INFORMAL INFORMATICS
An information tracking platform
digifuga.nl/gromit
The three main goals of information systems engineering

- Storage
- Exchange
- Transformation
'Legal' alternatives

With incomplete systems...

Standstill / Opposition

Misuse of functionality

,'Illegal' alternatives
Informal Informatics

- Interfaces
- Glue Code
- Import-exports
- Custom Reporting

- Side-administrations
- Excel-sheets
- Excel-macros
- etc.

This information remains outside the main storage or pollutes it
Agile?

- Virtually always to be preferred over waterfall
- Prevents misunderstandings, if duly performed
- Nonetheless:
  - A good project definition up front prevents unnecessary sprints and heavy backlogs
  - Agile also needs interaction with the business layer
Requirements engineering: Doors

Intentionality engineering: i*

'Natural languages’ approach: Semantica
Pitfalls

- IT-centered approach
- Difficult jargon, which does not reflect the company’s DNA
- Cost/Learning curve
- Single Purpose frameworks
- Proposed functionality is left almost unused
For smaller environments, these solutions are usually out of reach.
Blank sheet of paper, but known techniques

Let all user groups participate

Gromit: design principles

A safe, known environment

For any type of information
Physical situation

Gromit: working principle

Extractions per user group

Model

Meta-structure for exploitation
A framework steered by listings

Input (spreadsheet)
- Data
- Layout / Config / Grammar
- External Datasheet

Gromit MK I

Output
- Interactive Website
  - Information / Analysis
  - Error / Messages
- Graphs / Topology
- Open Issues
- Index
- Modular
  - Gantt
  - Process O-gram

PDF Custom Documents
- Statistics
- Text Documents

Exports to Industrial Standards
- Generic
- Specific
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>RUPID (XAF)</th>
<th>AssCustDoc</th>
<th>RefersTo (DRF)</th>
<th>RUPPhase (XPH)</th>
<th>Pub</th>
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<td>YDV-201</td>
<td>Software DevPlan</td>
<td>Software Development Plan</td>
<td>XAF-201</td>
<td>SDPLAN</td>
<td>YDV-302; YDV-303</td>
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<td>YDV-204</td>
<td>Iteration Plan</td>
<td>Iteration Plan, per iteration and global</td>
<td>XAF-204</td>
<td>ITERPLAN</td>
<td>YDV-201; YDV-302; YDV-303</td>
<td>XPH-002</td>
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<td>Use Case Model</td>
<td>A complete Use Case model of the system before first iteration</td>
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<td>UCMODEL</td>
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system-view

Gromit output: object navigator

Gromit output: system-view
Gromit output: generated use case diagram

3 Stakeholders

[In order to deliver effective products and services which truly meet the requirements of the stakeholders involved in this project, it is necessary to know who these stakeholders are and to involve them in the process of setting up the requirements. An important group of stakeholders are the end-users of the system. This section gives an overview of the stakeholders, their interests and the most important problems they would like the proposed solution to answer]

3.1 Overview of the stakeholder roles

[Provide a list of all the stakeholders]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Role Description</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A Representative in Steering Committee represents a particular group of stakeholders, at least Project Owner, Users and the provider</td>
<td>Linking Pin (YRR-001), Decisional hub (YRR-002) [YRL-001.Responsibilities]</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Planning (YRR-003), Communication to project groups (YRR-004), Weekly meetings (YRR-005) [YRL-003.Responsibilities]</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Business Analyst</td>
<td>ICH architecture (YRR-006) [YRL-004.Responsibilities]</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>ICT Architect</td>
<td>Datasheet (YRR-007) [YRL-005.Responsibilities]</td>
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3.2 Stakeholder Profiles

[Describe each and every role in the system. For each role, the table below is filled form the datasheet data]
Gromit: Key Features

• Stand-alone application. No installation needed
• Input in known, intuitive tool
• Coverage of the main output formats within organisations
• Exports can easily be imported in business frameworks
• Guaranteed coherence of the data, thanks to the error reporting
1. Requirements Engineering
RE & IT Project Lifecycle

- Input and object model in own jargon
- Output in industrial IT terminology
- A companion application:
  - Voor SMB: End-to-End, from tendering to test and acceptance
  - Larger accounts: fit as a stepping stone for integration in core architecture of project management frameworks
- A smaller chance for informal informatics to emerge
2. Other Applications
HR processes: surveys, job descriptions...

(IT)project management: SyRUP

and many more...

Network/systems engineering

Quality assurance
User Feedback

- Quick delivery
- Clarity and suitability of models
- Flexibility of visualisation thanks to configuration panel
- Independence, control, human scale
- Methodical approach, yet:
  - Lack of documentation and instructions
  - Necessity of an online service
- Modeling
- Drawing
- Editing
- Keep coherence
- Save time

Describe
- Compute
- Query
- Report
- Export to industrial standards

Gromit

Predict
- Link with live systems
- Evaluate scenarios
- Error detection
- Quality assurance

Analyse
For smaller environments (SMB):
- Preconfigured templates
- Local intranet application
- Basic reporting on Excel input

For mid-size environments:
- Stepping stone to other platforms
- Interfacing with core-systems
- Design-interface on data model

For larger environments (Q2 2017):
- i/o with industrie-standaarden
- Configurable reporting
- Integration with messaging frameworks
- Configure templates for new applications
- Take advantage of the spreadsheet functionalities

- Build the online service
- XML / Webservice integration
- Pay-per-run implementation

- Close business-partnerships
- Internationale roll-out
- Academic cooperations