

Core Philosophy

If you're not adhering to these, then you're doing it wrong.



1. Core Philosophy

1.1. Big From Small Parts

Instead of building a monolithic tool that then becomes difficult to maintain and adapt to changing business needs, derive the functionality of that tool by combining many well-engineered small tools which each perform a specific function.

Not only does this deliver a well engineered system, it also adapts to the changing needs of the business by allowing different combinations to be used, or allowing parts to be updated and replaced.

1.2. Integrate With Existing Investment

Inflexible systems that will not interoperate with other systems, whilst possibly being cheaper and quicker to build initially, are far more costly in the longer term.

IT is a network industry, and the success of any player in the industry depends entirely on their ability to co-exist with existing infrastructure and technology.

For this reason, open and *de facto* standards should be adopted wherever possible to ensure maximum interoperability, portability and to eliminate switching costs or other vendor “lock-in”.

1.3. Use Best of Breed

If a tool already exists to perform a function, and that tool does it well, then re-use it.

Build and use tools which do one thing, and do it well.

1.4. High Value Resources Do High Value Work

Automate anything that does not require human judgement, and where judgement is required then leave that to humans.

Too many costly systems attempt, and fail, to model and automate high-value activities. The result is an overly-complex system which fails to properly meet the needs of the business, and fails in a very expensive way.

1.5. Rigour Without Rigidity

Measure as much as possible without affecting what is being measured.

Know the provenance of all artefacts at all times without impacting progress in doing so.

1.6. **Work the Way People Do**

Systems should accommodate the way people work; people should not have to accommodate the requirements of an inflexible system.

Management decisions about process should not be constrained by the need to accommodate a system which demands that things are done in a certain way.