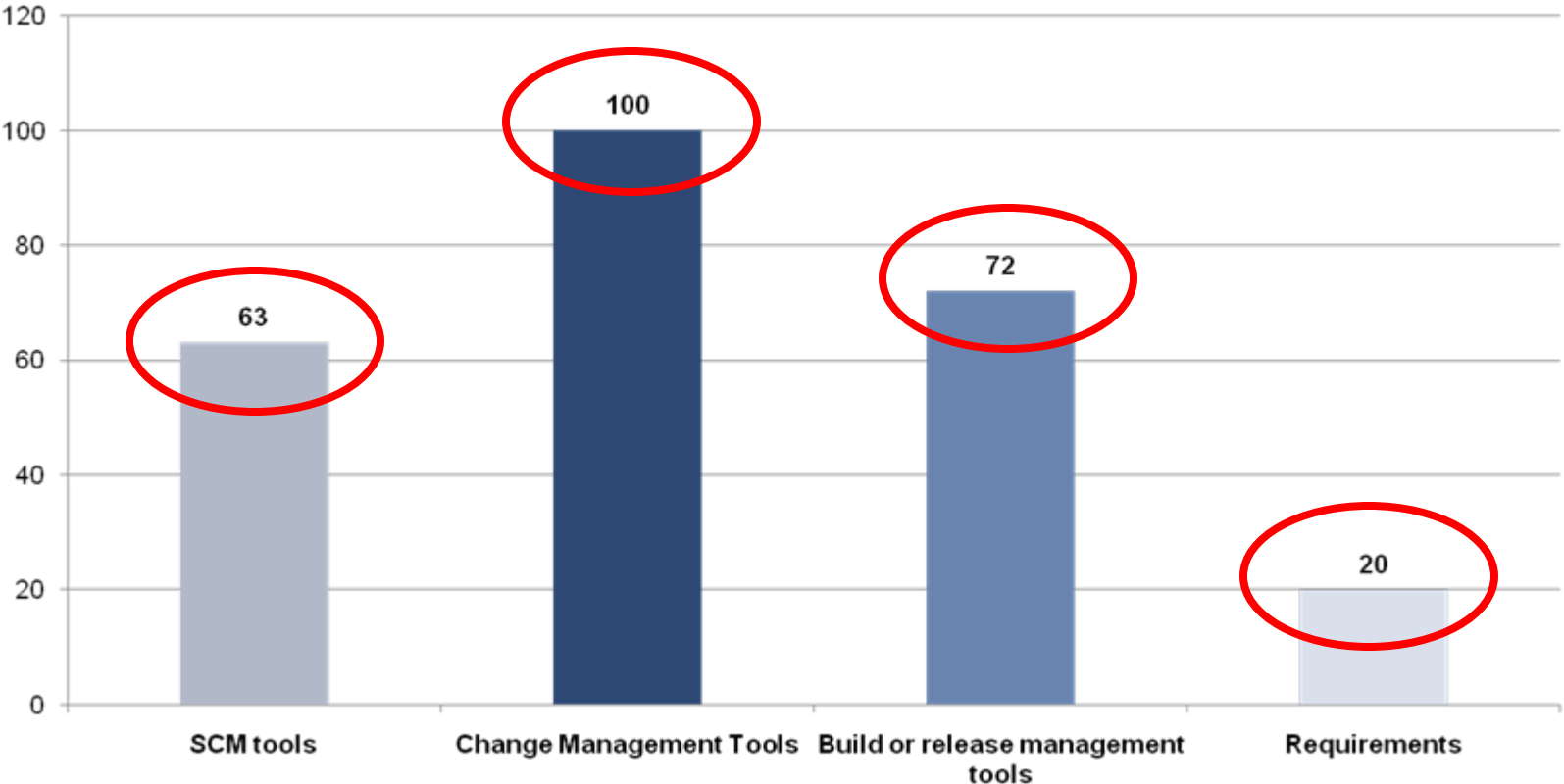
Ultimate utility vehicle



Unimog

And our dev tools are TOO heterogeneous

Number Of Unique Responses To ALM Survey Questions



Base: 479 North and South American application development professionals
Source: Q1 2009 Americas Application Life-Cycle Management Usages and Trends Online Survey

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What is on the critical path forward?

We need the right hardware

How about a little platform common sense?

Mismatching workload & platform can spell disaster



Blades



Unix-frames



Traditional mainframes



Source: [flickr.com/photos/kim_scarborough/687146245/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kim_scarborough/687146245/)

We REALLY need a strong, reliable, flexible base

Any task ... Any time ...



Anywhere ...



Unimog – A poster-child for a strong base

Specialty processors adapt Unimog to all tasks



Survey



Clear



Build



And keep the road open to all kinds of traffic in all kinds of weather

What else is on the critical path forward?

We need the people / processes / tools

FUD: They aren't all aging hippies & weirdos



- You hear the FUD
 - Mainframers are all aging hippies
 - All will disappear soon ... like Y2K
 - Gen x, y, and z look like him(?)

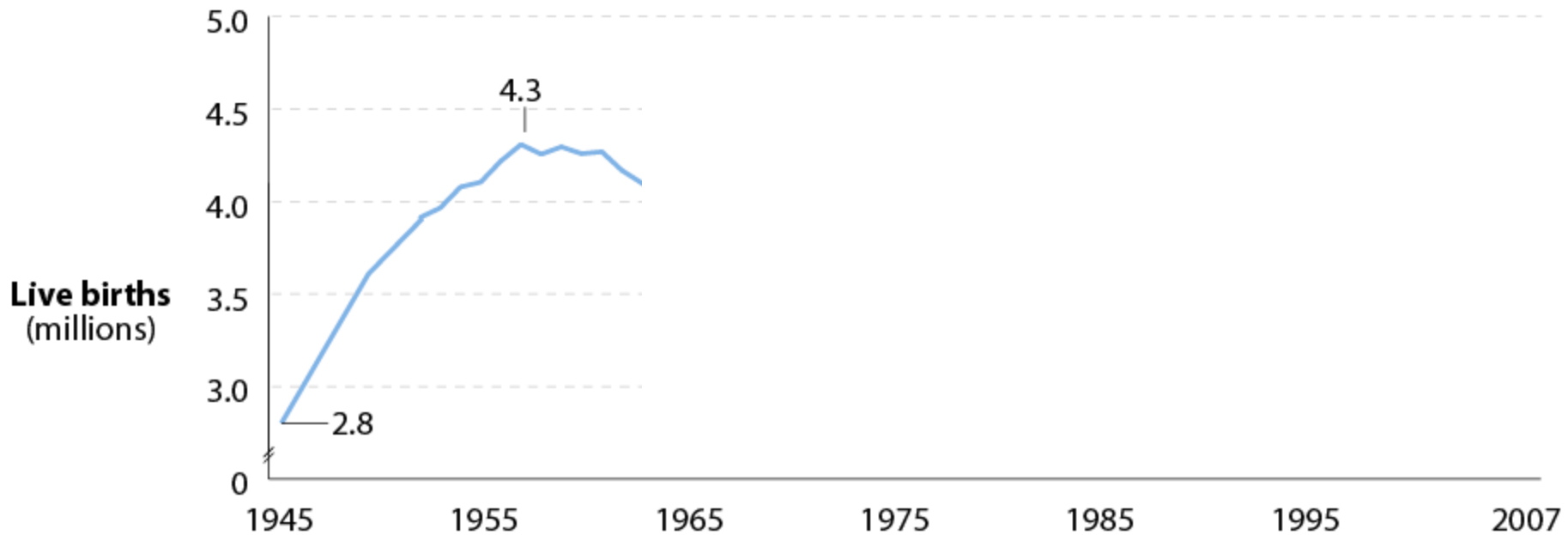


- Intuitively, you know the answers
 - FUD is overblown, based in truth
 - SHARE, Academic initiatives
 - Internal training – remember that?

They tell you about the post WWII baby-boom ...

Here's what they don't tell you ...

Live births in the US — 1945 to 2007

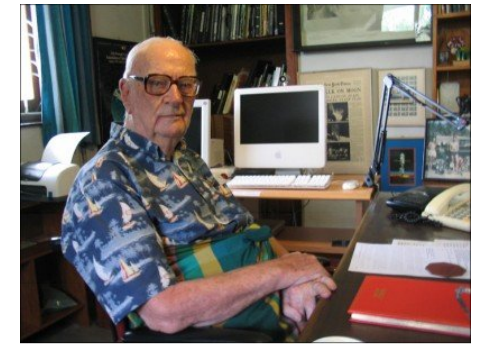


Source: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics

Source: “Global Workforce Planning Through 2016: How Population Shifts Will Affect The Supply Of IT Skills”,
October 2009

We have to modernize some things ...

Diverse staff can achieve common goals ...

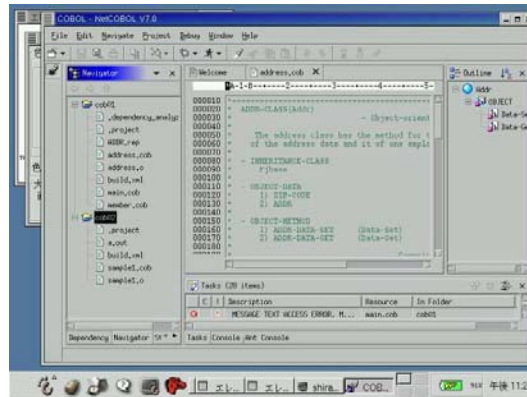


Amy Marash

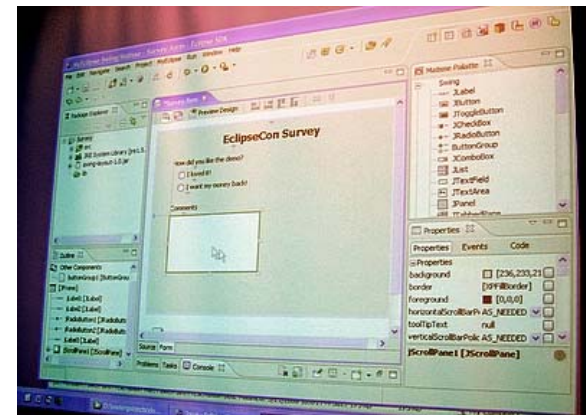
Using common tooling and processes



Sorry ISPF



COBOL in Eclipse



Java in Eclipse

Good tools / processes produce good results!



Diverse tools / processes produce diverse results

'57 Chair-vey?



Yugo-fone

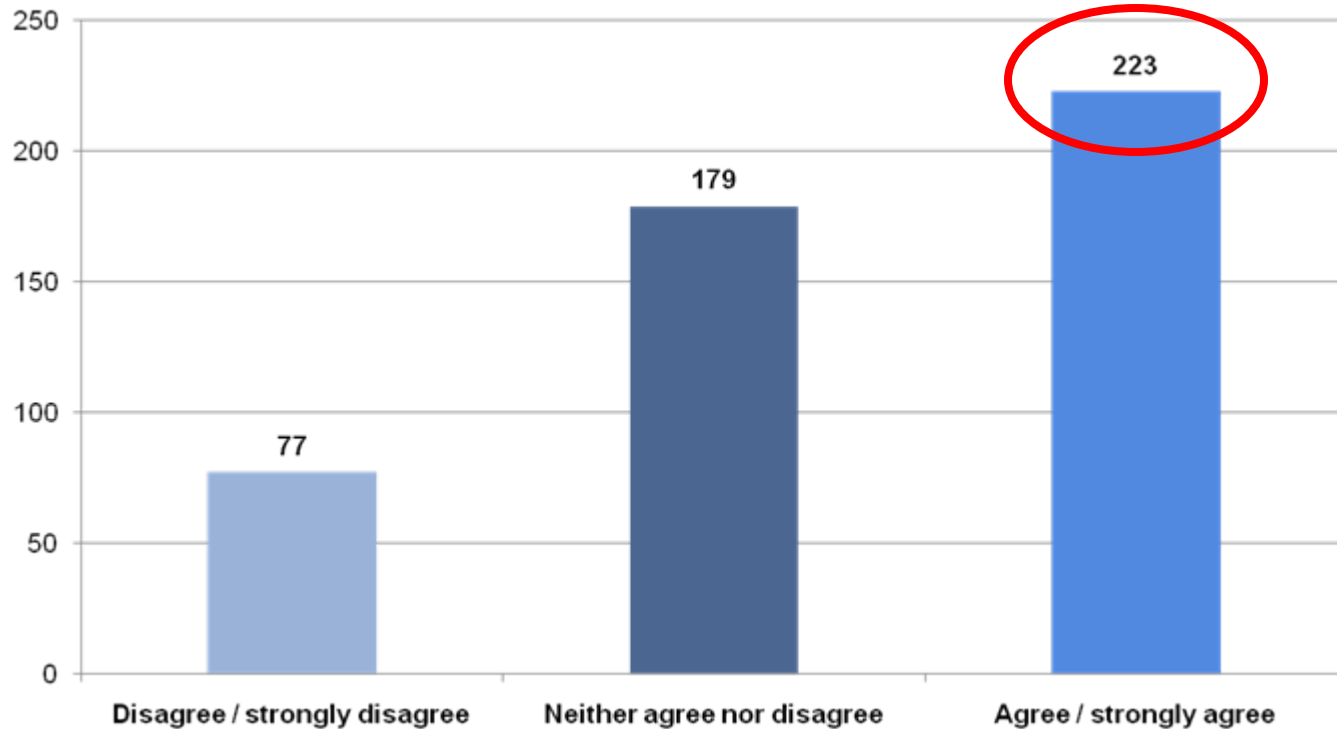


Yugo-fessional



The will to standardize tooling is there ...

“We are looking to consolidate our ALM strategy around one to two strategic vendors over the next two to five years.”



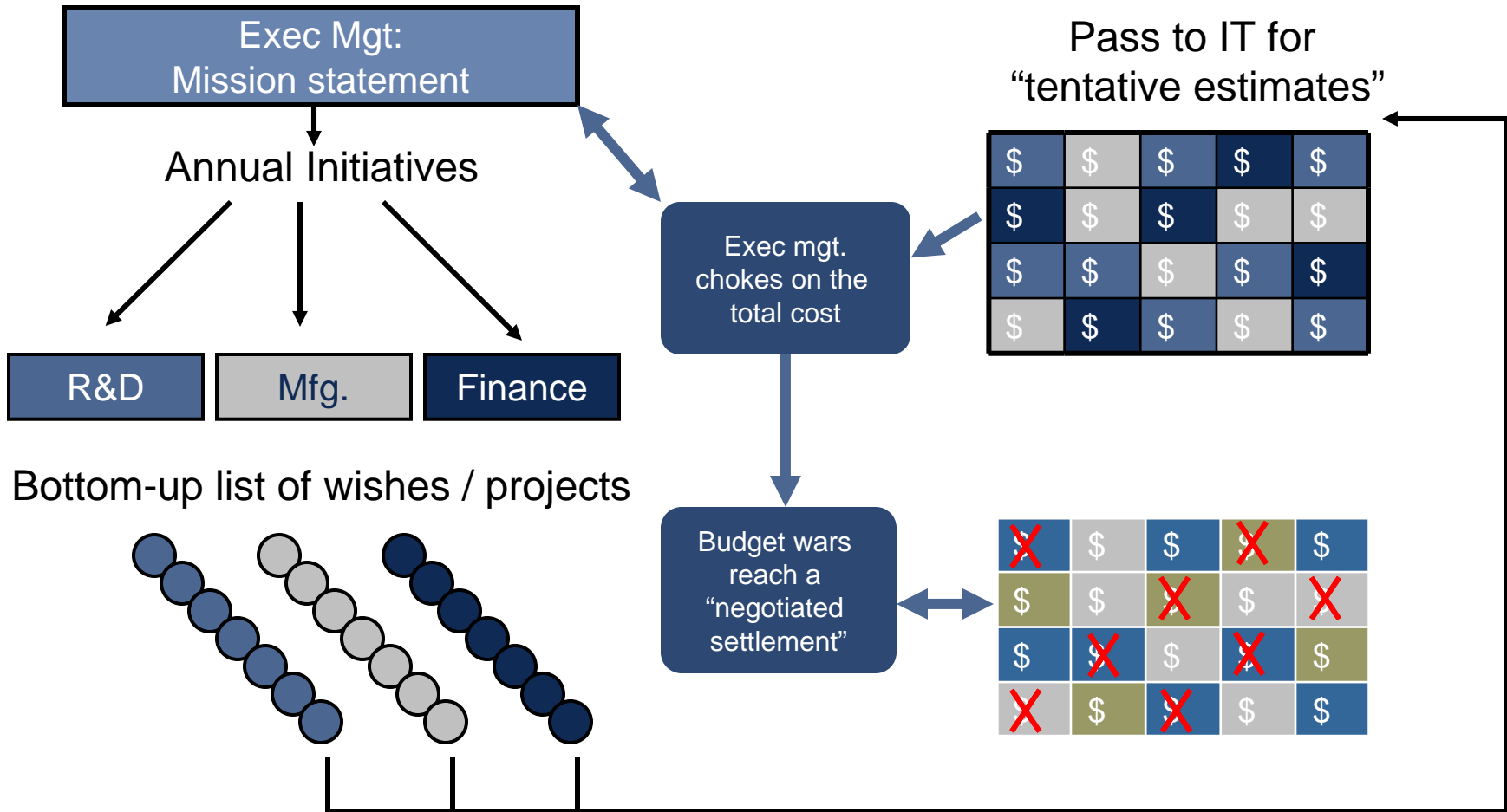
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What else is on the critical path forward?

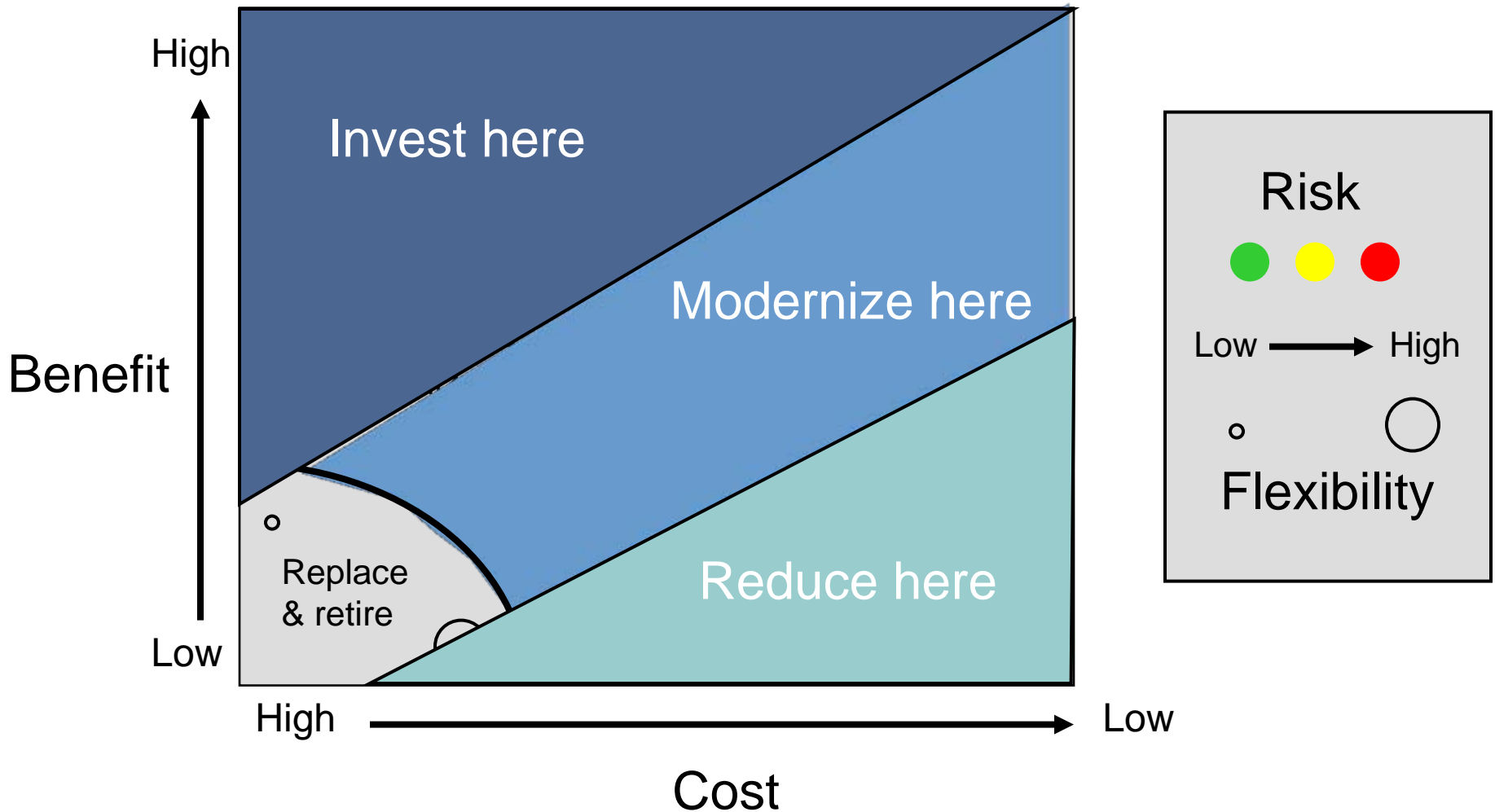
We need transparency to enable planning
in a business context

Our IT planning process is broken



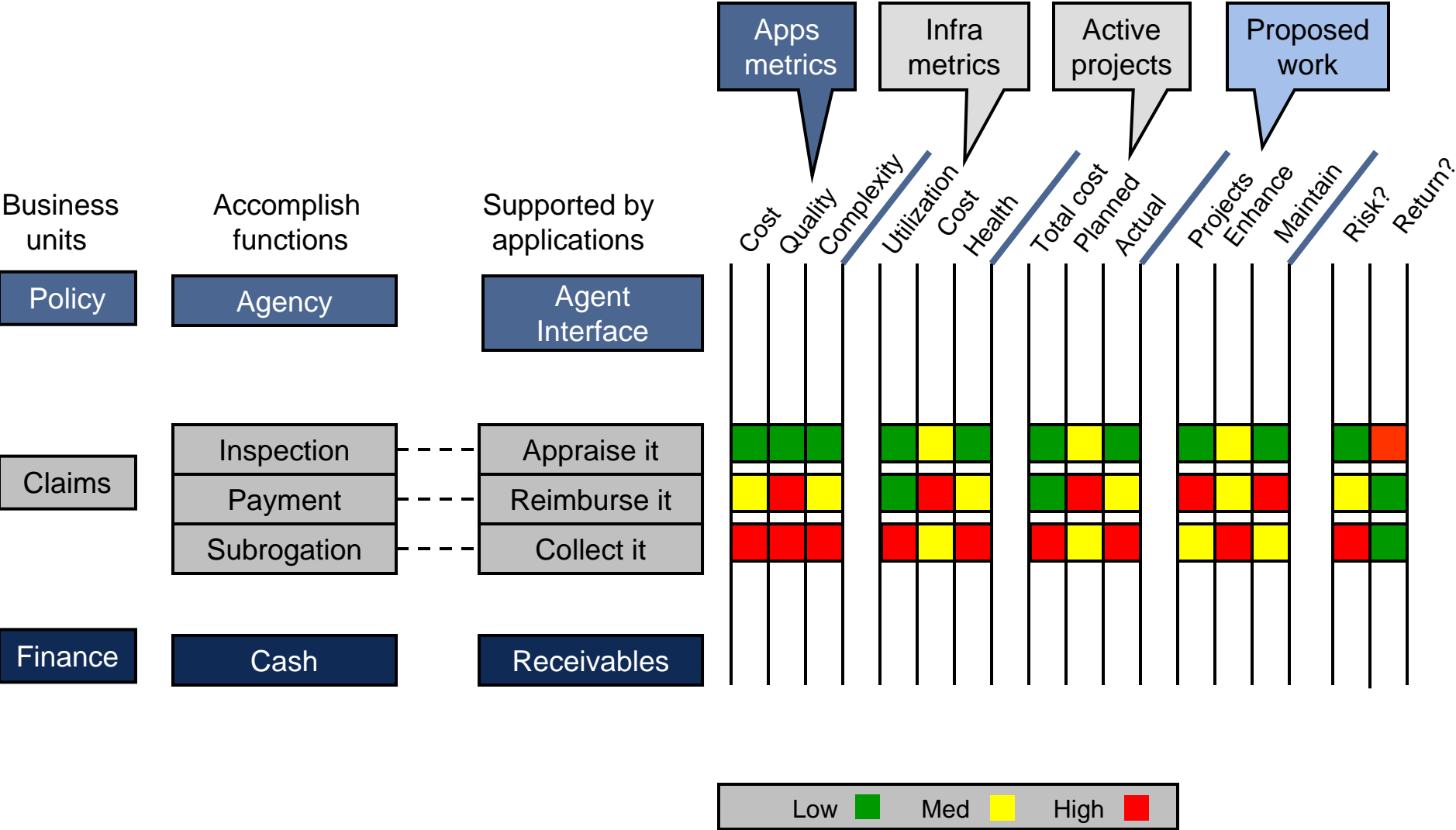
We waste resources estimating work that will never get funded ...

Transparency enables IT spend decisions



TEI™ is Forrester's Total Economic Impact assessment methodology, covering cost, benefit, risk and flexibility

IT activity in a business context



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Recommendations

- Get beyond the FUD – look at the facts
- Leverage your good legacy, overcome the bad
- You need:
 - A reliable, flexible hardware base
 - Rationalized application portfolio
 - Standardized processes, and tools for development
 - Transparency into IT activity to enable strategic planning in a business context
- Seek vendors who offer you what you need



Thank you

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