

Mark Avnet's System Architecture Biases

- One-word answer: *Abstraction*
 - I am not (nor did I ever want to be) trained as an engineer.
 - Interested in underlying principles as applied to physical, biological, social, and engineered systems
 - Inter-relations and mappings between SA in all areas
- Education
 - Undergrad in Physics (MIT)
 - Wanted a *fundamental* understanding of the universe
 - Graduated unsatisfied – Did not find the answers to my questions in equations or in the laboratory
 - M.A. in STPP (GWU)
 - As with Physics, I wanted something bigger. Focused in Space Policy – “What’s bigger than space?!”

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- **Disciplinary Background**
 - To the (limited) extent that I concern myself with engineering aspects of SA, I am influenced by
 - Two years as a software developer.
 - Some study of space systems engineering, but more interested in *mission* design than *spacecraft* design.
- **Research Interests**
 - Role of scientists in the policy process
 - Concurrent S.M. in Planetary Science with meta-analysis as an aspect of ESD research
 - One of the key questions
 - How can SA (eg. modularity and interface design) help to improve cross-disciplinary communication between scientists and policymakers?