



# Architecture Description Languages and Information Systems Architects

*Never the twain shall meet?*

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**Zuhlke is a leading pan-European technology consultancy specialised in leading technologies required in today's enterprise systems, and in the processes and methodologies required to engineer them.**

**Our core technology competencies are in component and object based systems, security, distributed architecture; our process competencies are in iterative development and project management.**

**We completed over 4000 projects for over 500 clients in our 35 year history.**

**We generate 85% of our revenue with clients we had longer than 10 years.**



## **Current state of practice is ad-hoc**

- UML
- Boxes and Lines (“quivering at arrows”!)

## **Using UML**

- Standard, widely “understood”, often communicates little of value itself

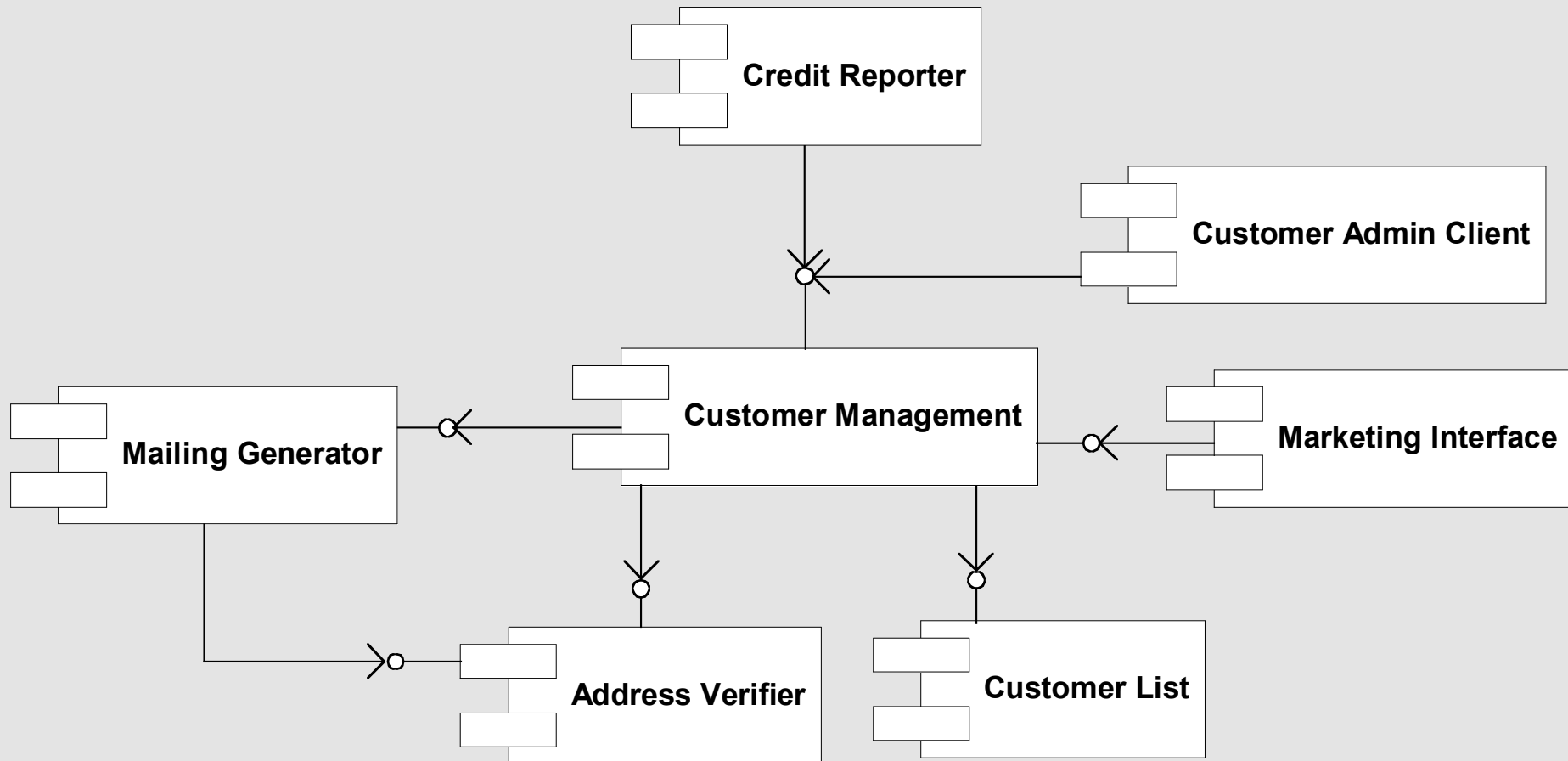
## **Using Boxes and Lines**

- Need to explain notation to everyone

## **Many architects are unhappy with this**

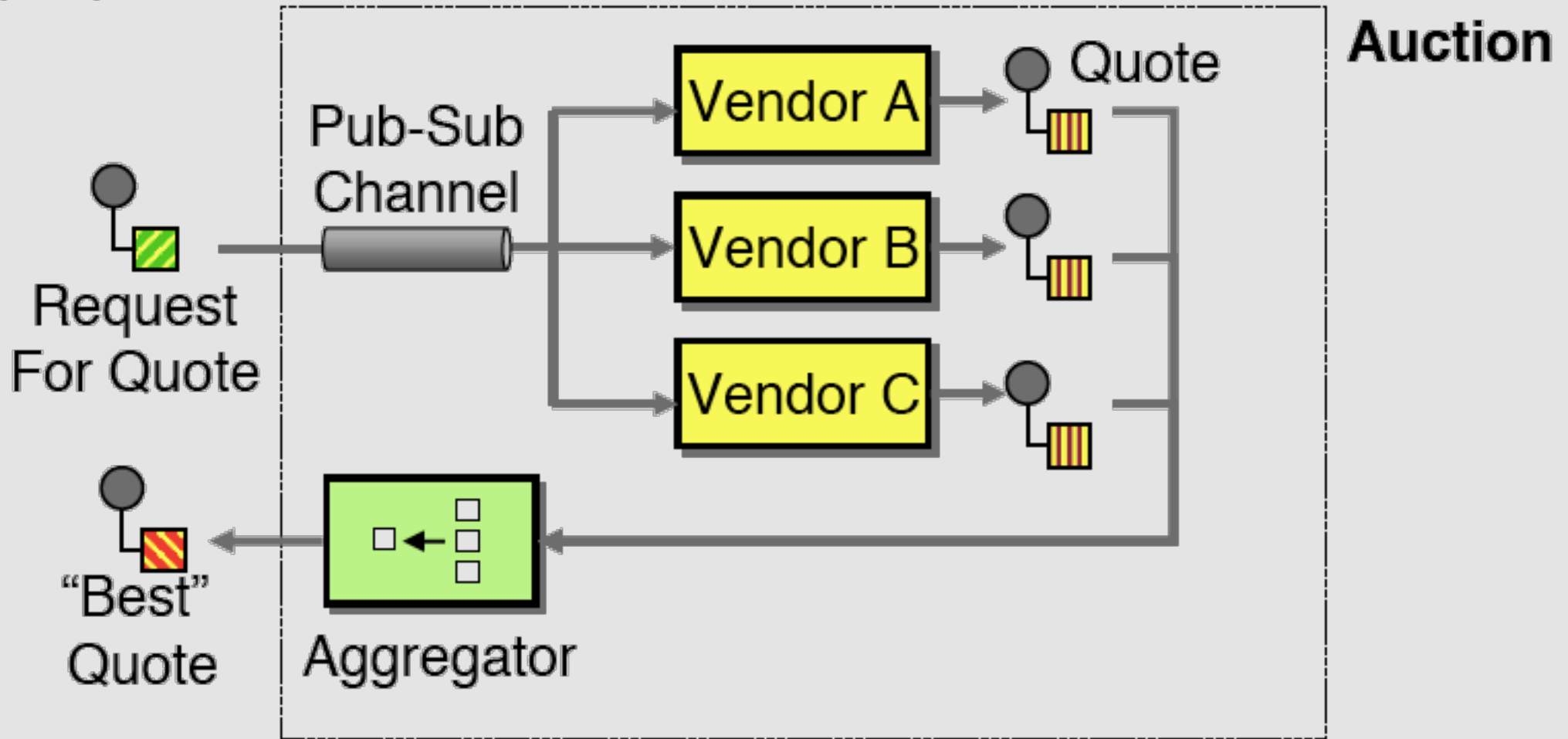
- Gregorgrams
- UML heuristic guidelines

## UML Functional Structure



What does this tell us?

## Gregorograms



Rich, domain specific, notation



## Existing ADLs have not been widely used by information systems architects

- 15+ listed on the SEI web site
- AADL, ACME, ... Wright, UniCon

## Possible reasons

- Marketing
- Priorities (Information? Deployment? ...)
- Tools
- Representation
- Technical Fit (Messaging? Databases? Appservers?)
- Perception (Not from IBM, Sun, MS, Fowler, Booch ...)



## The “average” IS architect will want:

- Support for all the common views
- *Direct* support for information systems elements
- Tools
- Incremental adoption
- Useful models to make creation worthwhile

***In short ... early payback of investment  
(be it time, money, emotion or credibility!)***



## **Existing practice has much room for improvement**

- And many practitioners know this!

## **Existing ADLs aren't going to be adopted**

- And we have a fair idea why

## **New ADLs need to be more architect focused**

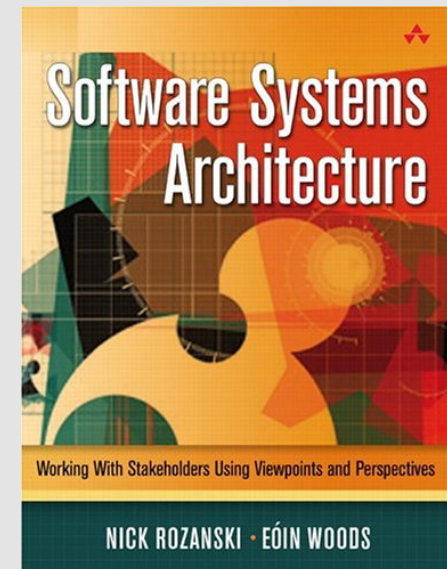
- Involve the stakeholders!

**Example of a book that tries to present a set of workable UML conventions ...**

*Software Systems Architecture: working with stakeholders using viewpoints and perspectives*

**Nick Rozanski and Eoin Woods  
Addison Wesley, April 2005**

**[www.viewpoints-and-perspectives.info](http://www.viewpoints-and-perspectives.info)**



***Lots on using UML as an ADL for information systems!***