The Structured Information Problem

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Mission-Critical Information

- Structured information Artifacts coordinate operations across distributed organizations
- Fields represent requests, obligations, allocations, status, and authority
- Structure determines how Data is organized and constrained
- Semantics establishes the meaning of the information
- Interpretation applies rules, Policies, and reasoning to produce operational outcomes

From Paper to Digital Systems

- Paper forms combined visible Structure with established doctrine and human Interpretation
- Digital systems embedded Structure, Semantics, and Interpretation in software and Data Models
- Automation improved speed, consistency, scalability, and operational reach
- Implementation choices became intertwined with governed information

The Result

- Definitions and rules evolve unevenly across Systems
- Interpretive Authority becomes difficult to identify
- Outcomes depend on particular implementations and versions
- Reproducing an earlier decision becomes increasingly difficult
- Cross-boundary interoperability requires costly custom integration

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