

Space Communications & Navigation

Breaking Down Data Silos

2023 NASA Cost and Schedule Symposium at JPL

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Abstract

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Topic: Breaking Down Data Silos

Siloed schedule data creates barriers to information sharing and collaboration. In short, siloed data is not healthy data. If schedule data isn't easy to find and use in a timely fashion (or can't be trusted when it is found) it isn't adding value. Many programs, projects, and initiatives are accustomed to working in their own worlds with their own lingo, processes, and challenges. This culture of separation carries over to schedules. This presentation will showcase SCaN's efforts to break down the silo mentality.

Defining “Silo Mentality”

- **An attitude within an organization when the different sections or departments do not share information properly because they do not want to share success with others, with the result that the organization is not efficient**

> *Macmillan Online Dictionary 2023*
(www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/silo-mentality)



SILOED SCHEDULE DATA IS NOT HEALTHY DATA

SILOS ARE BARRIERS

One of the biggest challenges programs in NASA face is trying to glean insights from schedule data that's trapped in the organizational silos that exist across functions.

Despite being viewed as a hindrance to effective schedule management, silos remain a common barrier to growth.

Schedule data silos tend to arise naturally in organizations because each department has different goals, priorities, funding and responsibilities.

Silos can also occur when departments compete with each other instead of working together toward common goals.

Breaking down silos enables accurate insights to be leveraged across the entire organization

A CULTURE OF SEPARATION

Silos are all too common

- Unfortunately, silos make it hard to manage and analyze enterprise-wide schedule data, making it difficult to know:
 - > where mission driving programs are
 - > how they're progressing, and
 - > what impacts they have on each other going forward

If schedule data isn't easy to find and use in a timely fashion
or can't be trusted when it is found
it isn't adding value to the organization

SCaN'S EFFORTS TO BREAK DOWN THE SILO MENTALITY

Collaboration

Unification

Execution

Collaborate and Design



> Aligned Vision

- What behaviors and mindsets need to change in order to accomplish this mission?
- What barriers need to be broken down to accomplish this change in effort?

> Institute Common Data Standards

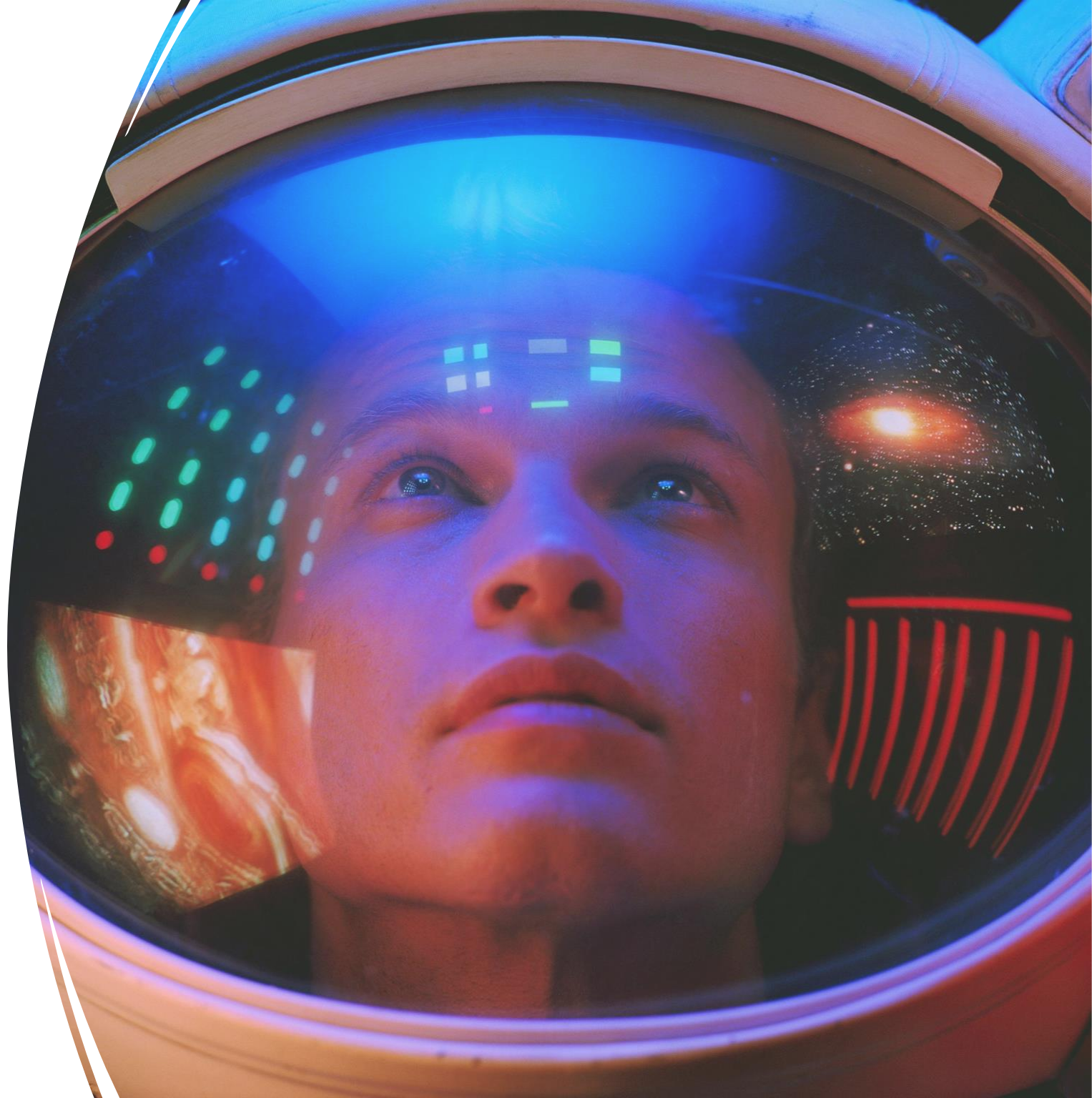
- Consistent
- Clear
- Bi-directional
- Inclusive
- Focused on achieving mutual goals

> Meaningful relationship building

> Make It Universal

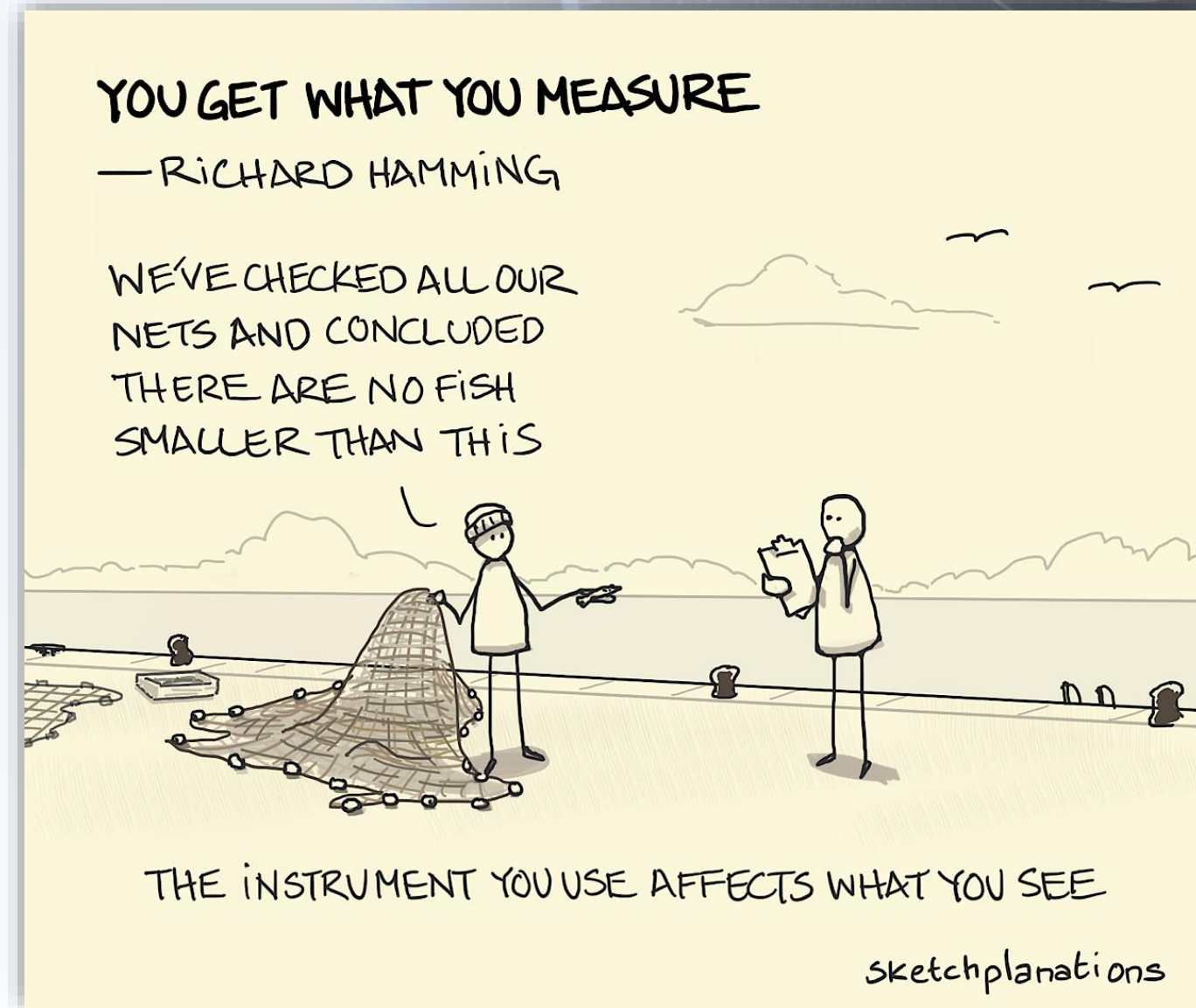
Create a Unified Vision

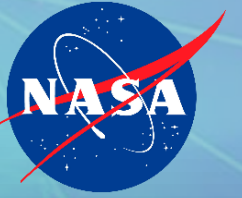
- **Promote Common Collaboration Tools**
 - SCaNVAS (SharePoint) Project Drop Files
 - Microsoft Project Schedule Data
- **Publish Program Schedule Guidance Memo to projects and performing centers**
- **Incorporate schedule data requirements into future budget formulation activities**



Execute and Measure

- **Establish Time Frame**
- **Benchmarks for success**
 - > Empowerment and accountability
- **Revise Schedule Management Plan**
 - > Organizational Metrics
 - Missing Logic
 - Leads / Negative lag
 - Baseline Execution Index
 - Negative Float





Questions?

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