Pursuing Value-Infused Design thru Thriving Systems Theory

Projecting the choice properties of Thriving Systems Theory onto the entire design cycle of models and systems

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The value we experience in systems is the reflection of our intentions that we perceive in the artifact. That value is achieved in the alignment of our intentions with the properties of the artifact. We perceive value in an object's design (noun). We achieve value by faithfully infusing our intentions in the object's design (verb.)

A system thrives when it promotes the unfolding of the choices that support and align with the stakeholders' current intentions; and it promotes the unfolding of those intentions through the conceptual clarity and efficiency with which it represents them.

The fifteen choice properties of system quality can be perceived in information system artifacts, but can also be instilled and strengthened through the enlightened application of the ontology and vocabulary that defines the nature of the system domain. The confluence of the properties inform the experience of value, quality, in the artifact.

Christopher Alexander’s properties of order in nature

A Special Ontology
of Design

Thriving Systems Choice Properties Conflate as Design Qualities

Since 2010, Les Waguespack in partnership with Bill Schiano and David Yates continues exploring the question of a fundamental, universal, underlying theory of systems quality. The work thus far has matched the choice properties of Thriving Systems Theory to object-oriented modeling, relational data modeling, and explained the extraordinary success and resilience of the Apache web server. Since then we’ve explored the architectural qualities of agile project management methodologies (i.e. SCRUM), system security and the design implications of the choice properties on the perceived quality of management information systems.

The successful extension of Thriving Systems Theory’s aesthetic characteristics of quality to these broader domains of information systems leads us to try more systems paradigms as a way to investigate quality in those domains and to further substantiate and refine the underlying Thriving Systems Theory.


