

# Preparing for Large-Scale Development

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- This presentation will take you through knowledge on starting large Plex projects. This has been gathered in Soft Design through projects, employees, and partners and extended by the introduction of new Websydney products. It also reflects an increased focus on a service-oriented approach to Plex development.
- The presentation will go through a number of relevant decisions and considerations to be made, standards and abstractions to be used, and questions to be asked before starting up real-life Plex projects.

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Organization of Plex Development Models
- Specification of Function Parameters
- Scoping and Naming
- Service-Oriented Architecture
- Error Reporting and Sanity Checking
- Questions and Answers

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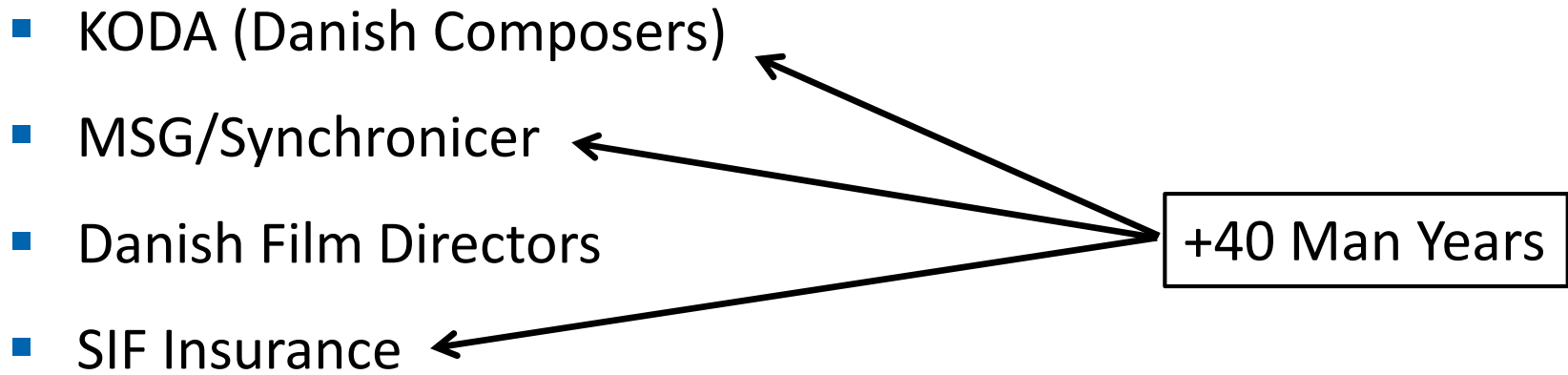
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# Introduction



# Participation in Start up of Several Large Projects



# Organize Development Model to Facilitate Key Design Goals

- Uniform, transparent, and predictable
- Facilitation of reuse
- Robustness to changes
- Declarative and high-level rather than procedural code
- Layered design, service-oriented
- Quality (detect and reduce errors)
- Performance



**2E/PLEX**

[plex2e.com](http://plex2e.com)

2013 WORLDWIDE DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

# Only Selected Model Issues Covered by Presentation

- Should have been covered
  - Various coding standards
  - System documentation
- Not covered (not Plex model issues)
  - Project management, staffing, and organization
  - How to enforce decided standards
  - User participation
  - Specification
  - Test

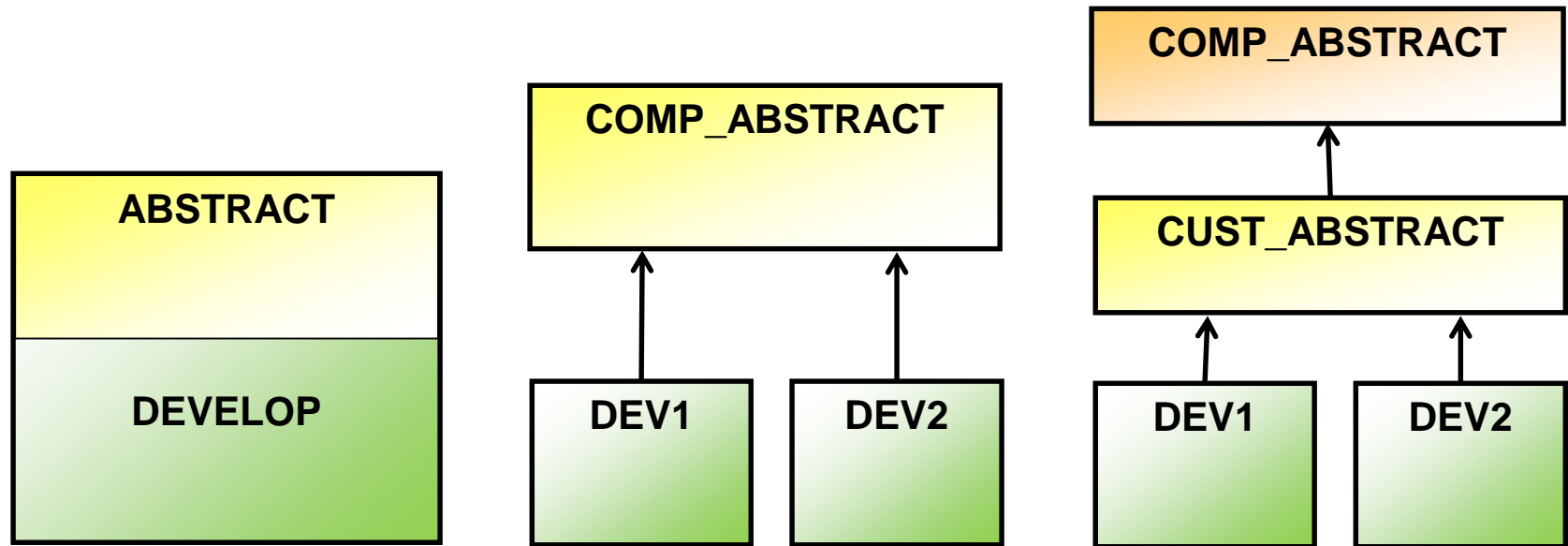
**Some decisions are hard to redo once been taken and development has started**



# Organization of Plex Development Models



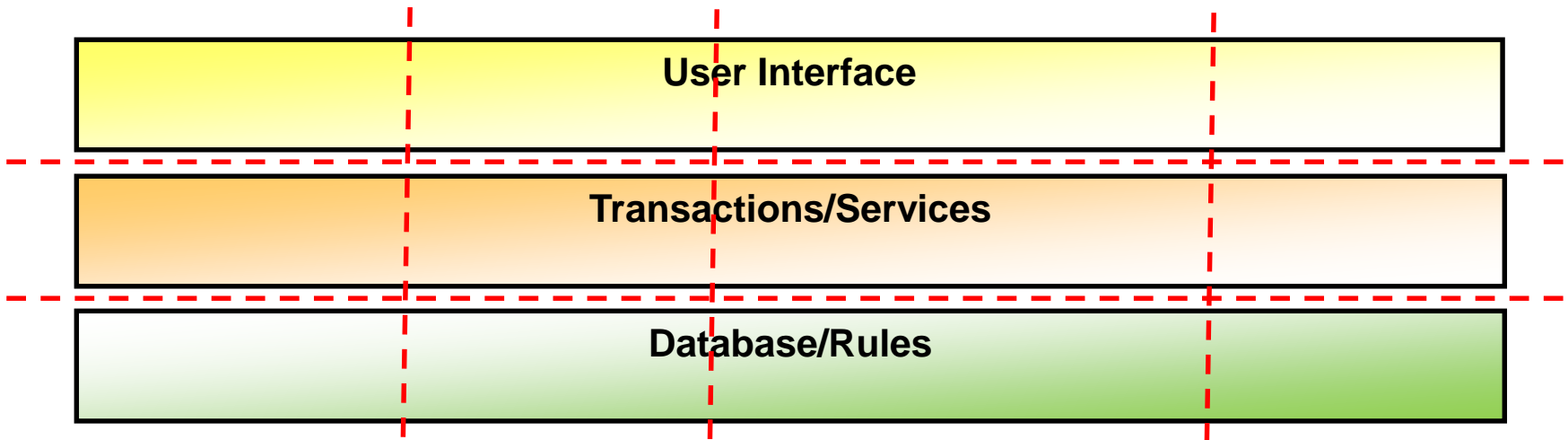
# Abstract Patterns and Components in Separate Model(s)?



- Share abstract model between multiple development models
- Reuse abstract definitions across multiple projects/customers
- High ambitions...

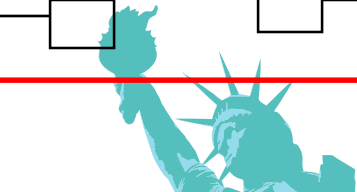
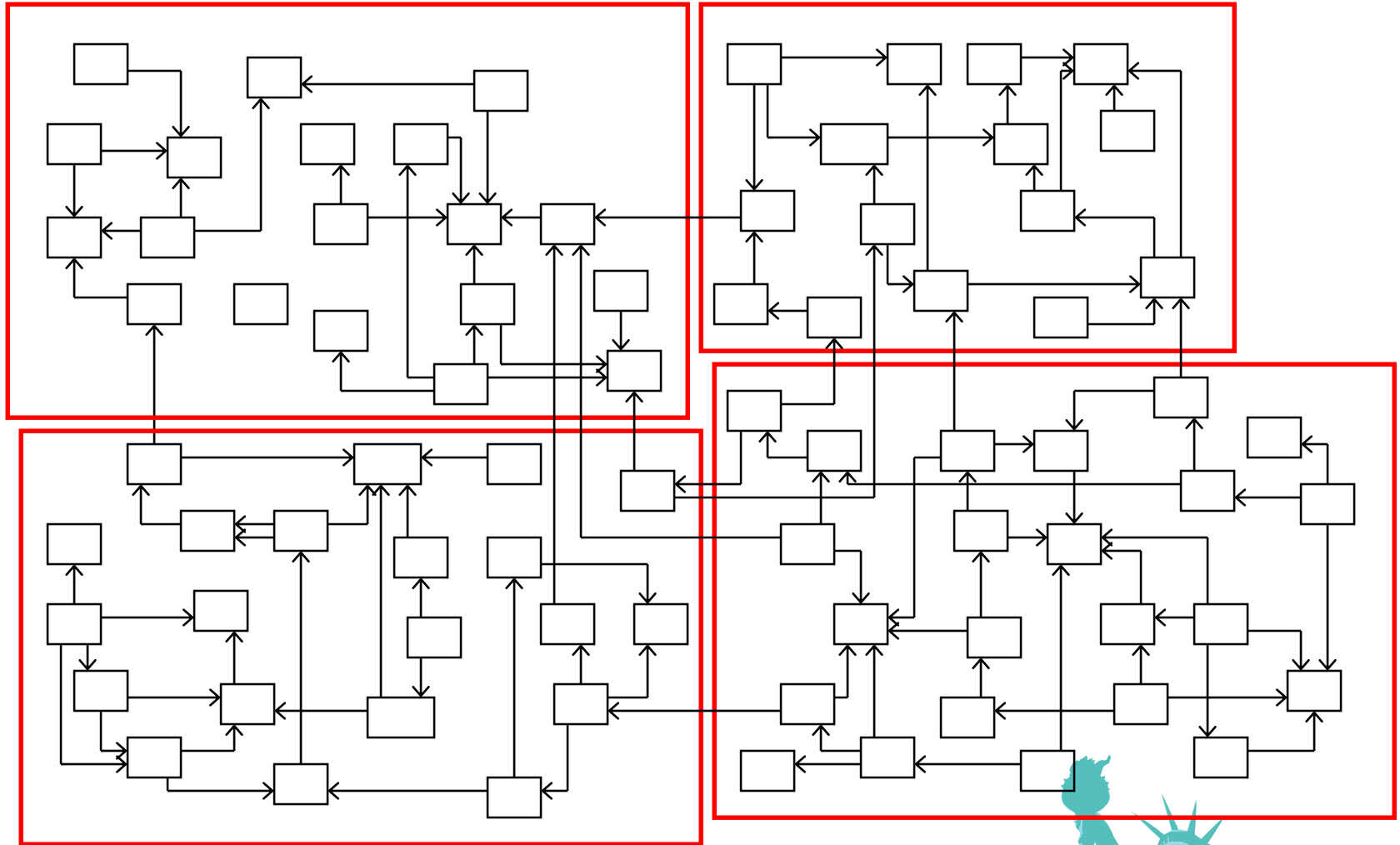
**Model splitting is overhead**

# Horizontal versus Vertical Splitting of Development Models

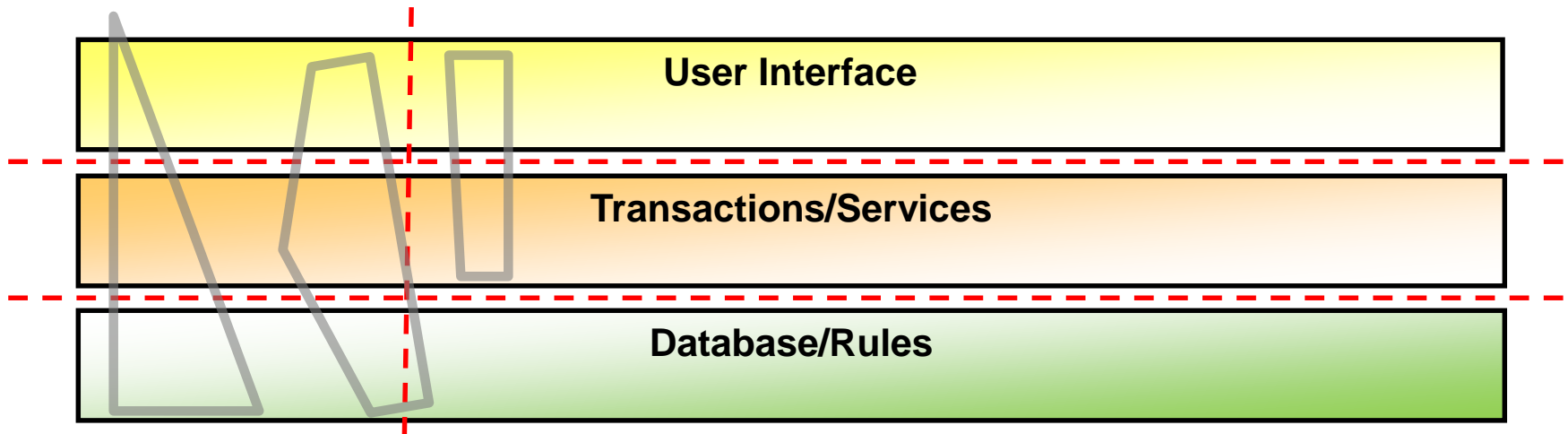


- User Interface
  - Panel/menu functions, Page generators, event handlers
- Transaction/services
  - Server functions for update and retrieval
- Database
  - Entity and field definitions, 'rule functions'

# Plex Model Splitting Based on Inter-Connected Subject Areas in Data Model

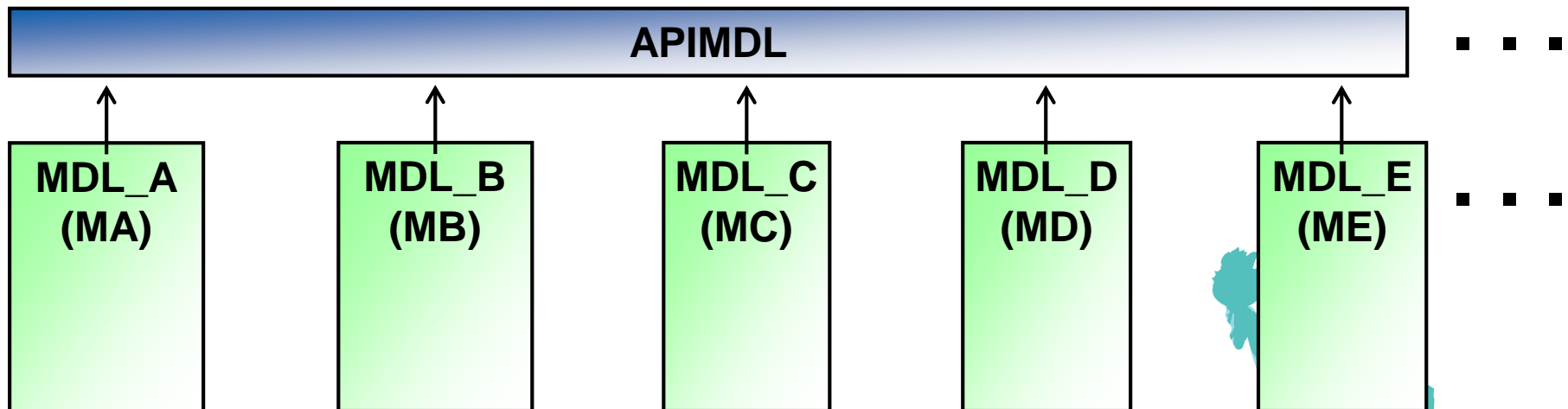
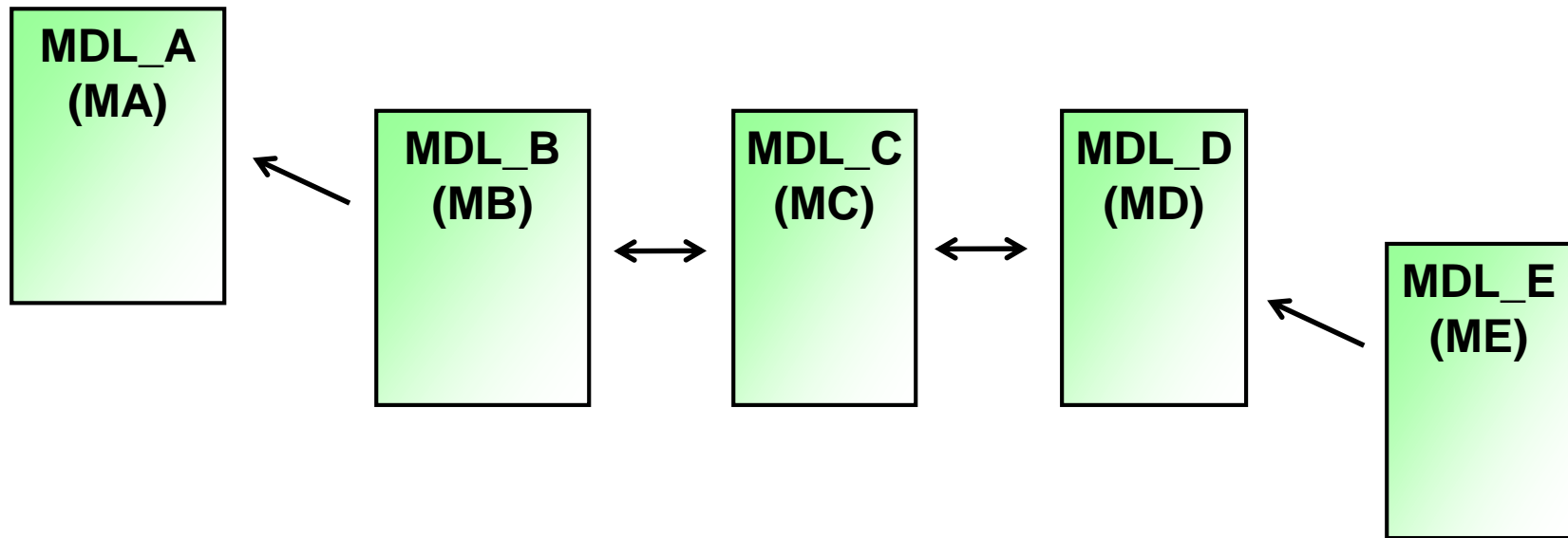


# Application Layers Splitting across Development Tasks and Entity Patterns

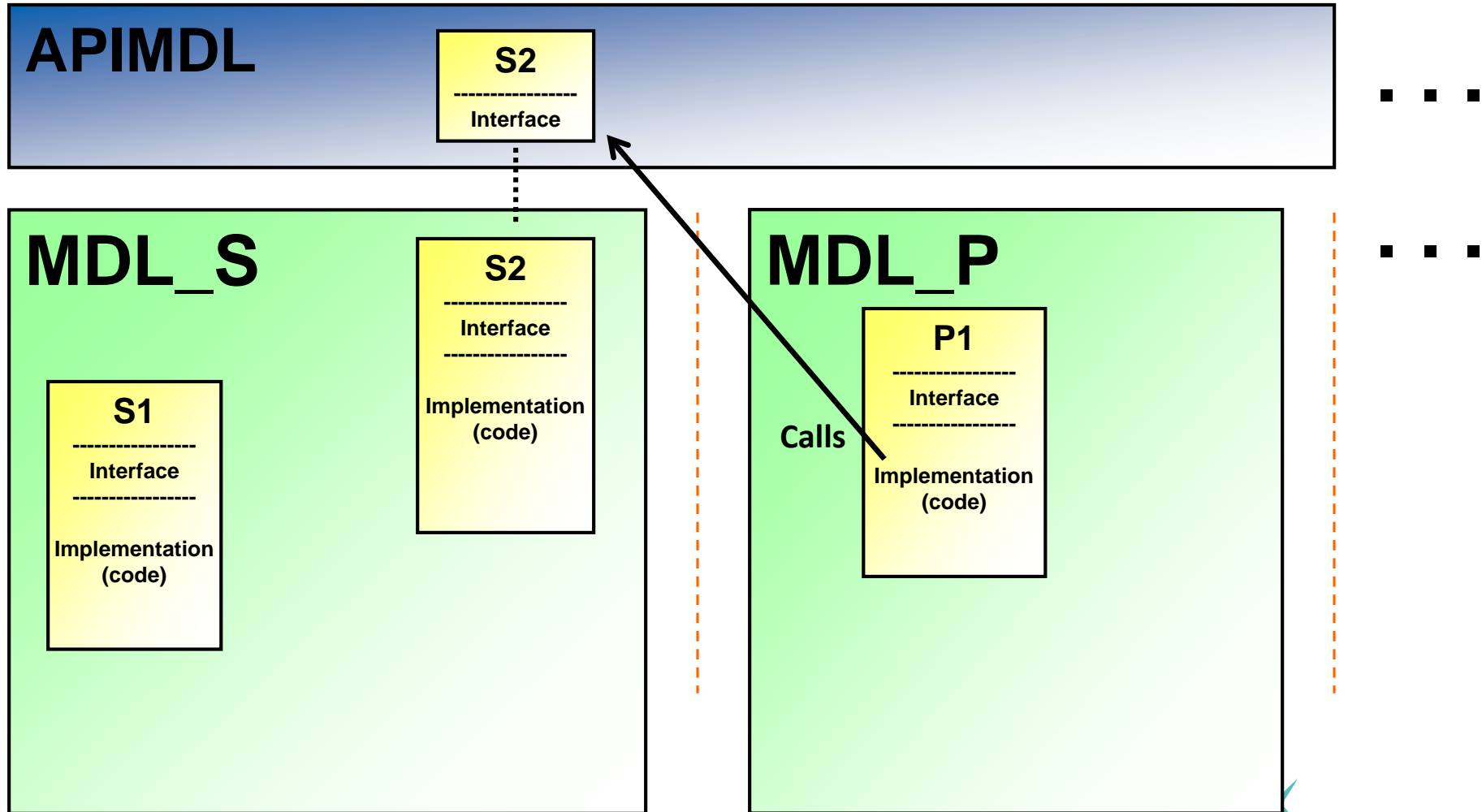


- Typical development tasks
  - Involves components in several layers
  - Cross-model development
- Entity patterns span multiple application layers
  - Less likely to cross data model boundaries
- Even larger overhead if different developers/roles are responsible for each layer

# Use API Model to Separate Development Models



# Entity Keys and Interface Specification only in API Model



# Pro and Cons of API Models

## ■ Pros

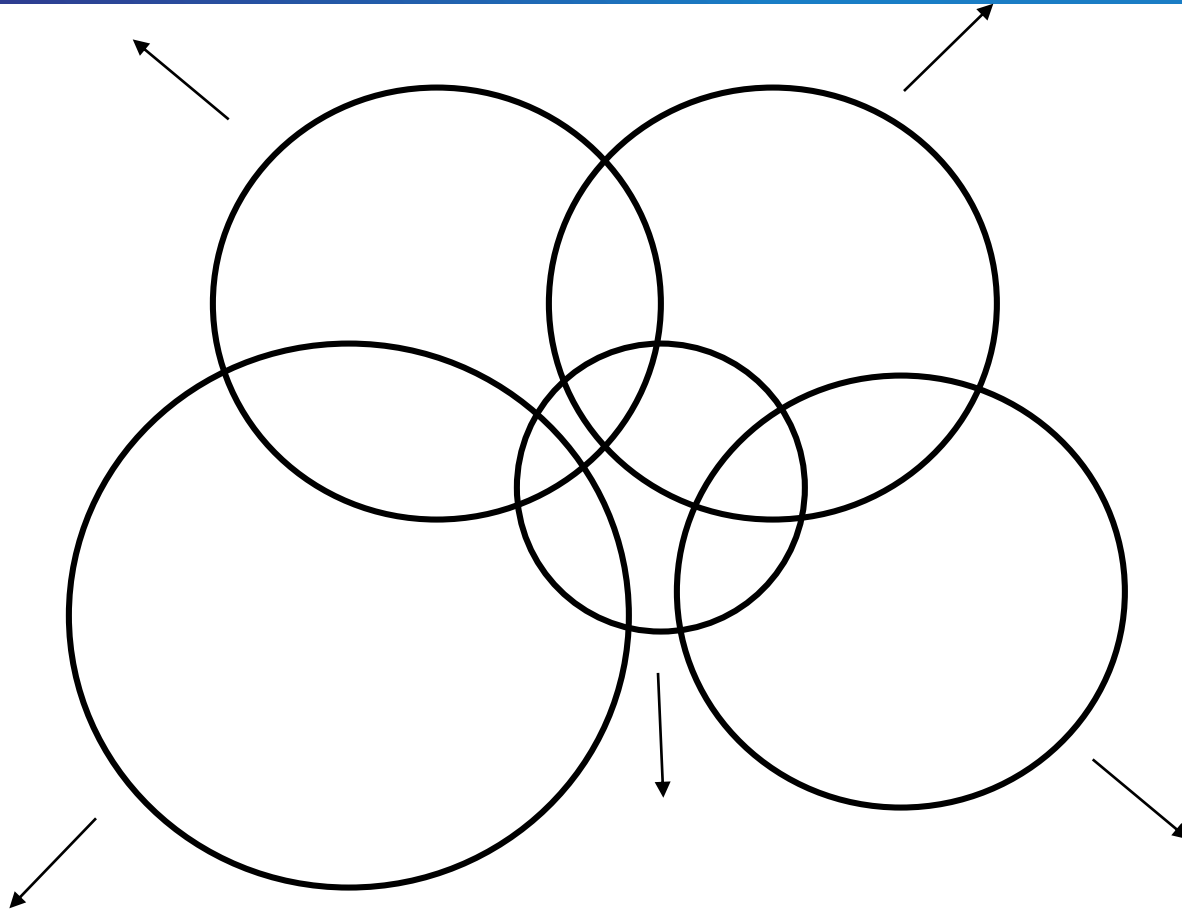
- Smaller models (faster update and extraction)
- Encapsulation at model level
- Focus on interface rather than implementation
- Formal delegation of responsibility
- Replacement of high-level components

## ■ Cons

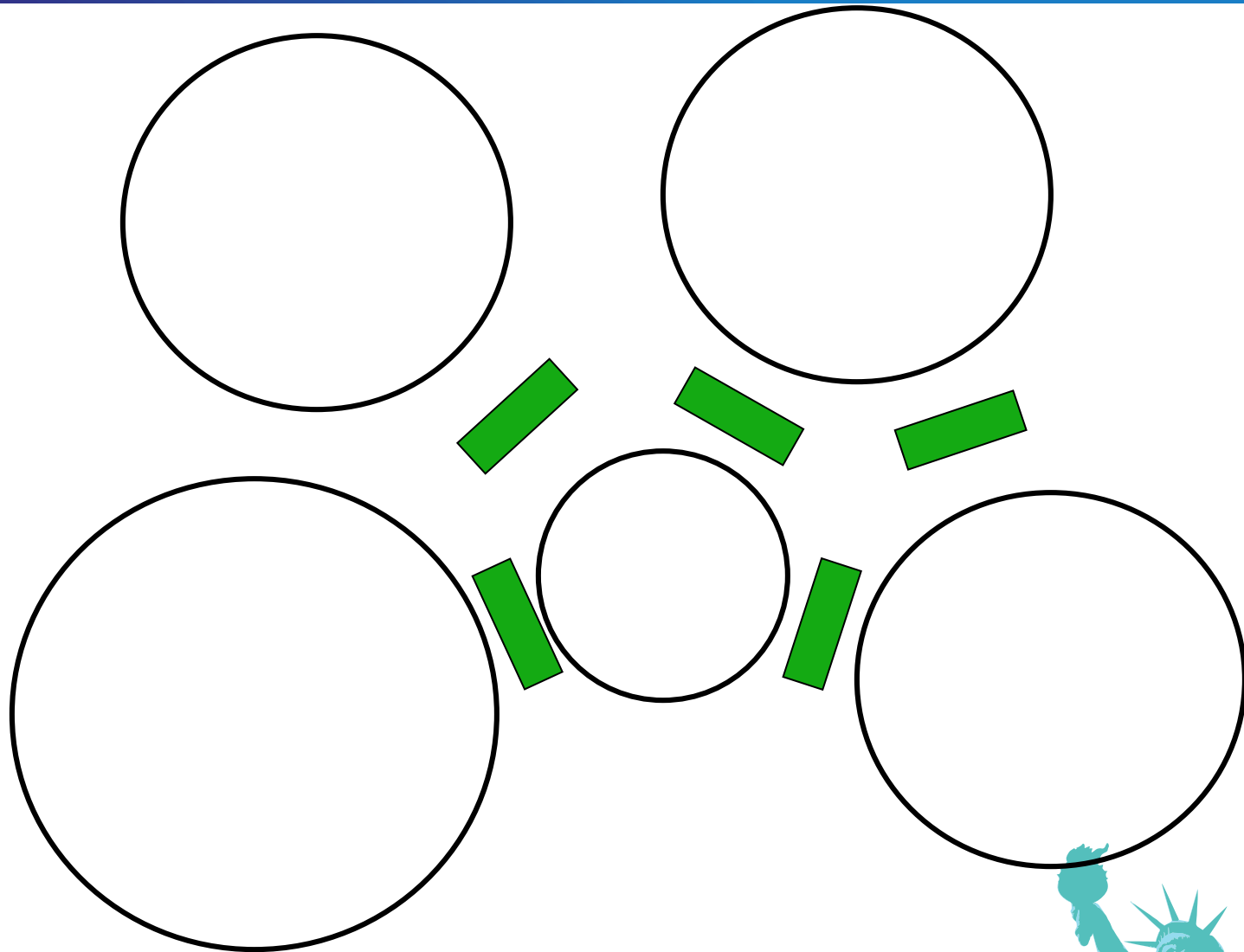
- Redundant specifications need to be made
- Object “Usage” harder to follow – stopped by the API
- API functions should be documented...



# Service-Oriented Architecture – Separate the Systems



# Service-Oriented Architecture – Focus on Interfaces

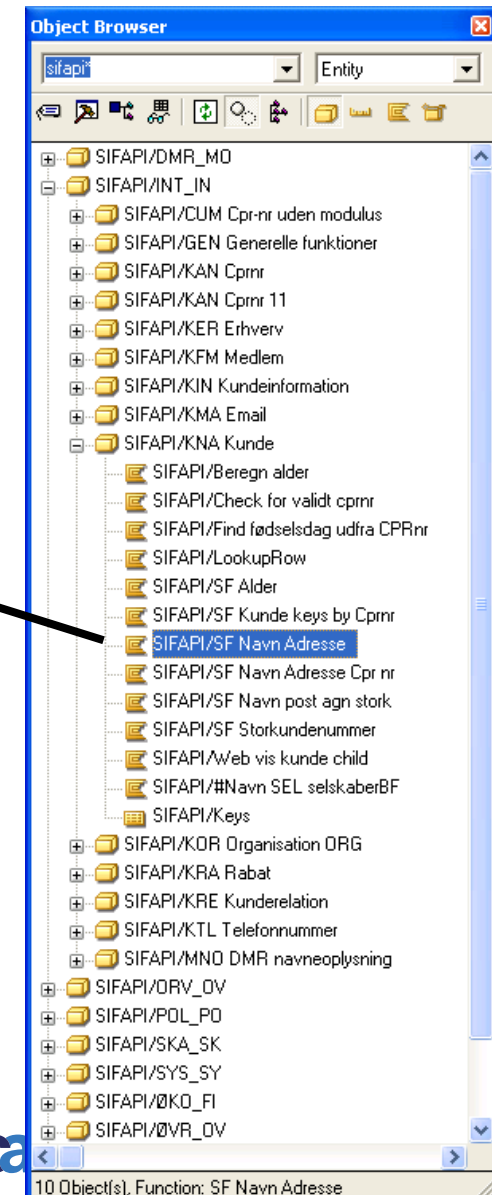
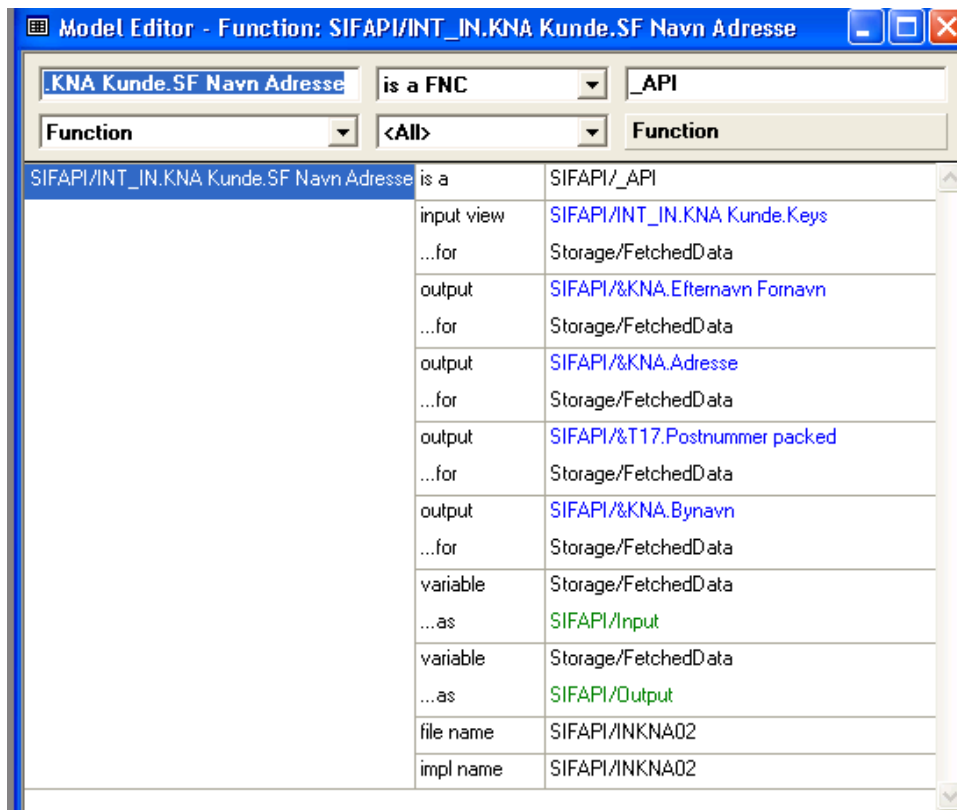


**Principle Applied at System Level**



# API Model as Service Catalogue in Own Lean Model

- API model contains Interface specification only
- Can contain shared data type and domain fields
- Can be handed over to external providers



# Use of Levels and Versions

- Possible to correct errors on running version
- No Magic
- Object existence...
- Used to be a performance overhead...
- Levels/versions may be collapsed
- Make first production date version 1.0

# Organization of Plex Development Models – Decisions

- Separate models with abstract patterns and components?
- One or more Plex development models?
- Vertical or horizontal model splitting?
- Model ‘encapsulation’ or full extract?
- Use of Plex levels and versions

**Organization of Plex development models – early and irreversible decisions**

# Specification of Function Parameters



# About Interfaces

- “It Is All About the Interface”
- “Make interfaces easy to use the right way and hard to use the wrong way”
- Keep interfaces stable
  - Trivial changes should not change interface definitions unnecessarily

# Use of View Parameters in inherited *DataAccess* Functions

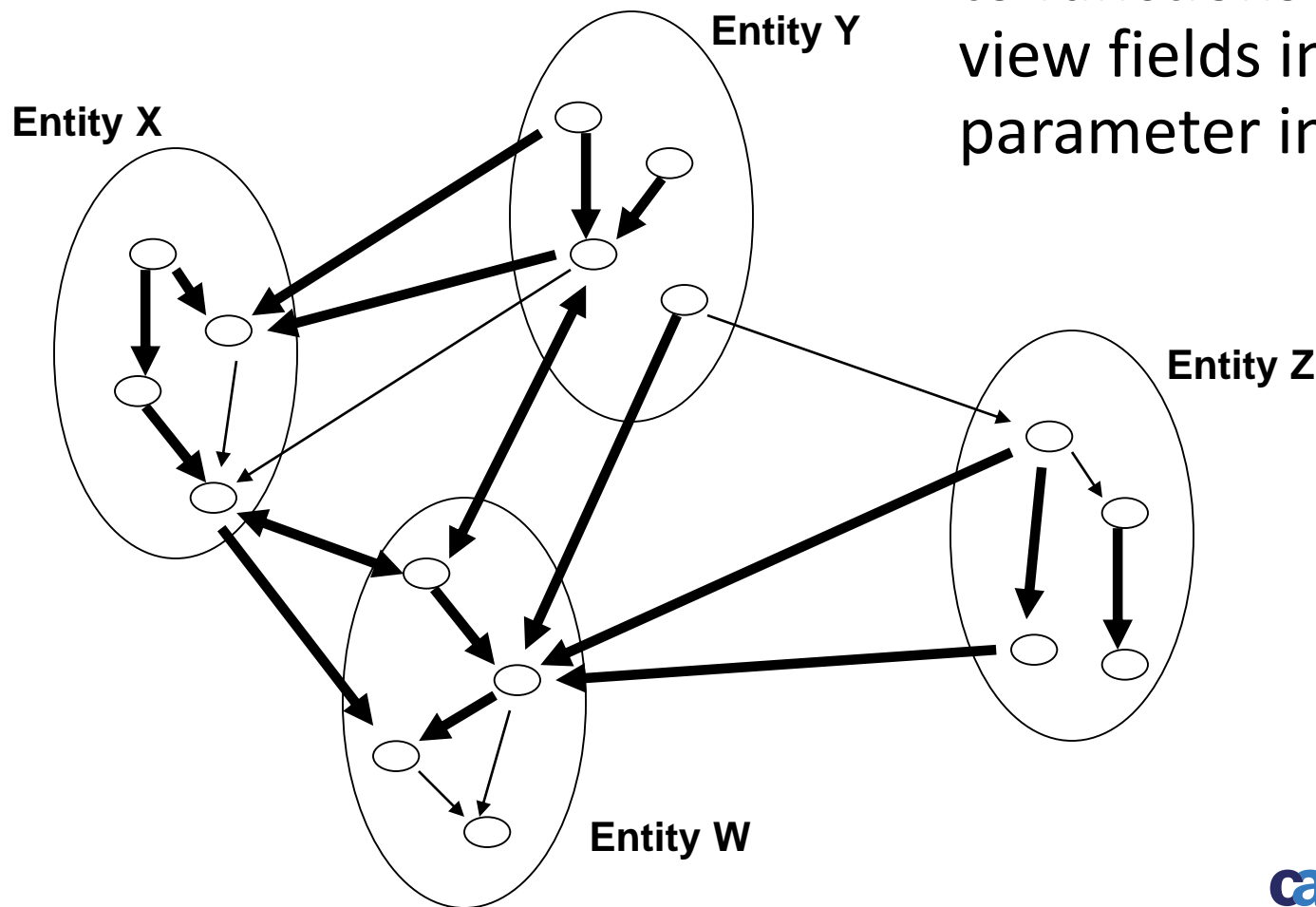
- *Fetch.SingleFetch*
  - *Fetch* view as output in *Output/FetchedData*
- *Fetch.BlockFetch*
  - *Fetch* view (64) as output in *Output/FetchedData*
- *Update.InsertRow*
  - *Update* view as dual input in *Input/InsertData*
- *Update.UpdateRow*
  - *Update* view (non-key) as dual input in *Input/InsertData*



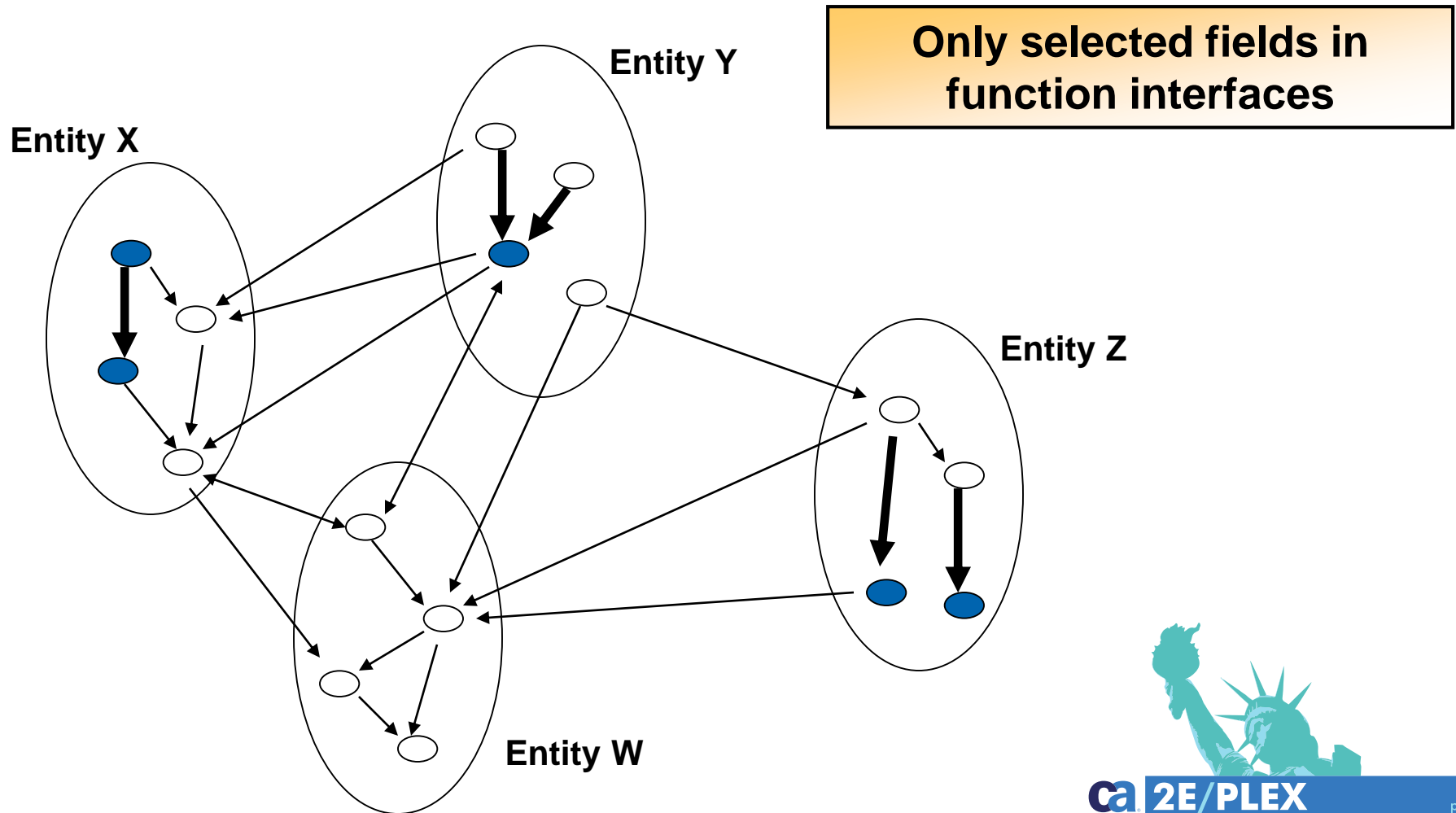


# Restricted Usage of All-Field Views as Function Parameters

- Bold arrows indicate calls to functions containing all view fields in their parameter interface

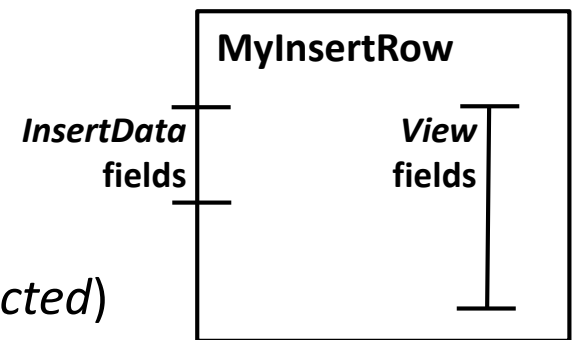


# Restricted Usage of All-Field Views as Function Parameters



# Restricting Parameters

- Specific fields and *Selected* views only in function interfaces
  - Robustness to changes
- Add new fields/relations to entity → Only generate:
  - Table, Views and Server functions
  - Functions calling explicitly changed functions
- Rules of design
  - Use views as parameter lists (VW *contains Selected*)
  - Omit superfluous parameters
  - Avoid mapping of constants...

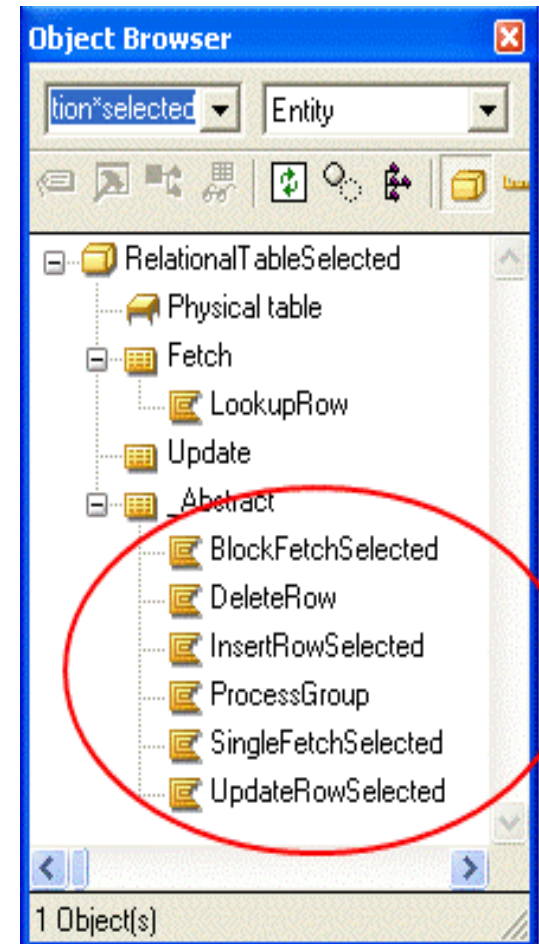


**Less Parameters -> Looser coupling**



# Abstract *RelationalTableSelected* Entity

- Define from scratch
  - Traditional naming of *Physical table* and *Update* and *Fetch* views
- Or extend *STORAGE/RelationalTable*?
- Abstract functions with reduced parameter lists
  - Scoped under *\_Abstract* view
  - No implementation language specified
- *LookupRow* as only implemented function
  - Inherited call from *InsertRowSelected*



***RelationalTableSelected* supports parameter restriction rules**

# UpdateRowSelected Example

Object Browser

\*tca\* Entity

- TCA Performed call
  - Server
  - Web
  - Physical table
  - Fetch
    - Keys
    - Parm update fields
  - Update
    - CRT fra funktion
    - CRT fra perf call
    - CRT fra spec
    - DEL
    - Færdiggør kald count id val
    - UPD
    - UPD abnormal call ret sts
    - UPD before call SF diverse
    - UPD cancelling SF main errors
    - UPD fra valideringsfunktion
    - UPD Returned status\_msgID
    - UPD time of execution
  - #ACT Seq Perf Seq
  - #Spec\AIM\DateD\TimeD
  - #Spec\DateD\TimeD
  - \_Abstract
    - BFS w filter
    - BlockFetchSelected
    - DeleteRow
    - InsertRowSelected
    - ProcessGroup
    - SingleFetchSelected
    - UpdateRowSelected

1 Object(s), Function: UpdateRowSelected

Model Editor - Function: TCA Performed call.Update.UPD time of execution

d call.Update.UPD time of execution input FLD TAB.Time of execution

Function <All> Field

TCA Performed call.Update.UPD time of execution is a TCA Performed call.\_Abstract.UpdateRowSelected

input TAB.Time of execution

...for STORAGE/UpdateData

file name SYTCA08

impl name SYTCA08

Variable Palette

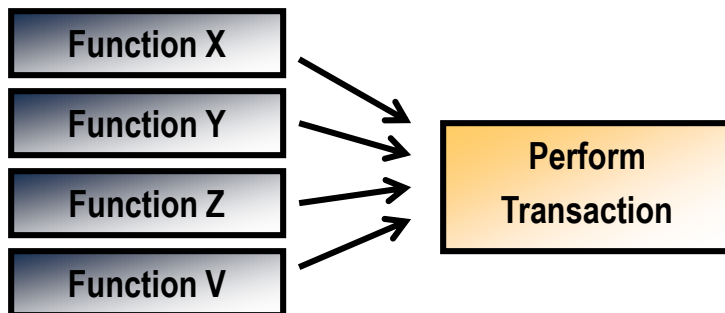
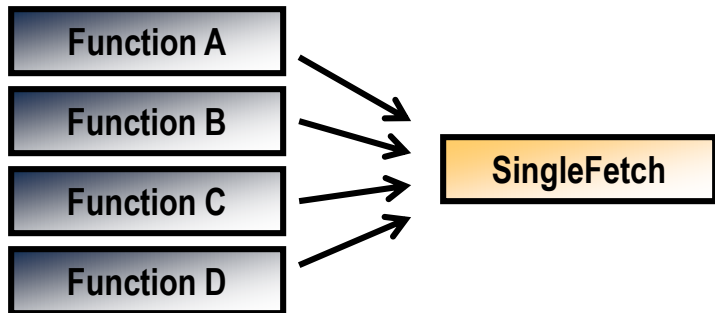
- TCA Performed call.Update.UPD time of execution
  - Input
    - UpdateKey
    - UpdateData
      - TAB.Time of execution
  - Output
  - Local
  - Calls
  - View
    - View
      - TCA.Sequence
      - TCL.Sequence
      - FNC.Implementation name
      - TCA.Perf call validates
      - TAB.Time of execution
      - TCA.Status of call
      - TCA.Cancelling
      - TCA Performed call.Update
  - Environment

Variable Palette

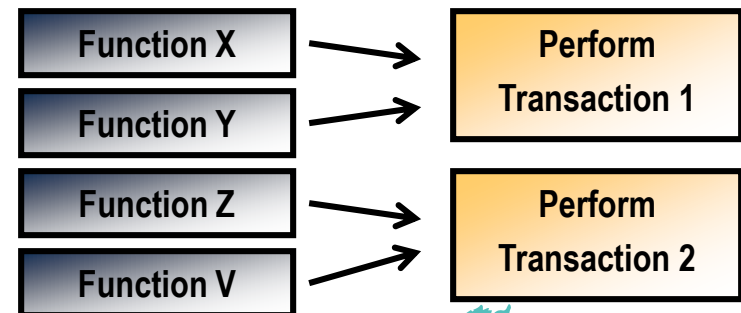
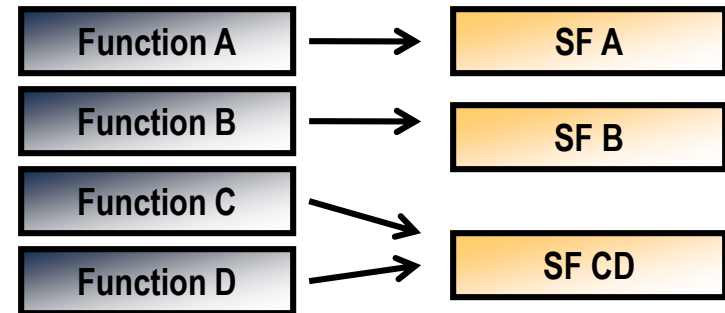
- TCA Performed call.\_Abstract.UpdateRowSelected
  - Input
    - UpdateKey
    - TCA.Sequence
      - TCA Performed call.Keys
    - UpdateData
  - Output
  - Local
  - Calls
  - View
    - View
      - TCA.Sequence
      - TCL.Sequence
      - FNC.Implementation name
      - TCA.Perf call validates
      - TAB.Time of execution
      - TCA.Status of call
      - TCA.Cancelling
      - TCA Performed call.Update
  - Environment

# General versus Granular Design

## ■ General



## ■ Granular



# General versus Granular Design

## Pros

- **Robustness towards data model changes**
- **Reduced scope of functions to be generated**
  - Developers will not step on each others toes
- **Simple design and transparent functionality**
- **Function are easy to call/use**
- **Easer tracking of field usage**

## Cons

- **Many function objects in model**
- **Drown in model function objects – which one to choose?**
- **Many implemented objects**

# Specification of Function Parameters – Decisions

- Standards and patterns for parameter restriction?
- How to implement *Selected* entity pattern





# Scoping and Naming



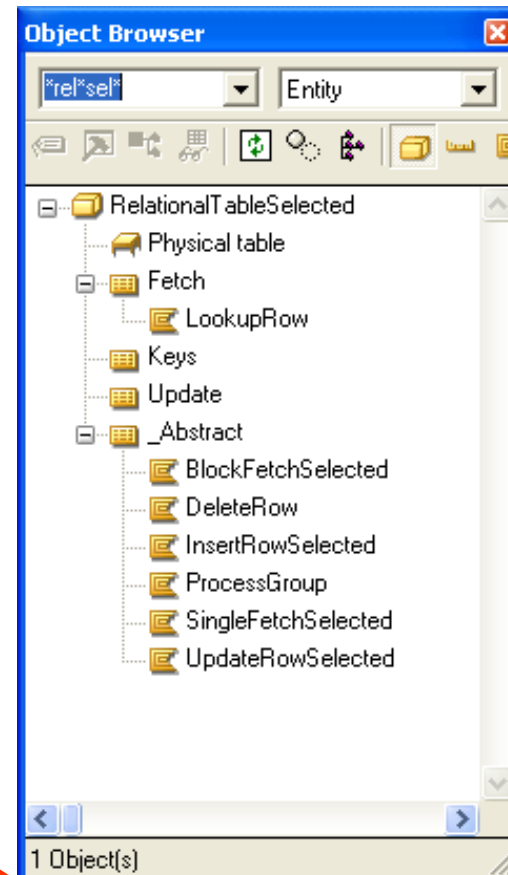
# Well-Defined Rules for Scoping

- Use scoping to organize model objects
- Consistent and unambiguous rules for scoping
  - Support navigation in model
  - “Where to find object?” (for reuse)
- Scoping rules often given by Plex abstractions
  - Through inheritance
  - Additional rules may be necessary
- Scoping rules  $\leftrightarrow$  naming standards
- Use of acronyms
- Capitalization of letters

# Scoping Levels

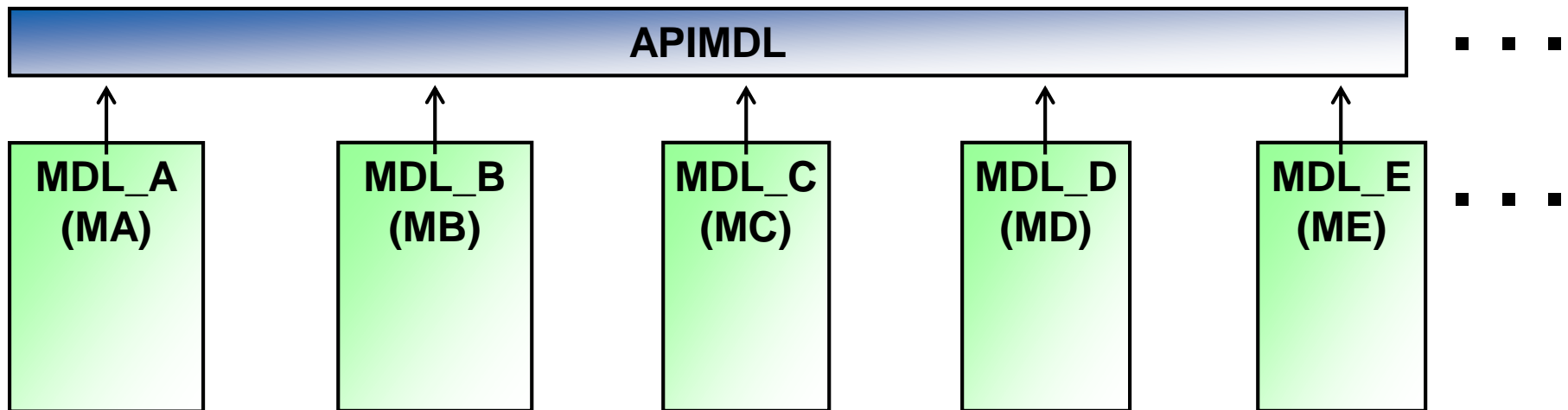
- Plex model
- Subject area
- Entities
- Views
- Functions
  - Various levels
- Fields

Given by inheritance from  
*RelationalTableSelected*



# Data Model Scoping

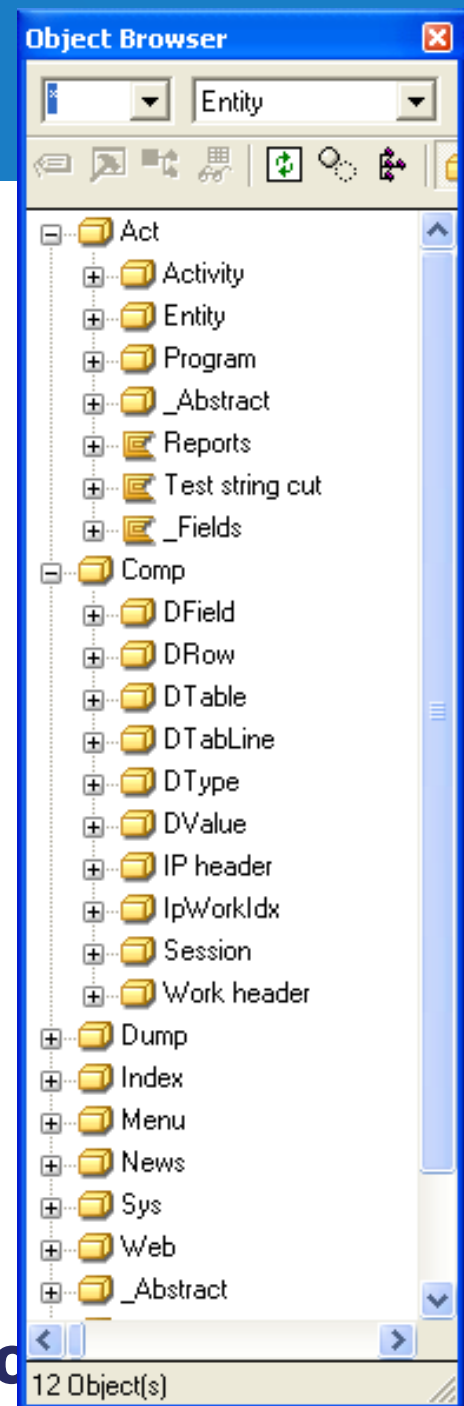
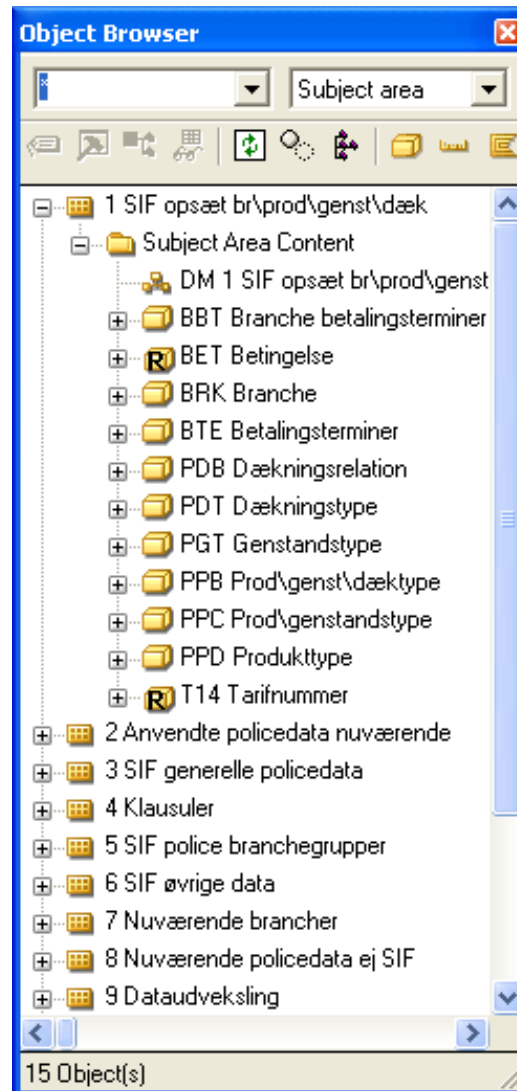
- Model splitting <-> High-level scoping of data model



**Splitting development into multiple Plex models is a grouping of the data model!**

# Group Data Model in Subject Areas

- Subject area – Group of 4-10 entities
- Grouping
  - Plex subject areas
  - Scope by entities
- Entity naming
  - Single instance
  - E.g. “Order”, “Vehicle”



# View Naming – Examples

Other  
variant

- Implemented/indexed views

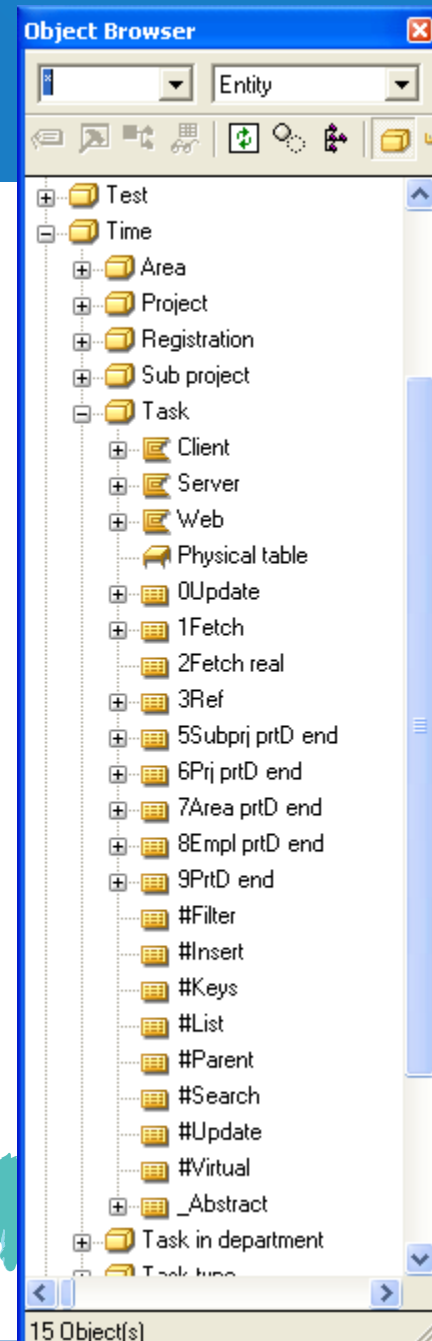
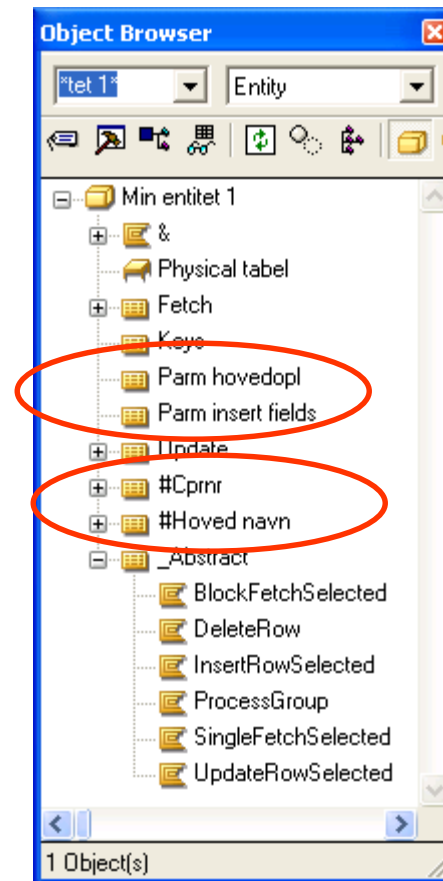
- Name = “#” + sorting

- “#Cust nr seq navn”
- “#Post nr cust name”

- Parameter lists

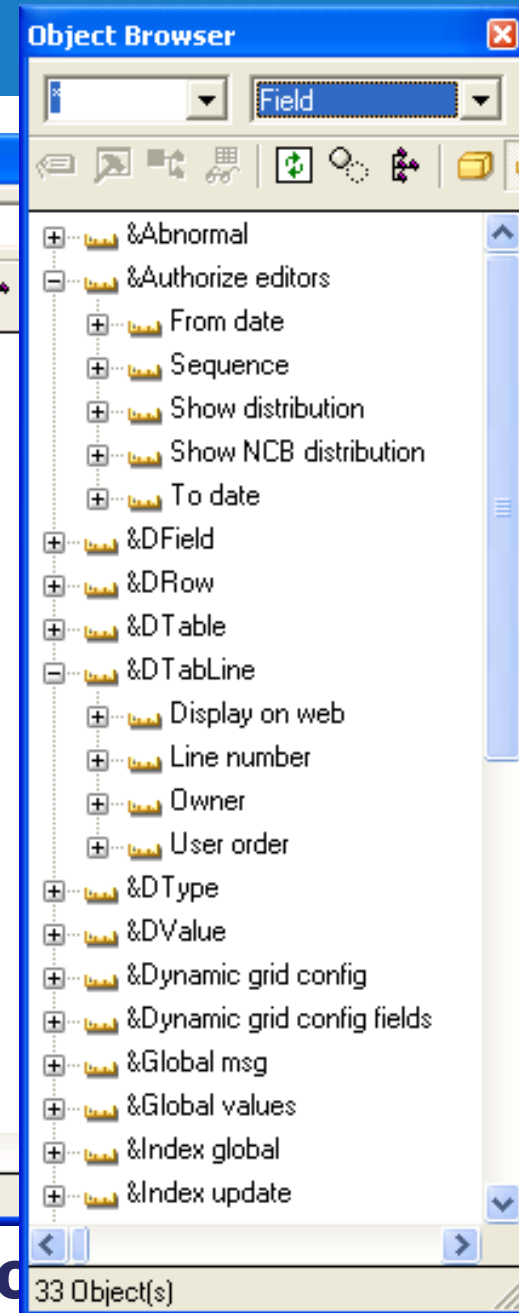
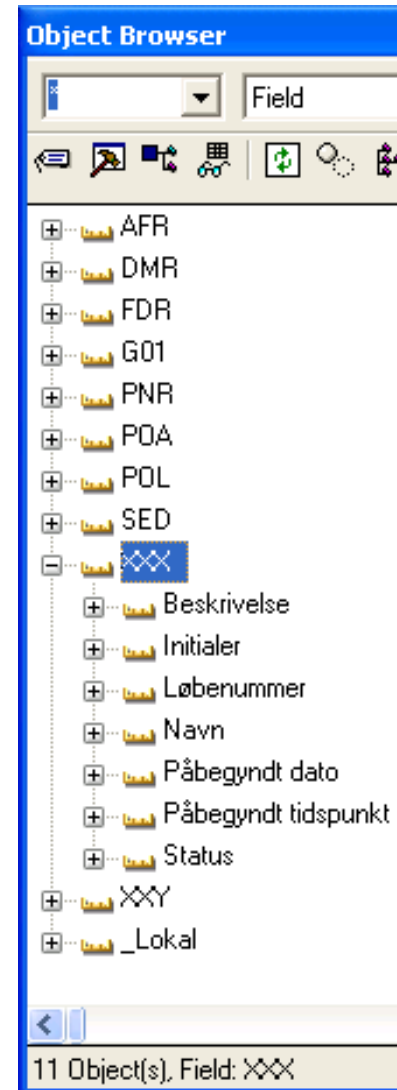
- Name = “Parm” + name

- “Parm update fields”
- “Parm main info”



# Scope and Naming of Fields Objects – Examples

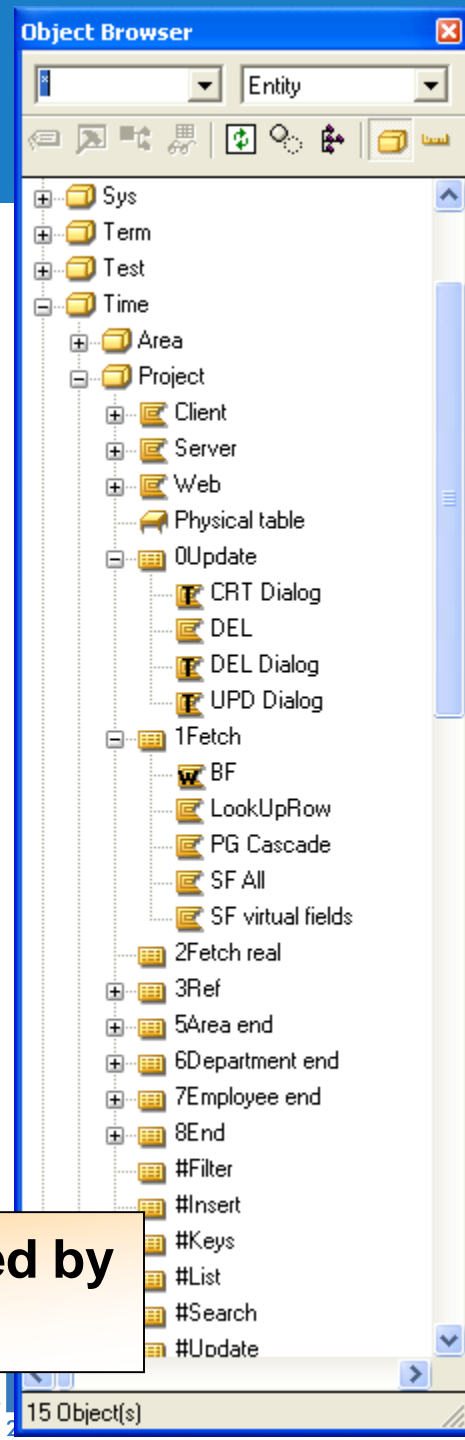
- Database fields may be scoped under 'entity field'
  - Group fields belonging to same entity
  - Underlying fields belonging to one entity only
  - More specific names
    - Default names to appear on panels
  - More characters available for naming
- Scope local fields under *\_Local* or *\_Work* field



# Server/View Functions – Scoping and Naming

- Scope under view being accessed
  - Or under *Server* suite
- Use acronyms for naming, e.g.:
  - CRT: Create
  - UPD: Update
  - DEL: Delete
  - SF: SingleFetch
  - CHK: CheckRow
  - BF: BlockFetch
  - BFS: BlockFetchSet (fetch restricted set)
  - PG: ProcessGroup

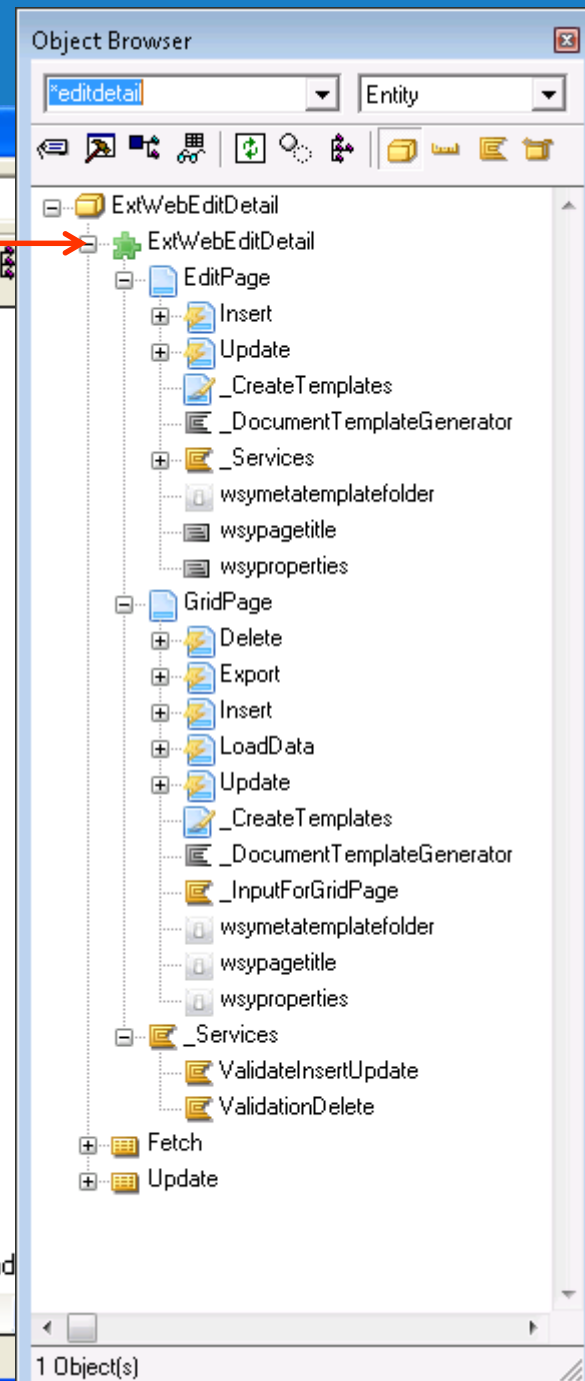
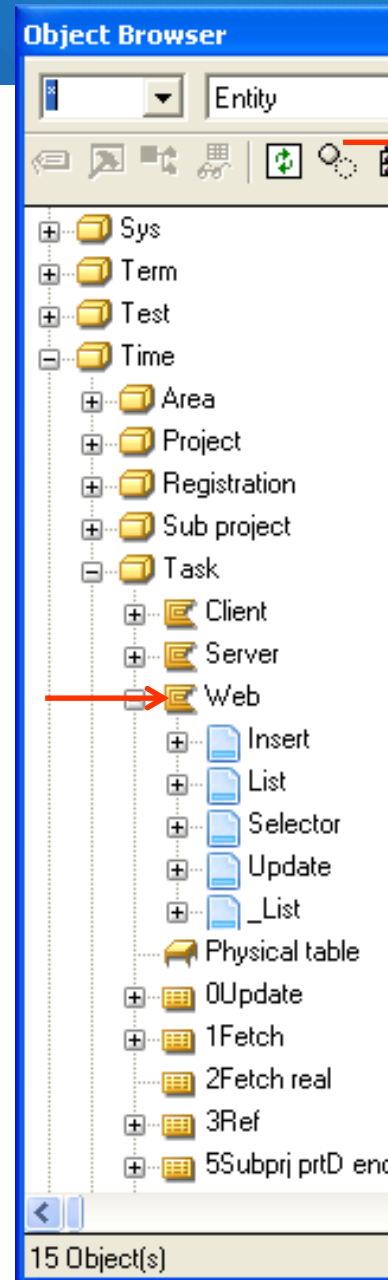
**Acronym may stand alone or may be followed by an additional description**





# Web Functions – Scoping and Naming

- By use case...
  - Scope Web Pages under Entry (menu point) function
  - Associate Pages to flow
- ...or data-oriented?
  - Scope Web Pages under Entity or Entity suite function
  - Associate Pages to data

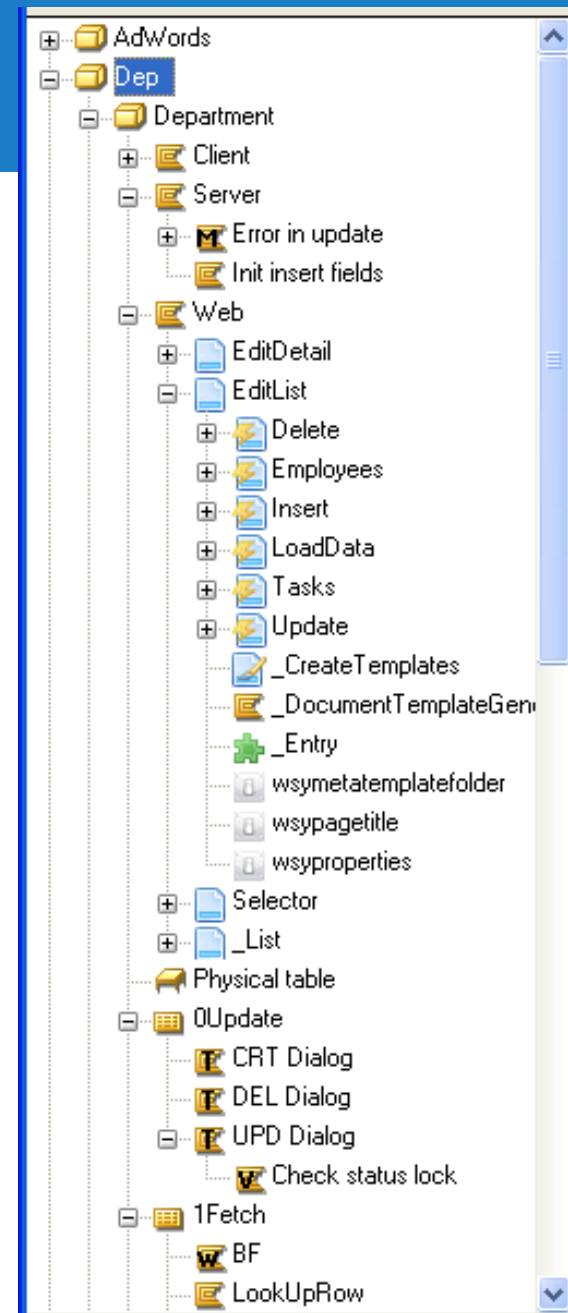


# Other Model Objects – Naming

- Implementation names
  - Tables
  - Views
  - Page generators?
  - Database fields
- Diagram acronyms, e.g.
  - WF: Web Flow
  - FF: Function Flow
  - DM: Data Model

# Using Icons

- Use Icons for core model objects, e.g.
  - Web Pages
  - Events
  - Entry points
  - Transactions
  - Validation functions
  - Message function
  - BlockFetch Wrapper functions
  - Reference entities
  - Objects not used
  - ...



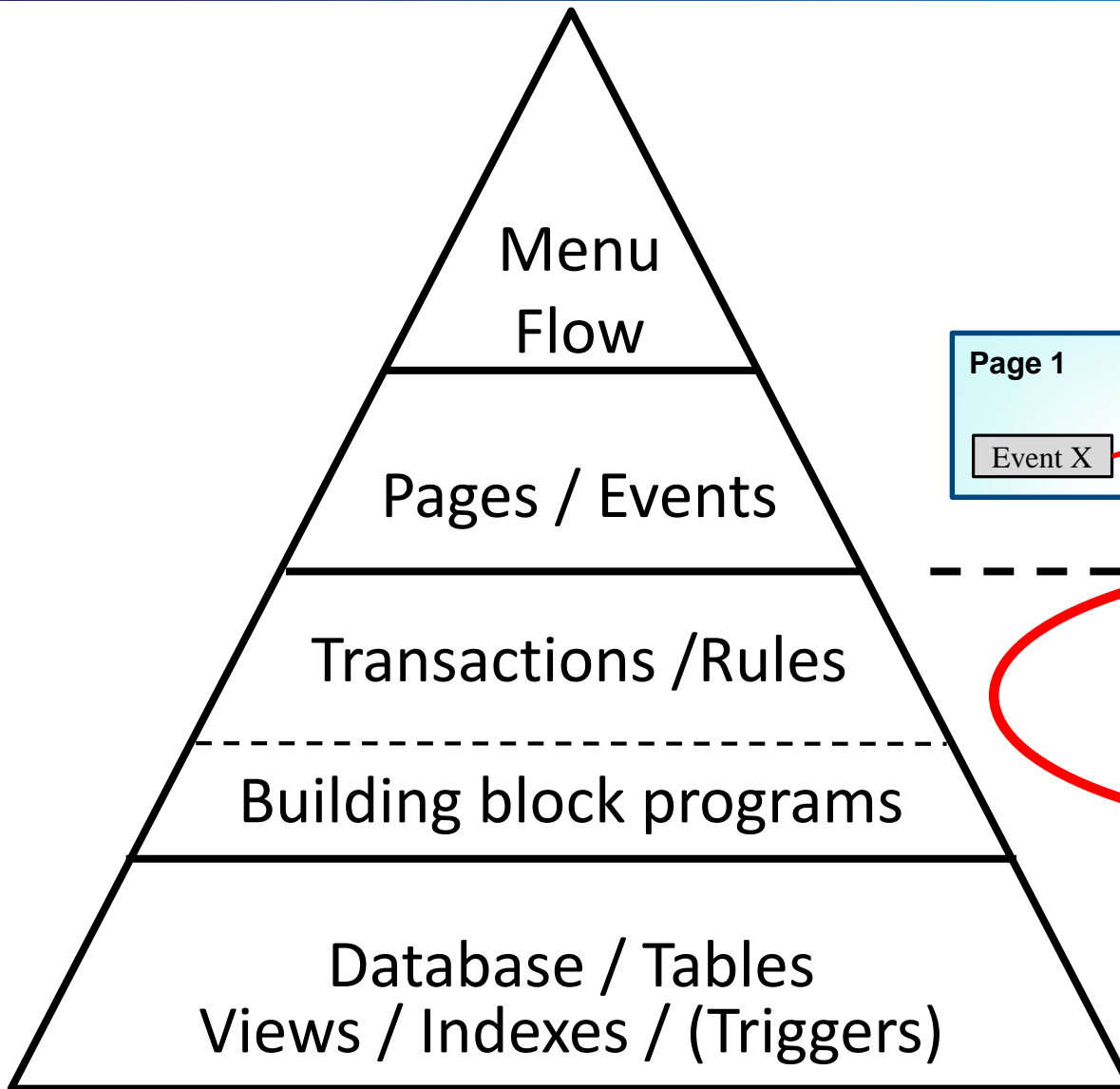
# Scoping and Naming – Decisions

- Divide data model into subject areas – and how?
- Fields scope and naming?
- Standards for function scoping?
- Naming views?
- Use of acronyms?
- Use of icons?
- Explicit specification of implementation names – how, and for what types of objects?

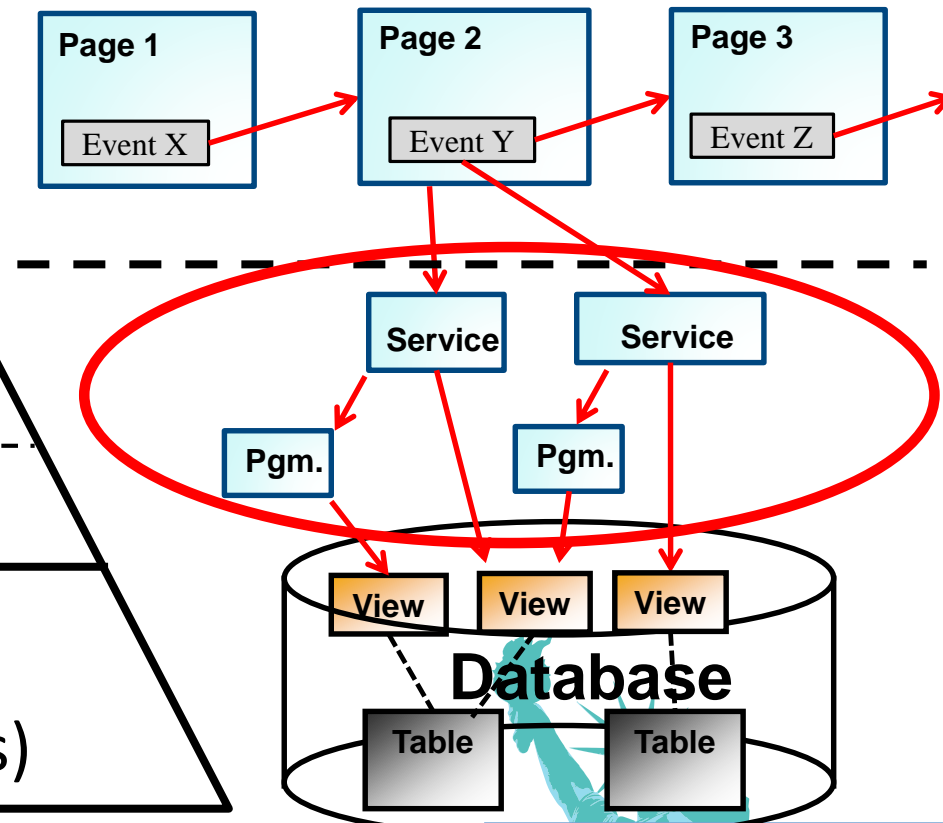
# Service-Oriented Architecture



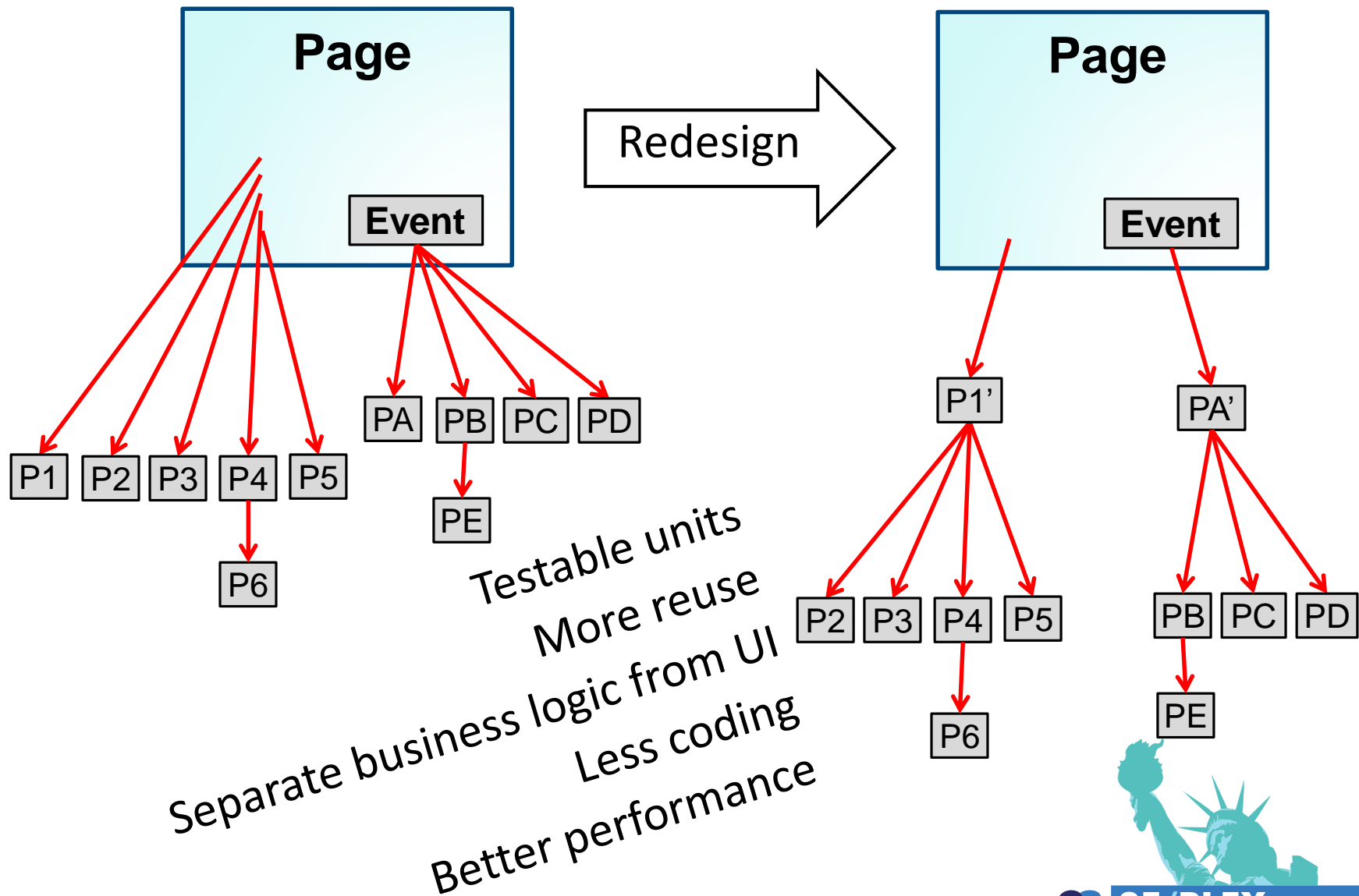
# Application Layers (Websydnian)



Client functions ->  
Server functions ->  
Views ->  
Tables



# Move Complexity from Client to Server (Websydnian)



# InsertRow – Calculation Field Input

## Create race and entries

Enter fields  
Set/calculate parameter values  
Call multiple creation functions

All Race  
fields

Race entry  
fields

Race.Update.  
InsertRow

Race entry.  
Update.InsertRow

## Create race and entries

Enter fields  
Call creation transaction

Race +  
calculation  
parameters

Race.Update.  
InsertRow w  
empty entries

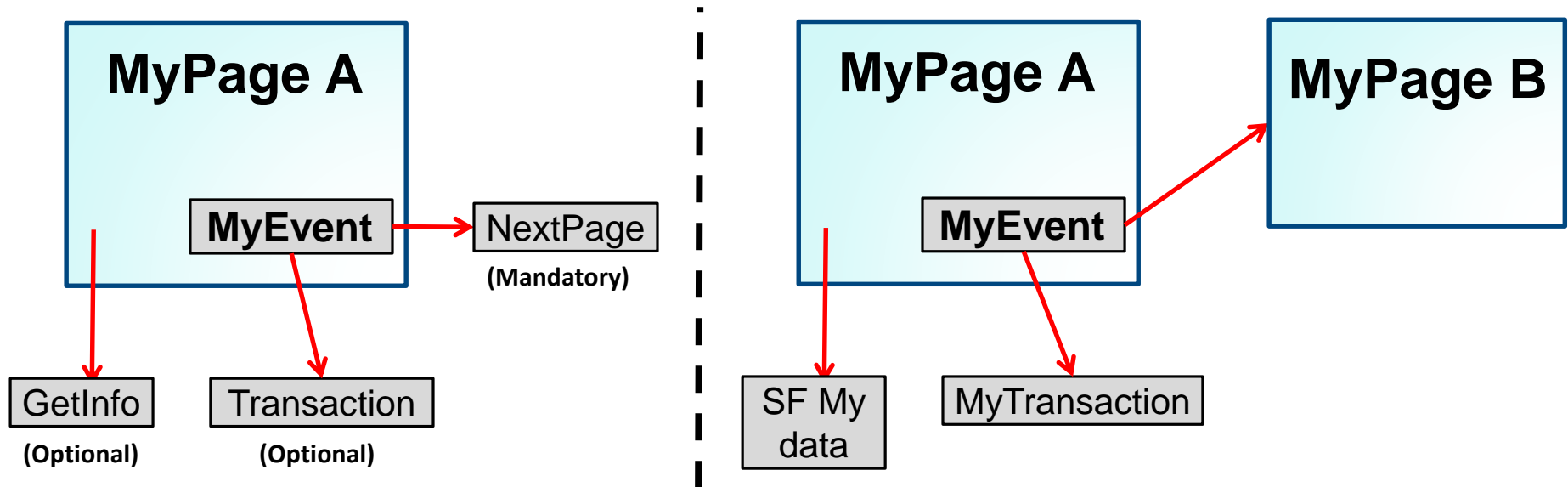
Race entry fields  
(reduced)

Race entry.  
Update.Insert  
Row initial

**Service-oriented design – move  
complexity from client to server**



# Abstract Patterns Supporting a Service-Oriented Design (Websyidian)



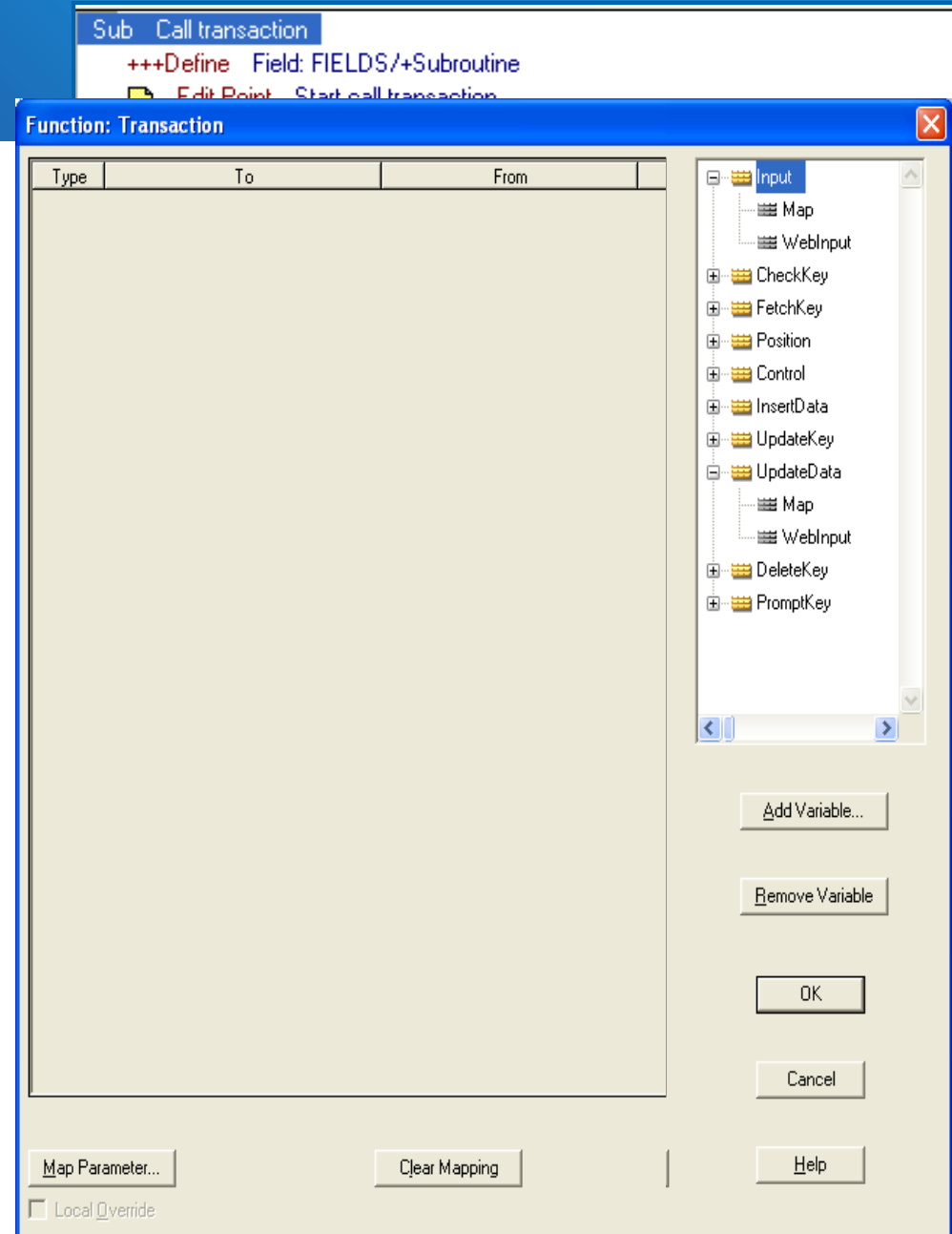
MyPage A	...	...
	includes FNC	MyEvent
	replaces FNC ...by FNC	GetInfo SF My data
MyPage A.MyEvent	...	...
	replaces FNC ...by FNC	Transaction SF My data
	replaces FNC ...by FNC	NextPage MyPage B

Replace  
inherited calls

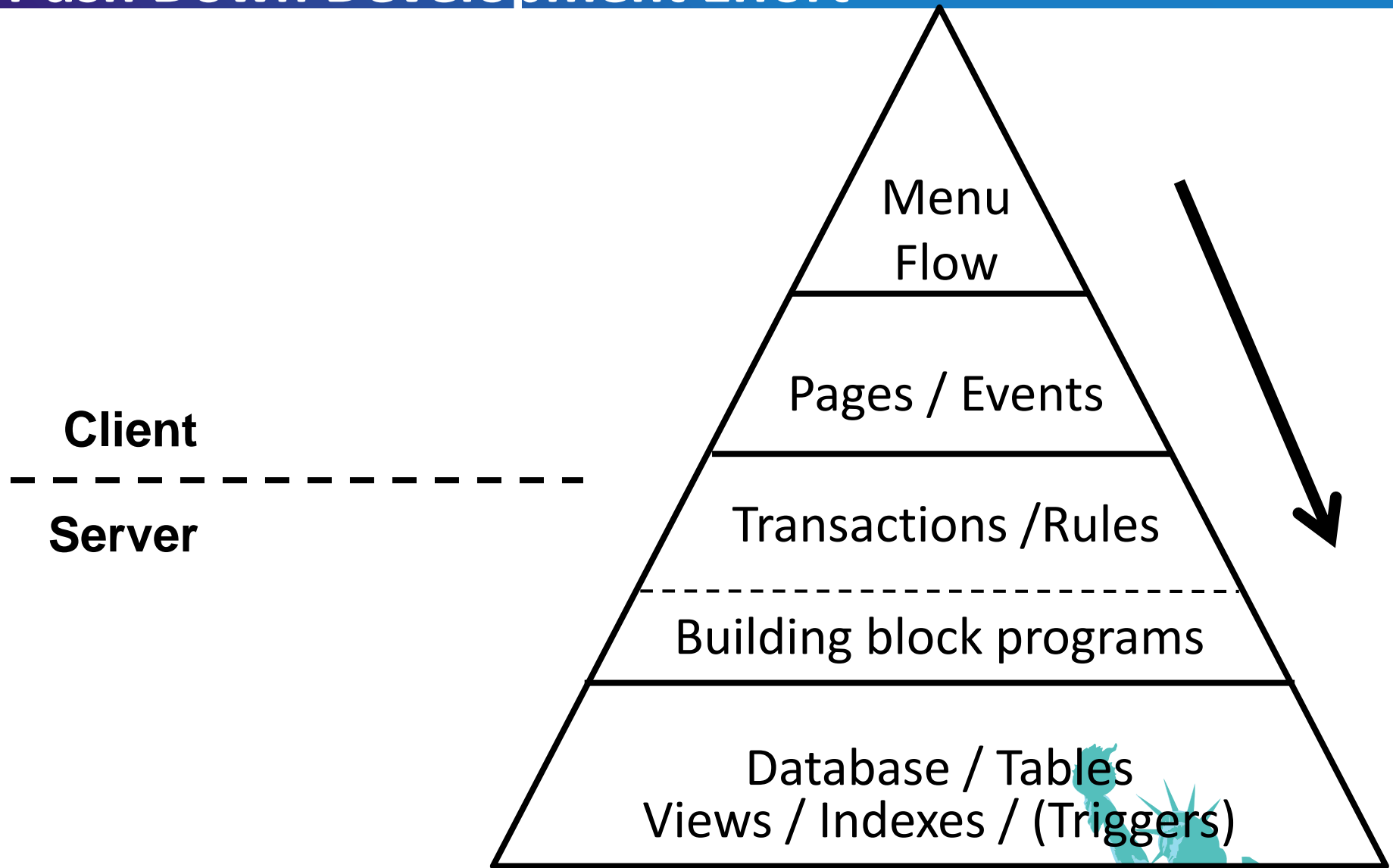


# Replace Inherited Calls

- Code for exception and error handling inherited as well
- *Transaction* function has commonly used variables as input
- Mapping will fall in place at replacement
- Coding effort moved
  - From procedural code
  - To declarative triples
- ...and at the same time supporting a better design



# Validation Specifications and 'Fat' Field Definitions – Push Down Development Effort



# 'Fat' Field Definitions

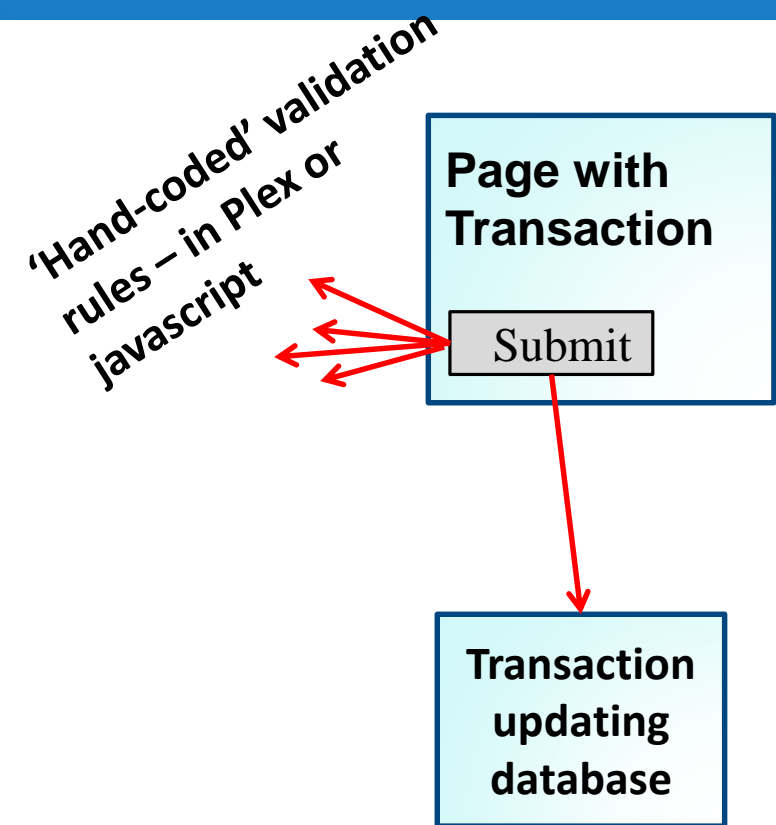
- Presentation
  - Labels, case, edit mode, alignment
- Default values...
- Validation functions ←
- Scoped objects (structure)
  - Values, states, labels, messages, functions etc.
- Other (rarely used)
  - Derived fields, Computed by specifications
- Various...

*Rule specifications picked up by inherited meta code*

**'Fat' Field Definitions – Less Work on Client Specification and Development**

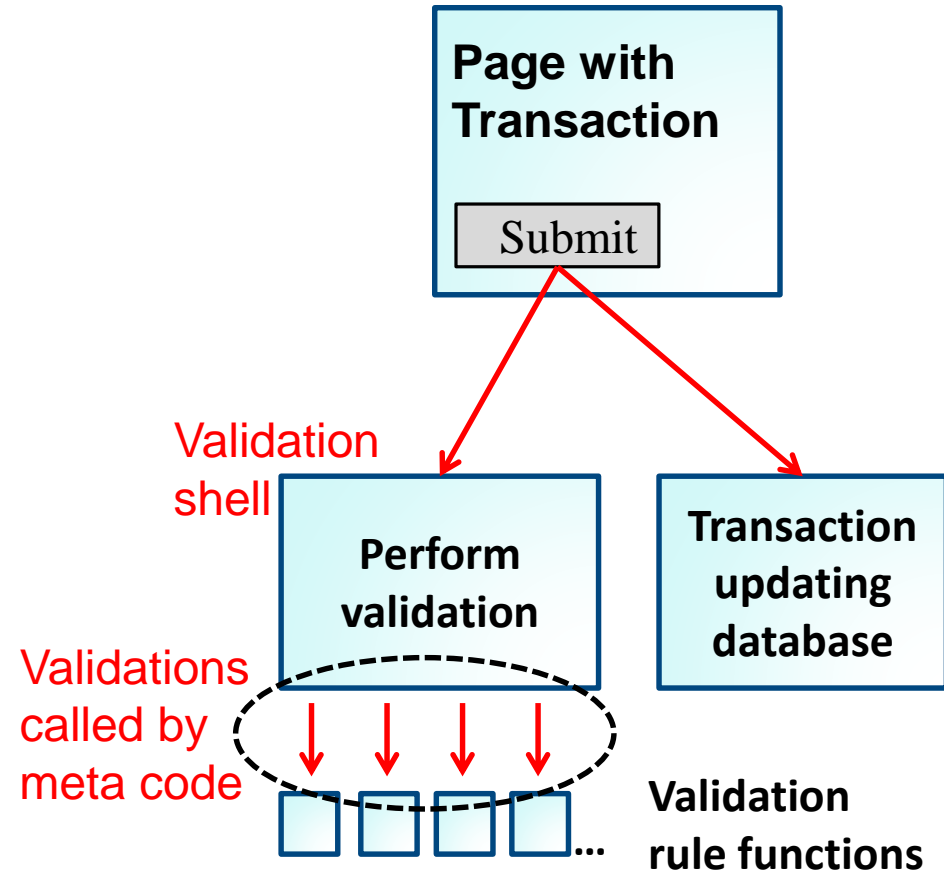
# Preconditions of Called Transaction – Capture Rules in Plex

- Mandatory fields
- Validation functions – Simple
  - Entered (status) field value is defined
  - Related record exists (trivial look-up)
  - Other rules based on simple logic
- Validation functions – Complex
  - Depend on other input
  - Depend on database contents



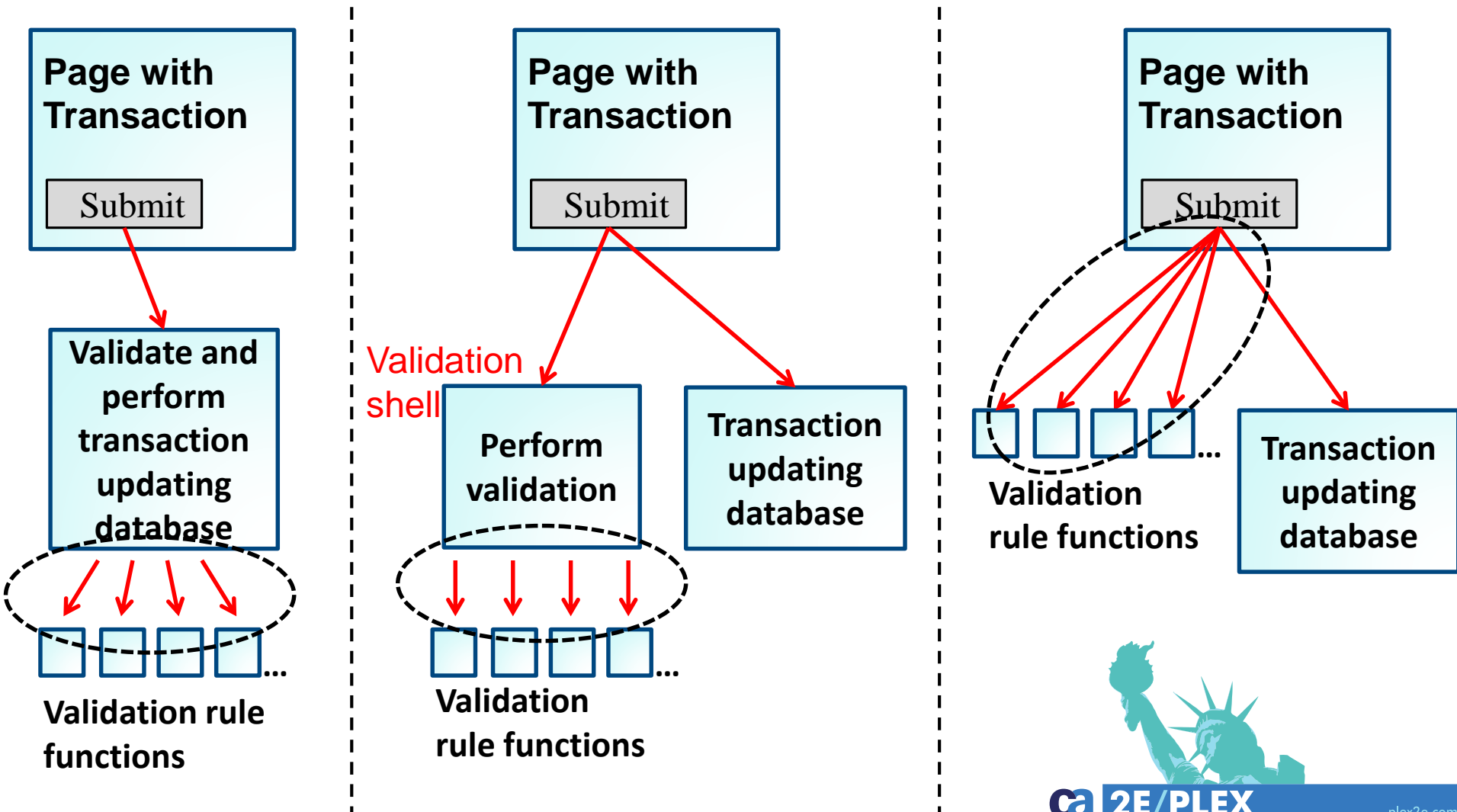
# Plex Validation Triples

- TRP (FLD) optionality SYS
- FLD validated by FNC
- VW validated by FNC
- TRP (REL) optionality SYS
- TRP (FLD) validated by FNC
- TRP validated by FNC
- ENT checked by FNC



**Validation rules specified as part of data model**

# Different Validation Architectures Based on Same Specifications (Websydn)



# Websydney Message Log – One Possible Solution for Server-Side Validation

The screenshot displays the Websydney Message Log interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like Welcome, User management, Site structure, Content loaders, Templates, Site configuration, Language support, Sites, Utilities, Message Log, Surrogate, Update Admin, Session Information, Global settings, and Web services. The 'Message Log' option is highlighted with a red arrow. The main area shows a 'Message log' window with filters for Date (23/07/2012), Severity (\*All), and Handled (\*All). Below these are buttons for 'Severity' and 'Childs'. The 'View child messages' window is open, showing details for a specific message. It includes sections for Message Information, Session Information, and Message Text. The Message Text section contains a table of validation errors. The table has columns for Severity, Text/ID, Type, Timestamp, and Category. Several rows are circled in red, highlighting specific errors. The bottom of the window shows a summary of the main validation message.

**Message log**  
View childs

Date: 23/07/2012  
Severity: \*All  
Handled: \*All

**Message Information**

**Session Information**

Session	4955
Site	DBB8BAB54B - Ext JS sample site supplied with WebsydneyExpress
User	Unavailable

**Message Text**

Main validation message (Validation function &(1:))

Severity	Text/ID	Type	Timestamp	Category
	Error validating the reference to Horse. (Returned status INF).			
	230 WSE0268 23/07/2012 18:02:32:406			Validation
	No value specified for the mandatory field Jockey gender.			
	229 WSE0273 23/07/2012 18:02:32:375			Validation
	No value specified for the mandatory field Jockey code.			
	227 WSE0273 23/07/2012 18:02:32:359			Validation
	No value specified for the mandatory field Jockey name.			
	228 WSE0273 23/07/2012 18:02:32:359			Validation
	Invalid value specified for Jockey weight. (Returned status ERR).			

23/07/2012 17:59:12:207 203 1899 Validation WSE0272 4955 DBB8BAB54B - Ext JS sample site supplied with WebsydneyExpress

Main validation message (Validation function AA67F)



# Service-Oriented Architecture – Decisions

- Patterns for support of a service-oriented design?
- Level of use of extended (fat) field specifications?
- Specification of rules in Plex or not – and how to pick up by client?
- Server-side validation or not – and how to implement?
- Validation in ‘mixed’ target environments – Web, Windows/Java UI, 5250



# Error Reporting and Sanity Checking



# Early Error Detection

- Abnormal *\*Call status*
- Abnormal/unexpected *\*Returned status*
- Error states detection
- Write errors to common log

```
Function TCL Call spec.Update.UPD Dan CRUD specs fra CRT
Edit Point Set view data for update
Set View<TCL.Type> = <TCL.Type.Transaction>
Set View<TCL.Call spec text> = <TCL.Call spec text.Standard CRUD>

Edit Point Record updated
Opret Sidste output felt som Referred output-felter fra CRT-funktion, hvis disse mangler i aktuel Call spec
Name Function: TPF Used field.Fetch.PG opret ref val i spec, Environment<*Object>
Call TPF Used field.Fetch.PG opret ref val i spec
Go Sub Catch
Opret spec for SF
Name Function: TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec, Environment<*Object>
Call TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec
Go Sub Catch
Opret spec for UPD
Name Function: TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec, Environment<*Object>
Call TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec
Go Sub Catch
Opret spec for OF
Name Function: TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec, Environment<*Object>
Call TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec
Go Sub Catch
Opret spec for DEL
Name Function: TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec, Environment<*Object>
Call TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec
Go Sub Catch
Opret spec for SF (som check-funktion)
Name Function: TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec, Environment<*Object>
Call TPF Used field.Fetch_Real.PG opret spec for FNC fra spec
Go Sub Catch

Edit Point Process fetch
```

# Q&A

