

ANSA Update

The future for Open Distributed Processing

Rob van der Linden
rvdl@ansa.co.uk



“Traditional ODP”

- ISO RM-ODP is in place
 - active liaison with OMG
- OMG CORBA thrives
 - vendors have a hard time keeping up
 - take up is still slow
 - Telecom industry take up
- OSF DCE
 - all but abandoned by vendors
 - few installations - little impact



Desktop

- Opendoc has all but disappeared
 - Componentware idea still attractive
- OLE has been replaced by ActiveX
 - but many applications cannot use it



The new Inter-Intranet era

- WWW expands
 - but largely static page transfers
 - CGI - CORBA dynamics
- Java is new kid on the block
 - but mobile code is a security risk
 - APIs are complicated and still incomplete
- Netscape, SUN and Microsoft are the main players
 - will they remainalone?



Java



Risks for the service provider

One platform does not fit all

- diverse networks, multi-platforms
- CORBA
- ActiveX
- Java VM

Programming remains difficult

- traditional languages C/C++
- Visual Basic
- Java
- complicated APIs



Flexibility and Simplicity



How?

- Concentrate on interworking
 - leads to many custom solutions
 - does not solve the programming bottleneck



- Apply distributed systems principles:

One size does not fit all

Abstract and automate



ANSA's way forward

- Plug and play objects
- Introduce autobuilders / configuration tools
- Extend the modularity idea into the platform itself

vendor neutral

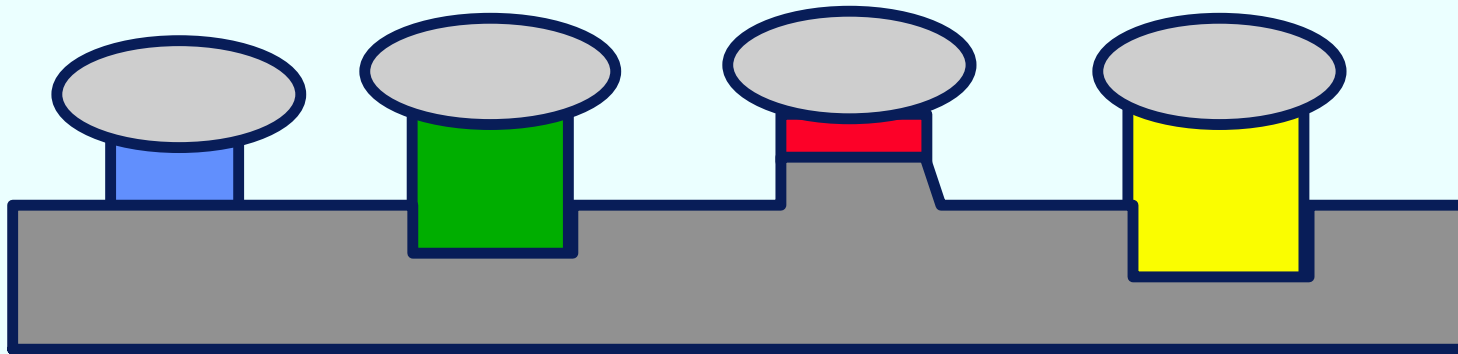


Benefits

- ANSA members:
 - Well known techniques (well known to us!)
 - Rapid implementation and demonstration
 - Lead the market - de-jure standards are dead !
 - Let our sponsors leap-frog their competition
- Service providers:
 - Rapid service provision
 - Low overhead in (re-)configuration
- Compatible with legacy



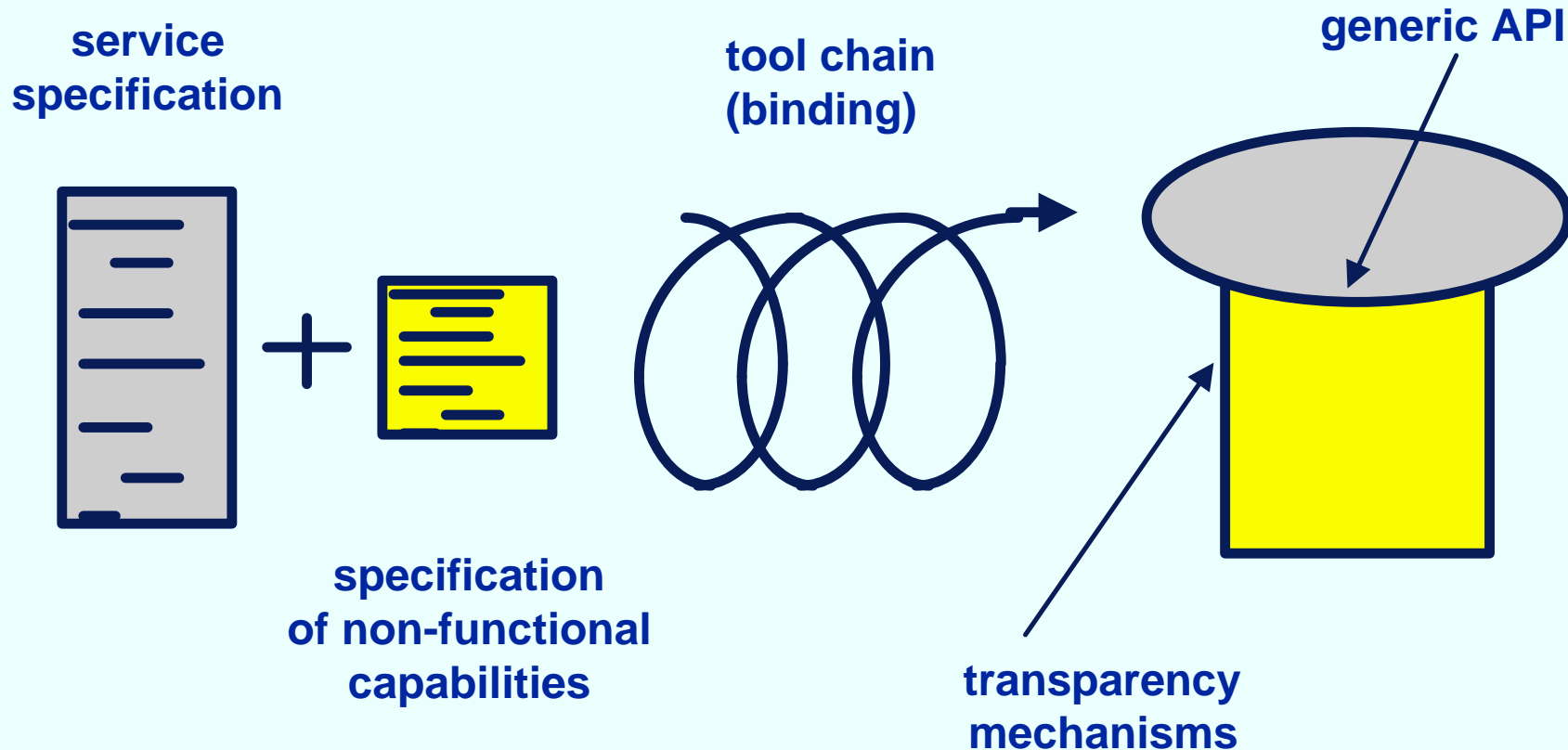
One size does not fit all



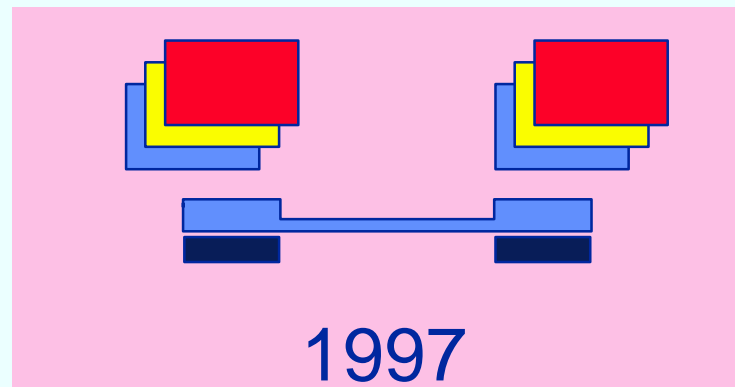
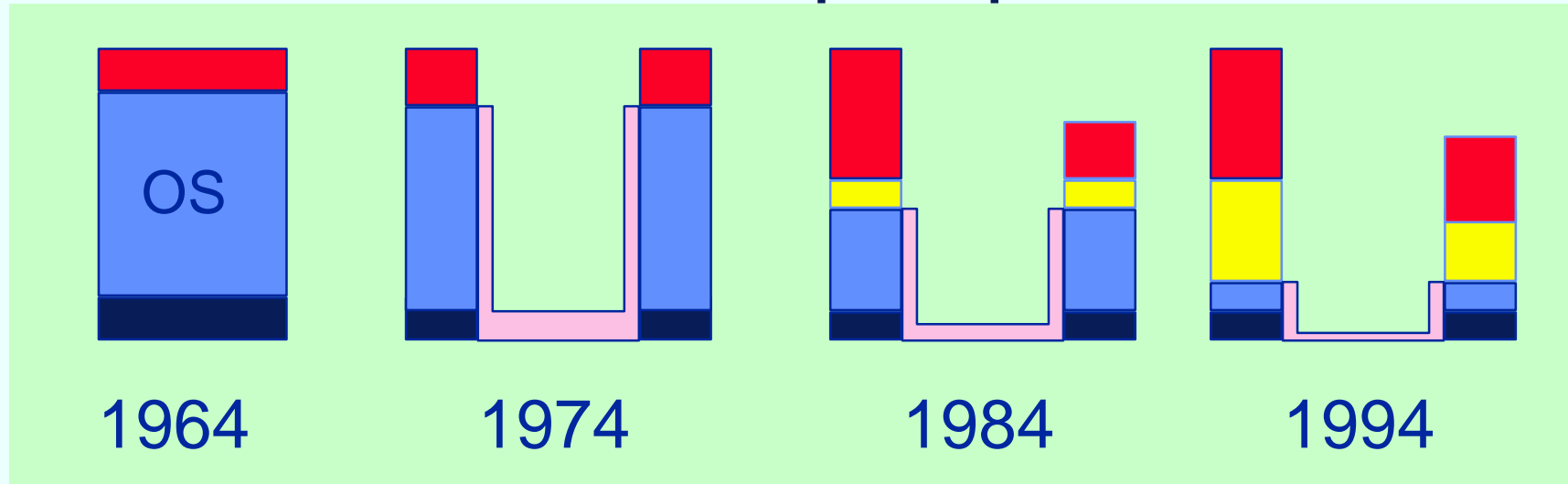
- Applications have diverse requirements
 - real time, transactions, security
- Platforms are diverse
 - diverse networks, ATM, ISDN, TCP



Abstract and Automate



An historical perspective



FlexiNet

Can we build a completely soft, dynamically
upgradable network
in which applications can deliver diverse
quality of service

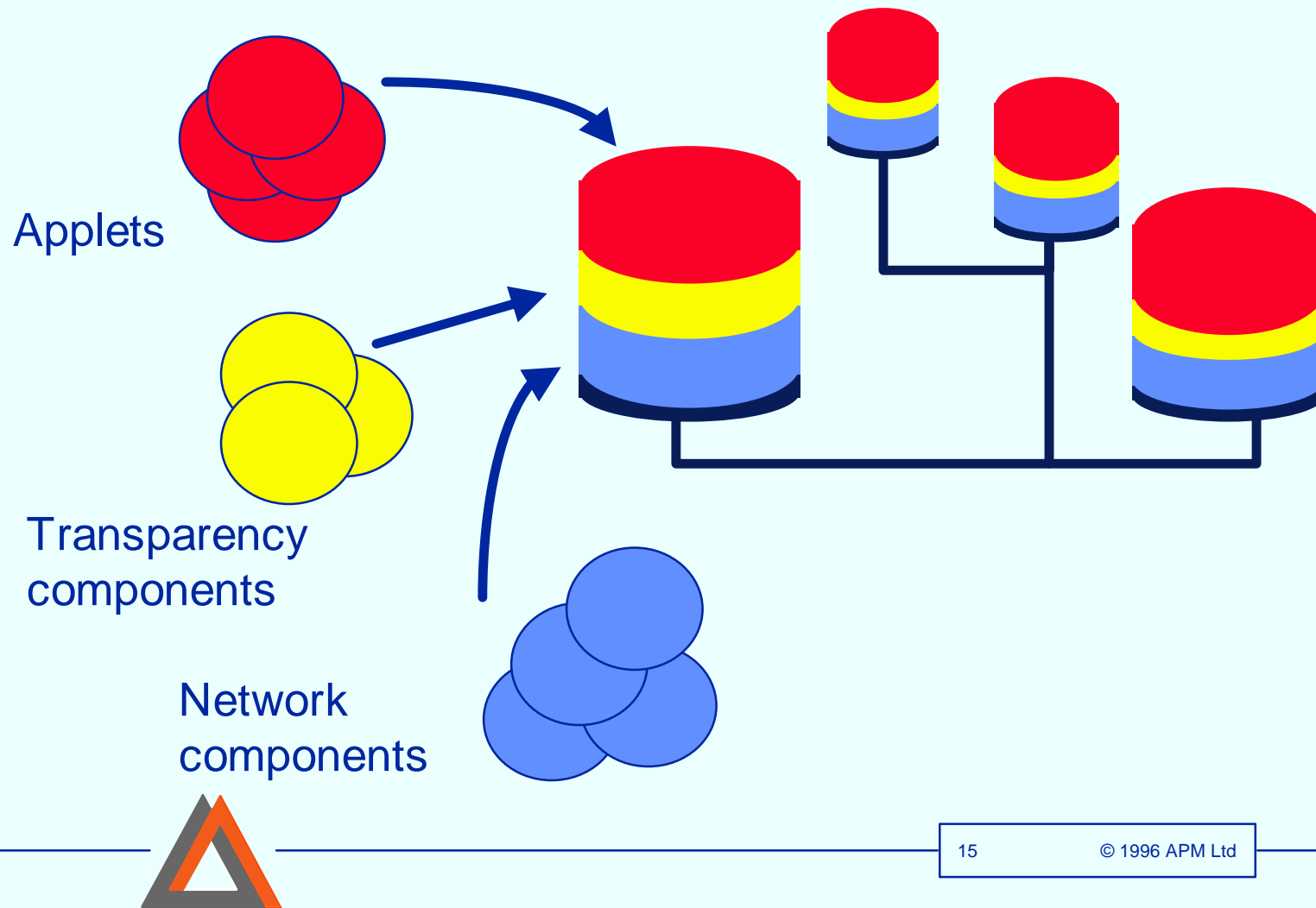


Reflective Java

Can we write an (Java) application once,
run it anytime, anywhere, in any
environment, with any non-functional
capability, offering different quality of
service in different circumstances



FlexiNet + Reflective Java



Programme

- **Reflective Java**
- **FlexiNet**
 - what comes after TINA
 - Telecoms, Internet convergence
- **Puppies**
 - *personal, mobile, information space*
 - what comes after WWW
 - “follow me” network desktop



ANSA '97

- We tackle
 - the rigidity of networks and protocols
 - the complexity of programming
 - the cost of re-configuration
- We build real prototypes to prove our findings

One does not fit all
Abstract and Automate
Prove it works

FlexiNet
Reflective Java
Puppies

