



Enabling the
information society



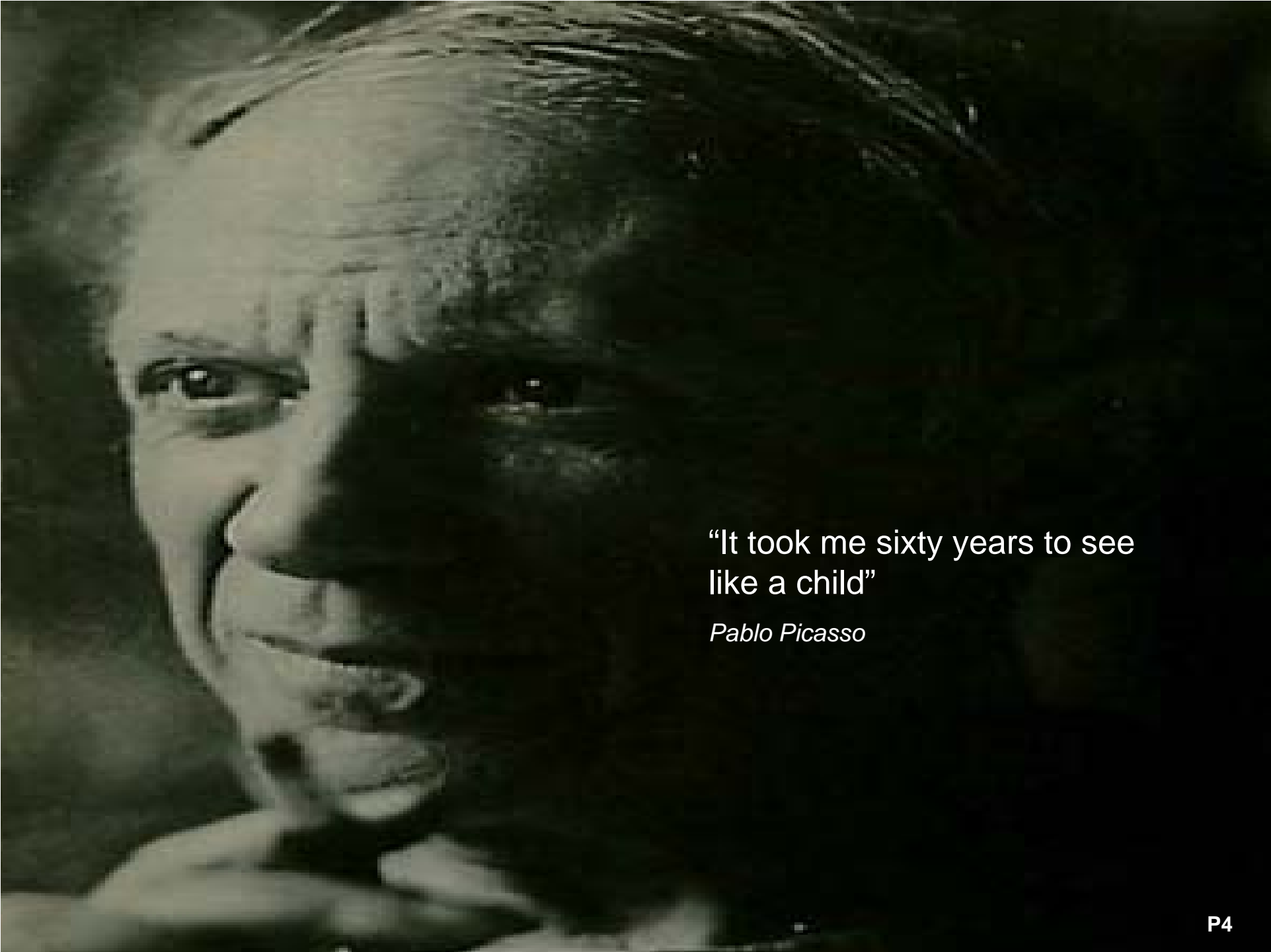
SFIA Conference

The IT Profession



IT – a 21st Century Profession

Ian Ryder
BCS Deputy CEO
December 2009



“It took me sixty years to see
like a child”

Pablo Picasso

The IT Profession



“The current reality is that the IT organisation has often assumed the role of a servant, and an incompetent one at that, at least in the eyes of the business”

“This is probably the most frequent state of affairs that we encounter when we talk to business people about their IT brethren: where the latter cannot be trusted to do what they are told...”

The Technology Garden, 2007

Why is it important for the IT profession

Headlines from Computer Weekly September 2009

“IT at biology’s frontiers”

In less than 10 years IT has gone from being a valuable tool for life sciences to being at the heart of some of the most important research projects ever undertaken.

- Mining data from the human genome requires massive computing power
- Chemical equivalent of the genome project is producing another data mountain

“Go green with software”

Organisations are looking to software to help them meet their environmental commitments

“Computers to harness speed of light”

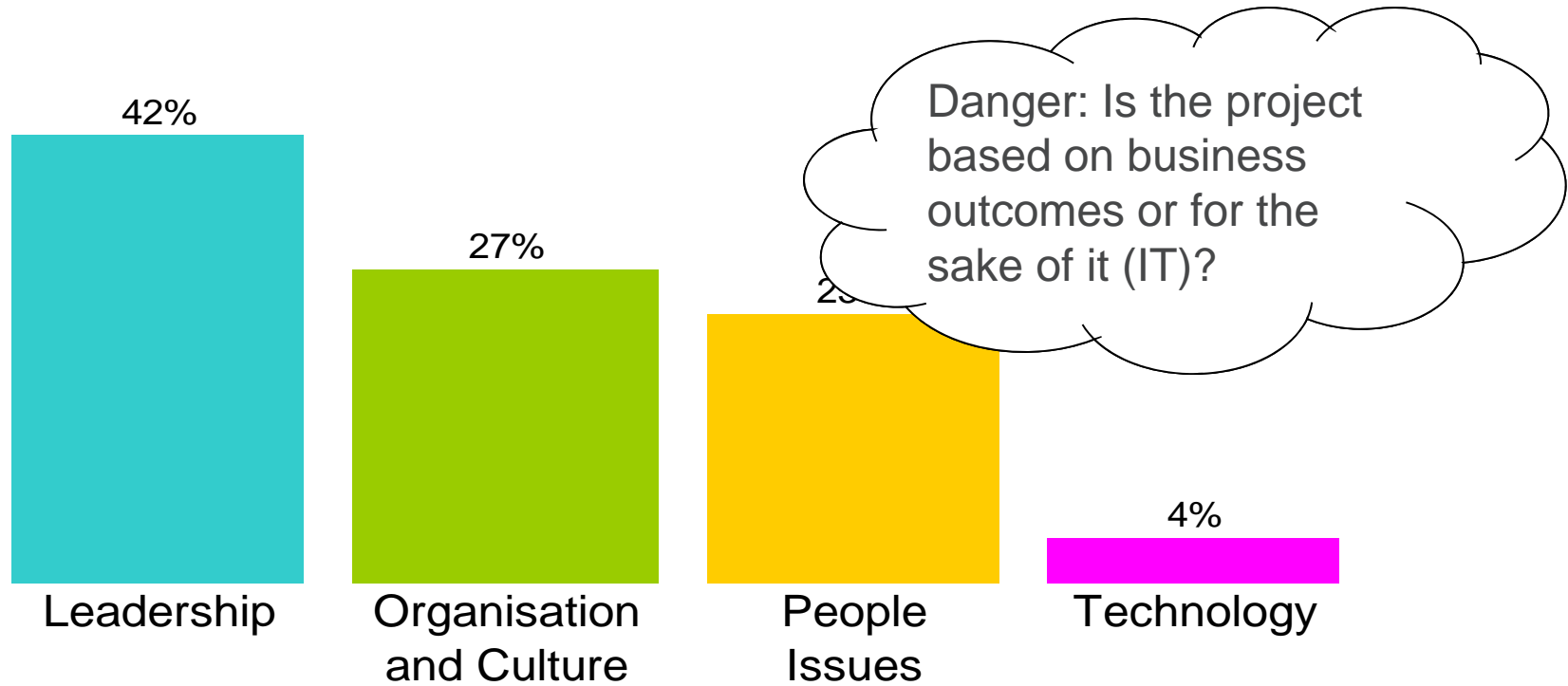
Scientists aim to speed information processing by using light waves

Future optical computers will provide more processing power and higher speed

“IT helps restore Lehman UK”

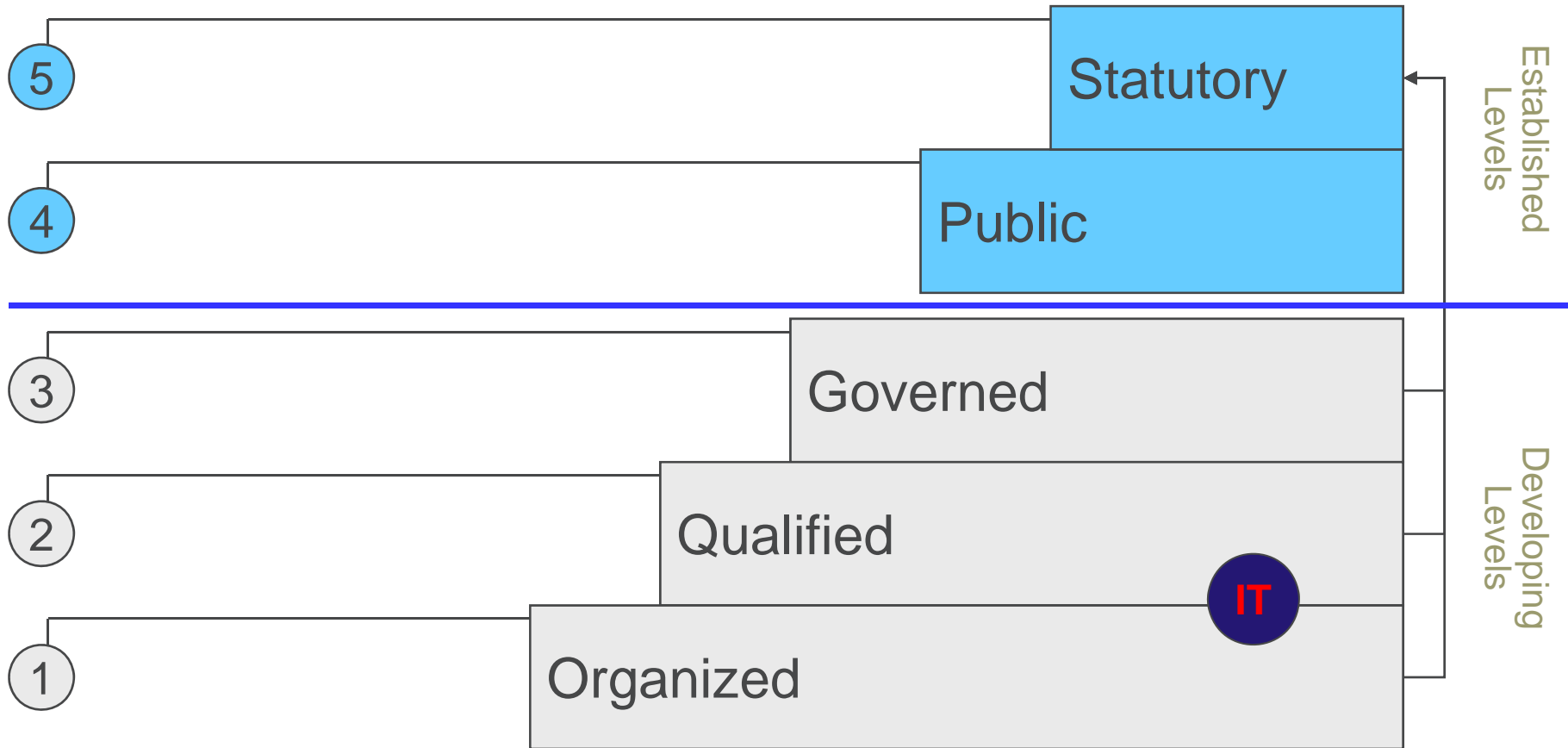
If separating the IT systems is successful, Nomura will be able to run Lehman Brothers UK as a standalone entity at a significantly lower cost than when it was Lehman Brothers’ UK entity

Transformational Change Failure



"Organisation Dynamics" - Jim Markowsky

A Maturity Model for a Profession



Derived from the Carnegie Mellon University Capability Maturity Model®

The IT Profession



“People are now thinking they have to improve productivity; improve business flexibility; have new ways of accessing markets. And IT is part of all those things.

So I think we will look back on this time as a very difficult time, but one that changed the way people thought about the role of IT in businesses and closed the door on the old view of IT as purely a cost saving mechanism.”

“I think the business community generally knows there are no strategies without a technology strategy to support them. And that’s a fundamental shift in the way people think of IT.”

John Swainson, CA

FT Digital Business 4th November 2009

Expectation for the IT Profession



A global profession



“Progress towards greater IT professionalism in the UK points to the creation of a global class of technologists”

David Clarke CEO, BCS October 2009

The Challenge for IT professionals



The challenge is to:

- **Maximise the dividends of successful IT enabled innovation**
- **Exploit the potential of the technology to increase the ability to compete and meet customer expectations**
- **Use the power of the technology to help drive business growth**

What can SFIA Do?



- **Be well known / build reputation**
 - **Easy to say...hard to do**
 - **Sceptics – “smoke and mirrors”!**
 - **Brands matter**
 - **Positioning matters**

Enough said....





...only 7% of
communication is
verbal

IT Profession



Outcomes that are achievable when the profession is recognised and given the respect and value it deserves:

Improvements in:

- **Exploitation of I and T**
- **Reliability of project and programme delivery**
- **Reliability of critical systems**
- **Enterprise security & governance**
- **Returns on investment**

The IT Profession

IT practitioners are the secret to the smooth running of today's information society and success is measured by business outcomes



Teamwork always wins out....!!





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