

The Business Object as Tool to Federate a Large Corporation

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A European Distribution Company

- EDC - A large energy distribution company (thousands of employee) who manages the energy distribution infrastructure and coordinates all actors.
- Organized with:
 - Regional organizations
 - Central management
 - Central IT Group



Mission of the Central IT Group

- To actively support EDC's business strategy
 - To manage the development projects
 - To manage and maintain the applications
 - To provide a secure and reliable IT
 - To coordinate the regional IT groups
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- 100+ applications
 - 100+ development projects.
 - 1000 people work in CIG (three-fourth being subcontracted).

EDC's Context

- Regulators
 - Requires to develop **new green energy**
 - Sets mission & prices of EDC
 - Impose **open data**
- Energy Suppliers
 - Produce and sell energy
- Local authorities
 - Own infrastructure
- Customers
 - **Choose which energy to use and purchase energy**
- Professional (Engineering Companies)
 - Develop and manage infrastructure

Key strategic issue:

- **EDC needs to maintain its revenue to be able to ensure infrastructure maintenance –**

this requires to have much more information on the customers and on all other stakeholders

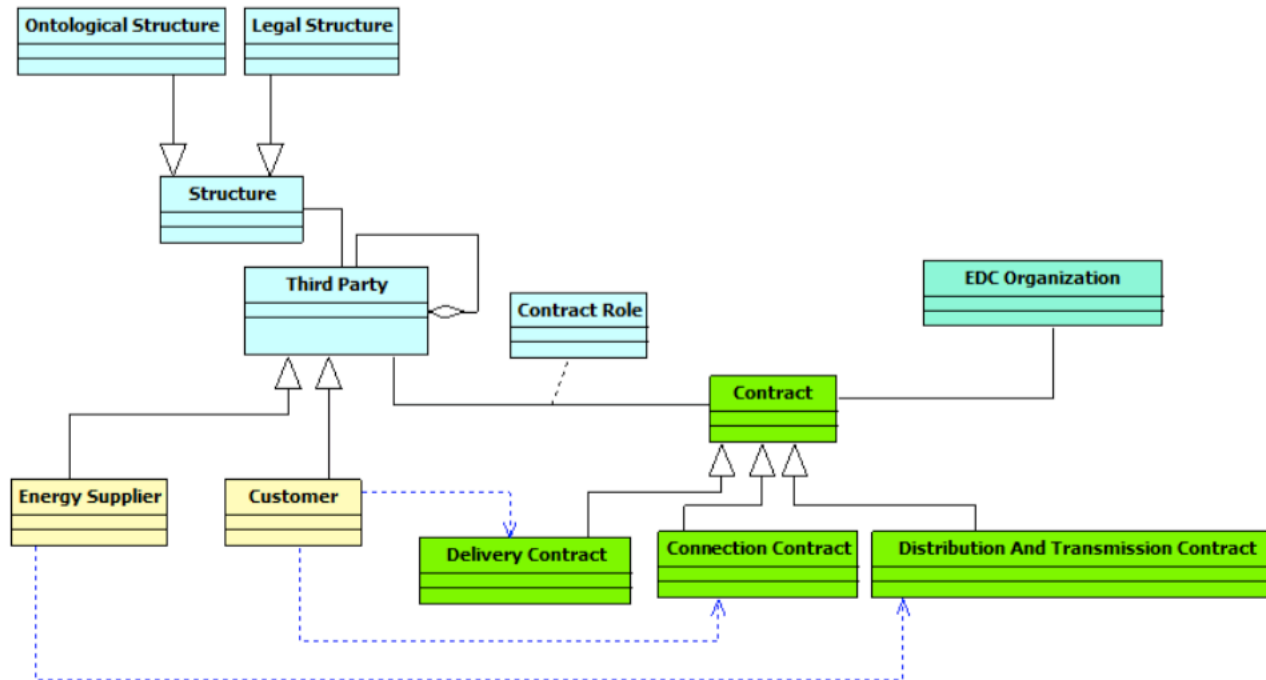
Data Architecture - The Strategic Solution

- Data Architecture Team (4 people)
 - business objects definition & architecture
- Enterprise Service Team & SOA Team
 - format definition & inter-application exchanges
- Data Repository Team (recent)
 - Management of a data lake
- Big Data Team (recent)
 - Reporting and visualisation with business units
- Data-Management Team (recent)
 - Management team including business and data

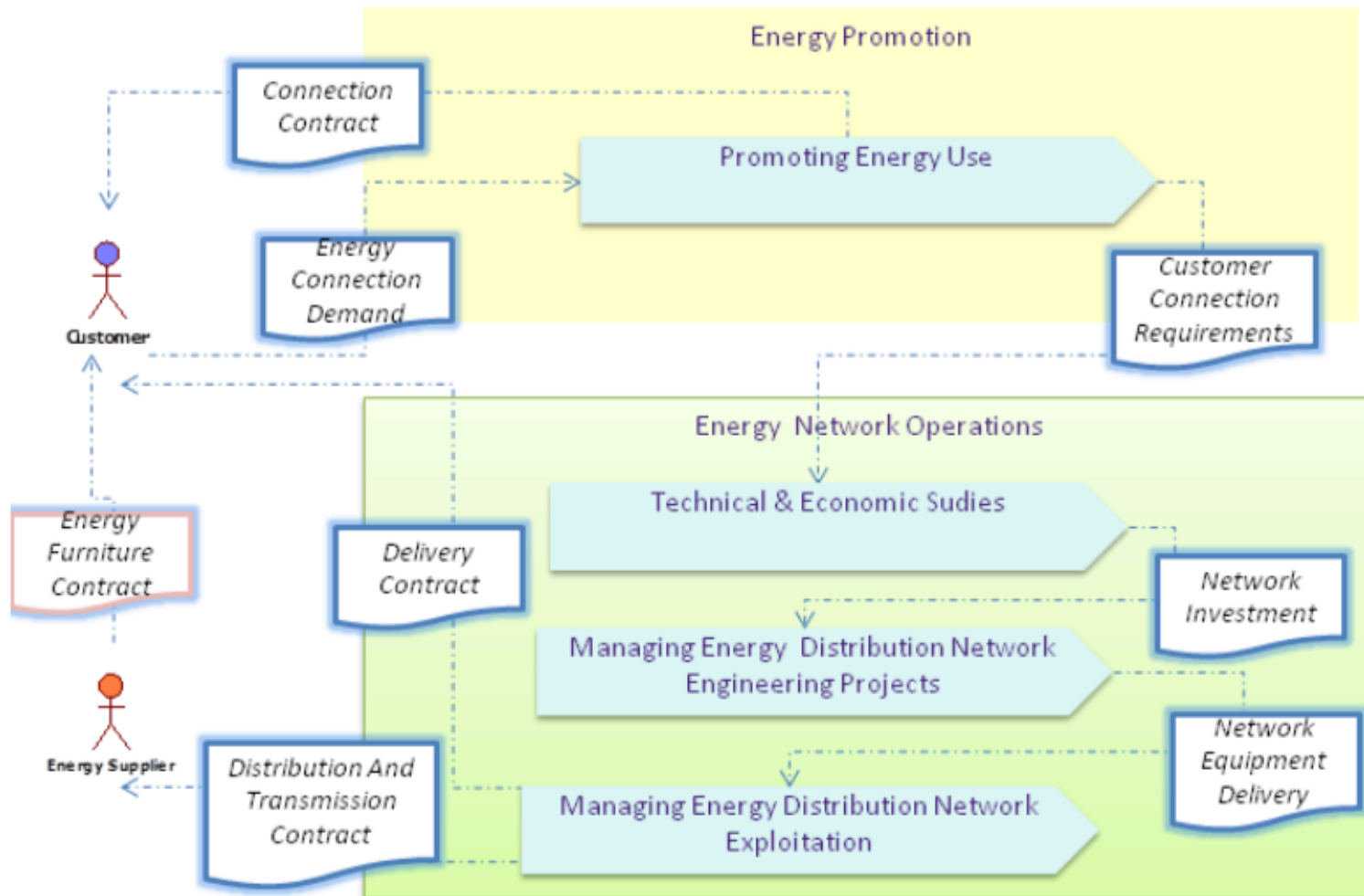
Business Objects

- Life cycle:
 - created, as a consequence of a business event, in a business process;
 - read and updated within the business processes;
 - never deleted.
- Based on semantic network approach. The business objects have:
 - Structure (nodes and relations)
 - Boundary
- Business objects federate:
 - Business architecture
 - IT functions (cartography)
 - Application architecture
- 200+ business objects

Example – BO "Third Party"



Example – Business Architecture



Key Factors of Success

- Data-architecture to address cross-organizational issues
 - IT level:
 - Project scoping
 - Data exchange
 - MDM
 - Common language for all (business architect, service architect, developers, etc)
 - Business Level:
 - Data use
 - Shared vocabulary
 - 360 degree view
- Top-down and bottom-up approach
 - Top-down for project speed
 - Bottom-up for buy-in
- Use of packaged application's models when necessary (e.g. SAP)

Conclusions

- Business object is a federating tool, it acts as an enabler
- Business buy-in essential
- Data-lake, analysis and visualization tools motivate business to use data (hence justify the project)
- Years of work with 10+ people necessary for a large corporation