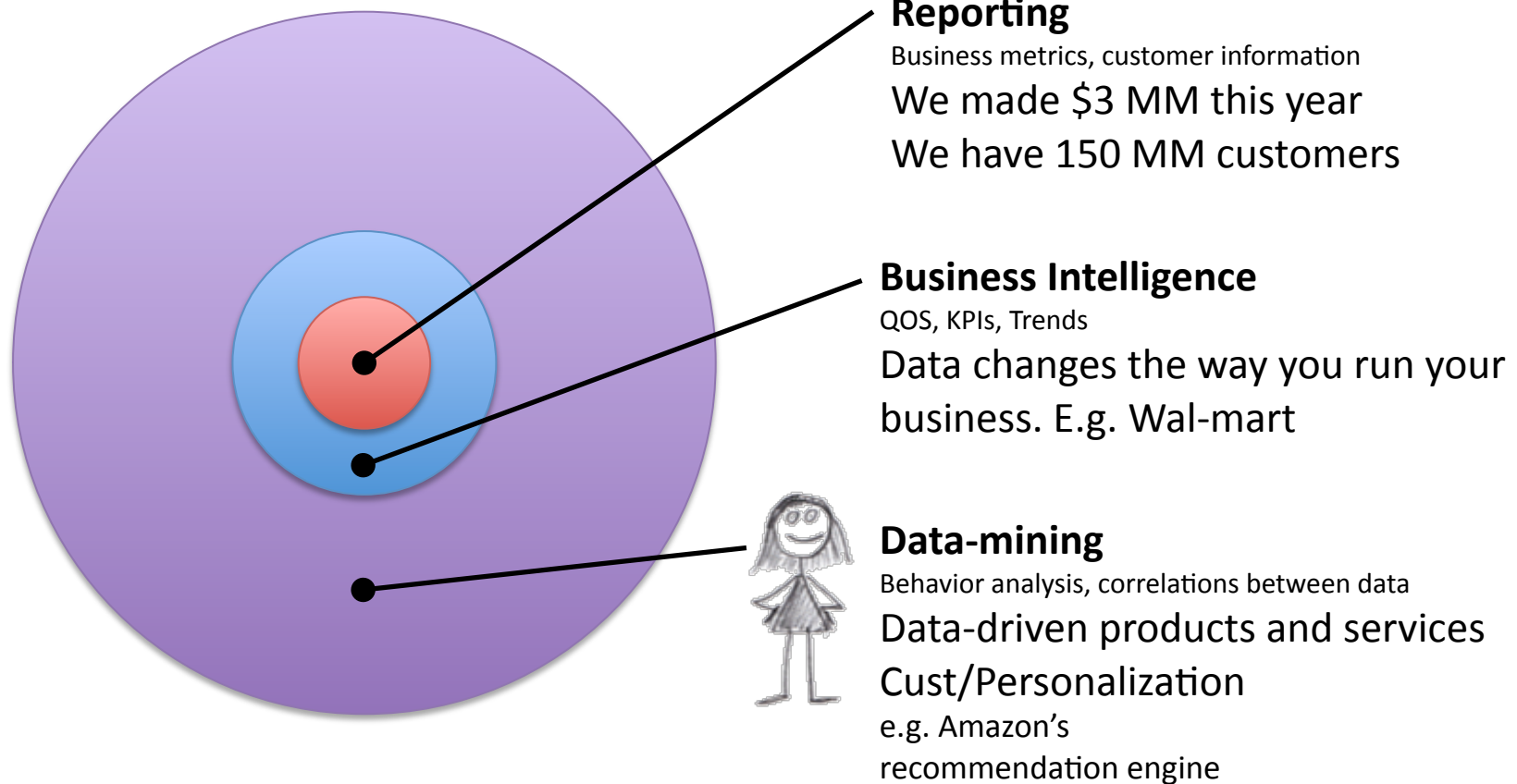


Low-Impact Data Mining

Alex Selkirk
Principal, Shan Gao Ma LLC
Board President, Common Data Project
alex.selkirk@commondatapoint.org
(646) 217-0918



Evolving Data Use



Today: High Impact Data Mining

Explosion in data sources.

Explosion in data uses, re-uses.

New markets for buying and selling data.

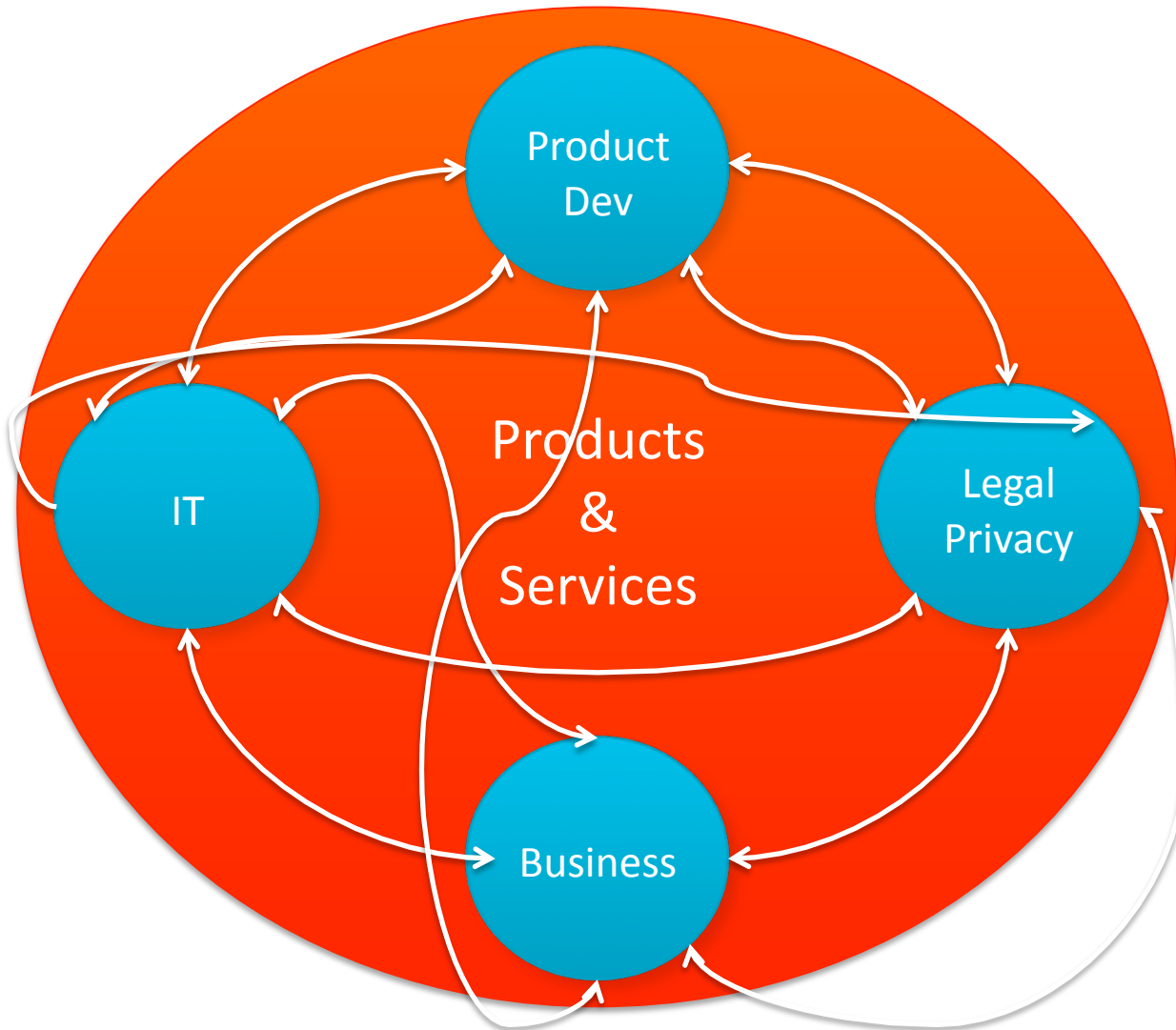
= Data-mining is no longer a periodic operation.

= Privacy policies quickly get out of sync with data-mining reality.

“Anonymous” promises usually mean broken promises.

1. De-identification doesn't work.
2. Re-identification is easy. Combining Zip code, gender, birth date can reliably identify 87% of the population. <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2009/09/what-information-personally-identifiable>

Today: High-Impact Privacy



- Knowledge of privacy decisions uneven across organization.
- Privacy is expensive.
- Enforcing policy is hard. Changes are hard to manage.
- Privacy often an afterthought.

How Do We Lower Impact?

INFRASTRUCTURE

Distributed & Collaborative Documentation System
for Data-Mining==Useful by-product to loop-in
legal and IT for privacy reviews and audits.

PROCESS

This enables a more iterative review process.

It's 2010, Do you know where your data is?

You're **collecting** how many? terabytes of what? data per day collected from which? **customers** for what? **purposes?** You are **storing** the data how? And where? for how long? Who? has **access** to it using what? protocols. What data? is directly **linked to individual identities.** What data? can't be **combined** with what data?. What? is re-**sold**. What? is **shared with third-parties.** What data? is covered by which? **policies.** What? has **changed** recently and with what? consequences? There was a privacy **breach** where?, that **affected** what data? and which? customers?

Map Your Data...



What does all this documentation enable?

INTERNALLY

Design and enforce “low-impact” privacy practices.

EXTERNALLY

Rationalize what you promise with what you can deliver.

Mitigate the impact of privacy breaches.

Resources

What is data science? (O'Reilly Radar)

<http://radar.oreilly.com/2010/06/what-is-data-science.html>

De-identification doesn't work. <http://paulohm.com/>

Re-identification with Zip code+Gender+Birthdate.

<http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2009/09/what-information-personally-identifiable>

<http://shangaoma.com>

<http://commondataprotect.org>

THANK YOU

Alex Selkirk

