This is the story of the BKCASE Project as envisioned by the core BKCASE team. This core team is comprised of six members; two members each from the lead project university, Stevens Institute of Technology, together with the Naval Postgraduate school, and the Department of Defense. We kicked off the BKCASE project in the Fall of 2009 with the vision that Systems Engineering competency models, certification programs, textbooks, graduate programs, and related workforce development initiatives around the world align with BKCASE – the Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering. We hope you share our excitement and enthusiasm and join us on our quest to create a Body of Knowledge that is globally recognized by the systems engineering community as the authoritative Body of Knowledge for the systems engineering discipline; and to create a graduate reference curriculum that is globally recognized by the systems engineering community as the authoritative guidance for graduate programs in systems engineering.
Our story begins with the BKCASE project represented by the bubble in the upper left hand corner, and the products that will be produced by BKCASE, represented by the bubble in the lower right hand corner.
The two products created from the three year effort for this project, will be 1.0 versions of a globally recognized Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge, or SE BoK, and a Graduate Reference Curriculum in Systems Engineering (GRCSE), called ‘Gracie’.
To be successful, BKCASE needs collaborators from Industry, Government and Academia from all over the world. BKCASE uses volunteer labor for both authoring and editorial review. Authors are invited to be members of the team and will typically work an average of 1 to 2 days per month and attend quarterly workshops and periodic virtual meetings. Several hundred volunteer reviewers will work as time permits. Authors and reviewers may work on both products or on only one of the two products depending on their expertise and interest.
BKCASE also needs support from professional societies such as the International Council on Systems Engineering, or INCOSE, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, or IEEE. Part of the BKCASE strategy is to involve professional societies from the beginning and to build early consensus, keeping the team focused on the value proposition when conflicts arise, to maintain consensus throughout the process. Therefore, the author and reviewer teams consist of members from all over the world, across different domains and industries and from various professional societies. These teams represent the top systems engineering knowledge in the world.
In this way, the BKCASE project is supported by systems engineering experts in the global systems engineering community; the same community that shapes and endorses the BKCASE project.
In turn, these experts from the global systems engineering community together create the products of the BKCASE project, the systems engineering body of knowledge and the graduate reference curriculum in systems engineering; and those products are in turn used by the very community that creates them.

Said another way, the BKCASE project is supported by systems engineering experts in the global systems engineering community that together create BKCASE products for use by that community, that also shapes and endorses the BKCASE project; thereby completing the loop and the mainstay of the BKCASE story.
Another objective of the BKCASE project is to transfer stewardship of SE BoK and GRCSE to INCOSE and other suitable professional societies after the final release of version 1.0 of these products; thereby ensuring the sustainment and evolution of these products for the continuing benefit of the global systems engineering community.

As part of the BKCASE strategy, annual releases of 0.25 and 0.5 draft versions of SE BoK and GRCSE will occur, with the graduate reference curriculum trailing the systems engineering body of knowledge.
The next part of the BKCASE story focuses on the development of the systems engineering body of knowledge.
The systems engineering body of knowledge organizes and defines the knowledge of the systems engineering discipline, including its methods, practices, processes and tools.
The process of creating the systems engineering body of knowledge will build community consensus on the boundaries of systems engineering – what is in and what is out of systems engineering – although those boundaries will likely be fuzzy in places. Having a common way to refer to systems engineering knowledge will facilitate communication among engineers, and having common ways to identify metadata about systems engineering knowledge will facilitate search of the systems engineering knowledge. The SE BoK will rely on existing sources of material wherever possible and will involve principals from efforts that created source material wherever possible; when feasible, pointers will be used to identify pre-existing areas of systems engineering knowledge.
The goal is for the systems engineering body of knowledge to become the ‘go to’ reference for certification programs, competency models, and workforce development initiatives. For example, one objective of this joint effort is to facilitate the global alignment of related workforce development initiatives with SE BoK, as well as GRCSE.
Ultimately, the systems engineering body of knowledge will be made available for use by the systems engineering community to support the development of certification programs, competency models and workforce initiatives that in turn guide the systems engineering community.
The final part of the BKCASE story focuses on the development of a graduate reference curriculum in systems engineering.
GRCSE will guide the development of graduate programs in systems engineering.
Specifically, GRCSE will guide universities in establishing both the entrance expectations and the outcomes that graduating students with a Masters in systems engineering should be expected to achieve. GRCSE will guide universities in defining a curriculum architecture and developing curriculum content for their systems engineering graduate program.
The consistency provided by GRCSE will make it easier for members of the global systems engineering community to select among systems engineering masters programs and to evaluate job candidates that graduate from these programs.
Ultimately, GRCSE will become the ‘go to’ reference for the global systems engineering community, including universities and faculty that develop programs and textbooks in systems engineering; job seekers and employers; and lifelong learners.
The BKCASE project will be based on lessons learned and successful strategies used to develop the software engineering body of knowledge and the graduate reference curriculum in software engineering released in the Fall of 2009, as well as the successful completion of the modeling and simulation for acquisition project. The BKCASE products will be authoritative by virtue of the gravitas of the authors and reviewers; endorsement by the professional societies; and adoption by the global systems engineering community. BKCASE products will be maintained over the long term by the professional societies.

And that concludes the story of BKCASE.