



# Center of Excellence Framework

A new approach on an old story.

Hans Skalle & David Zimmerman | Splunk Business Value & Customer Success

27 Sept 2017 | Washington, DC

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# Why a Splunk CoE?

# What We've Learned

Value

- Ad Hoc usage
- Few standards
- Data onboarding inconsistency
- Minimal reuse across teams
- Skills gaps
- Uncertain value

Value  
Realization  
Profile

Time

# What We've Learned

Using best practices early to accelerate customer value and success

Value

- Actively looks for new value drivers
- Tracks benefit realization
- Effectively manages the platform
- Manages user and data onboarding, license use
- Skill-building matches deployment
- Active executive sponsorship

Accelerated Value Realization Profile

Greater Value

Time

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130.60.4 - [07/Jan 18:10:57:153] "GET /category.screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SD5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=view&itemId=EST-6&product_id=FI-5W-01"
128.241.220.82 - [07/Jan 18:10:57:123] "GET /product.screen?product_id=FL-DSH-01&JSESSIONID=SD5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=changequantity&itemId=EST-1B&product_id=AV-CB-01&JSESSIONID=SD5L9FF1ADFF3"
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itemId=EST-16&product_id=RP-LI-02" 468 125.17 14 "GET /category.screen?category_id=FLOWERS&JSESSIONID=SD5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 3865 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=remove&itemId=EST-1"
do?action=purchase&is.com/ol
```

# When does a CoE Add Value?

A CoE can help reduce complexity and cost through best practices and reuse

- Growing number of users, user types
- Growing number of use cases
- Multiple deployments, geographies
- Higher data volumes

Initial Use Case,  
Single Instance

Workgroup,  
Multiple Use Cases

Enterprise  
Deployment

Expansion,  
Distributed  
Deployment

See Splunk Whitepaper: [Building a Splunk Center of Excellence, 2017](#)

# When does a CoE Add Value?

A CoE can help reduce complexity and cost through best practices and reuse

Get started early! Lay the foundation with CoE tools and best practices.

Initial Use Case, Single Instance

Workgroup, Multiple Use Cases

Expansion, Distributed Deployment

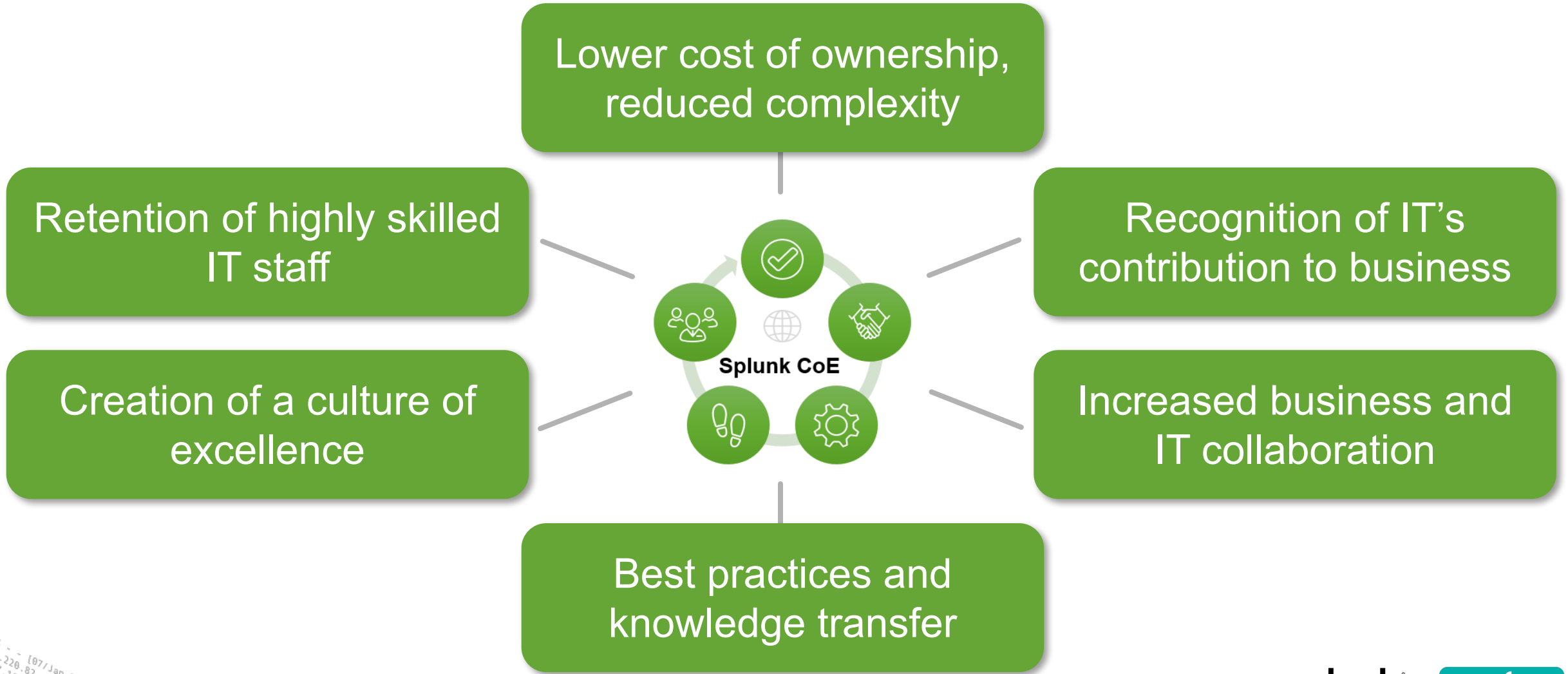
Enterprise Deployment



See Splunk Whitepaper: [Building a Splunk Center of Excellence, 2017](#)

# Why a Splunk CoE?

## The benefits of CoE best practices



See Splunk Whitepaper: [Building a Splunk Center of Excellence, 2017](#)



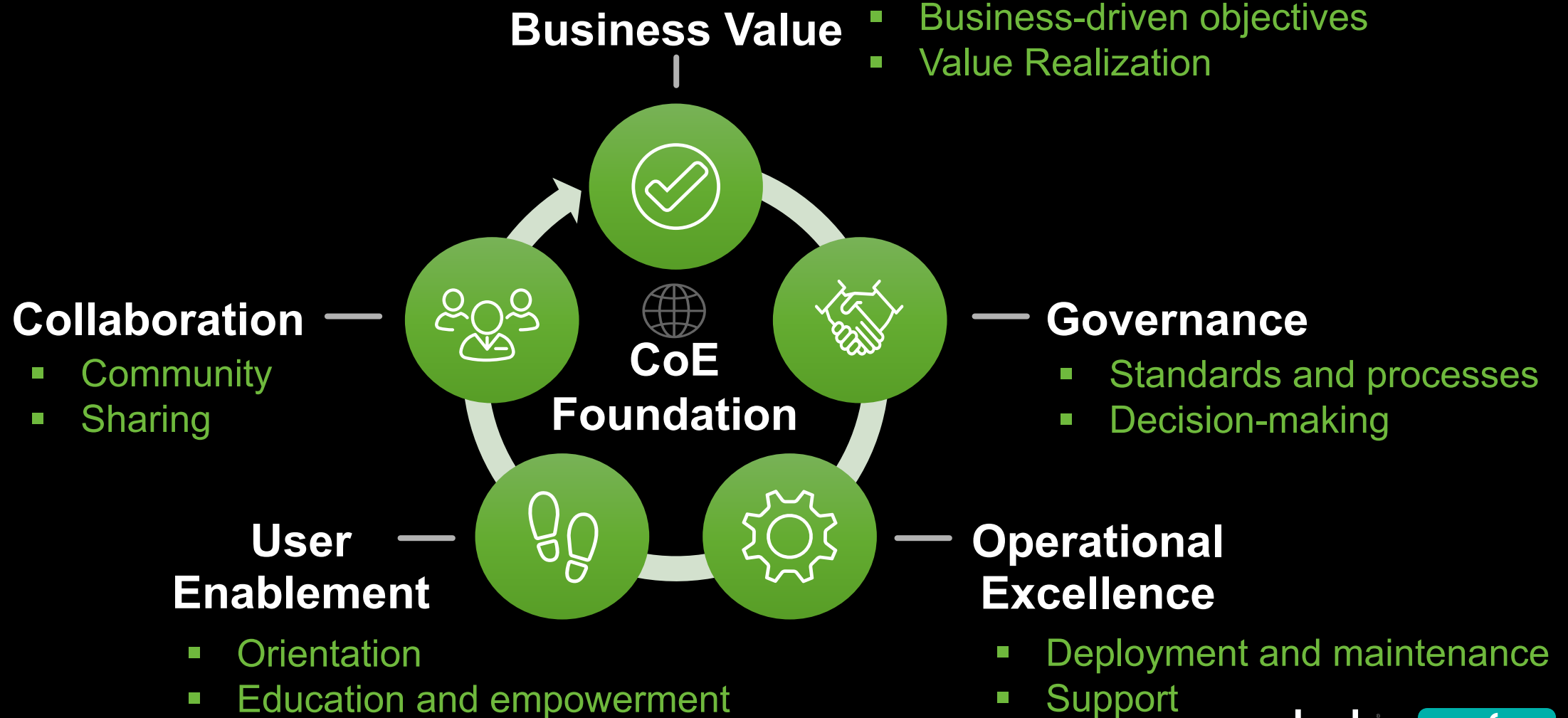


# What is a Splunk CoE?



# Splunk Center of Excellence

Six competencies supported by best practice accelerators





# What does a CoE do?

## Supporting Competencies

CoE Foundation Services

Business Value



Governance



Operational Excellence



Enablement



Collaboration



Platform Mgmt.

Data Lifecycle Mgmt.

User Lifecycle Mgmt.

KO and App Lifecycle Mgmt.

Use Case Lifecycle Mgmt.

Exec Interlock

Program Mgmt.

**Best practice-based capabilities that include tools, techniques, standards, processes and oversight**

## Supporting Competencies

### CoE Foundation Services

#### Business Value



#### Governance



#### Operational Excellence



#### Enablement



#### Collaboration



Platform Mgmt.

Data Lifecycle Mgmt.

User Lifecycle Mgmt.

KO and App Lifecycle Mgmt.

Use Case Lifecycle Mgmt.

Exec Interlock

Program Mgmt.

- ROI/TCO
- Cost mgmt.

- Change control
- Service levels
- Chargeback
- License mgmt.

- Design
- Capacity mgmt.
- Deployment
- Maintenance
- Staffing

- Support triage
- Help Desk

- Search peering

# Supporting Competencies

CoE Foundation Services

Business Value



Governance



Operational Excellence



Enablement



Collaboration



Platform Mgmt.

Data Lifecycle Mgmt.

User Lifecycle Mgmt.

KO and App Lifecycle Mgmt.

Use Case Lifecycle Mgmt.

Exec Interlock

Program Mgmt.

- Data Source Assessment
- Retention policies
- Data access
- CIM compliance
- Data discovery
- Data on-boarding
- Data security
- OOTB KOs
- Sandbox
- Correlations
- Data availability announcement

## Supporting Competencies

**CoE Foundation Services**

**Business Value**



**Governance**



**Operational Excellence**



**Enablement**



**Collaboration**



Platform Mgmt.

Data Lifecycle Mgmt.

User Lifecycle Mgmt.

KO and App Lifecycle Mgmt.

Use Case Lifecycle Mgmt.

Exec Interlock

Program Mgmt.

- Adoption
- User KPIs

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Capability

- RBAC
- Account Creation

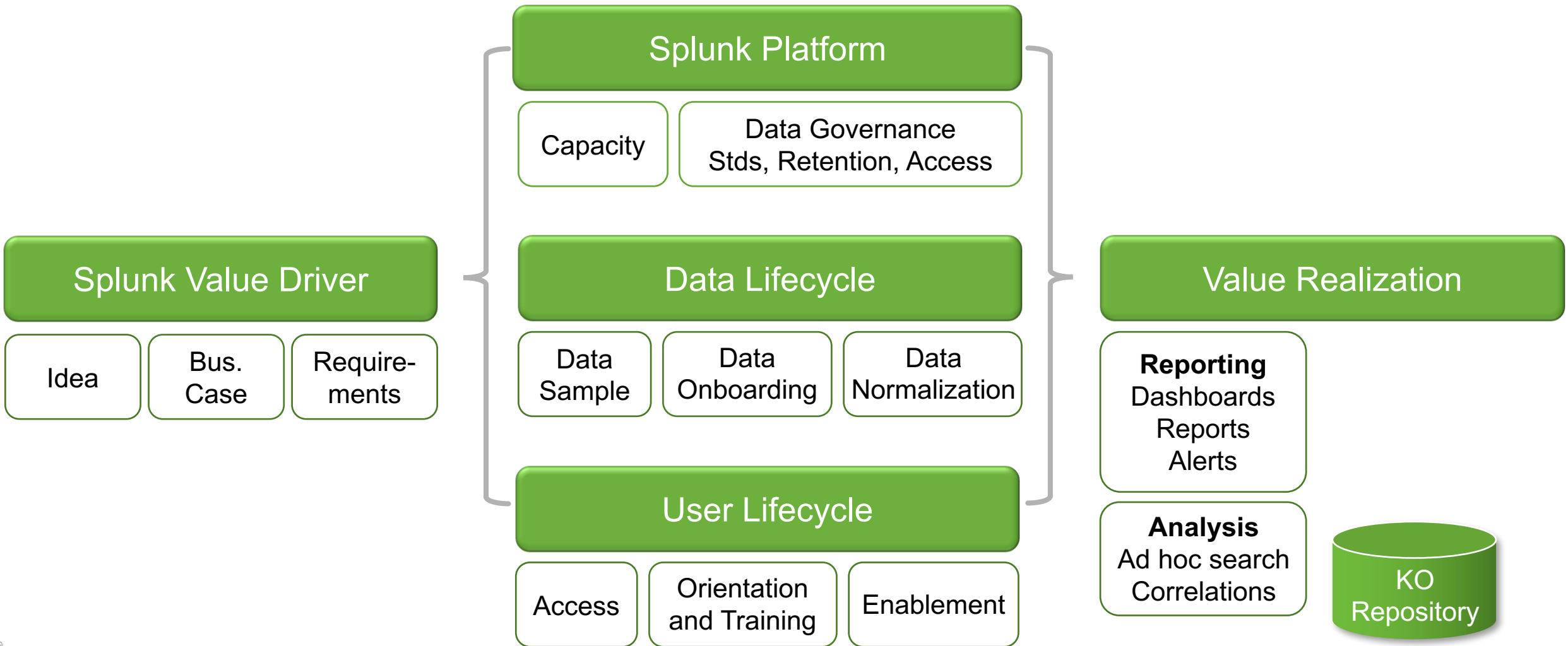
- Orientation
- Education

- User Group
- Community Portal

# For more: [CoE@splunk.com](mailto:CoE@splunk.com)



# Using the CoE to streamline your Path to Production



130.60.4 - - [07/Jan 18:10:57:153] "GET /category.screen?category\_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=5D15LAF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=view&itemId=EST-6&product\_id=FI-SW-01" "Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_12\_0; rv:52.0) Gecko/20100801 Firefox/52.0  
 128.241.220.82 - - [07/Jan 18:10:57:123] "GET /product.screen?product\_id=FL-DSH-01&JSESSIONID=5D55L7FF0ADFF0 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-268product\_id=KQ-CV-01" "Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_12\_0; rv:52.0) Gecko/20100801 Firefox/52.0  
 317 27.160.0.0 - - [07/Jan 18:10:56:123] "GET /category.screen?category\_id=FLOWERS&JSESSIONID=5D55L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-268product\_id=KQ-CV-01" "Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_12\_0; rv:52.0) Gecko/20100801 Firefox/52.0  
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# Using the CoE to streamline your Path to Production

Checkpoints

Splunk Platform

Capacity

Data Governance  
Std, Retention, Access

Data Lifecycle

Data Sample

Data Onboarding

Data Normalization

User Lifecycle

Access

Orientation  
and Training

Enablement

Value Realization

Reporting  
Dashboards  
Reports  
Alerts

Analysis  
Ad hoc search  
Correlations

KO  
Repository

Splunk Value Driver

Idea

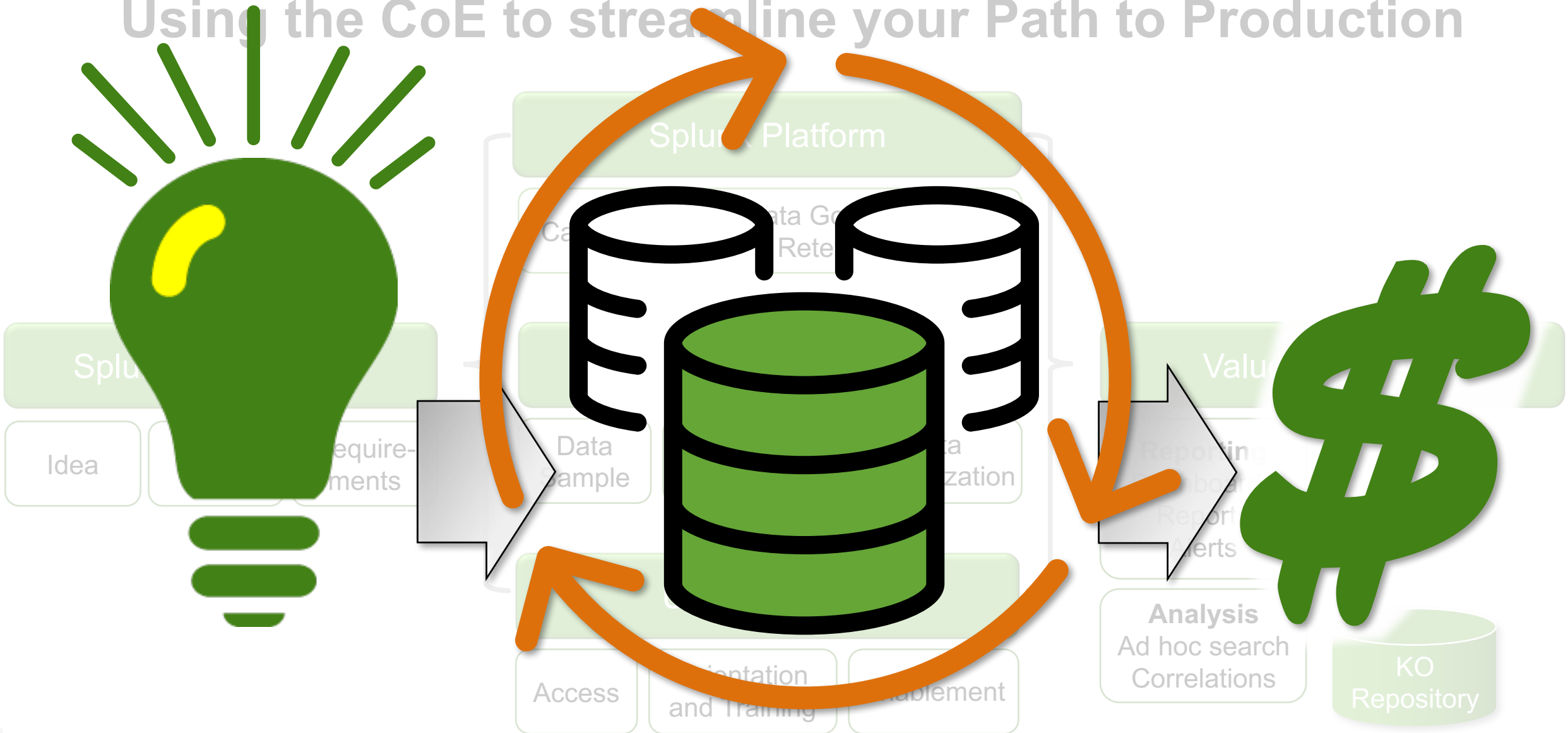
Bus.  
Case

Require-  
ments





# Using the CoE to streamline your Path to Production



**Making machine data accessible, usable and (more quickly) valuable to your organization.**

# Using the CoE to Drive Operational Excellence in Production

## Business Value

- ROI / TCO models
- Data Source Assessment (Reuse, Add'l Use Cases)
- Requirements Template...

Splunk value Driver

## Operational Excellence

- Reference Architectures
- Naming Conventions
- Staffing Guides
- Logging Best Practices
- Chargeback and Health Check Apps...

## Data Lifecycle

- Data Onboarding Request Form
- Data Onboarding Best Practices
- CIM App
- SLA and SLO Best Practices...

## User Lifecycle

- Training and Education Plans
- User Onboarding and Workspaces Best Practices
- Welcome Page Creator
- Newsletter App...

Value Realization

## Business Value

- KO Best Practice Guides
- Value Realization models
- Value Dashboards...

Ad hoc search Correlations

KO Repository

Idea

Bus. Case

Requirements



# CoE Foundation

# COE Foundational Components

## Executive Sponsorship

- Owner
- Empowerment
- Aligned with business objectives

## CoE Structure

- Centralized
- Federated
- Hybrid

## CoE Operating Model

- Roles and responsibilities
- Communication
- Functional areas

## Executive Charter

- Mission
- Roadmap

## Program Management

- End-to-end oversight
- Priorities
- Governance
- Project Management

## CoE Metrics

- Quantified success
- KPIs and SLAs
- Value dashboards

# COE Structure



**Centralized**

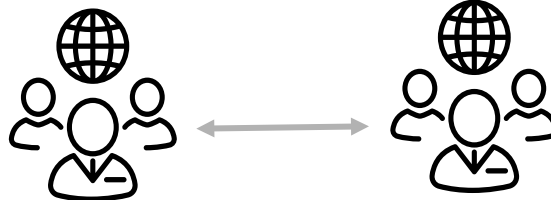
Org1



Org2



splunk >



**Federated**

Org1



Org2



splunk >

splunk >



**Hybrid**

Org1



Org2



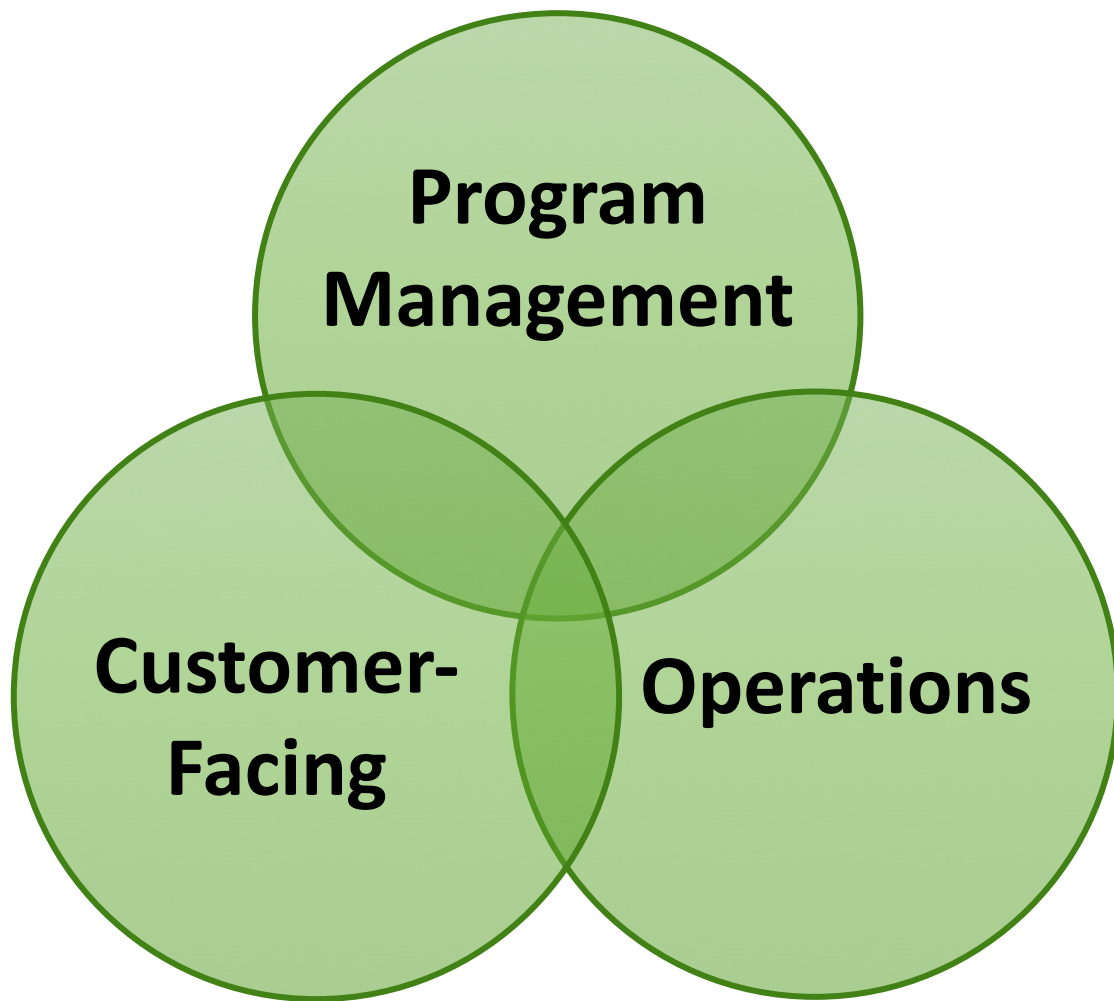
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# Splunk CoE Operating Model

- Sponsor
- Program Manager
- Architect
- Engineer
- Developer
- Expert User
- User
- Knowledge Manager
- Project Manager

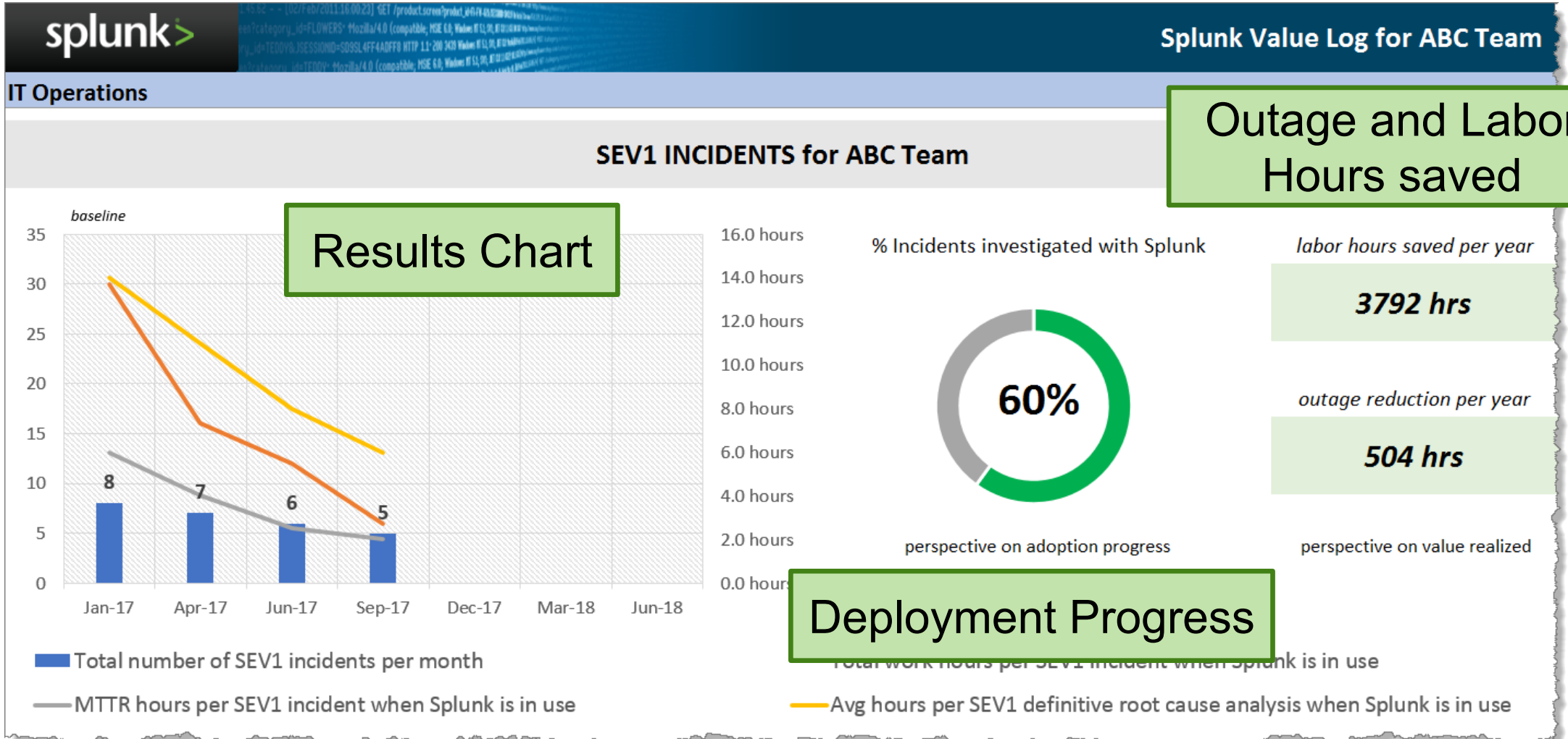


130.60.128.24" 317 2017-05-18 10:55:187] "GET /category/screen?category\_id=FLOWERS&SESSIONID=5D55L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 3885 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=view&itemId=EST-6&product\_id=FI-SW-03" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.0; rv:42.0) Gecko/20100828 Firefox/42.0" "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category/screen?category\_id=GIFTS&SESSIONID=5D1SLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-26&product\_id=AV-CB-01&SESSIONID=5D1B5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 2423 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-18&product\_id=RP-LI-02" 468 125.17.14.156] "GET /oldlink?item\_id=FL-DSH-01&SESSIONID=5D35L7FF6ADFF0 HTTP 1.1" 404 3322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-26&SESSIONID=5D55L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/changequantity&itemId=EST-18&product\_id=AV-CB-01&SESSIONID=5D1B5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 3885 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=remove&itemId=EST-18&product\_id=AV-CB-01&SESSIONID=5D1B5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 3885 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/oldlink?item\_id=EST-26&SESSIONID=5D55L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/changequantity&itemId=EST-18&product\_id=AV-CB-01&SESSIONID=5D1B5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 3885 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=remove&itemId=EST-18&product\_id=AV-CB-01&SESSIONID=5D1B5L9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 3885



# Tracking Value Realization

Value Dashboards provide visibility into progress and results

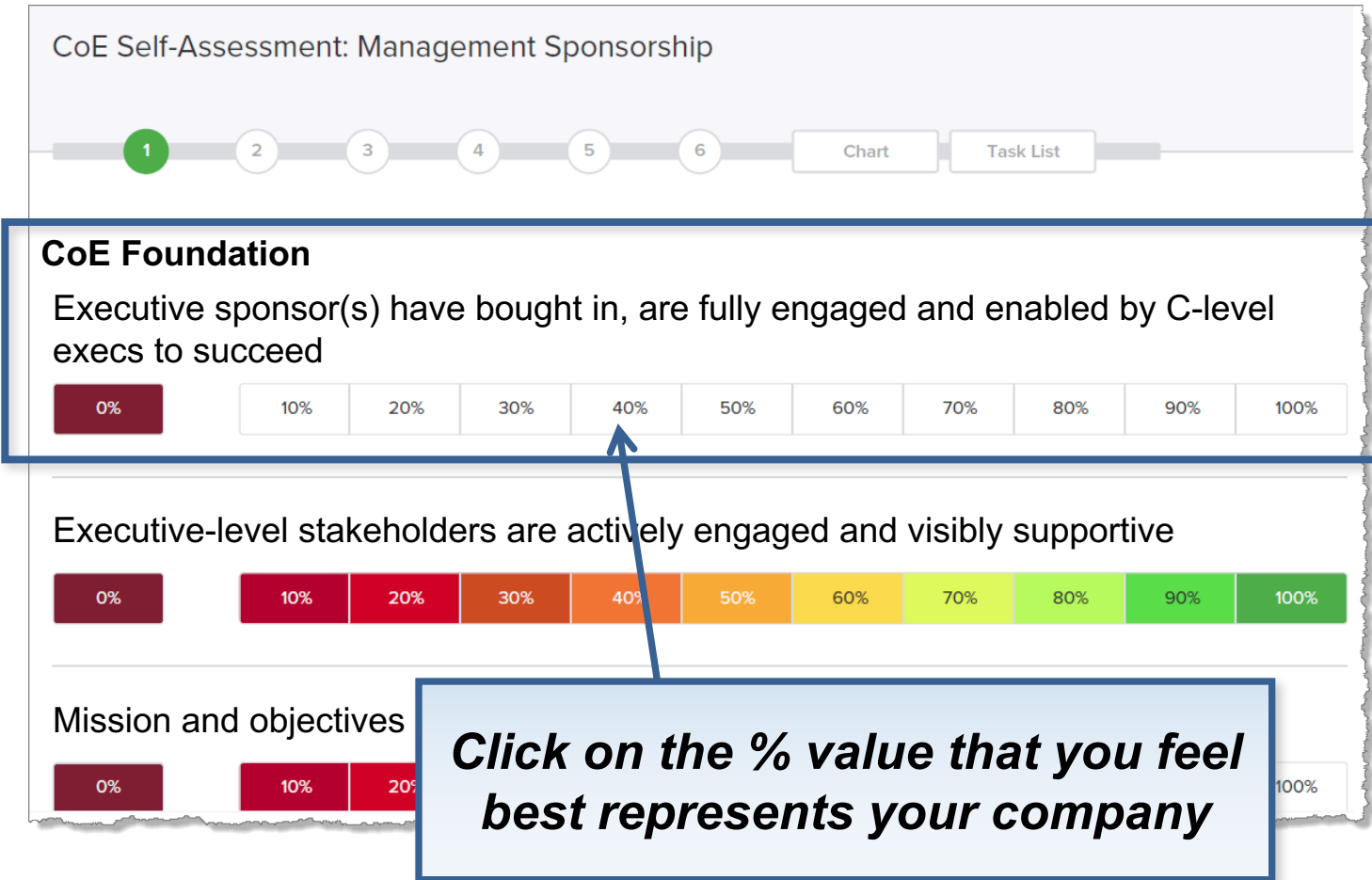




# Building a CoE

# CoE Self Assessment

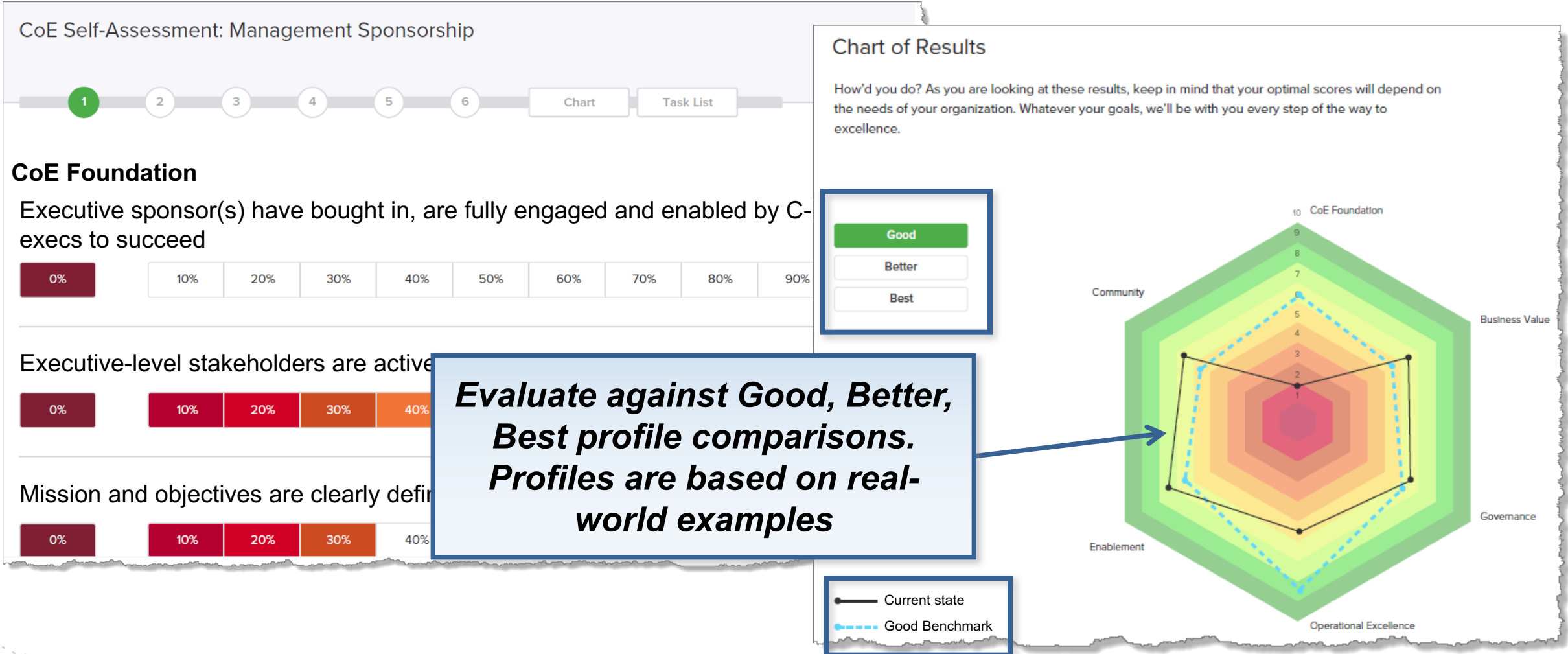
Use this to learn more and establish a baseline for best practice-based improvement



- 8-10 Questions in each competency area
- Questions map to successful best practices
- Establishes a baseline, gives visibility to gaps
- Helps identify your priorities to build an action plan

# CoE Self Assessment

Use this to learn more and establish a baseline for best practice-based improvement



**Evaluate against Good, Better, Best profile comparisons. Profiles are based on real-world examples**

130.60.4... [07/Jan 18:10:57:153] "GET /category.screen?category\_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=5D15LAF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=view&itemId=EST-6&product\_id=FI-SW-03" Moz 11/2/2018 12:20:02... [07/Jan 18:10:57:123] "GET /product.screen?category\_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=5D15LAF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 3322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-268&product\_id=KQ-CW-01" Moz 11/2/2018 12:20:02... [07/Jan 18:10:57:156] "GET /product.screen?product\_id=FL-DSH-01&JSESSIONID=5D15LAF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/changequantity&itemId=EST-18&product\_id=AV-CB-01&JSESSIONID=5D15LAF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 200 3855 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=purchase&itemId=EST-268&product\_id=KQ-CW-01" Moz 11/2/2018 12:20:02... [07/Jan 18:10:57:187] "GET /category.screen?category\_id=FLOWERS&JSESSIONID=5D15LAF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 200 3855 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/remove&itemId=EST-189" Moz 11/2/2018 12:20:02...

# Good, Better, Best evolution

Value  
Delivery  
Capability



Foundational



Proactive



Strategic

Data Onboarding



Automation & Self-Service

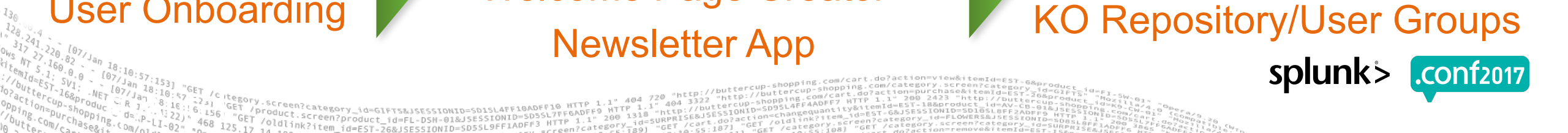
Welcome Page Creator

Newsletter App



Business-Driven New Value  
Creation

KO Repository/User Groups





# Customer Story



# Splunk CoE Success Story

## > 4TB Customer

Primary Use Cases: Security, IT Operations, Compliance

300+ Users

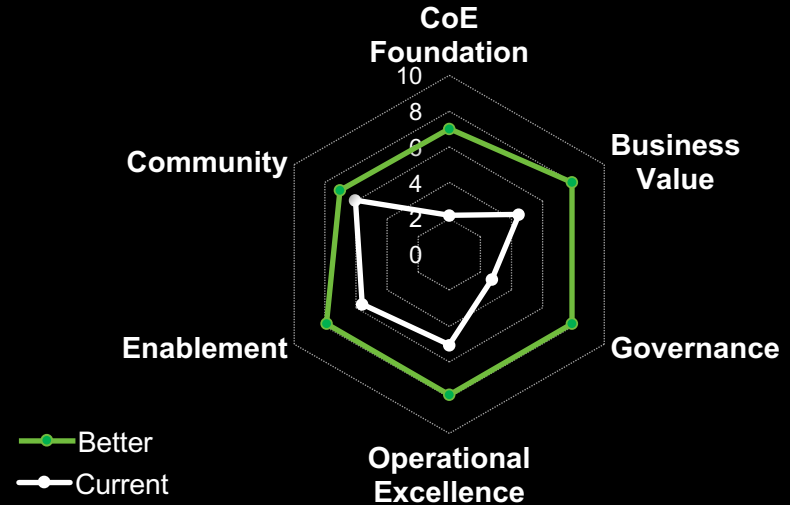
50 Clustered Indexers

500K Searches/Day


8 Search Heads

## > Deployment Challenges

- Data Onboarding: Weeks/Months  
> **Became Days**
- Search Performance: Minutes  
> **Became Seconds**
- Notable Events  
> **Became Actionable Alerts**



- CoE: No Splunk Owner > **Exec Sponsor, Program Mgr.**
- Business Value: Security posture > **Priorities & Reqmts.**
- Governance: Data governance > **CIM Compliance, Retention**
- Ops: Good staffing and platform resources
- Enablement: Good User onboarding and training plan
- Collaboration: Central repository and User Groups



**Making machine data  
accessible, usable and  
valuable to everyone.**



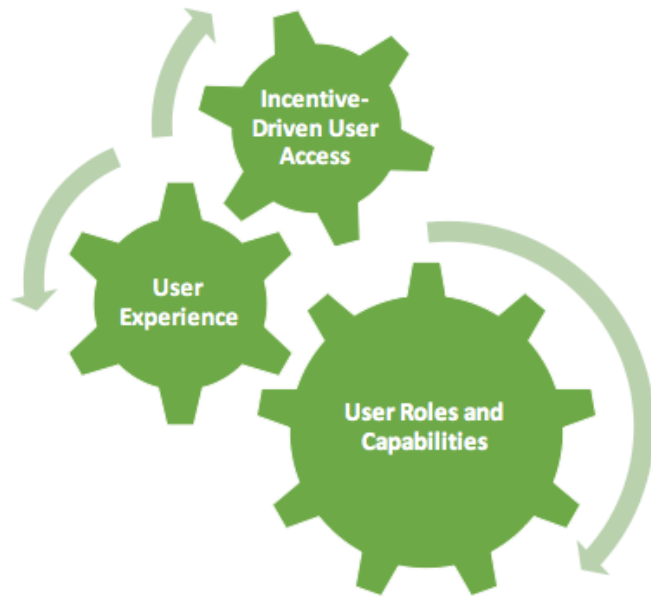
# Call to Action

- ▶ Visit the Customer Success Studio
- ▶ Complete the CoE Assessment
- ▶ Pick up Best Practice Handouts
- ▶ eMail us at [coe@splunk.com](mailto:coe@splunk.com)

# Customer Success Studio

## CoE Best Practice: User Onboarding Handout

### User Onboarding: Helping Users, So They Can Help Themselves



### Basic Principles of User Onboarding: Things For Every Admin To Consider

User Roles and Capabilities	
Split roles and capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Create roles based on data access and roles based on capabilities.</li> <li>✓ This will allow you to customize user access in countless ways, <b>without needing to create new roles.</b></li> </ul>
Limit permissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Consider limiting permissions for features such as acceleration, scheduled searches, and real-time searches. If necessary, use search limits. Limiting permissions will <b>optimize your search capacity.</b></li> <li>✓ When granting capabilities, there is one essential question to ask: <b>will this feature impact the Splunk deployment when the user is NOT logged in?</b></li> </ul>
User Experience	
Give each team their own app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Create an app for each team, and set this as the default in the navigation.</li> <li>✓ Use the app as the team's dedicated <b>Workspace.</b></li> </ul>
Create a Welcome Page for each team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Set up a <b>Welcome Page</b> for each team.</li> <li>✓ Splunk's Welcome Page Creator is designed for this purpose: <a href="https://splunkbase.splunk.com/app/2991">https://splunkbase.splunk.com/app/2991</a>.</li> </ul>
Hide all other apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It is recommended that you <b>remove read permissions</b> for all apps the user won't be needing or isn't ready to handle.</li> <li>✓ Do everything you can to ensure that users are <b>not distracted by other items deployed to the Splunk environment.</b></li> </ul>
Incentive-Driven User Access	
Don't be a data butler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Typically, <b>users will try to skip the required education.</b> If they already have access to everything and can just ask you for what they need - why would they take a class?</li> <li>✓ Make sure users are motivated to learn best practices. This means no access, until they've completed <b>certification and education.</b></li> </ul>
Grant capabilities to advanced users only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ You should <b>grant capabilities</b> only to the users who qualify with your certification or education requirements.</li> </ul>

# Determining Splunk Team Size



## Variables

Daily Ingest

Deployment Size

# of Users

# of Data Sources

# of Searches

# of Knowledge Objects

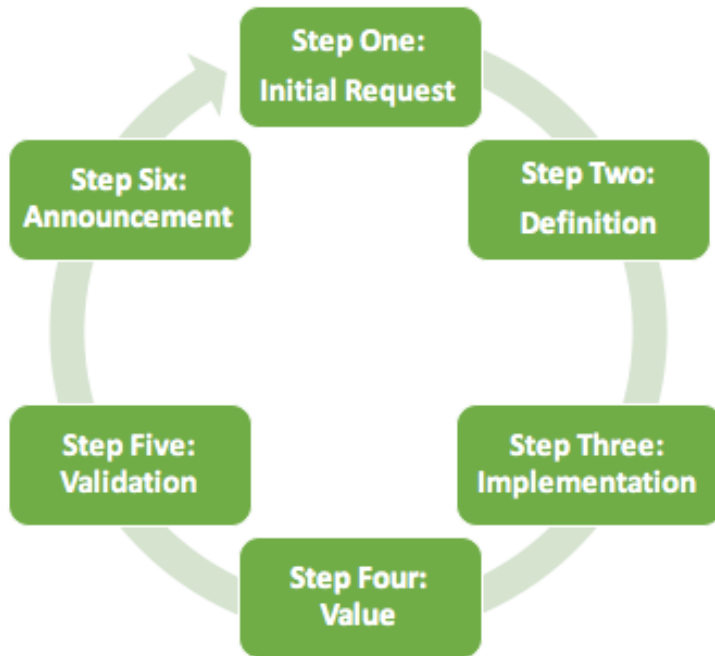
Service Level Objectives

Separation of Duties

# Customer Success Studio

## CoE Best Practice: Data Onboarding Handout

### Data Onboarding: It's Iterative and Ongoing



Step One: Initial Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep the initial data request <b>simple</b>. You'll reduce inefficiency and confusion by requiring less information up front.</li> <li>✓ You can <b>verify details in the next step</b>, during the data definition meeting.</li> <li>✓ For this step, gather things that would be hard to communicate on the phone (hostnames, filesystem locations, etc.)</li> </ul>
Step Two: Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ During this phase, have a discussion with the requester and schedule a <b>data definition meeting</b>.</li> <li>✓ You'll review a data sample, discuss the use case, and set up initial dashboards.</li> </ul>
Step Three: Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If a good data process is in place, technical implementation <b>should go smoothly the first time</b>.</li> </ul>
Step Four: Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Focus on knowledge objects. <b>What fields, searches and dashboards does the requester need?</b> How can the requester get value immediately, regardless of their Splunk skillset?</li> <li>✓ Don't let implementation overshadow this step. You'll often identify potential value the requester doesn't even know to ask for.</li> </ul>
Step Five: Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ask the requester to <b>validate and review</b> what you've produced.</li> <li>✓ Once the requester validates the data, you can move the implementation to production (including search-time knowledge objects).</li> </ul>
Step Six: Announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Help your community understand <b>how this data point can help them</b>.</li> <li>✓ Make sure to announce how to access the data, what the data represents, and what knowledge objects exist already.</li> </ul>

Learn More

# Customer Success Studio

## CoE Best Practice: Creating a Newsletter



\* We recommend a monthly cadence.

### What to Include in the Newsletter



- ✓ Calendar of events, such as workshops
- ✓ Announcements
- ✓ Platform and user stats, such as total number of users
- ✓ Splunk showcase and use case highlights
- ✓ Tips and tricks
- ✓ Important links
- ✓ Important messages, such as maintenance updates

September 2017 Vol. 7 Spunky CoE Team  
Exec Sponsor  
Program Lead  
Architect  
Project Manager

Company Name  
**splunk** > Monthly News Letter

September Meetings & Events		Splunk Deployment Overview		Last Month
1	Splunk QBR	Daily Ingest	15TB	14TB
15	Workshop: Splunk Stream	Users	800	750
25	Splunk User Conf 2017	Searches	200K	190K
*	Newsletter Archives <a href="#">Here</a>	Splunk Ver	7.0	6.6.3

#### Splunk Announcements

\*Important\* Maint Upgrade: Splunk Platform will not be available 9/12 12AM-3AM

- New Splunk Power User Training available 10/1
- New IT Data Sources Ready for Search. See details [Here](#).
- New Splunk Stream App available. See details [Here](#).

#### Splunk Links

- [Community Portal](#)
- [Splunk Platform Welcome Page](#)
- [Splunk Education Programs](#)

#### Splunk Showcase

##### New Risk Assessment

##### Security Posture Improvements

#### Splunk Help Desk

1. Open Support Case Report
2. Known Issues
3. Submit a Request

#### Coming Soon...

- How to Use Splunk eLearning Tool
- Setting Up Your Splunk Online Sandbox
- Splunk Self Help Tools
- Navigating Splunk Tutorials

#### Splunk Tips & Tricks

Free Webinars [Here](#)

Thanks for reviewing the 7th issue of the Splunk Newsletter. Questions or comments please contact the Splunk CoE Lead.





# Questions?

Don't forget to **rate this session** in the  
.conf2017 mobile app

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