Paradigm (glossary)

paradigm

> *A view of the world that may or may not conflict with accepted scientific principles.*
> -- adapted from (Vaughn 1997, 196)

Sources

Vaughn, Diane 1997. *The Challenger Launch Decision: Risky Technology, Culture, and Deviance at NASA.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Original edition, 1996.

Discussion

Although the standard definition of *paradigm* is simply *example*, the word has come to mean in Vaughn's sense a way of thinking that may be positive or negative with respect to the Culture involved in the development and operation of a system, such as the Challenger. In a positive sense *paradigm* can mean the way of thinking about the systems engineering methodology itself.

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