

Solving the Business Analysis Puzzle!

Presented by Heather Mylan-Mains, MBA, CBAP



@heatherM_M
#baot
#iiba



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Puzzles and Business Analysis



There is a process to business analysis. It's a puzzle that can be solved!"

-Heather Mylan-Mains,
a BA Puzzler



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Puzzle Play Time

- Solve the Puzzle!



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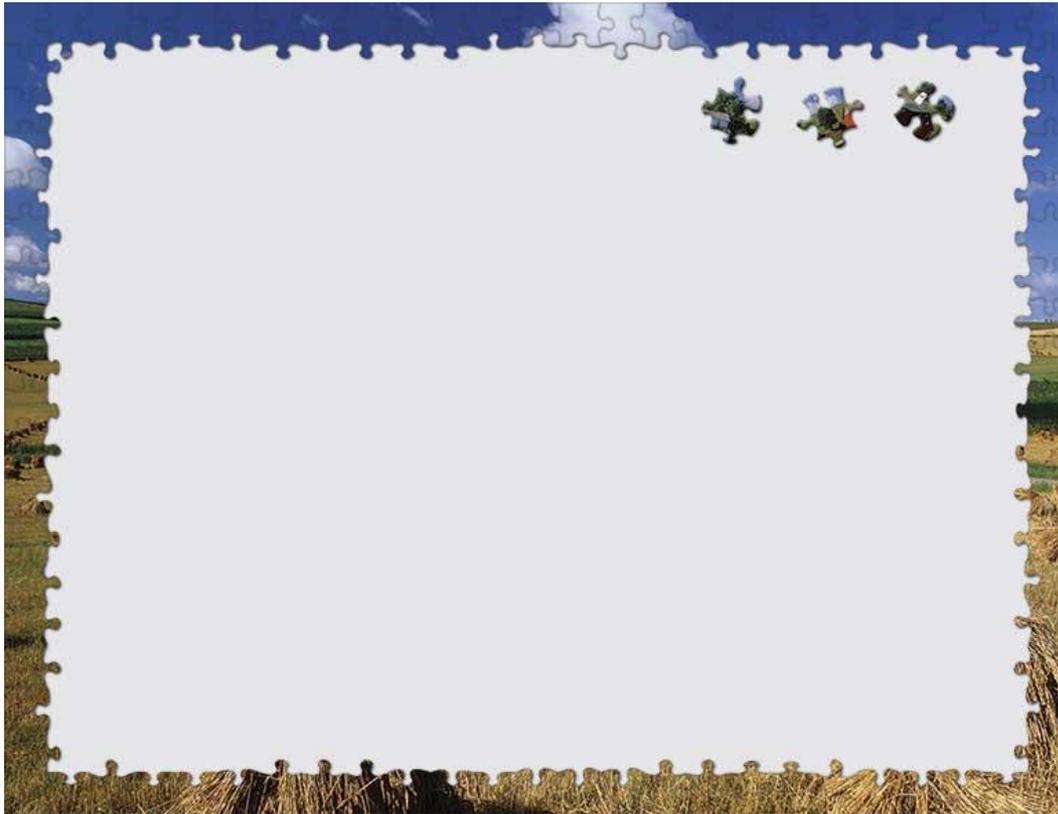
Puzzle talk

- What was your process?
- What were your challenges?
- What went well?
- How do you want to change next time?



Puzzle Process

- Edge pieces FIRST!



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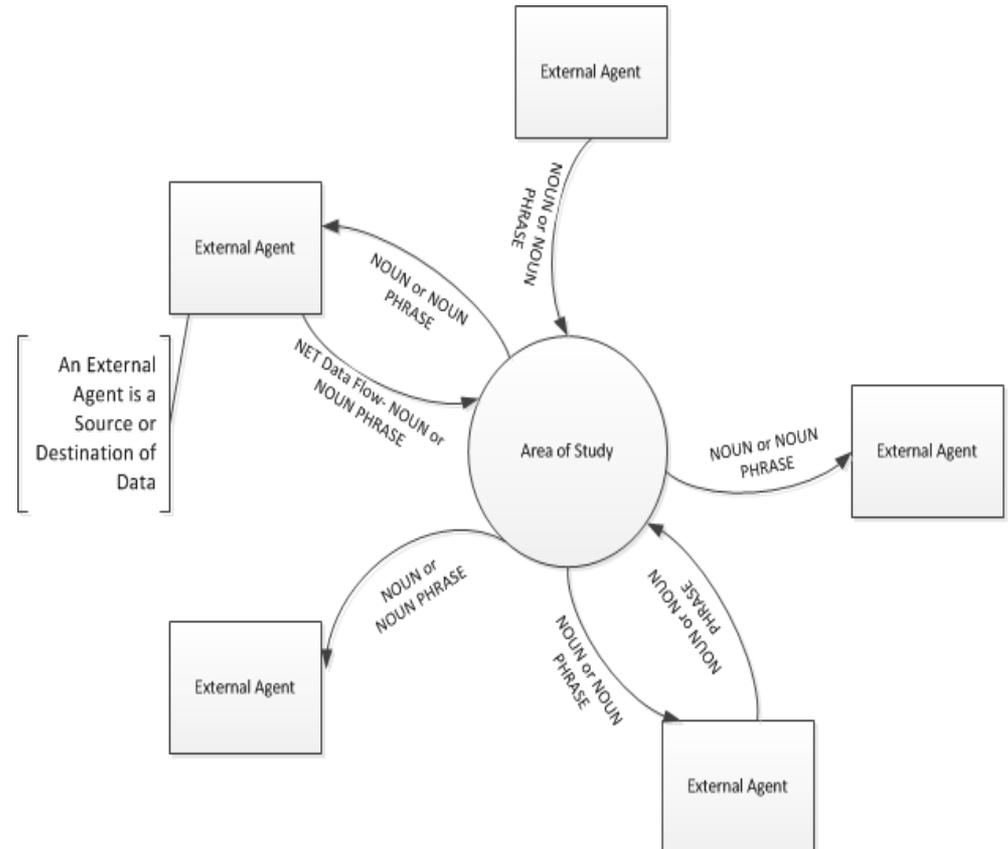
BA Process

- Edge pieces first is Context !
 - What is Context?
 - Why does it matter?
 - What happens if you don't have it?



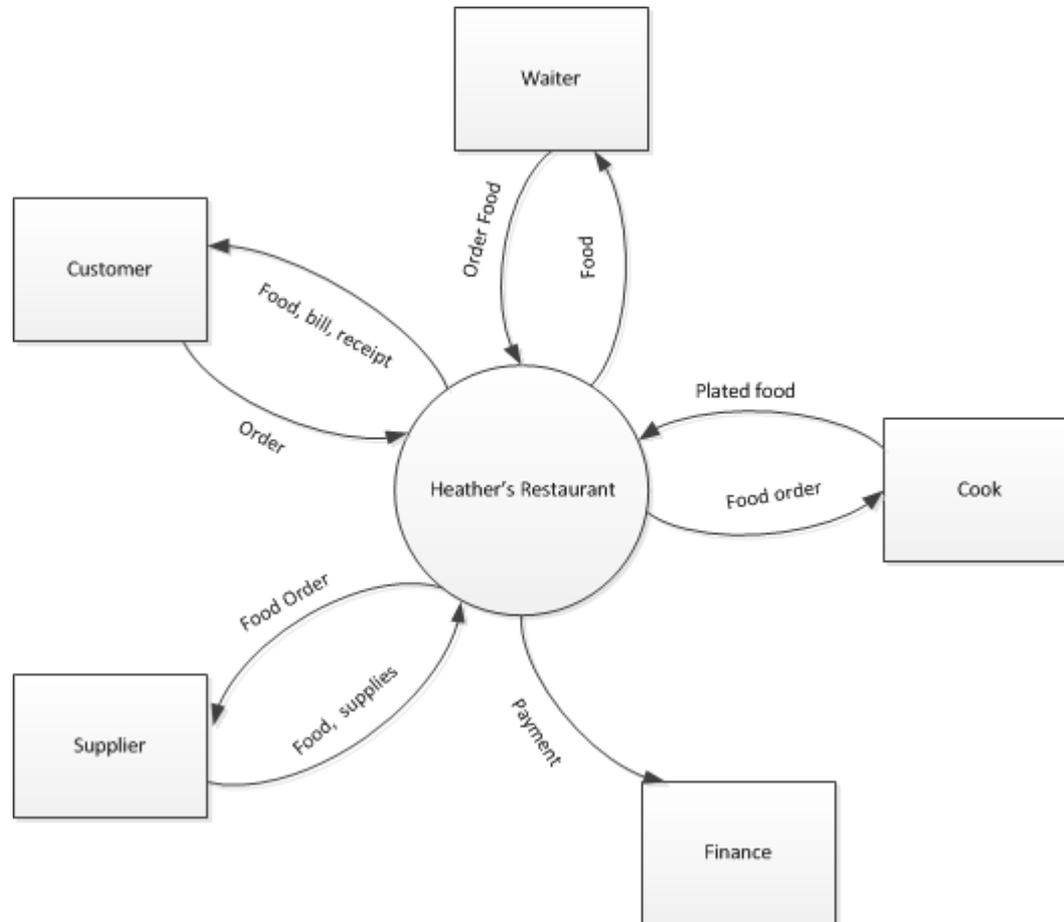
Context Diagram

- **3 basic parts:**
 - **Area of study**
(project)
 - **External Entities**
(sources or destinations of data)
 - **Net data flows**
(high level data to or from the external entity)



Context Diagram

- Restaurant – VERY HIGH LEVEL!



Context Diagram

- Let's practice!
- Create a Context Data flow diagram for a movie theater.
 1. Find your external agents. What are the sources and destinations of data?
 2. What Data flows are there from the movie theater to that external agent?

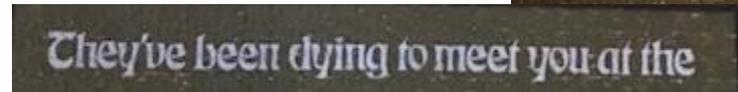
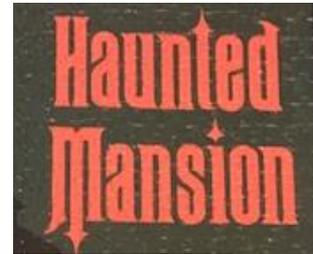
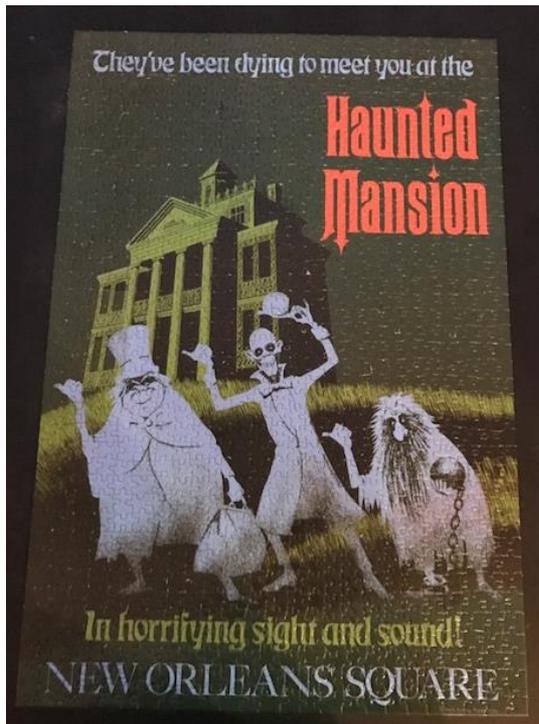
Puzzle Process

- **Group pieces together**
 - Which parts does the puzzle have you can focus on? A person? A word? A color?
 - Break down the big picture into manageable pieces.



Puzzle Process

- Group pieces together



BA Process

- Group pieces together is identify your features! Break down the big picture into pieces.

- Process
- Data
- External Agents
- Business Rules



Puzzle Process

- Group like pieces



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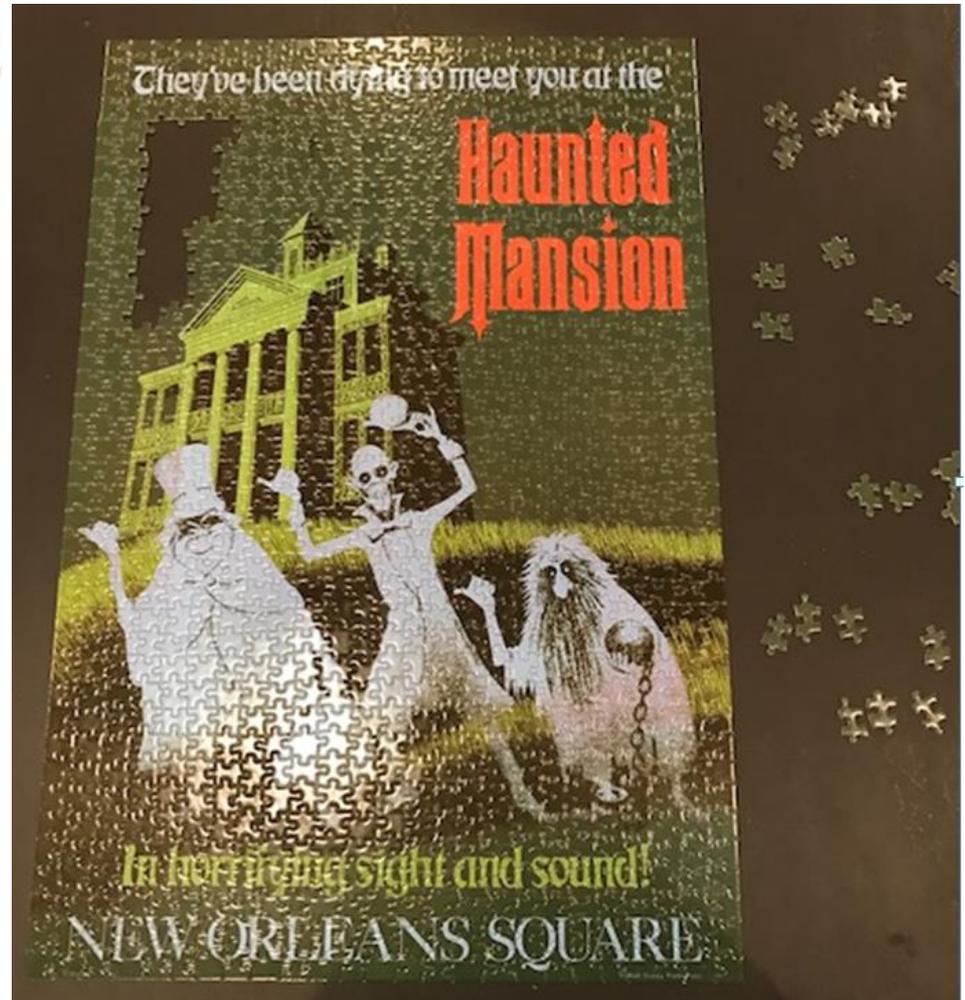
BA Process

- Find related pieces- What are the dependencies!
- Interfaces
- Data
- Other projects
- Other processes



Puzzle Process

- Experiment with placement



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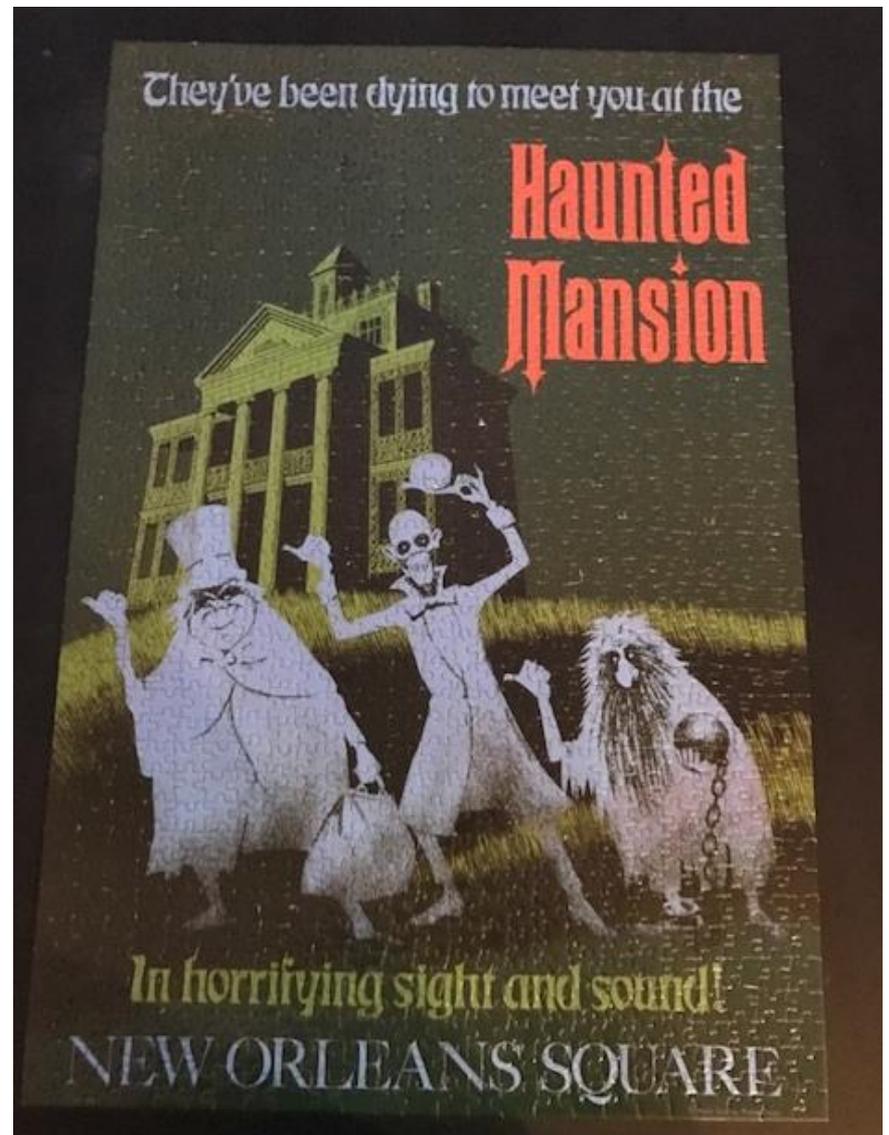
BA Process

Experiment with placement –

- Document the process.
- Does that step fit with the interface you thought it did?
- Do you understand the true source of data?
- What fits together as you are discovering the solution?

Puzzle Process

- Finish the puzzle



BA Process

- Finish the puzzle. This is putting the finishing touches on a release or an implementation!
- Have I completed my quality checks? Has my peer reviewed to find the gaps that might not make sense? Have I forgotten any stakeholders, processes, or data in my requirements?



Puzzle Play Time

- Trade puzzles to the left and try again using the BA Puzzle process
- Solve the Puzzle!



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BA Puzzle process – Summary

- Edge pieces first- MUST know context
- Group pieces together-identify your features
- Find related pieces- What are the dependencies?
- Experiment with placement – document the process.
- Finish the puzzle. Quality checks!
- Celebrate!

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Thank you!

Stay in Touch

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