

CIPS Core BOK

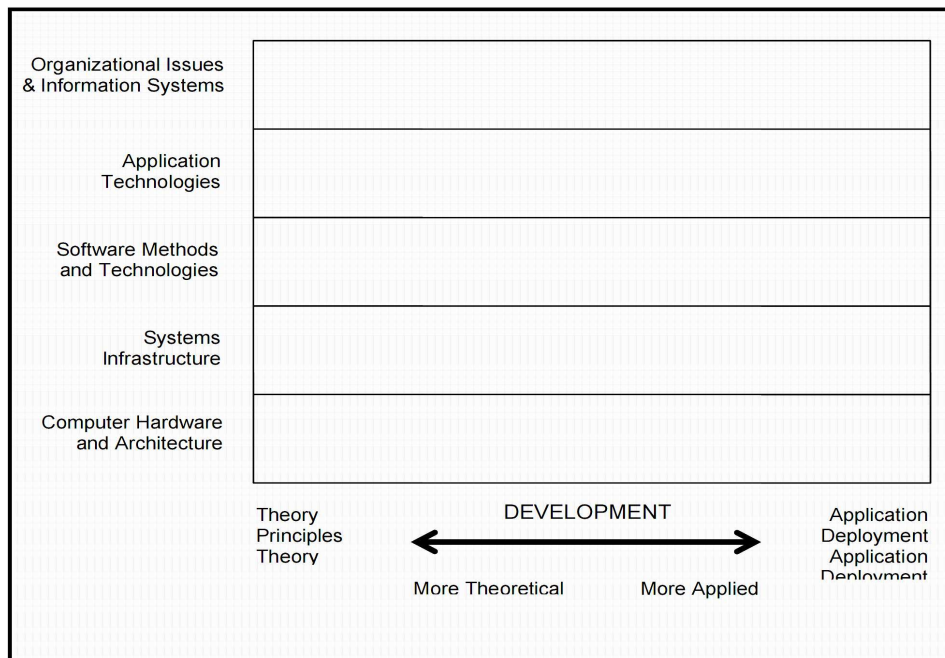
Is the CIPS Core BOK an empty set? The answer will depend on how the terms get defined. Let us define the Core BOK as the intersection of the BOKs for all types and kinds of computing professionals. This would, presumably, include qualified graduates of degree programs in: Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology, and Information Systems. There are established degree programs in all five areas, and a generally accepted understanding of the material to be covered in each of these programs.

The ACM and IEEE-CS cooperatively developed “Computing Curricula 2005” (published in 2006). They reviewed the degree programs in those five areas and provided a summary of the material to be covered by each such program. Their conclusion is that there is very little necessary overlap between Computing Engineering and Information Systems. Graduates will be working in quite different environments and require quite different knowledge and skills in order to succeed.

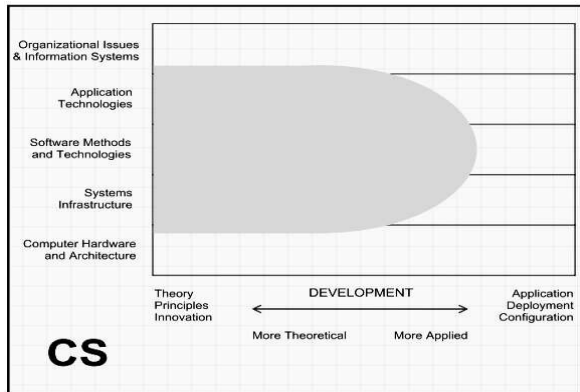
If CIPS includes a BOK for Computer Engineering and a BOK for Information Systems within its definition of a Core BOK, then the CIPS Core BOK is practically empty.

The only path to a non-empty Core BOK is to restrict the range of BOKs which are to be intersected to form the Core BOK. Following this path, there will be some valid computing professionals’ BOKs that are not to be included. Let us proceed by excluded Computer Engineering and Information Systems. In graphical terms, CC2005 implicitly provides a representation for the resulting three-way intersection

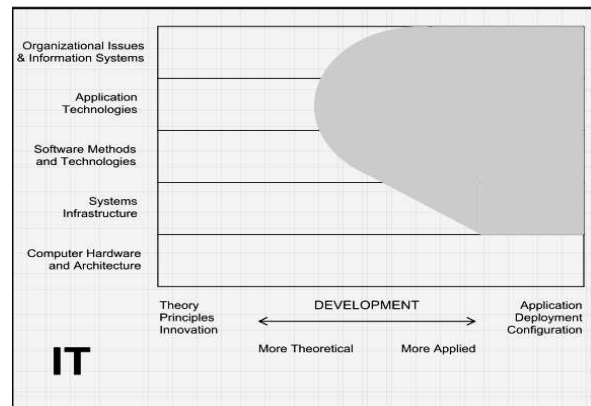
Start with the broad (undergraduate) computing “problem space”:



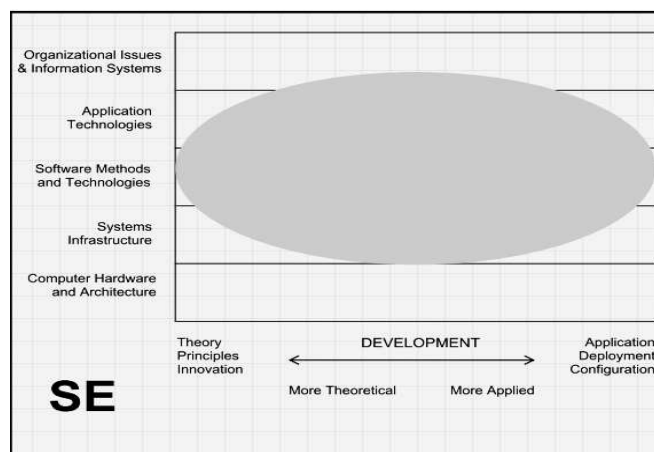
Computer Science covers:



Information Technology covers:



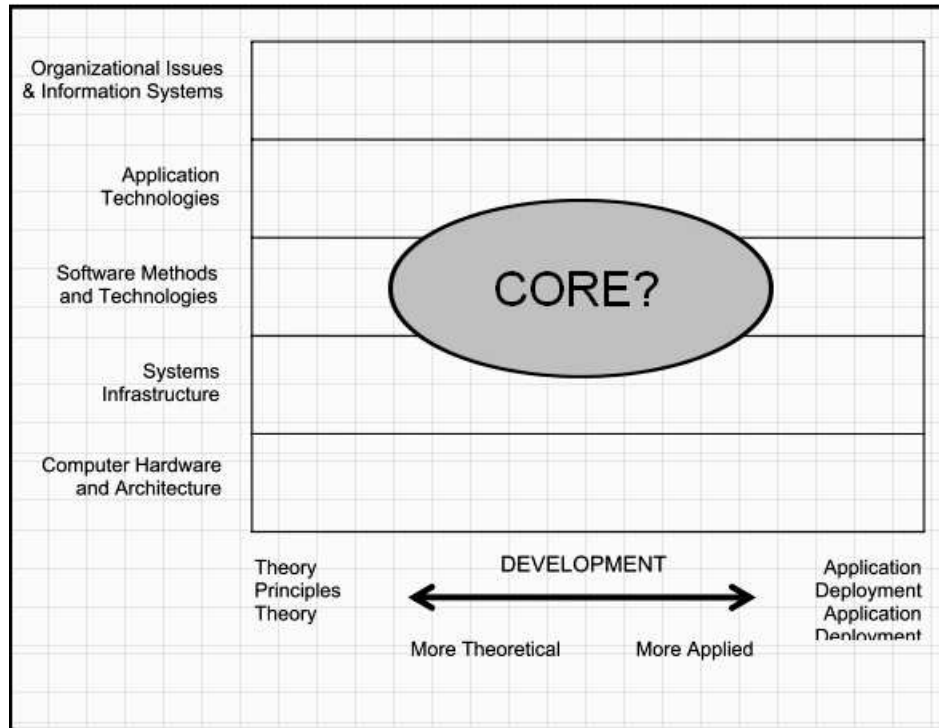
and Software Engineering covers:



There is a “core”, centered on Software Methods and Technologies, with some coverage in Application Technologies and in Systems Infrastructure. This core material is neither purely

theoretical, nor purely practical, rather a mid-level treatment that pays some attention to both theory and practice.

The following could be a graphical representation for the resulting CIPS Core BOK:



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