

# BPMN: process modelling language of champions

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# Who's this guy?

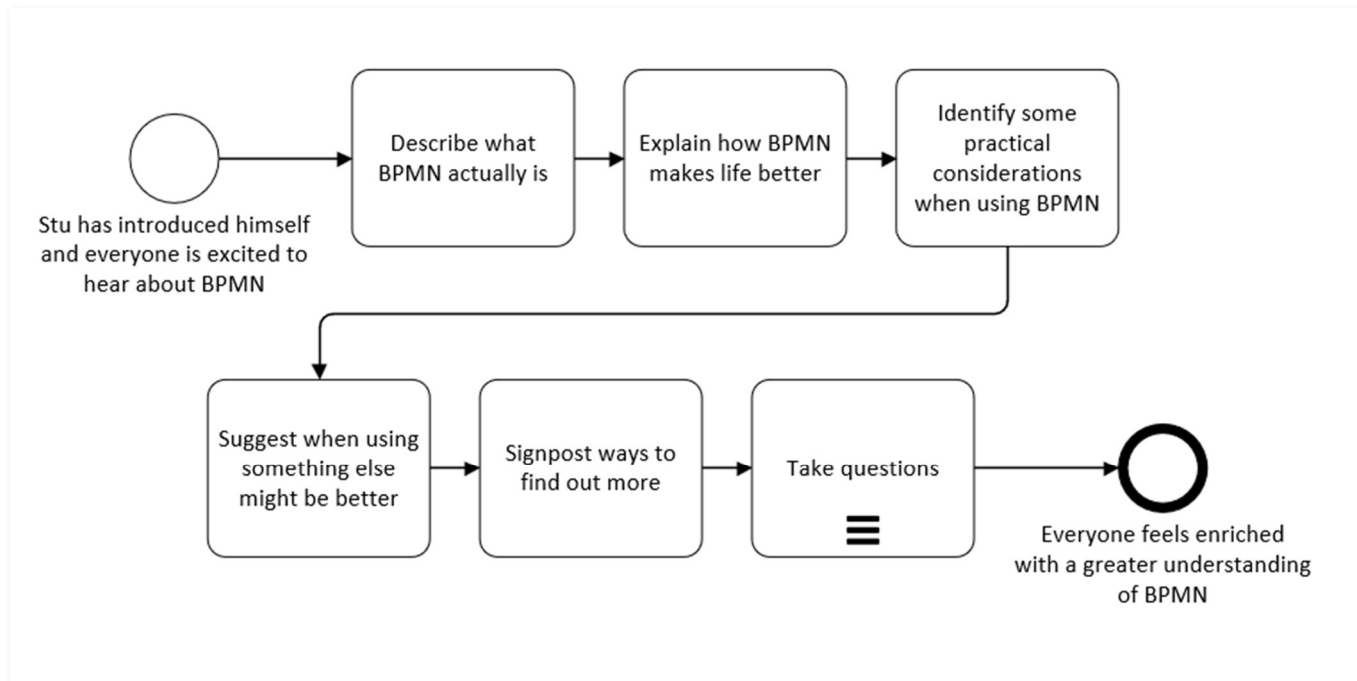
## A little about me:

- Living in Bristol
- Nearly 20 years in business analysis (mostly in the Legal sector)
- Have been a sole BA, BA within a team, BA manager, contractor, and now a consultant BA
- Volunteer with IIBA UK as Communities Director for the Midlands, Wales, and the South-West



# What am I going to talk about?

This presentation as a BPMN model...



# What is BPMN?

## A few key facts:

- A framework and language for modelling business processes
- Aims to bridge gap between business and tech (including execution)
- Provides a way to categorise elements of a process and structure these into models that accurately describe the flow of activity
- Formulated by the Object Management Group (OMG), and the current version (BPMN2.0.2) was published in 2014



# What is BPMN?

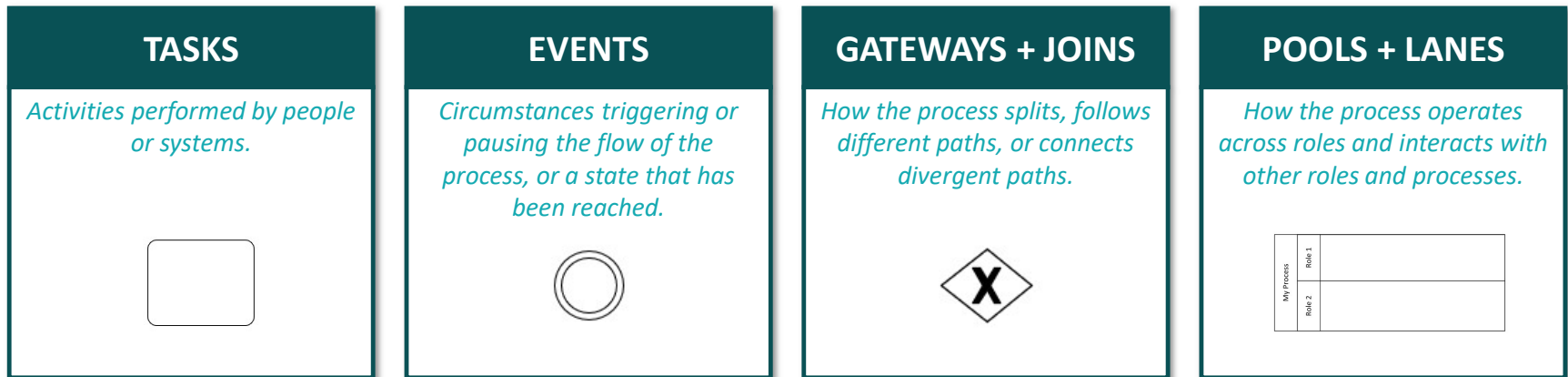
The humble Sequence Flow:



- Instant
- Contains no action
- Only goes in one direction

# What is BPMN?

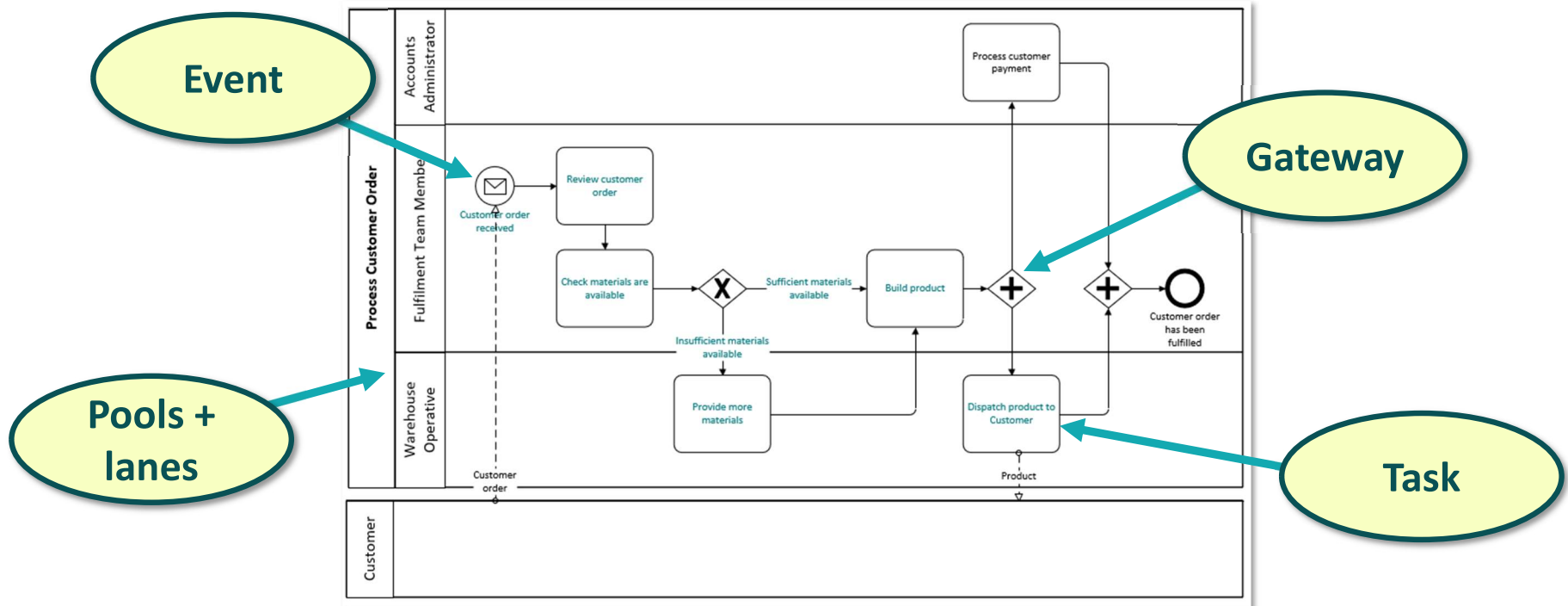
Other essential elements:



For *much* more detail, check out the full specification here:  
<https://www.omg.org/spec/BPMN/2.0/PDF/>

# What is BPMN?

What a model looks like:



# How does BPMN make life better?

Some of the key reasons to use BPMN for modelling processes:



**Encourages better questions**



**Elegantly handles complex logic**



**Improves accuracy and reduces ambiguity**



**Easy to identify functional requirements and waste**



**Easy to share/re-use/support**



# How does BPMN make life better?

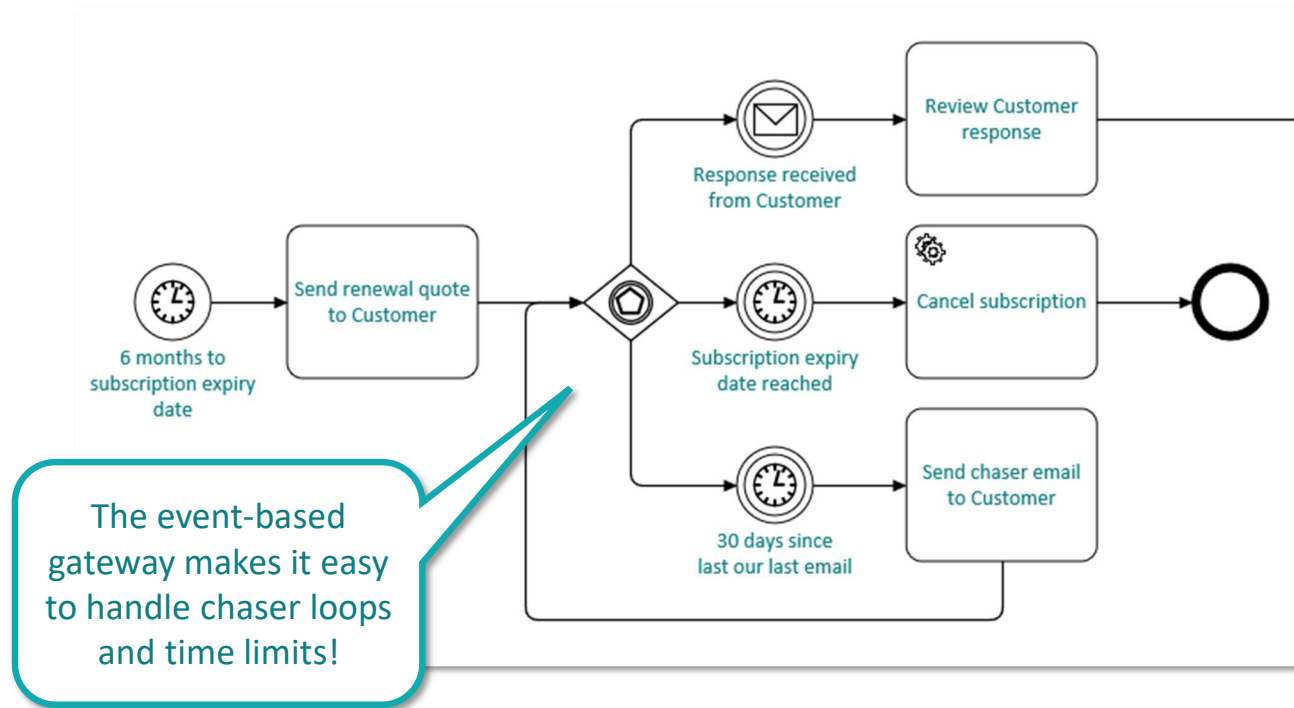
## Asking better questions

- When is this decision actually made?
- Can these activities really happen in parallel?
- Will this always start when that event occurs?
- What might prevent this task from being completed?
- What if there's no reply?
- How does this process fit with that other process?
- Who's doing this?
- Who receives the output of this?
- Is this task performed in other processes?



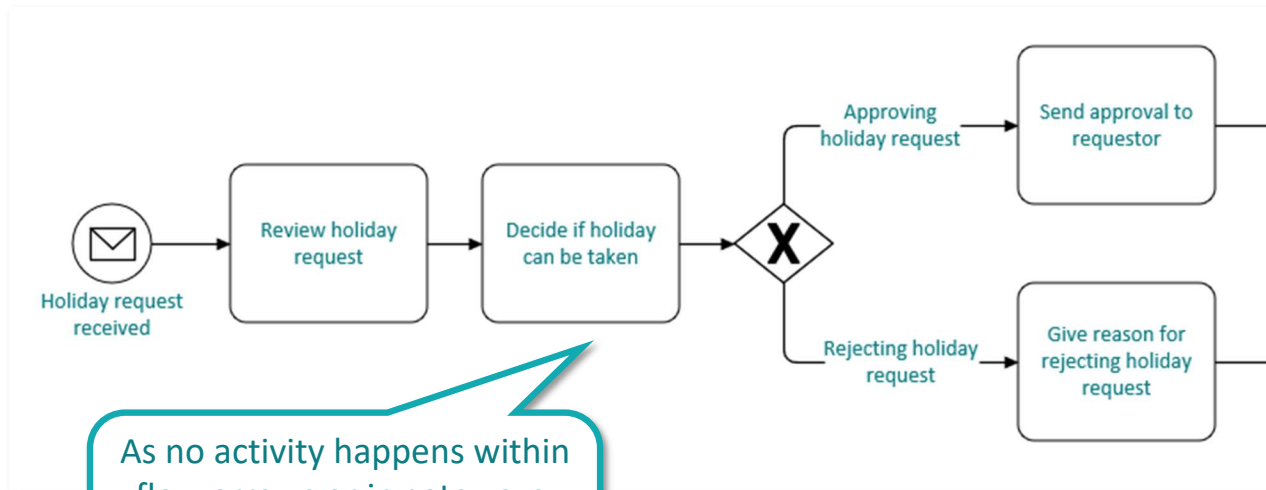
# How does BPMN make life better?

## Handling complex logic elegantly



# How does BPMN make life better?

Improve accuracy + reduce ambiguity



As no activity happens within flow arrows or in gateways, this decision must be called out as a task!

# How does BPMN make life better?

## Identifying requirements

- Actors / users
- Active verbs
- Message flows
- Triggers and states
- Business rules
- Alternate paths + failure points

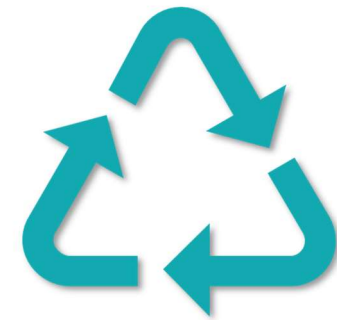
## Identifying waste

- Waiting
- Movement + transport
- Over-processing (roles)
- Controls vs defect opportunities

# How does BPMN make life better?

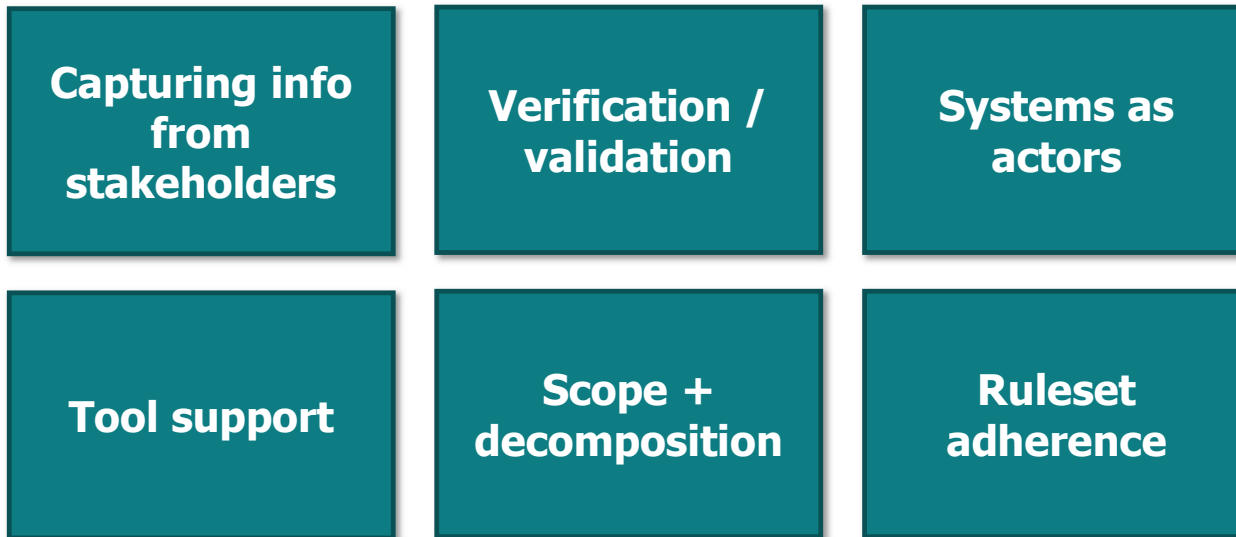
## Sharing, re-use, and support

- Widely adopted standard internationally
- Many BAs can model using BPMN – great for collaboration and future projects!
- Visio models work well with other Microsoft applications
- Used in many Enterprise Architecture and process management applications



# Practical considerations

These aspects warrant some further thinking to really get the most from your modelling with BPMN:



# When to use something else

Just because you've got a hammer, not everything is a nail! Consider other approaches in the following situations:

- Helping customers to understand how the process works
- Analysing what customers do and what they experience
- Creating training materials for users
- If the models will need to be updated or maintained by someone without BPMN skills or the required tools

# Finding out more

There are loads of great resources out there...

## Online resources



- **BPMN.org (OMG)**
- **Camunda**
- **Microsoft**
- **Udemy**
- **Better Business Analysis!**

## Community



- **IIBA events**
- **BCS events**
- **LinkedIn groups**
- **Informal networks**

## Books



- **Bruce Silver**
- **Kenneth Sherry**

## Formal training



- **BCS practitioner certificate**



Thanks for listening!

Any questions?

