



# INCOSE UK Chapter Rail Interest Group

## Interface Management - the Neglected Orphan of Systems Engineering

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Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, London  
1700H Doors open, 1730H-1830H Event

*Every Interface is an opportunity to lose information, time, control and / or money through contention between stakeholders at either end, particularly in system integration. There are many issues surrounding Interface management, which are relatively unexplored in the engineering literature. Interface management is perceived as a critical skill in the engineering of successful systems, but finding useful material on the subject proves elusive. It is not that there is a gap in the collective Body of Knowledge (BoK) – but there is definitely a gap in the documented BoK. This paper explores some of the characteristics of this gap, and strings together some of the key concepts in best practice. Along the way, the differences between best practice for interfaces and best perceived practice for architecting systems are noted, and recommendations for changes in approach are given. The presentation is illustrated with a non-software, rail-oriented example.*

*Paul Davies is semi-retired, and was previously the Discipline Manager for Systems Engineering at Network Rail Infrastructure Projects. In that role he was responsible for promoting improvements in process and in practitioner competence in all aspects of systems engineering. Prior to this, he worked for Thales UK, with nearly thirty years' experience in SE research, innovations management, SE functional leadership, project engineering management, systems integration and (a long time ago) mathematical modelling and performance analysis. To prevent boredom in retirement, Paul delivers consultancy and training in all aspects of Systems Engineering, part-time. Paul has run training courses in requirements and in interface management in particular, and has been a popular presenter and tutorial lead at many INCOSE events, both in the UK and internationally.*

**The meeting will take place at the UCL Bloomsbury campus at the Malet Place Engineering Building, Room 1.20, Malet Place, WC1E 6BT. Please check in at reception where a list of attendees is provided.**



**There is no charge for attendance and the event is open to non-members but places must be booked in advance. To book, obtain directions or to ask any other questions, please contact RIG Organiser, Mike Morua on [m.morua@fnc.co.uk](mailto:m.morua@fnc.co.uk) or 07763 455171. Please let me know of any special requirements.**

*The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) is an international professional society for systems engineers whose mission is to foster the definition, understanding, and practice of world-class systems engineering in industry, academia, and government*

*The INCOSE UK Rail Interest Group has been formed:*

- *To provide a forum for those interested in Systems Engineering in rail to network in a less formal environment, to exchange good practice and to provide mutual support in an area which can require some sustained perseverance;*
- *To promote, improve and share the practice of Systems Engineering within the rail industry;*
- *To foster connections with other professional bodies within rail and thereby promote cross fertilisation of knowledge and experience across sectors and community disciplines; and*
- *To promote awareness of INCOSE UK and encourage membership within the rail industry.*

*For further information about the RIG, see [www.incoseonline.org.uk](http://www.incoseonline.org.uk) and follow the 'Groups' link.*