

Digital Twins

What are they and why should we care?

Erwin Frank-Schultz
CTO Energy, Environment & Utilities
IBM UK & Ireland

10th Cleanpower Smart Grids 2019,
1-2 July Cambridge, UK
www.cir-strategy.com/events

BIM

IoT

AR

Optimisation

VR

3D

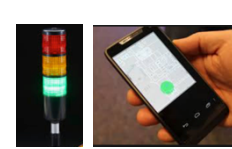
Simulation

AI

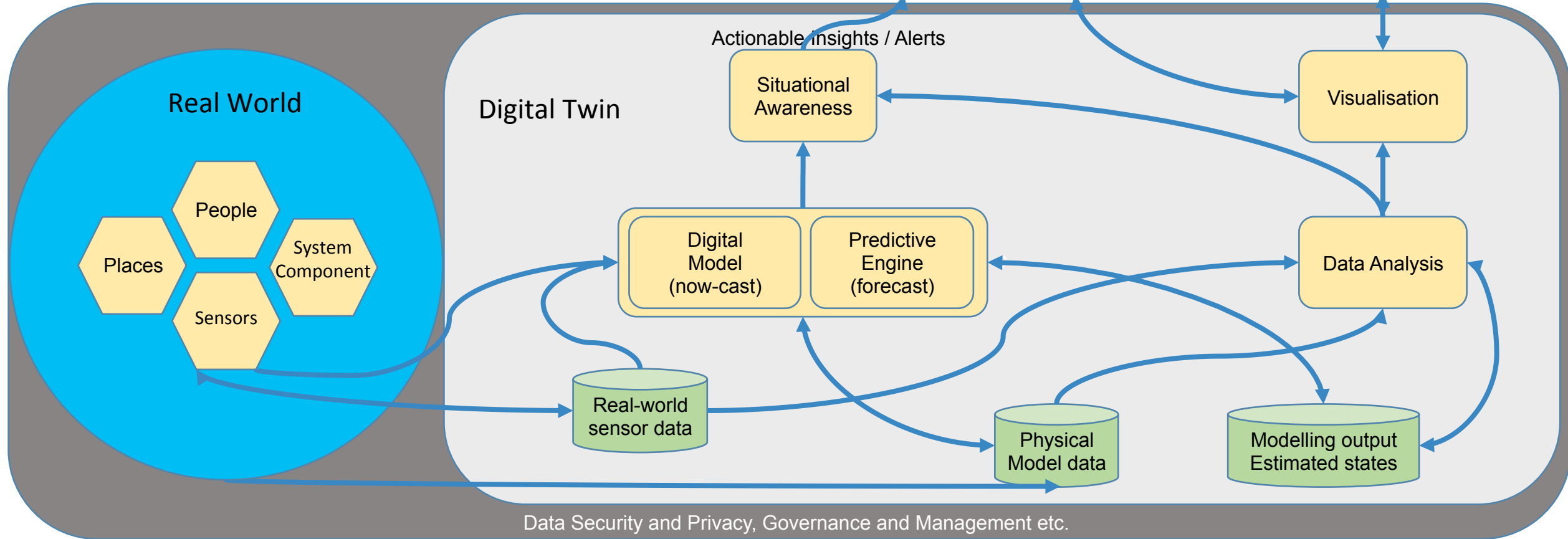
Our (working) definition

*A digital twin is a **dynamic virtual representation** of a **physical object or system**, usually across **multiple stages of its lifecycle**. It uses **real-world data, simulation** and / or **machine learning** models, combined with **data analysis** to enable **understanding, learning and reasoning**. Digital twins can be used to **answer what-if questions** and should be able to **present the insights in an intuitive way**.*

High level component view of a Digital Twin



Visualisation and Interaction



Process management

Visualisation

Analytics and AI

Simulation Modelling

Systems of Record

Data

IoT

Integration

Governance

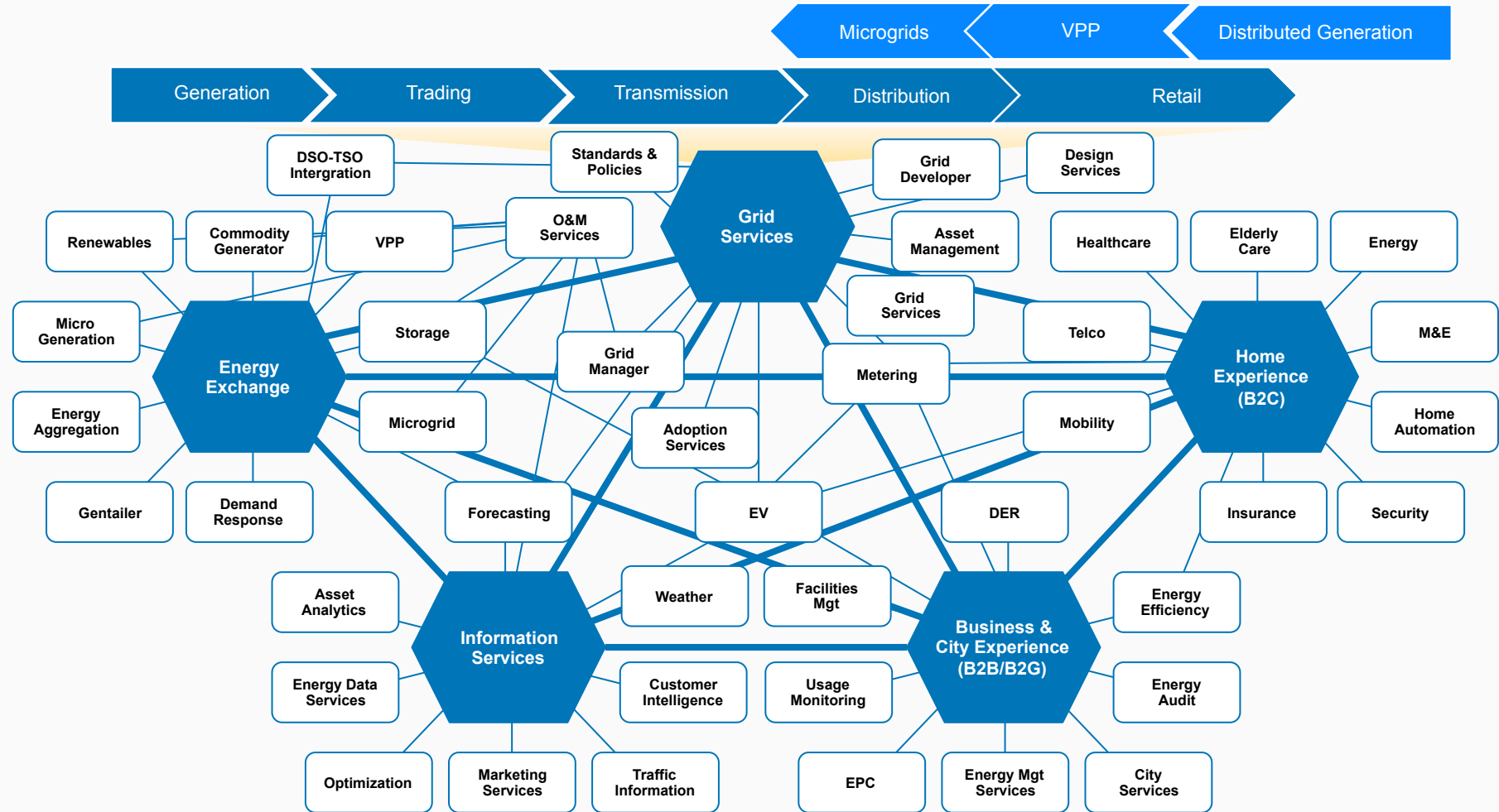
Security





Future Energy & Utilities Industry Models

Emerging new business models transform the traditional utility value chain by integrating energy on the back of more flexible and digitally enabled ecosystems/business platforms



Integrated Development of Low-Carbon Energy Systems (IDLES)

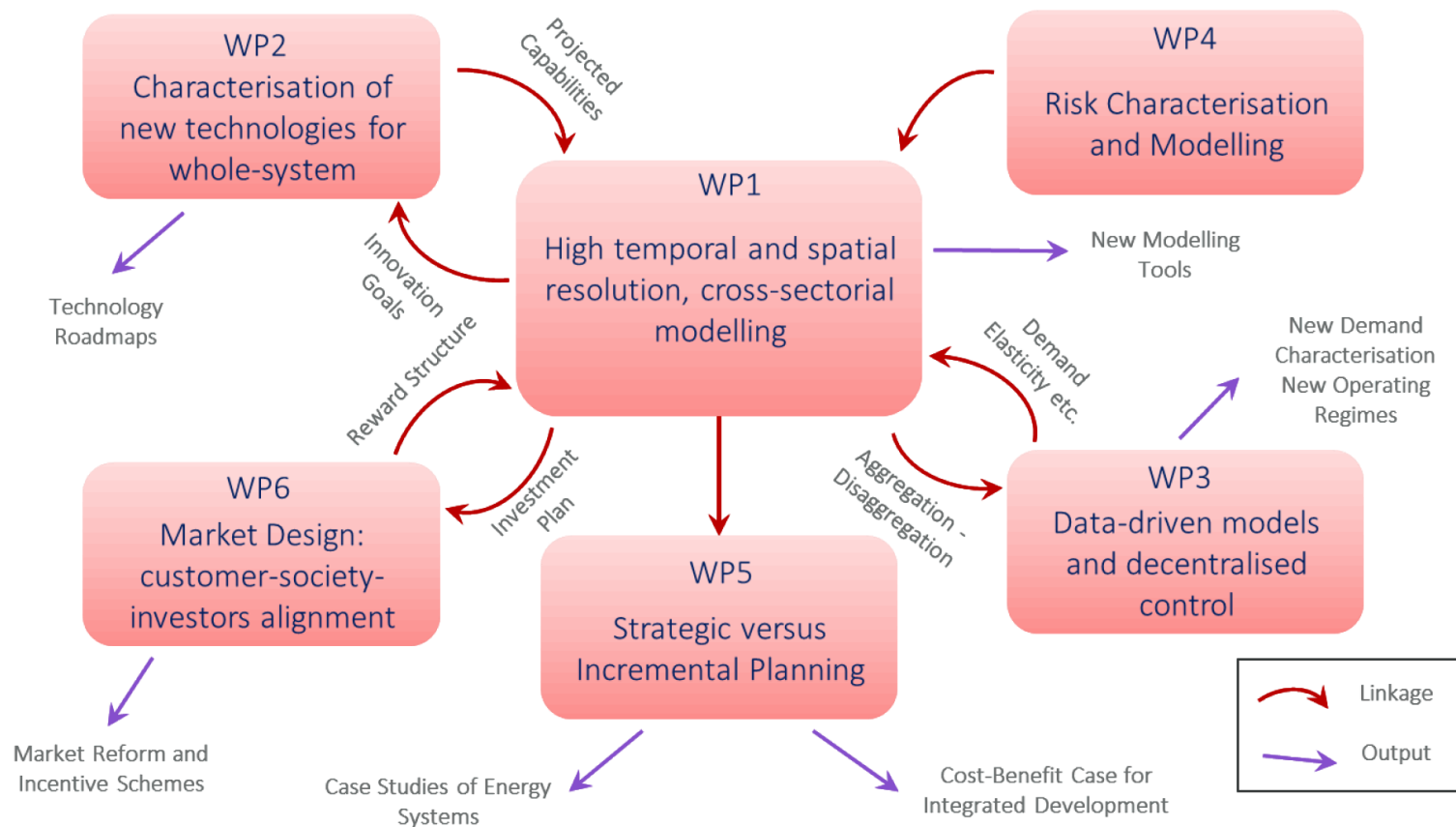
ABB

Ecocentric

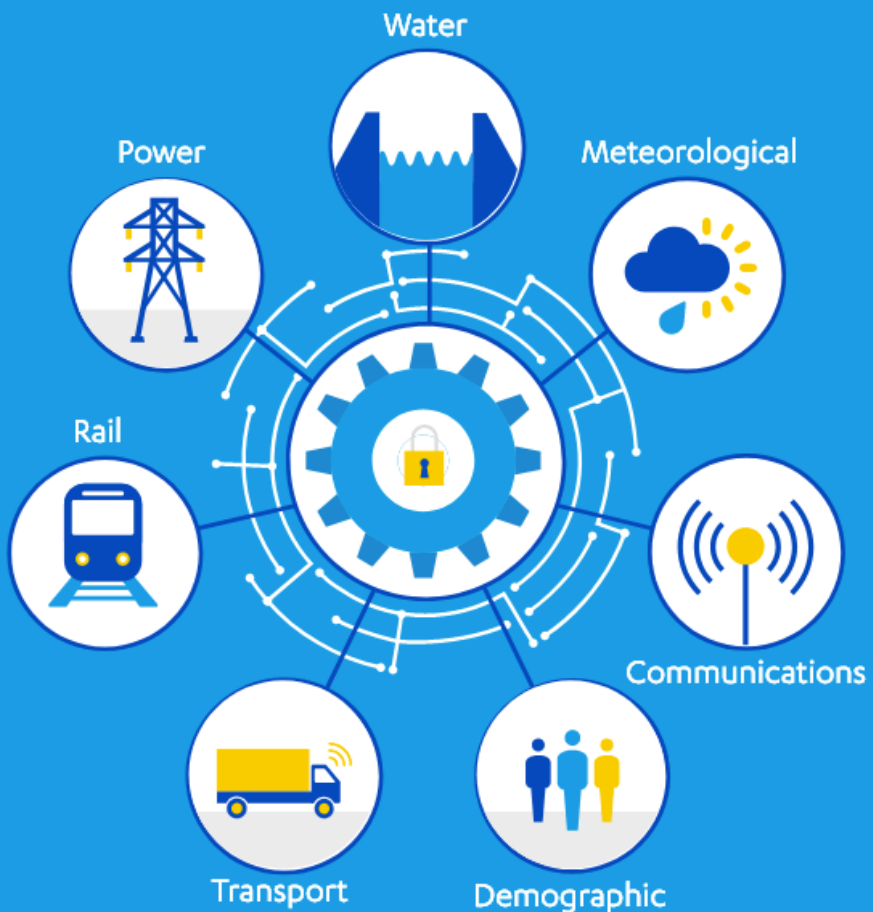
EDF Energy

IBM

Nationalgrid



National Infrastructure Commission: National Digital Twin or *Brit-Twin*



WHY DOES THE UK NEED A DIGITAL TWIN?

A national digital twin would enable the UK to develop a richer understanding of the way our infrastructure works and optimise it, so government and industry can make more informed decisions about the future.



Optimise use of resources such as energy and water



Reduce disruption and delay for transport and ease traffic flow



Increase resilience in the face of terrorist attacks



Boost quality of life for UK citizens



Improve responsiveness in natural disasters

A digital twin that unifies these separate systems can answer questions such as:

Is it possible to:

Avoid building a new hospital carpark by managing appointment times and traffic flows?

Reduce energy consumption by 10% per person over six months?

Assess the impact of closing a road in the event of a water leak?

The vision for the **national digital twin** is not that it will be a huge singular digital twin of the entire built environment. Rather, it is envisaged to consist of 'federations' of digital twins joined together via securely shared data.