

12 Oct 2018

## What is a model? What is modeling?



I have been wracking my brain trying to work out what is it that I see that so many others do not. It suddenly dawned on me that I probably see models & modeling completely differently to anyone else.

Now that I have published my post on '[questions](#)' perhaps it is time for me to ask:

- 1) What is a model?
- 2) What is modelling?

My answers are

- 1) A model is a logical representation of real (or imagined) objects.
- 2) Modeling is the art (or science) of using logical constructs to demonstrate how the parts of the real (or imagined) object fits together in order to build a real life replica built to some scale

Using these answers, how do you model?:

- 1) A business
- 2) Data
- 3) A concept
- 4) A system
- 5) Simply put: How do you model anything if you do not know what the 'thing' is you are thinking about?

If you think, then you will have to use brain storming to model the 'thing'. This will take too long & require multiple iterations. So the next best thing is to know what you are thinking about. For example: How does Nature know that the model of the oak tree is contained within the DNA of the acorn? The answer is Nature knows the constructs of both the acorn & the oak tree & is capable of mapping the two to show the transition from one to the other (system mapping).

So what are the constructs needed to model anything?

My answer is: Knowing what:

- 1) A Hierarchy is
- 2) A Network is
- 3) Mutually inclusion is – the logical AND
- 4) Mutually exclusion is – the Logical OR

Regards

Ps on my courses I show how these 4 simple constructs can be used to build any conceptual model (the idea of the oak tree and the acorn) and map all the corresponding parts to a logical model and then to build the physical model ensuring that the physical model perfectly represents the conceptual & logical models with no transmogrification.

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