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Information Systems in the Telecommunication Industry

Enhanced Telecom Operations Map (eTOM)



Hochschule für Telekommunikation Leipzig (HfTL)

University of Applied Sciences, www.hft-leipzig.de/en.html



Agenda

- Today's Telecommunications Industry
- Business Process Framework (eTOM)
- Applying eTOM

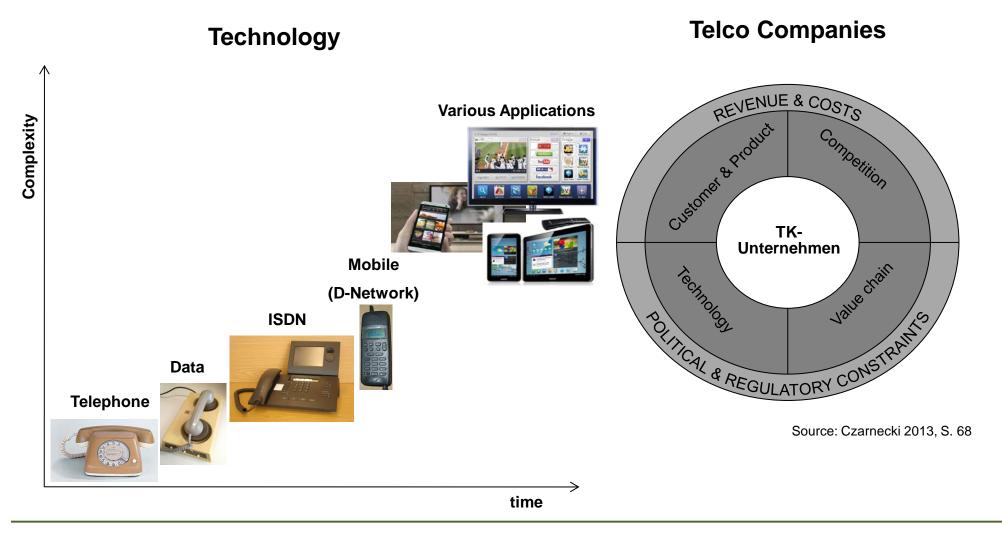


The Telecommunication Industry has changed!



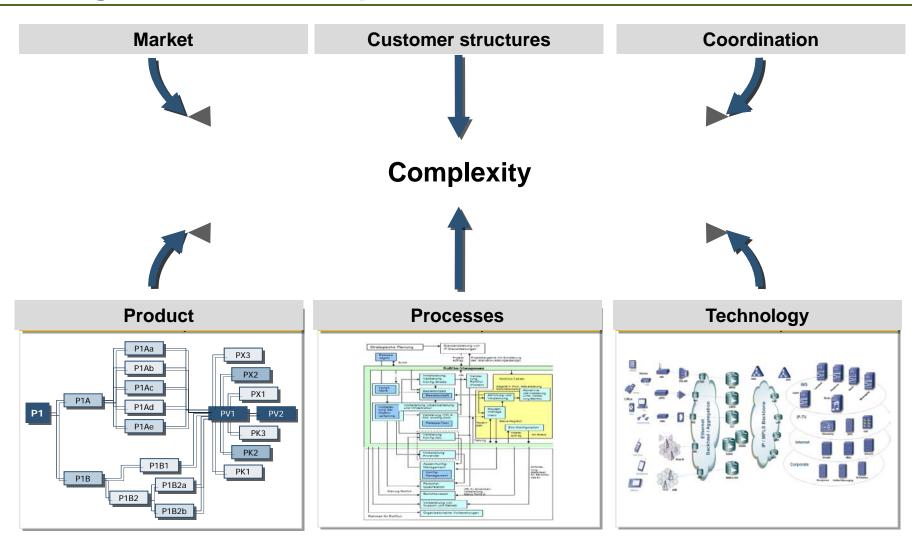


Changes of...





Challenges of Telco Companies



Source: Detecon

What can we learn from general production approaches?



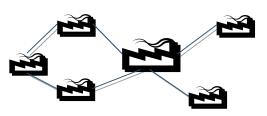
Typical general value chain:

Provisioning of production factors

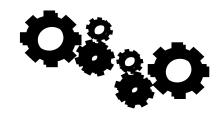
Composition of semifinished and finished products

Sales of products

Suppliers



Production

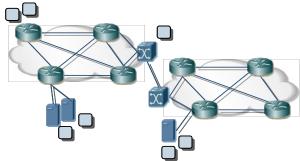


Sales

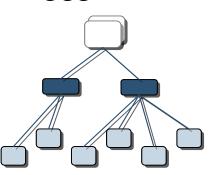


Telecommunication industry:

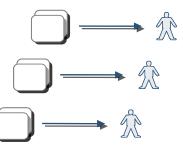
Network



OSS



BSS



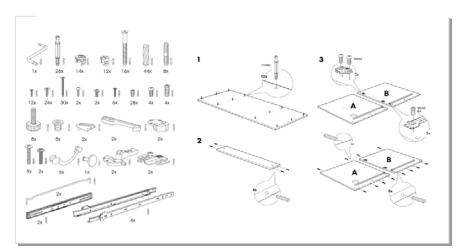
The production plan describes the activities to deliver a product.

Product catalogue

Production plan

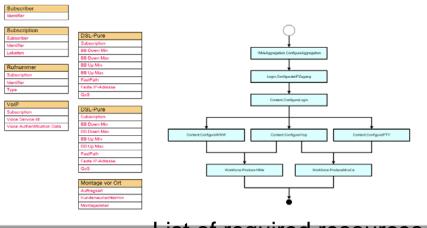


General Production



- Bill of material
- Construction plan
- Picking according to bill of material
- Production planning

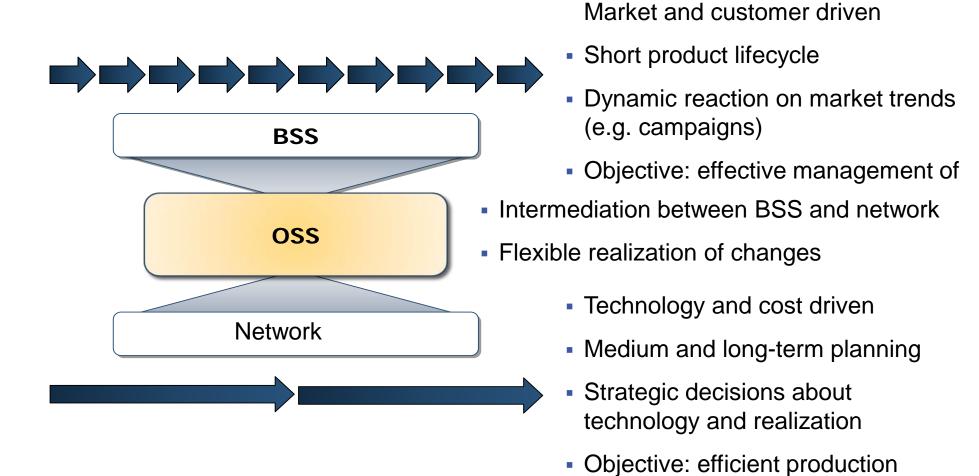
Telco Production



- List of required resources
- List of required activities (workflow)
- Reservation of resources
- Required manual activities
- Configuration and activation



Telco Applications – High-level Structure





From silo-oriented to integrated architecture

Silo-oriented Architecture Integrated Architecture ••• **T**••• Com• • T · · Mobile · · · **ERLEBEN, WAS VERBINDET, Process** Process **Process BSS** BSS **BSS** OSS OSS OSS Resource Resource Resource Resource Ressource



What is the TM Forum?

The TM Forum is an international association for telecom operations and systems. It has around 900 member companies in 95 countries encompassing the most important players in the whole telecom value chain. It has 3 primary roles:

Guidance/ Leadership –

Providing the telecom industry with a common language and ways of seeing things to reduce fragmentation to a minimum

- Best practices
- Frameworks
- Information
- Training
- Education
- Benchmarks

Standards -

Providing the telecom industry with standards to support cost savings during development and deployment

- Interfaces
- Contracts
- Data models
- Test specs and tools

Ecosystem -

Providing the telecom industry with a capability for networking, enabling business flow and ideas exchange through conferences, webinars and online information exchange



TM Forum Introduction

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_vveB-ruGU



TM Forum Reference Models – specific for telecommunication industry





■ Business Process Framework (eTOM)
the process reference model for both strategic and operational processes



■ Information Framework (SID)
a common reference model for enterprise information including entity relationship models



■ Application Framework (TAM)
a reference model that provides a common language to
describe systems and their functions, as well as a common way
of grouping them



■ Integration Framework delivers a service oriented integration approach with standardized interfaces and support tools





Statements from the market...

"eTOM standard is a key part of Deutsche Telekom's IT strategy, allowing us to reduce both risk and costs."

Steffen Roehn, former CIO, Deutsche Telekom



"The TM Forum standards (for processes & architecture) helped Vodafone to build a secure and flexible OSS, as well as a central provisioning strategy"

Albert Hitchcock, CIO, Vodafone Group

"Our new Business Process
Framework is an essential driver and key instrument for addressing our strategic goals, customer focus and operational excellence."

Mansoor Al-Khater, Executive Director Group Strategy, Qatar Telecom

"The TM Forum standardized processes and architecture definitions [...] enabled STC to jump directly to industry best practices for process implementation."

Maziad Al-Harbi, General Manager of the Network Services Solution, Saudi Telecom Company



Reference Model - Definitions

- "A reference model specifically: reference information model is an information model used for supporting the construction of other models." (Thomas 2006)
- "Reference models are information models that are developed with the goal of being reused for different, but similar purposes." (Becker et al. 2007)
- The construction and application of reference models is called reference modeling (Referenzmodellierung). (vom Brocke and Fettke 2012).

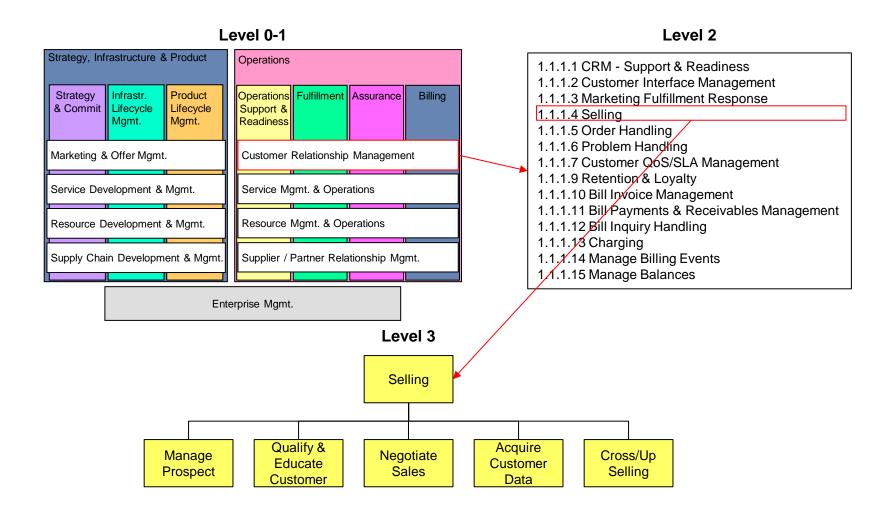


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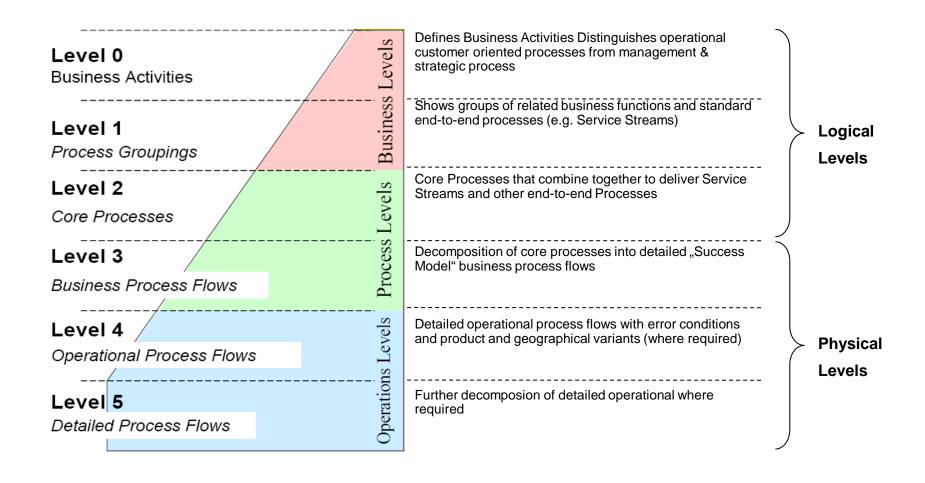
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eTOM is a collection of processes that can be decomposed on different levels of detail.





eTOM Decomposition





Entities as Structural Element

Entities

Market/Sales, Product and Customer]	Market/Sales supports marketing activities to customers and potent
] •]	Product is concerned products and information products lifecycle
Service	_ •	Customer is individua that obtain product from
Resource (Application, Computing and Network)	•	Service consists of informanage the definition operational aspects of
Supplier/Partner	•	Resource consist of in manage the definition operational aspects of as information and ap
Enterprise	•	Enterprise represents necessary to support

- rts sales and to gain business from ntial customers
- d with the lifecycle of ation related to
- als or organizations rom an enterprise
- nformation used to n, development and of services provided
- information used to n, development and of network, as well pplication resources
- ts information t the overall business



eTOM - Conceptual View (Level 0)

eTOM's Three Major Process Areas

Customer Strategy, Infrastructure **Operations** & Product - covering the core of operational - covering planning and management lifecycle management (associated with devolpment and delivery) Supplier/ Partner **Enterprise Management** - covering corporate or business support management Other

Remarks

- The Framework differentiates
 Strategy and Lifecycle Processes
 (SIP) from the Operations
 Processes in two large process
 areas
- They are differentiated because, unlike Operations, SIP Processes do not directly support the customer, are intrinsically different from the Operations Processes and work on different business time cycles
- The third major process area is concerned with management of the enterprise itself
- There are different internal and external entities that interact with the enterprise, as shown in the figure

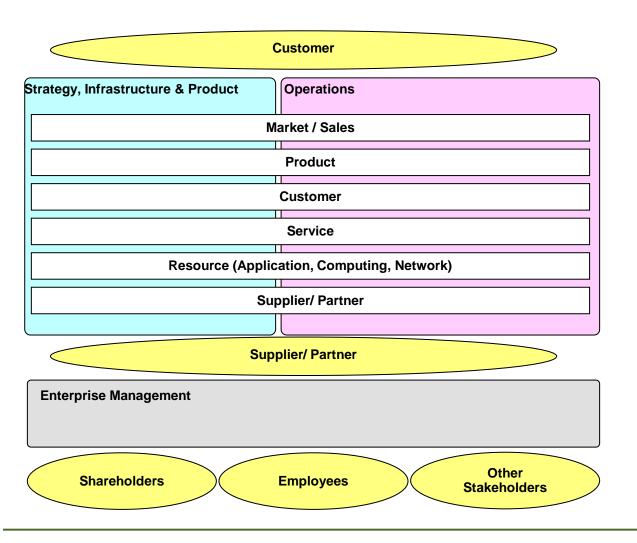
Employees

Stakeholders

Shareholders



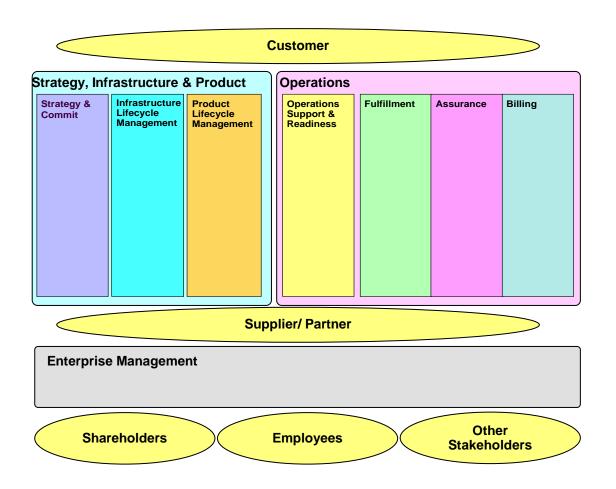
eTOM - Horizontal Level 1 Process Groupings



- Functionally-related processes within the business are e.g. those involved in managing contact with the customer or in managing the supply chain
- This structuring by horizontal functional process groupings is useful to those who are responsible for creating the capability that enables, supports or automates the processes
- The horizontal functional process groupings can therefore often represent the CIO's view of the eTOM framework



eTOM - Vertical Level 1 Process Groupings



- End-to-end Processes are e.g. those involved in the overall billing flows to customers
- This end-to-end view is important to those people who are responsible for changing, operating and managing end-to-end processes
- These processes tend to span organization boundaries, and so the end-end effectiveness of theses processes is an area of concern to senior management and particularly the CEO
- The vertical process groupings therefore often represent the CEO's view of the eTOM framework



SIP - Vertical Level 1 Process Groupings

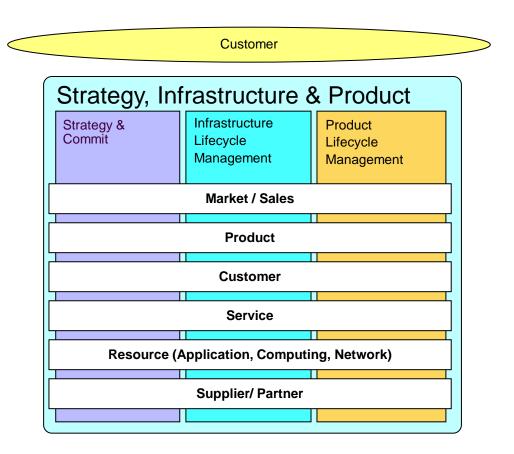
Strategy, Infrastructure & Product Strategy & Infrastructure Product Commit Lifecycle Lifecycle Management Management

Customer

- Strategy & Commit is responsible for the generation of strategies in support of the Infrastructure & Product Lifecycle processes. It is also responsible for establishing business commitment within the enterprise to support these strategies
- Lifecycle Mmgt. drive and enable core operations and customer processes to meet market demand and customer expectations
- Infrastructure Lifecycle Mgmt. Is responsible for the definition, planning and implementation of all infrastructures and business capabilities and Product Lifecycle Mgmt. for products in the enterprise portfolio

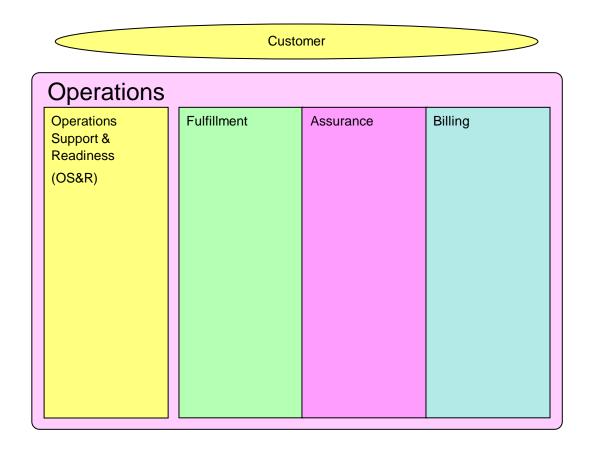


SIP - Level 0-1





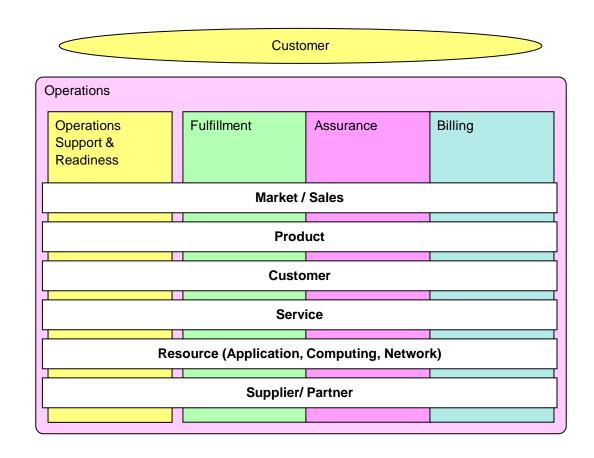
Operations – Vertical Level 1 Process Groupings



- Fulfillment is responsible for providing customers with their requested products in a timely and correct manner
- Assurance is responsible for the execution of pro- & reactive maintenance activities to ensure that services provided to customers are available and performing to performance levels
- Billing is responsible for the collection of appropriate usage records, production of bills, for providing pre-bill use information and billing to customers and performing payment collections
- OS& R is responsible for providing management, logistics & administrative support to FAB

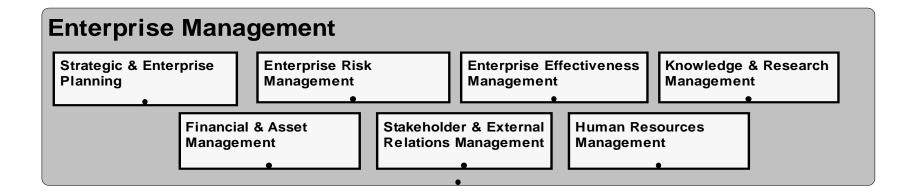


Operations – Level 0-1





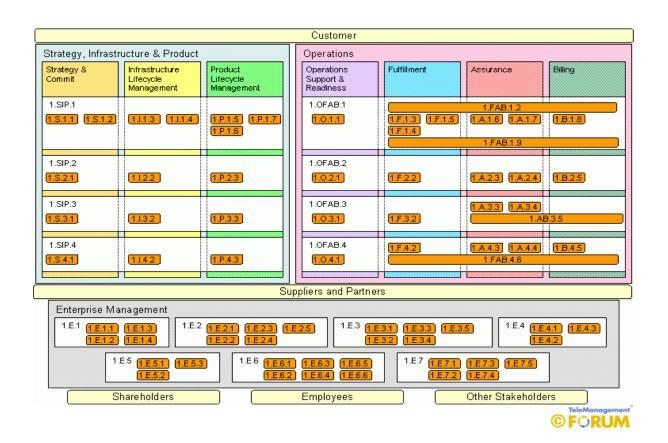
eTOM – Enterprise Management



- Setting and achieving strategic corporate goals and objectives
- Provide support services required by the entire business
- May interface with many strategic, infrastructure and operational processes



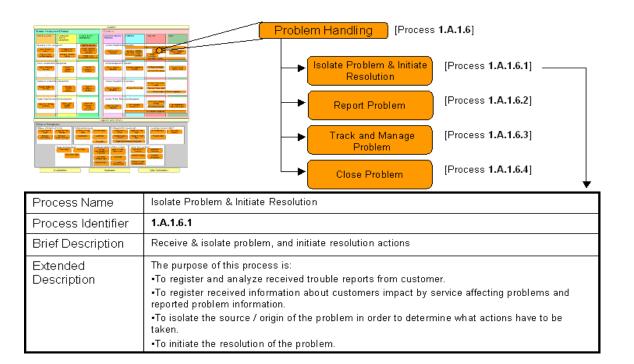
Process Decomposition – Level 2



- The level 2 business processes are derived from the logical intersection of process areas (columns) and functional process structures (rows).
- Process flows can be developed at level 2.
- Examples of level 2 processes:
 - Customer Interface Management
 - Selling
 - Order Handling
 - Problem Handling



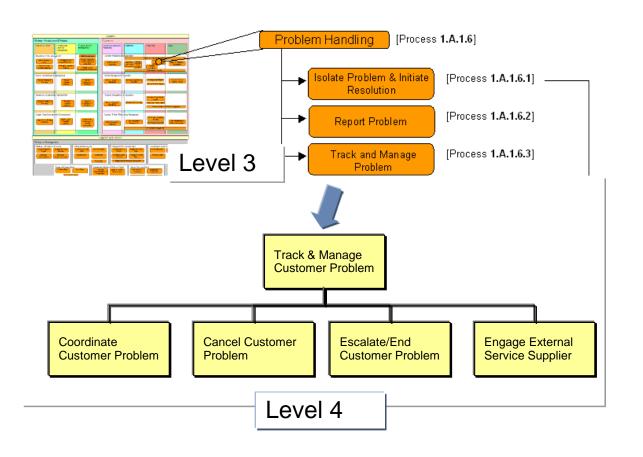
Process Decomposition – Level 3



- The level 3 processes into which a level 2 process decomposes represent individual tasks that manage the lifecycle of the business entities.
- The diagram depicts an example of a level 3 process.
- The eTOM level 2 process "Problem Handling" is decomposed into its sub processes: "Isolate Problem & Initiate Resolution", "Report Problem", "Track and Manage Problem" and "Close Problem".
- Process flows can be developed at Level 3.



Process Decomposition – Level 4

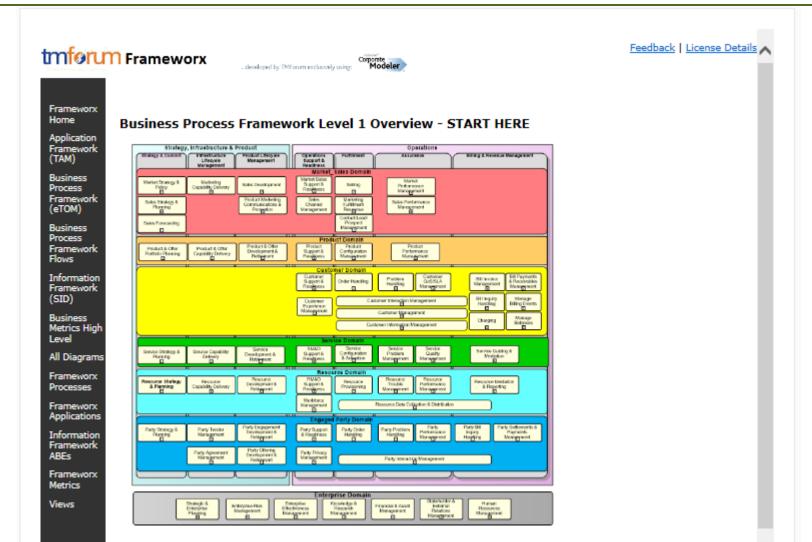


- The level 4 processes into which a level 3 process decomposes represent individual tasks that manage the lifecycle of the business entities.
- The diagram depicts an example of a level 4 process.
- The eTOM level 3 process "Track and Manage Problem " is decomposed into its sub processes: "Coordinate Customer Problem", "Cancel Customer Problem" and "Engage External Service Supplier
- Level 4 are described in GB 921 DX





Online Resources



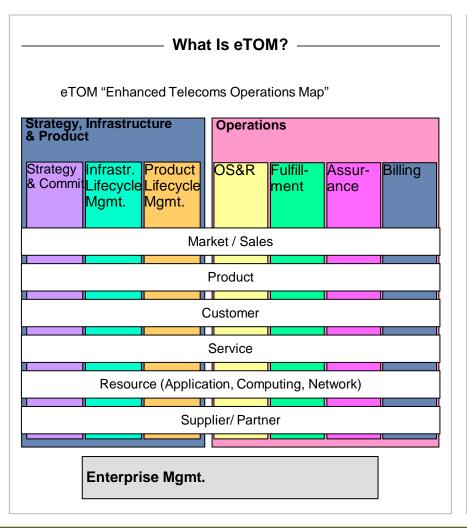


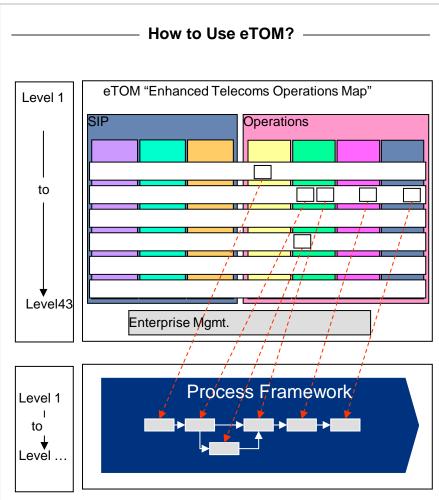
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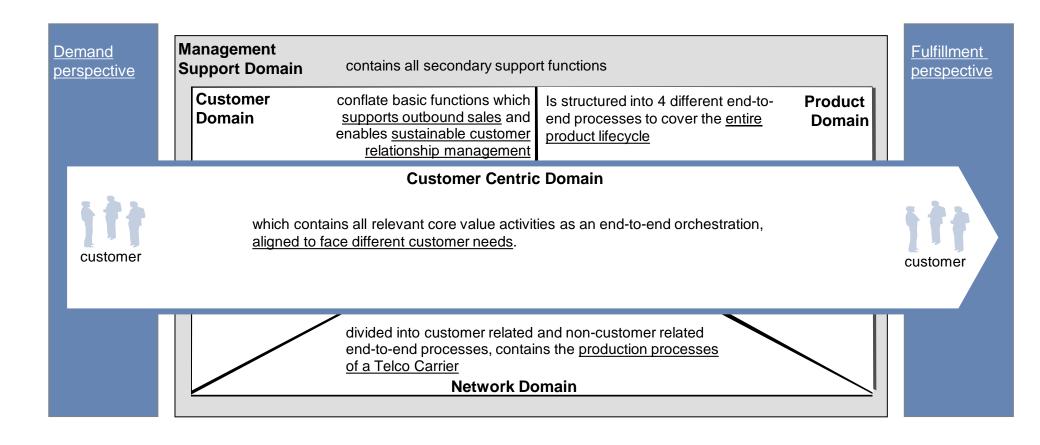
How to use eTOM?





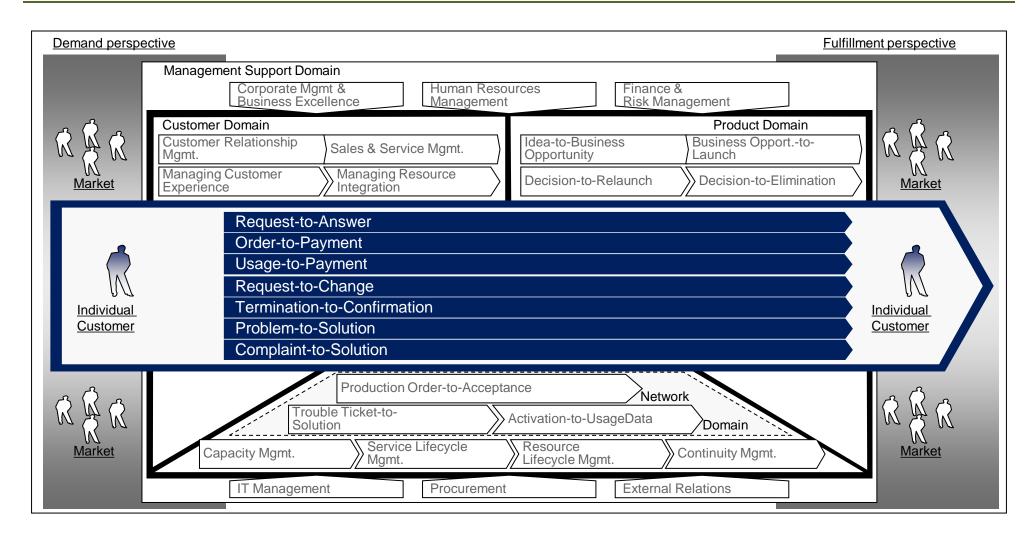


Reference Process Flows (Level 0)





Reference Process Flows (Level 1)

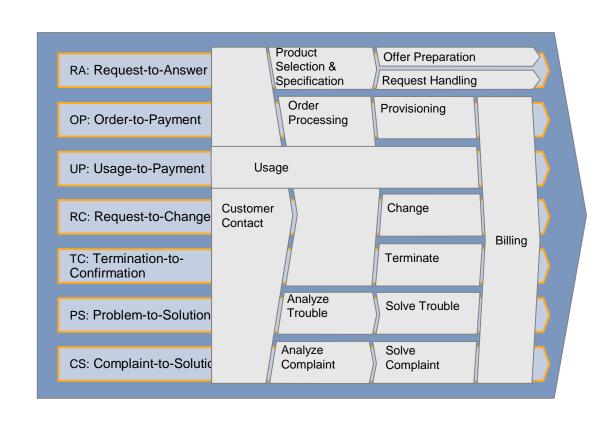


Source: Detecon



Customer-centric Process Domain – Level 1-2







The process "Order-to-Payment" contains the customer interaction order to billing.



Tasks

- Handle customer contract
- Handle customer data
- Handle customer order
- Check creditworthiness
- Order monitoring
- Check order entry
- Initiation of production order
- Convert the customer interaction
- Consider service / resource / supplier partner layer
- Testing of services and resources
- Activation of products
- Trigger to start data collection for billing
- · Generate & provide invoice
- Trigger to start ongoing operation
- Order splitting
- Trigger to perform cross- or up-selling activities

Order-to-Payment

Input

- Accepted offer
- Contract
- Inventory information
- Customer data
- Product elements, their relations and constraints
- Suppliers, distributors, subcontractors, etc. (SLAs)

Output

- Invoice
- Ready for service confirmation
- Hardware, firmware, software
- Order confirmation

Critical Issues

- Rework rate
- Short cycle time between contract closure and service usage (Time to Customer (TTC))
- In-time delivery of different product elements
- Time of order handling
- Ability to offer seamless services

- Reliability
- Availability of relevant resources (e.g. services, CPE, field service rep, partners)

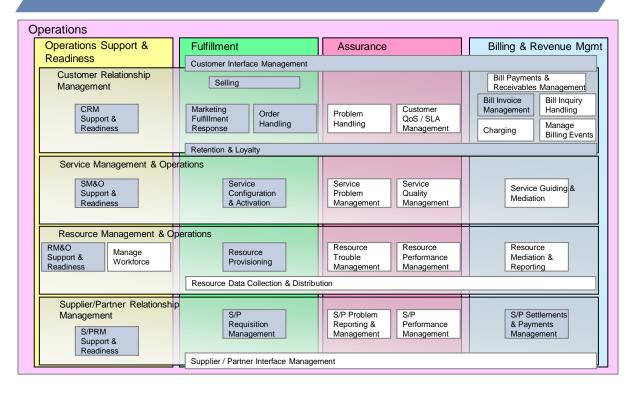


Order-to-Payment – Level 2

eTOM Level2

- 1.1.1.1 CRM Support & Readiness
- 1.1.1.2 Customer Interface Management
- 1.1.1.3 Marketing Fulfillment Response
- 1.1.1.4 Selling
- 1.1.1.5 Order Handling
- 1.1.1.9 Retention & Loyalty
- 1.1.1.10 Bill Invoice Mgmt
- 1.1.2.1 SM&O Support & Readiness
- 1.1.2.2 Service Configuration
 & Activation
- 1.1.3.1 RM&O Support & Readiness
- 1.1.3.2 Resource Provisioning
- 1.1.4.1 S/PRM Support & Readiness
- 1.1.4.2 S/P Requisition Management
- 1.1.4.5 S/P Settlements & Payments Management

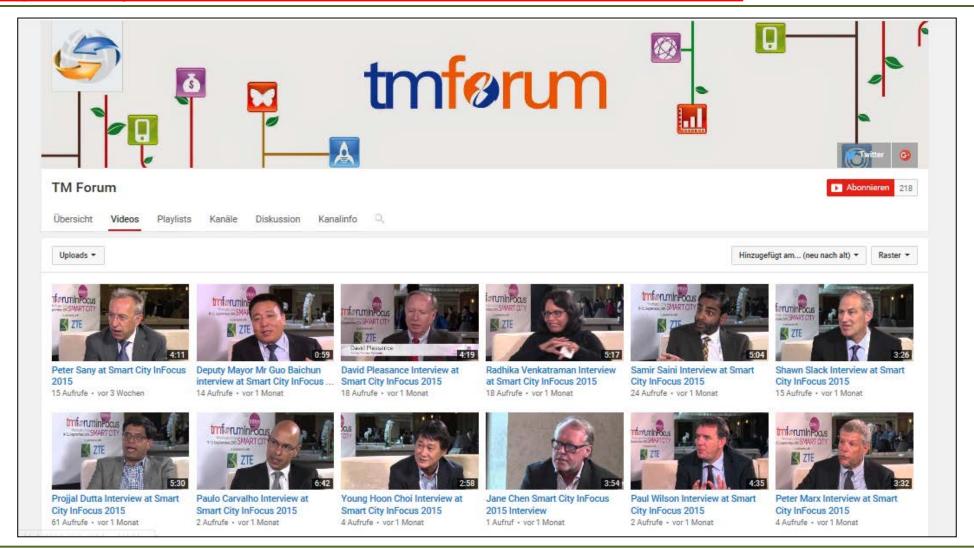
Order-to-Payment



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TM Forum YouTube Channel:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLKFQ99UR0KRtF3BTQzurOw





eTOM – Recommended Literature

BISE - RESEARCH PAPER

Reference Process Flows for Telecommunication Companies

An Extension of the eTOM Model

New business models, innovative services and technologies require transformations in the telecommunication industry. With the Enhanced Telecom Operation Map (eTOM), the TM Forum offers a recognized reference process model for telecommunication companies. However, eTOM only offers a hierarchical collection of processes on different levels of abstraction. In this paper, we extend the eTOM model by reference process flows. We offer a control view in terms of a sequential ordering of tasks and hence a real process flow. This provides an end-to-end view on the customer. Furthermore we show how the reference process flows assist companies towards a structured and transparent re-design of their processes. Our results have been accepted and published as standard by the TM Forum.

DOI 10.1007/s12599-013-0250-z



Czarnecki C, Winkelmann A, Spiliopoulou M (2013b) Reference Process Flows for Telecommunication Companies: An Extension of the eTOM Model. Business & Information Systems Engineering 5:83–96.



Further Literature

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