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in Nürnberg



# Herbstcampus

Wissenstransfer  
par excellence

## Generisch vs. spezifisch

Das wiederkehrende Architekturdilemma

Stefan Tilkov

innoQ Deutschland GmbH

Stefan Tilkov | innoQ

# **Thoughts on the Generic vs. Specific Tradeoff**



<http://www.innoq.com>

Stefan Tilkov

[stefan.tilkov@innoq.com](mailto:stefan.tilkov@innoq.com)

[@stilkov](#)

# Phases in a Developer's Life

# 1. The Enthusiastic Developer

**“This stuff is cool -  
let’s build programs!  
For real people!”**

Create Customer  
Find Customer  
List Customers  
Edit Customer  
Delete Customer

Create Product  
Find Product  
List Products  
Edit Product  
Delete Product

Create Order  
Find Order  
List Orders  
Edit Order  
Delete Order

**Boring, boring, boring.**

## 2. The Disillusioned Developer

“Oh. Real people  
have boring  
problems.”

Create Customer  
Find Customer  
List Customers  
Edit Customer  
Delete Customer

Create Product  
Find Product  
List Products  
Edit Product  
Delete Product

Create Order  
Find Order  
List Orders  
Edit Order  
Delete Order

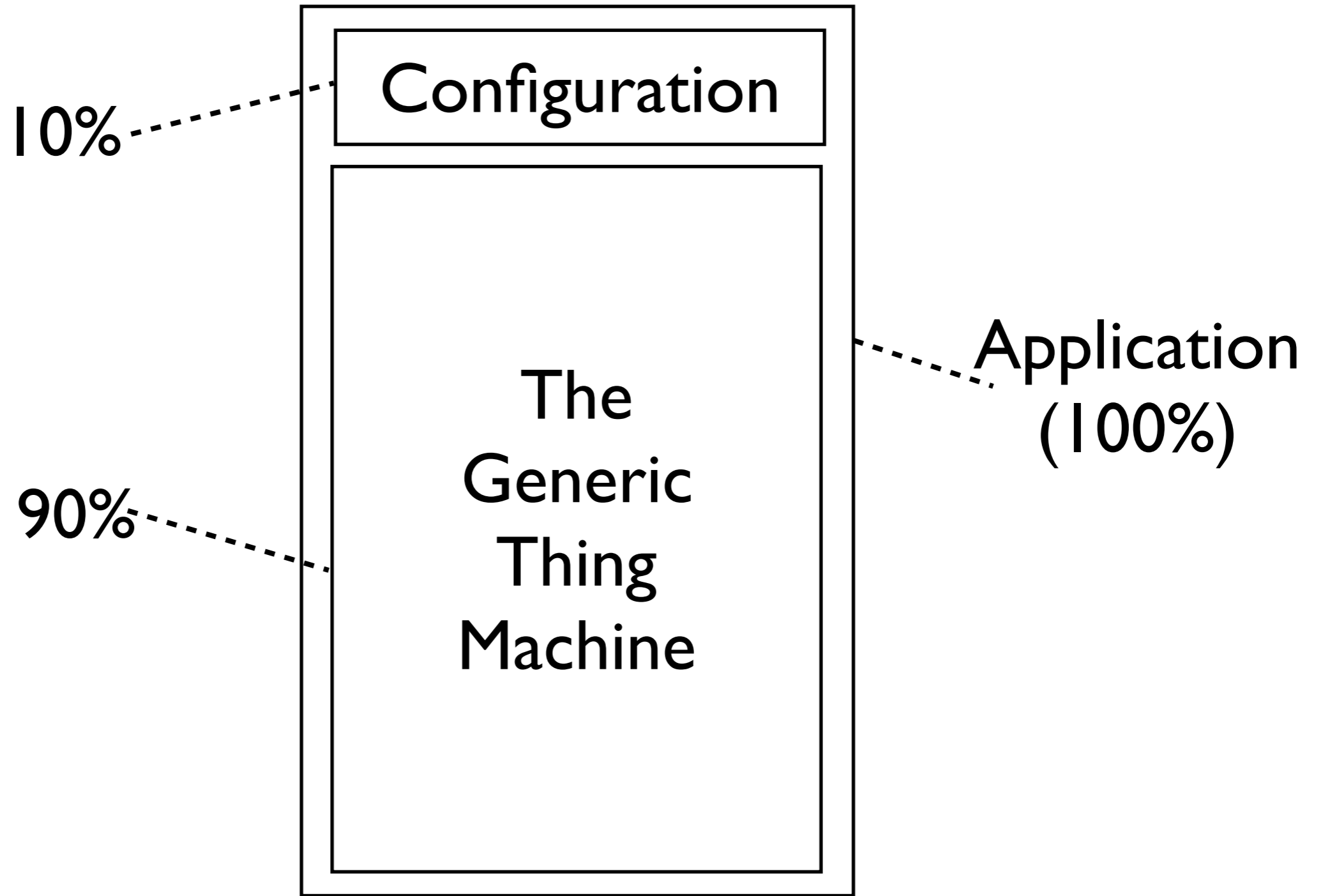


Create Thing  
Find Thing  
List Thing  
Edit Thing  
Delete Thing

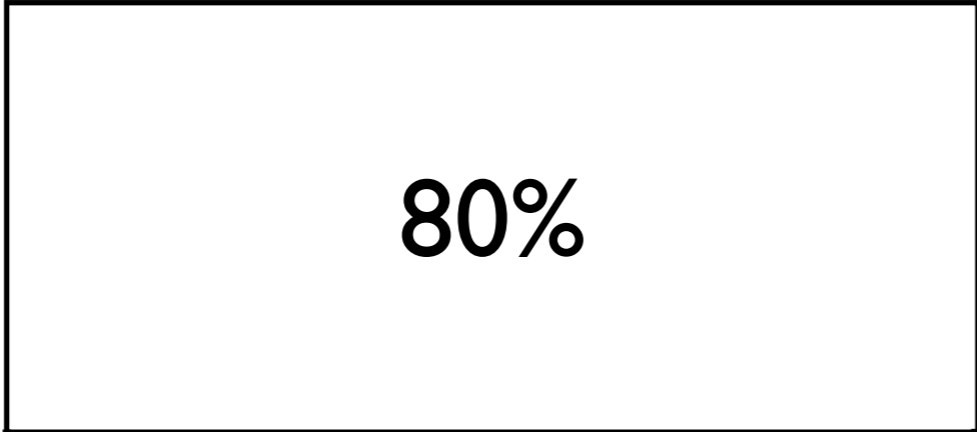
# 3. The Enthusiastic Architect

Create Thing  
Find Thing  
List Thing  
Edit Thing  
Delete Thing

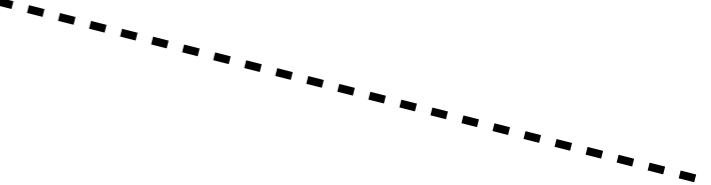
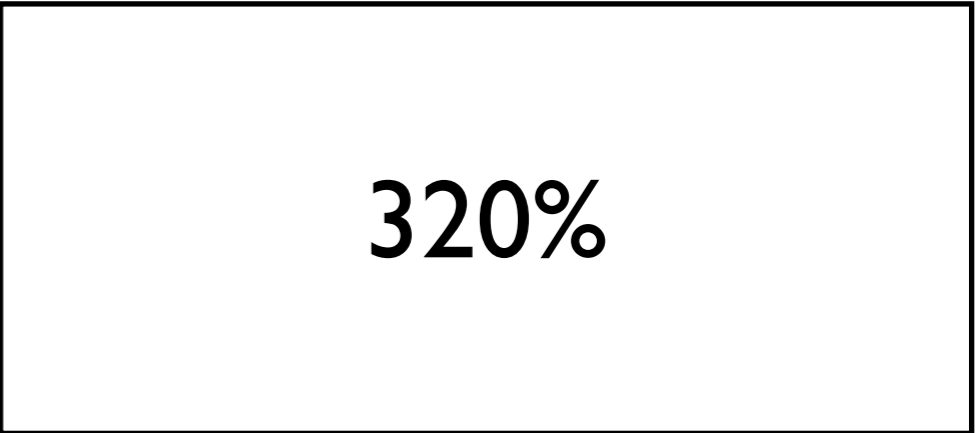
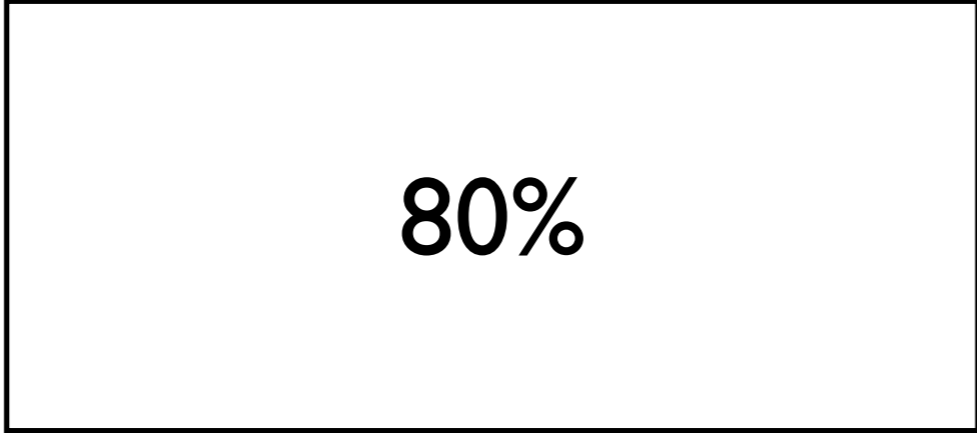
**“Generic solutions! Cool!”**

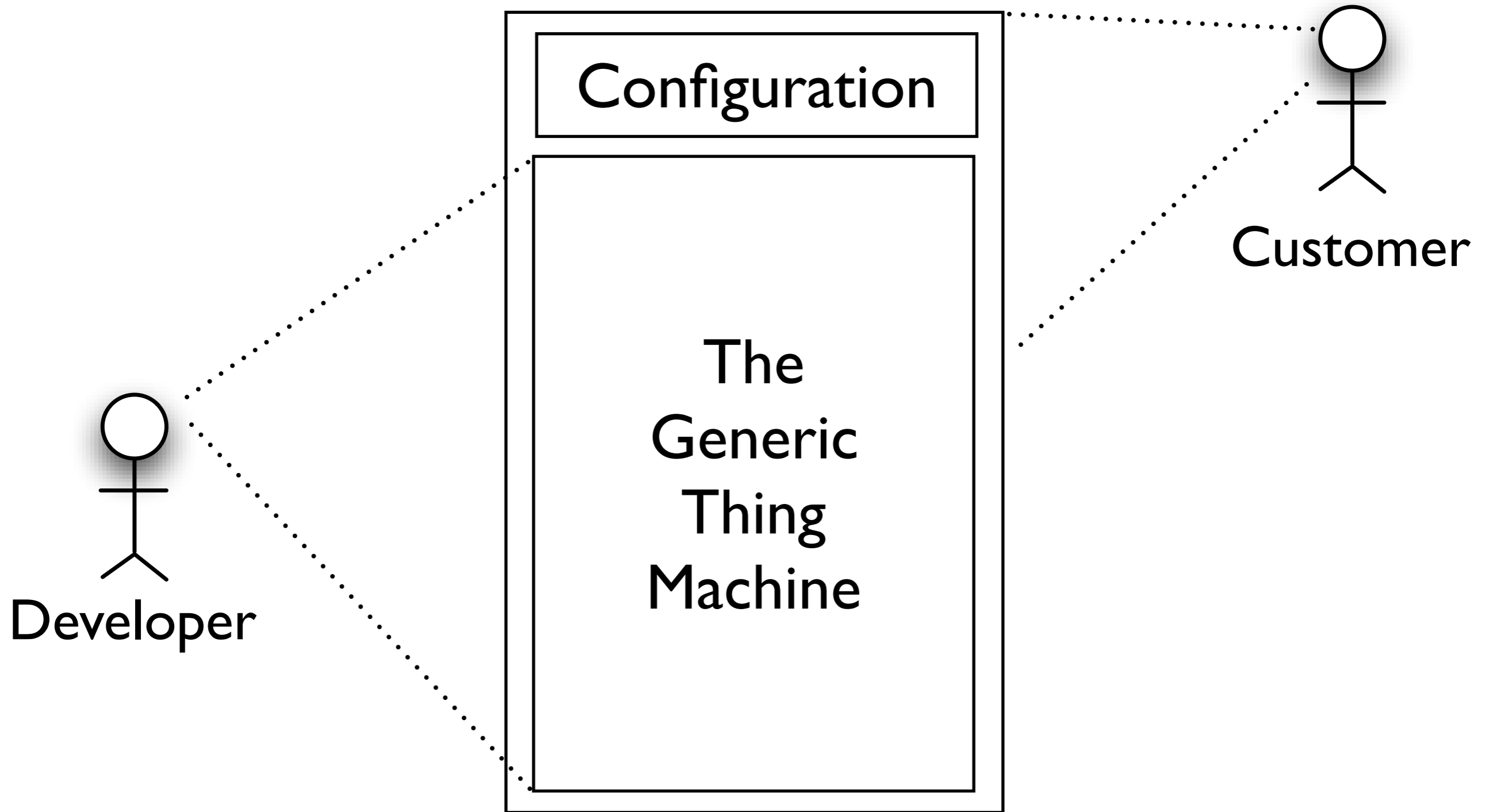


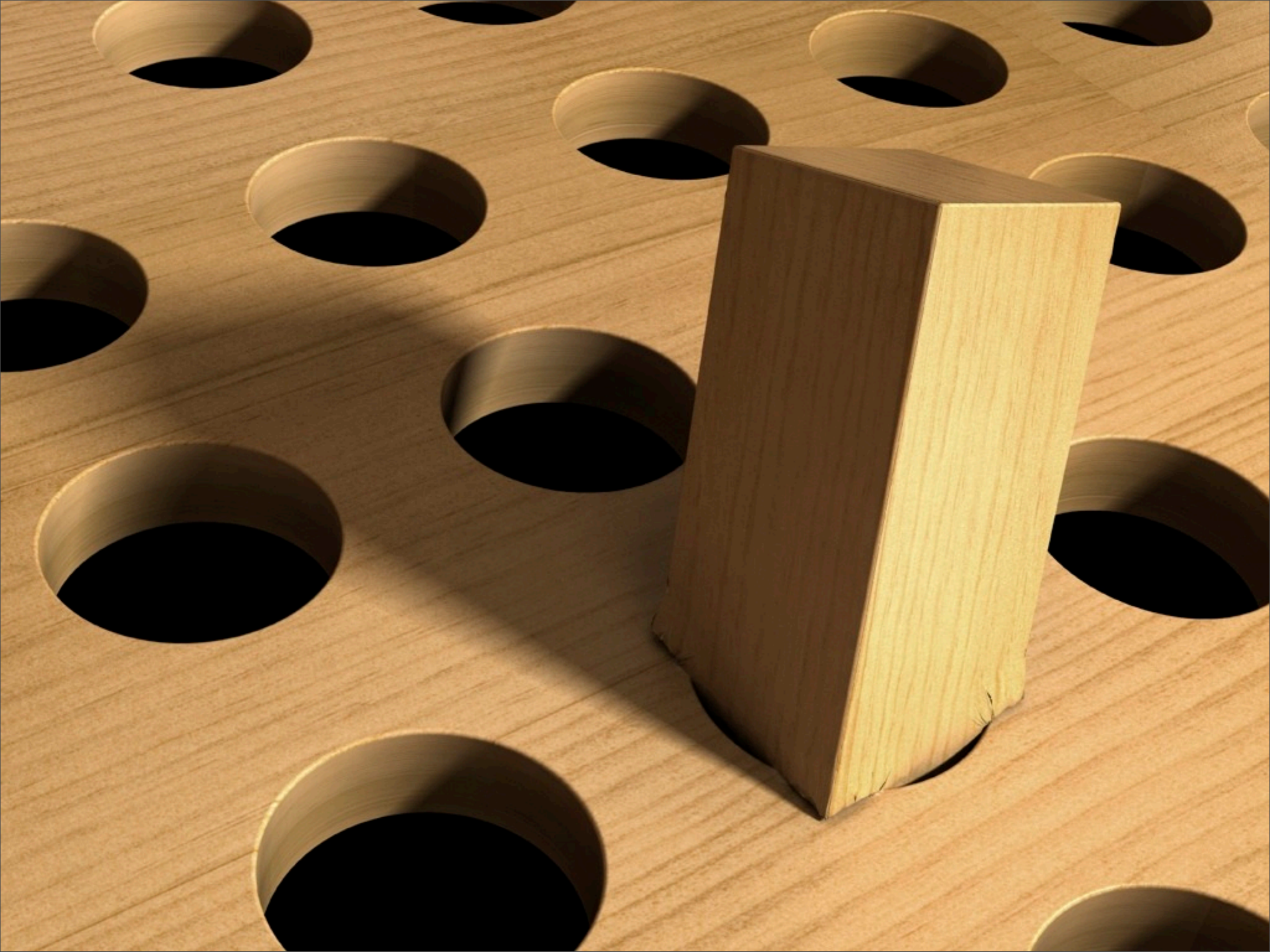
**Functionality:**



**Time/Effort:**







# 4. The Disillusioned Architect

“Some programmers, when faced with a problem, turn to a generic solution ... now they have two problems.”

(with apologies to Jamie Zawinski)

YAGNI

KISS

Working software

# 5. The “Wise” Architect

*Question:* \*

*Answer:* It depends.



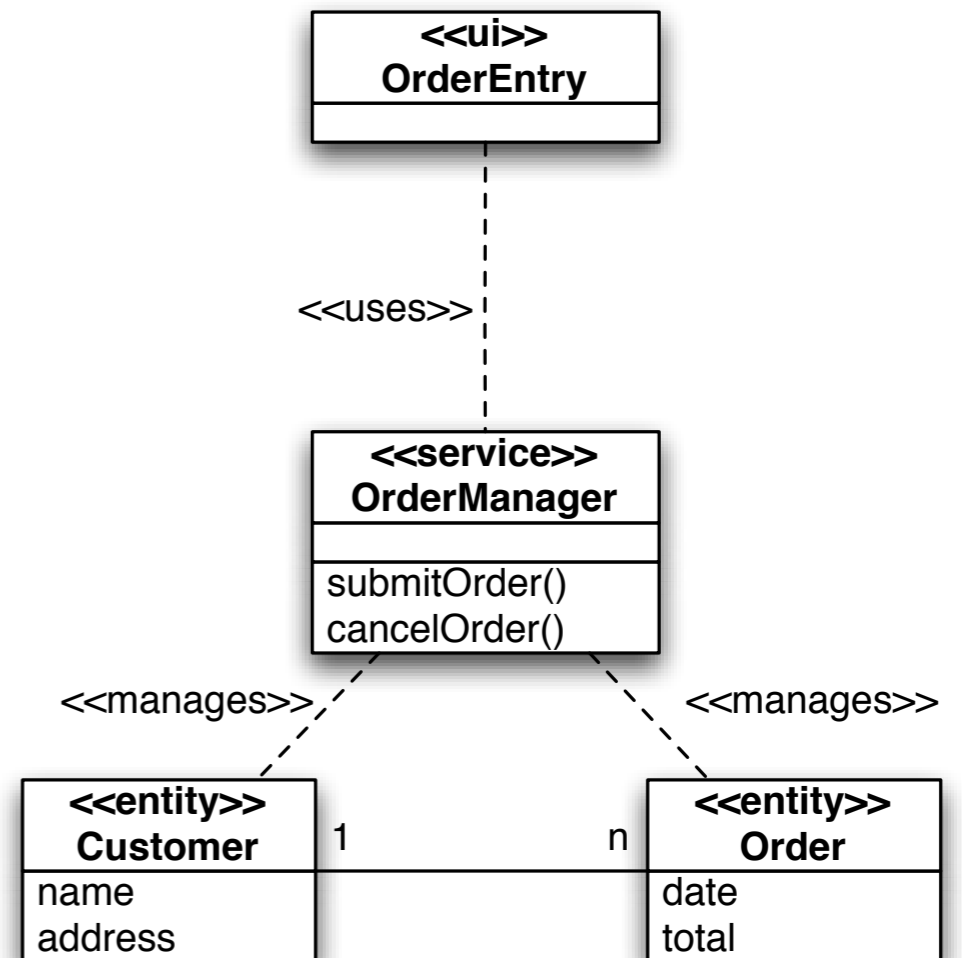
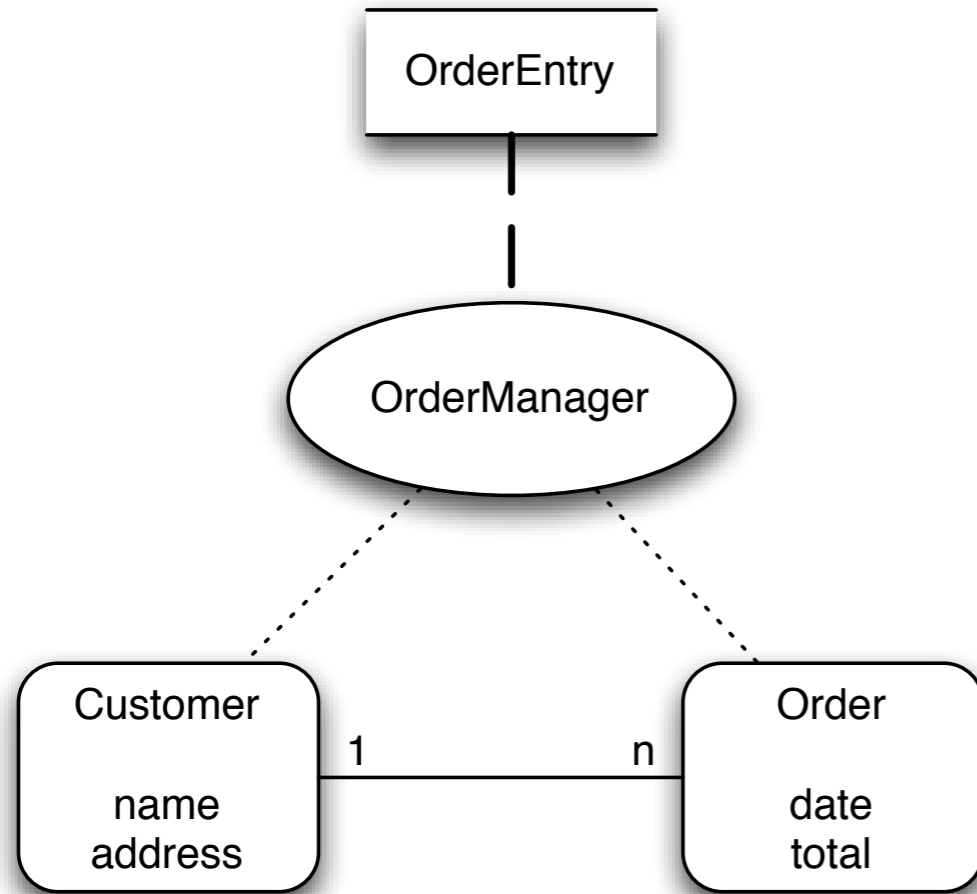
# Examples

# XML vs. HTML

```
<customer xmlns='http://example.com/schemas/crm'>  
  <id>4711</id>  
  <name>Schulze Systems AG</name>  
  <city>Ratingen</city>  
  <country>Germany</country>  
</customer>
```

```
<html>  
  <head>  
    <title>Customer Info</title>  
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8">  
  </head>  
  <body>  
    <div class="customer">  
      <span class="id">4711</span>  
      <span class="name">Schulze Systems AG</span>  
      <span class="city">Ratingen</span>  
      <span class="country">Germany</span>  
    </div>  
  </body>  
</html>
```

# DSM vs. UML



# External vs. Internal DSL

cancel:

transitions from submitted to cancelled,

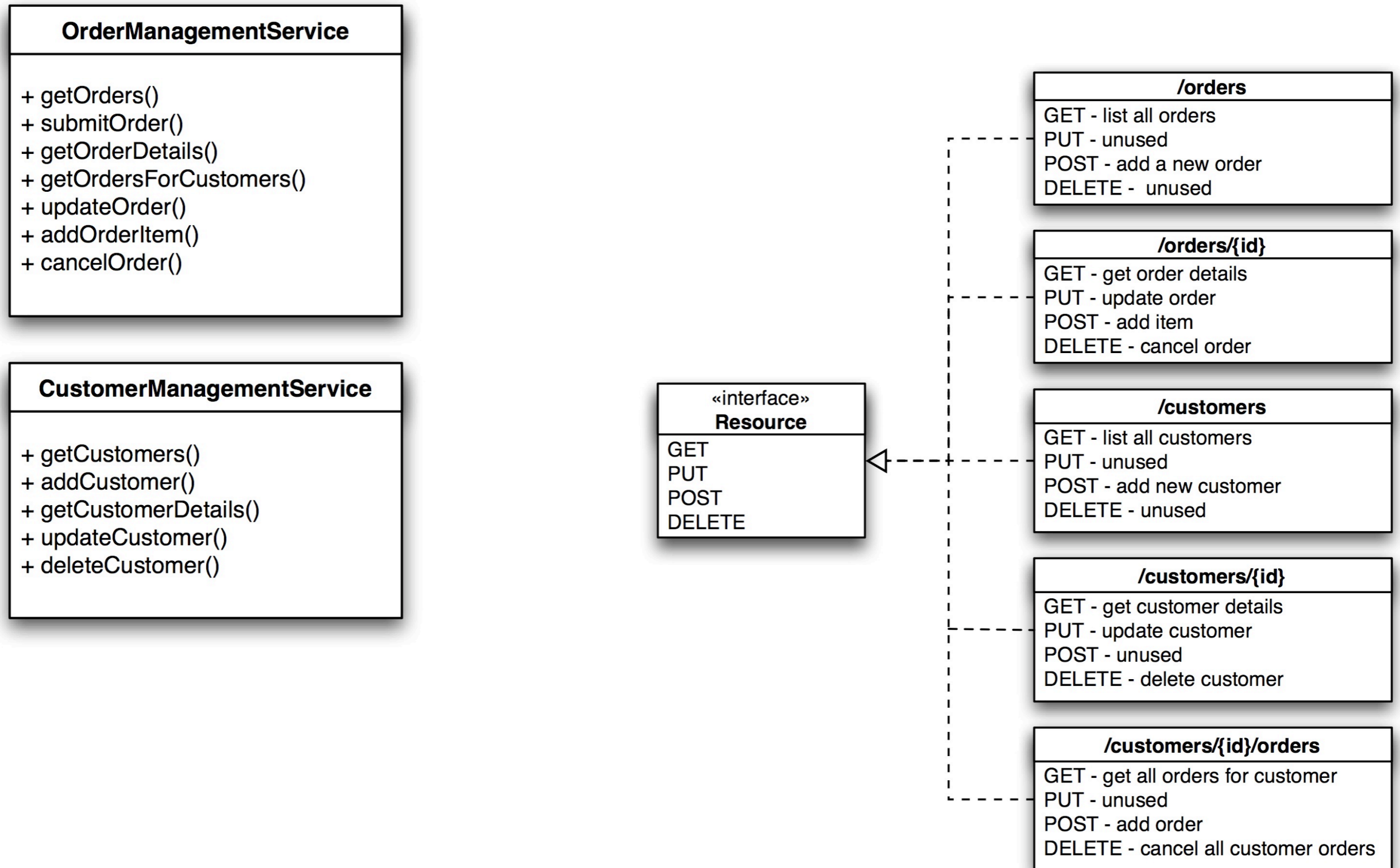
accept:

transitions from received to accepted,  
from checking to checked

```
event :cancel do
  transitions :from => :submitted, :to => :cancelled
end
```

```
event :accept do
  transitions :from => :received, :to => :accepted
  transitions :from => :checking, :to => :checked
end
```

# SOAP/WSDL vs. REST/HTTP



# HTTP Verbs vs. POST Tunneling

PUT /xyz HTTP/1.1  
<data>...</data>

POST /xyz HTTP/1.1  
<update><data>...</data></update>

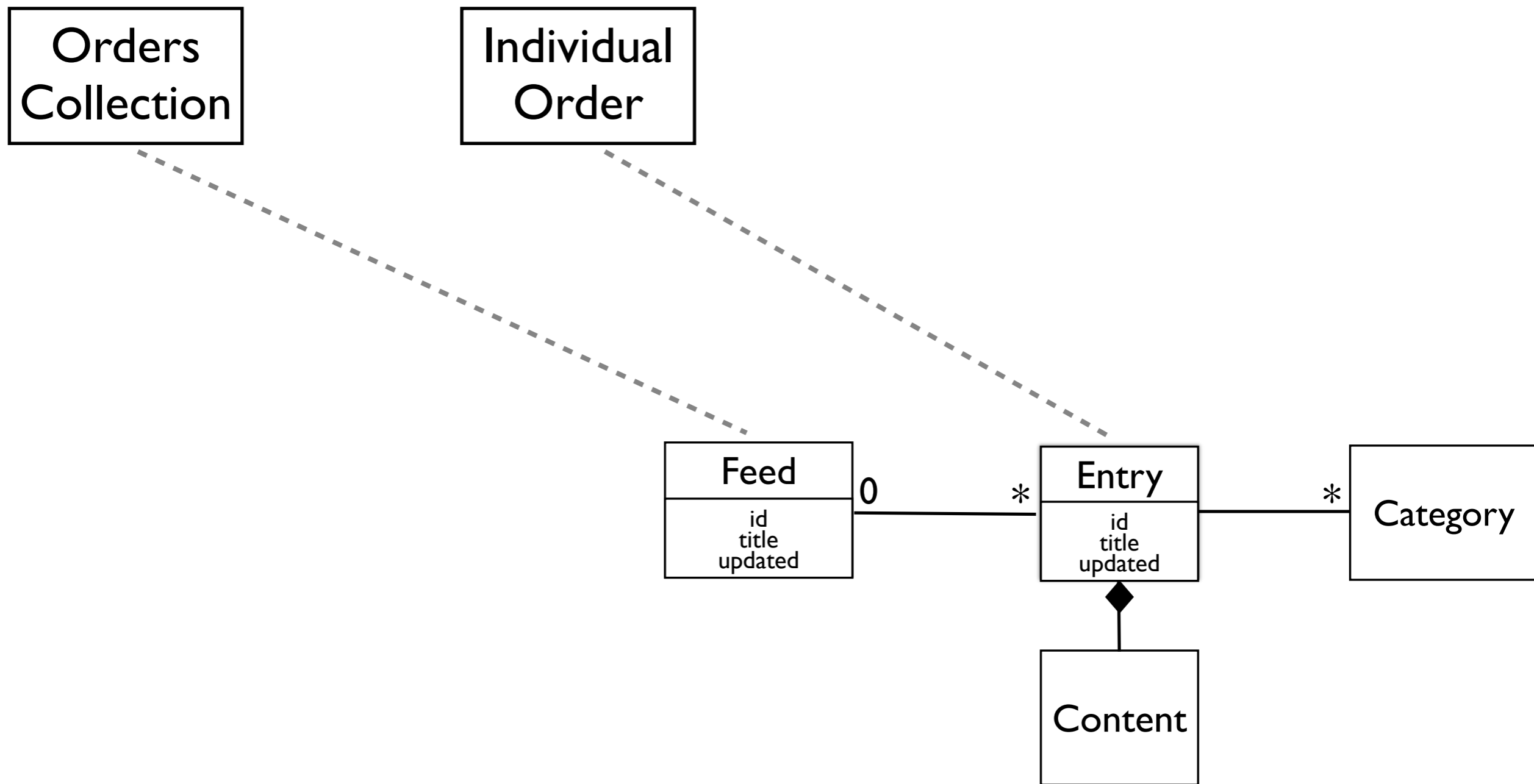
DELETE /xyz HTTP/1.1

POST /xyz HTTP/1.1  
<delete>...</delete>

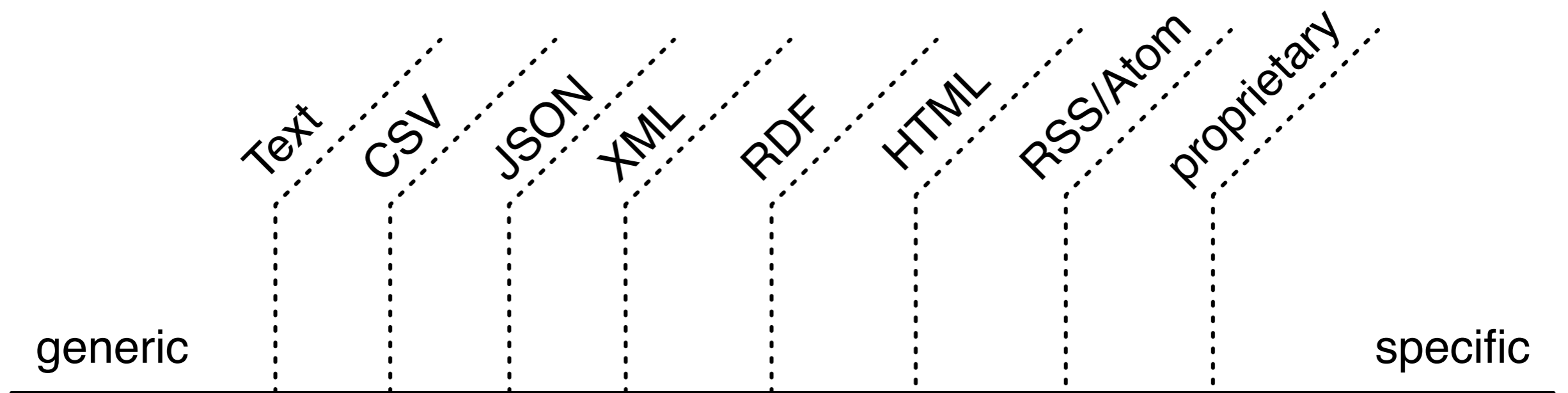
PATCH /xyz HTTP/1.1  
<diff>...</diff>

POST /xyz HTTP/1.1  
<diff>...</diff>

# Custom Protocol vs. AtomPub



# Formats Continuum





# RDBMS Tables vs. Metatables

## Customer

<b>id</b>	<b>name</b>	<b>address</b>	<b>status</b>

## Order

<b>id</b>	<b>date</b>	<b>amount</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>cust_id</b>

## Class

<b>id</b>	<b>name</b>
1	Customer
2	Order

## Attribute

<b>id</b>	<b>name</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>class_id</b>
1	cust_no	int	1
2			

# The List Goes on and on ...

Smalltalk Image vs. Filebased IDEs

Custom-built Web App vs. CMS

Custom Protocols vs. Standards

Maven vs. Ant (vs. scripts)

# Considerations

# Problem/Solution Congruence

# Ramp-up Cost

# Development Performance

# Runtime Performance

# Knowledge



# Skill

# Folklore

# Ecosystem

# XML

1. View it in tree rendering
2. Check for wellformedness
3. Run XSLT on it
4. Query with XPath
5. Process with XQuery
6. Validate against schema
7. Encrypt/Decrypt parts
8. Sign and verify signature
9. Archive it
10. Process w/ SAX/DOM

# HTTP & URIs

1. Embed links in representations
2. Drive application flow
3. Expose Multiple Representations
4. Use curl/wget
5. Control access
6. Get indexed by Google (public or appliance)
7. Bookmark or email Links
8. Redirect
9. Use 404, 412, 409
10. Use Caches

# SOAP/WSDL/WS-\*

1. ESBs
2. Platforms
3. Tooling
4. Intermediaries
5. Standard software
6. Mainstream choice
7. People
8. Politics
9. Hype
10. Job security

# RDBMS

1. Standard Query Language
2. Optimized access
3. Parallel processing
4. Scalability & Performance
5. Metadata management
6. Report generators & BI Tools
7. Hot backup
8. Portability
9. Program-independent storage
10. Caching

# Files

1. Search
2. Backup
3. Debug
4. Diff
5. Edit
6. Version control
7. Import/Export
8. Convert
9. Generate
10. Process



# UML

Concepts

Diagram types

CASE Tools

# DSM/DSL

Eclipse EMF/Xtext

MS SW Factories/Oslo

Jetbrains MPS

?

# Generic

Useful ecosystem

“Obvious” match

Existing skills

Static environment

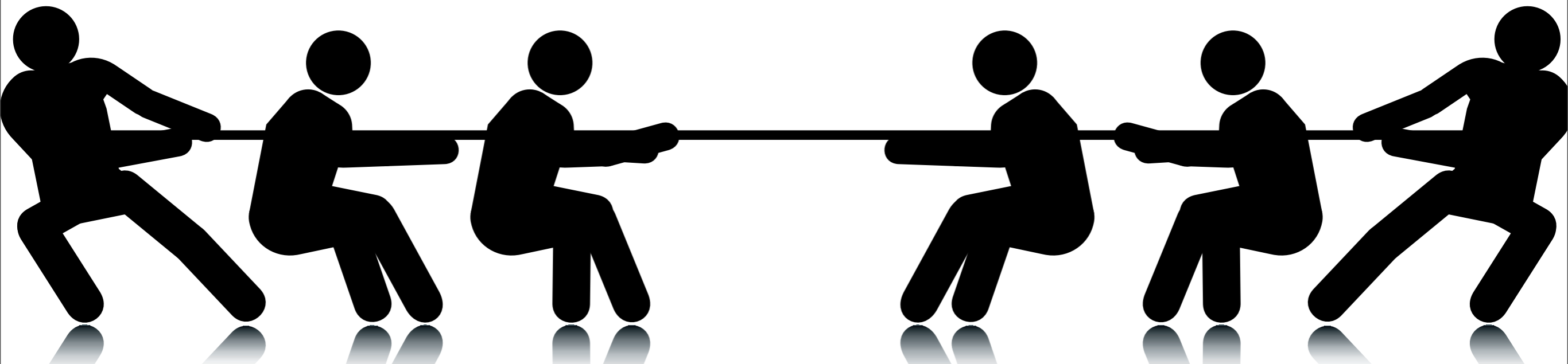
# Specific

Niche needs

“Unique” problem

Performance

Soft environment



# Q&A



**innoQ Deutschland GmbH**

Halskestr. 17

D-40880 Ratingen

Phone: +49 21 02 77 172-100

[www.innoq.com](http://www.innoq.com)   [info@innoq.com](mailto:info@innoq.com)

**innoQ Schweiz GmbH**

Gewerbestr. 11

CH-6630 Cham

Phone: +41 41 02 743 01 11

Stefan Tilkov

[stefan.tilkov@innoq.com](mailto:stefan.tilkov@innoq.com)

<http://www.innoq.com/blog/st/>

@stilkov

Phone: +49 170 471 2625