



Designer or Custom Workflows

Do I Look Fat in This?

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Short Bios

- Kenneth Lo, PMP
- SharePoint Evangelist
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- SharePoint, Project Server
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Agenda



- What are Workflows
- Key Benefits of Workflows
- How Workflows are Leveraged
- Major Players in BPM & MOSS Markets
- Designer vs Visual Studio Workflows
- K2 blackpearl & blackpoint



What are Workflows

- Terminology
 - Business Process Management (BPM)
 - “The automation of a business process during which information is passed from one participant to another according to a set of procedural rules.”
 - Complex business rules and flow of control are declared graphically (e.g. Visio).

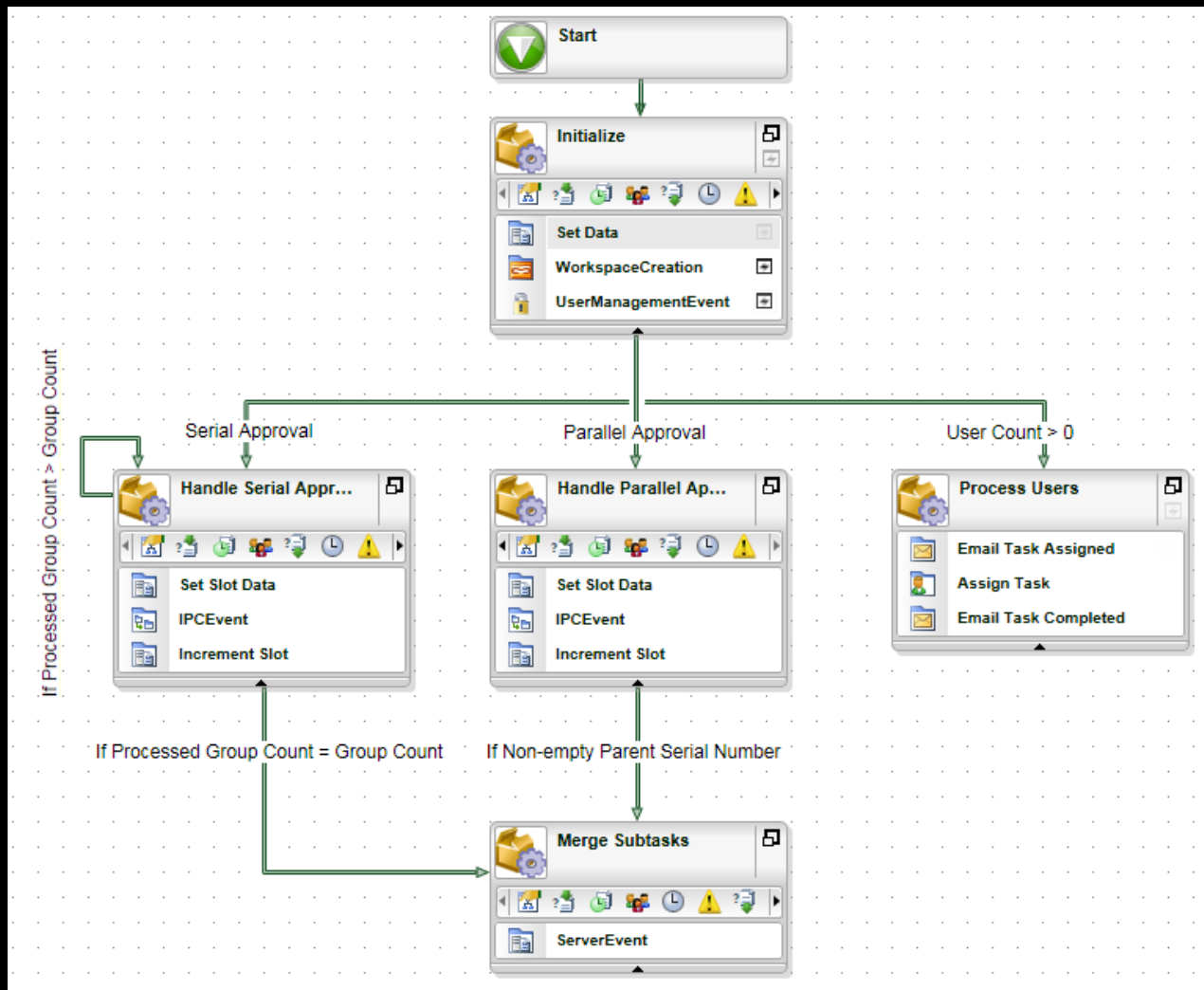


What are Workflows (cont)

- Sequential Workflow
 - Series of steps executed in a prescribed order
 - Each step and its sequence clearly defined
 - IF-ELSE decision making
 - Best for problems where predefined steps are known at design time



What are Workflows (cont)



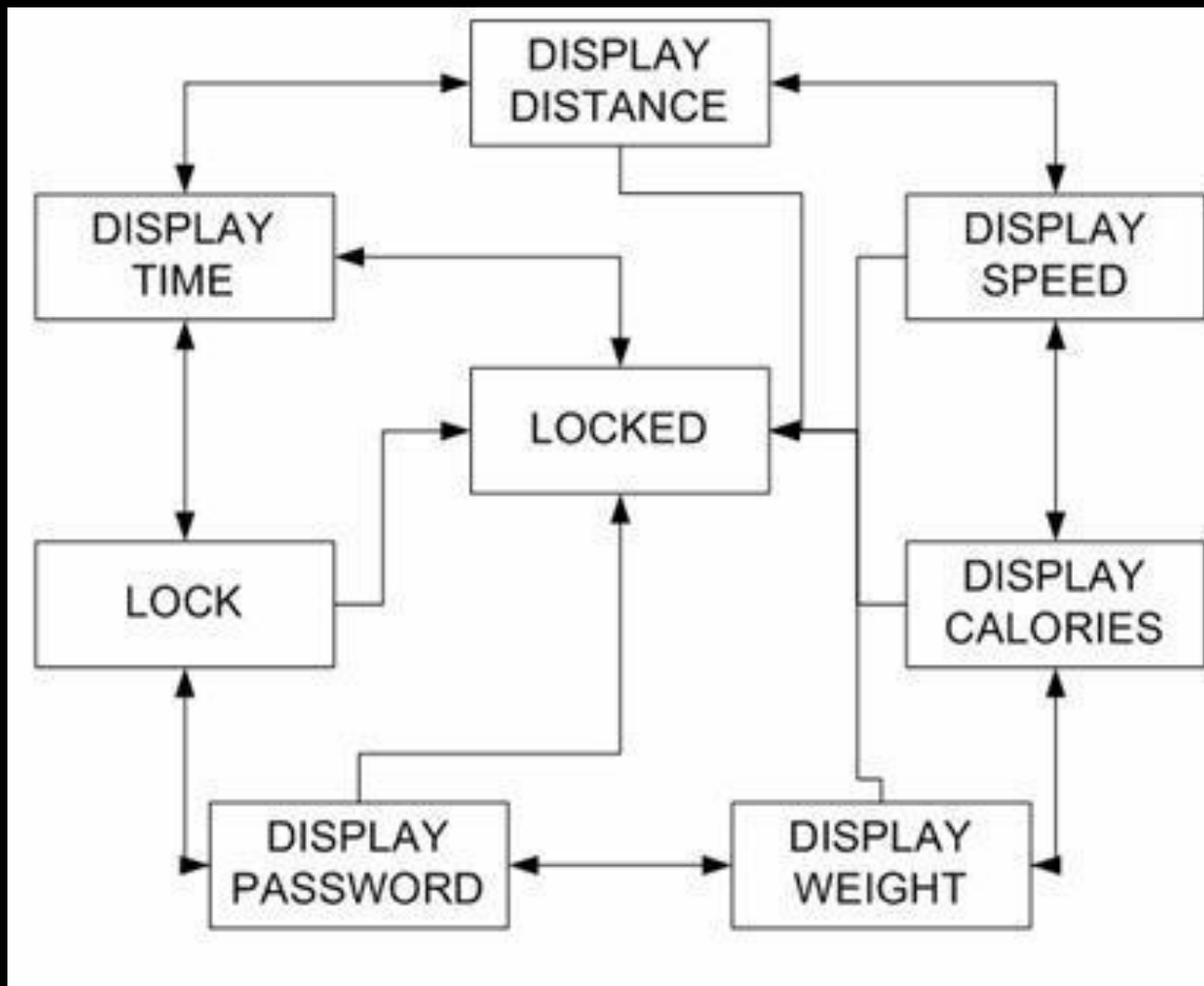


What are Workflows (cont)

- State Machine Workflow
 - No predefined sequence of steps
 - Define a set of states and possible transitions between each state
 - Control by external events
 - Best for problems involving human interactions



What are Workflows (cont)





Key Benefits of Workflows

- Automation – Streamline and simplify
- Process Control – Standardize process and audit trails
- Flexibility – Adapt to changing business rules
- Reusability – activity implementations and process models
- Scalability – application development and execution



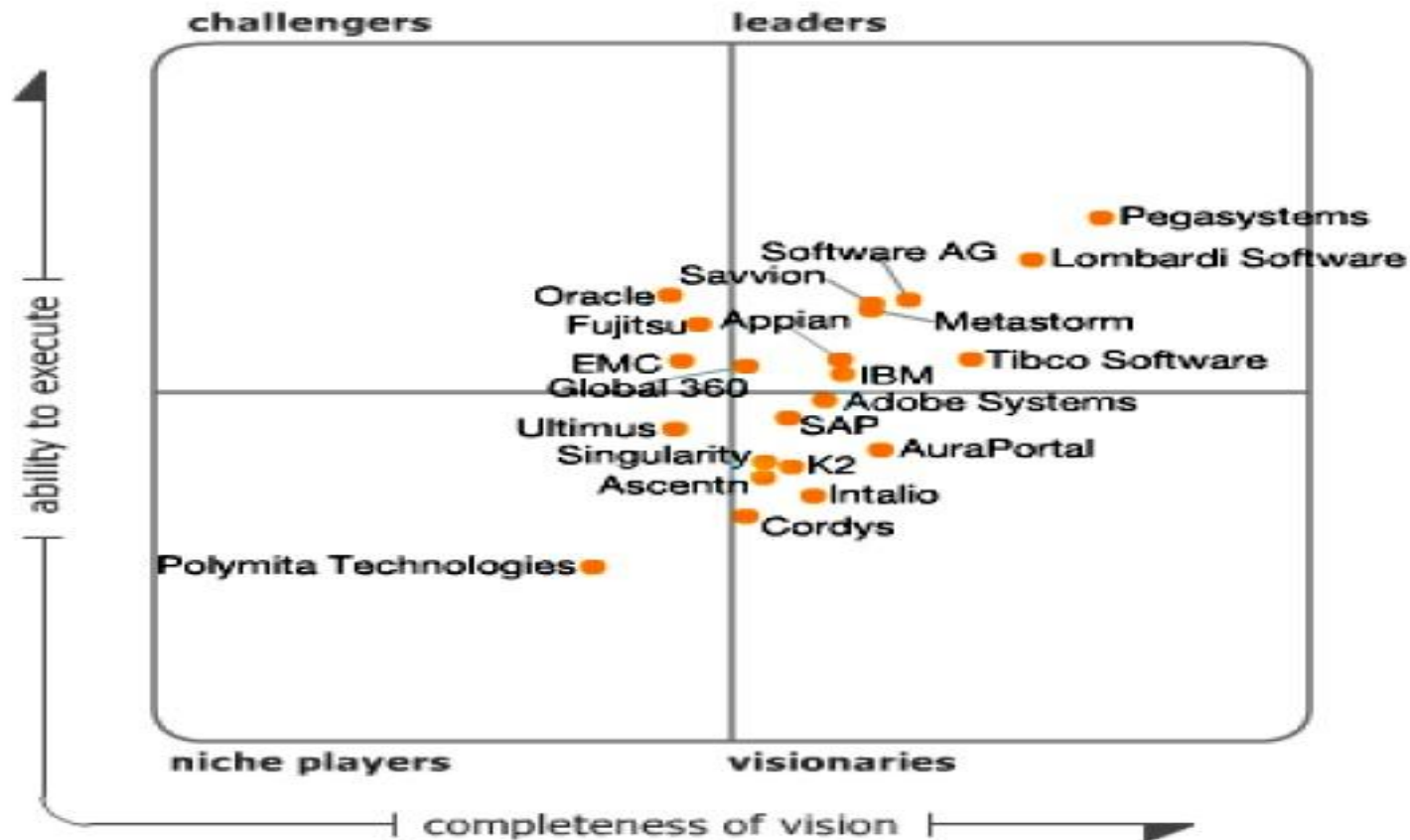
How Workflows are Leveraged

- Document Reviews & Approval
- Records Management
- Case Management
- Time & Expense Reporting
- Human Resources On-Boarding
- Help Desk & Technical Support
- E-Commerce

Major Players in BPM Market



Figure 1. Magic Quadrant for Business Process Management Suites



As of January 2009

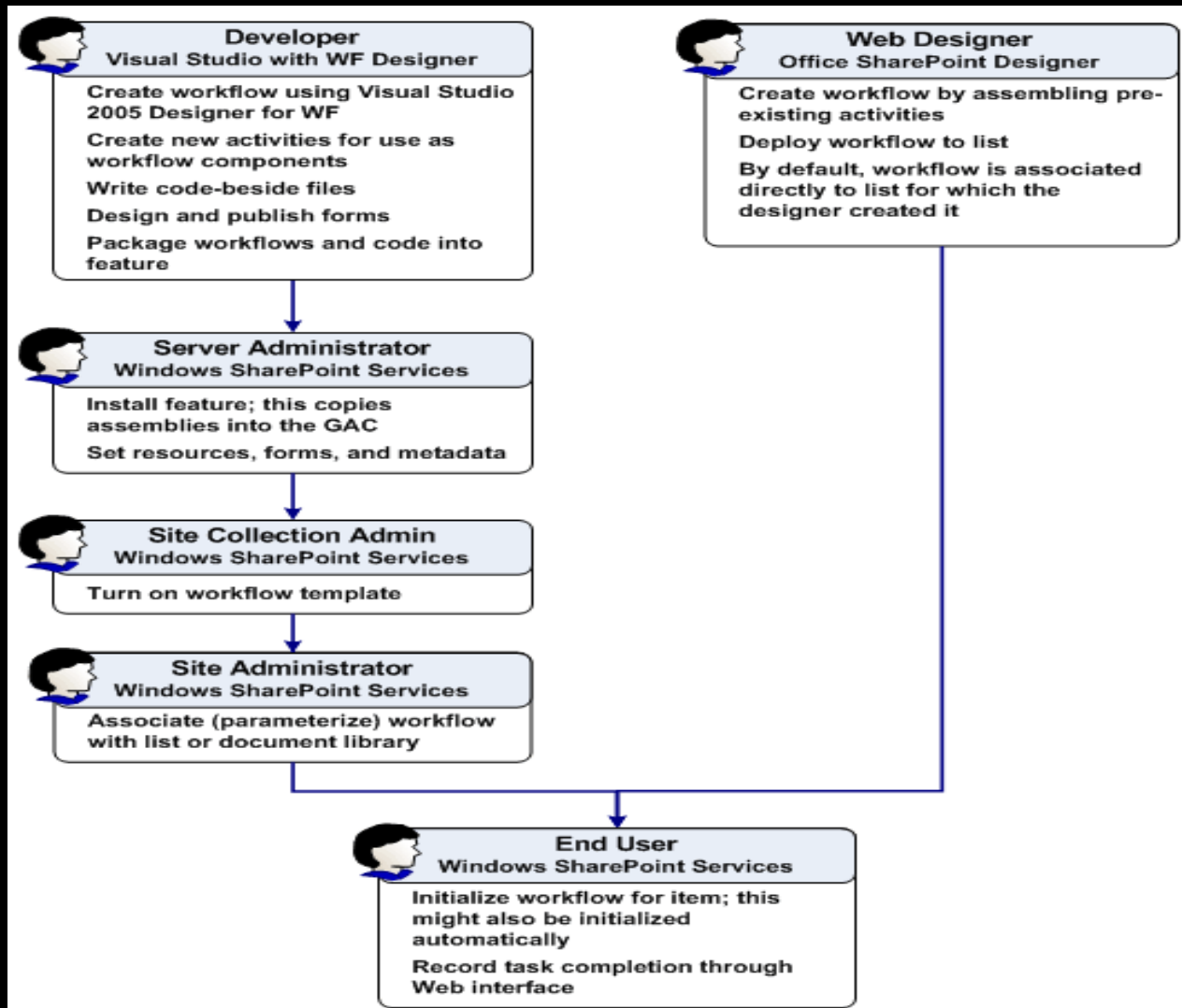
Source: Gartner (February 2009)



Major Players in MOSS Market

- SharePoint Designer
- Windows Workflow Foundation (WF)
- K2
- Nintex
- Metastorm

Designer vs Visual Studio





Designer vs Visual Studio (cont)

Criteria	SharePoint Designer 2007	Visual Studio for Workflow Foundation
Code-Behind/Beside	No	Yes
List-Specific Administration	Yes	No
Association	Markup, rules, and supporting files are stored un-compiled	Markup and code-behind files are compiled into assembly



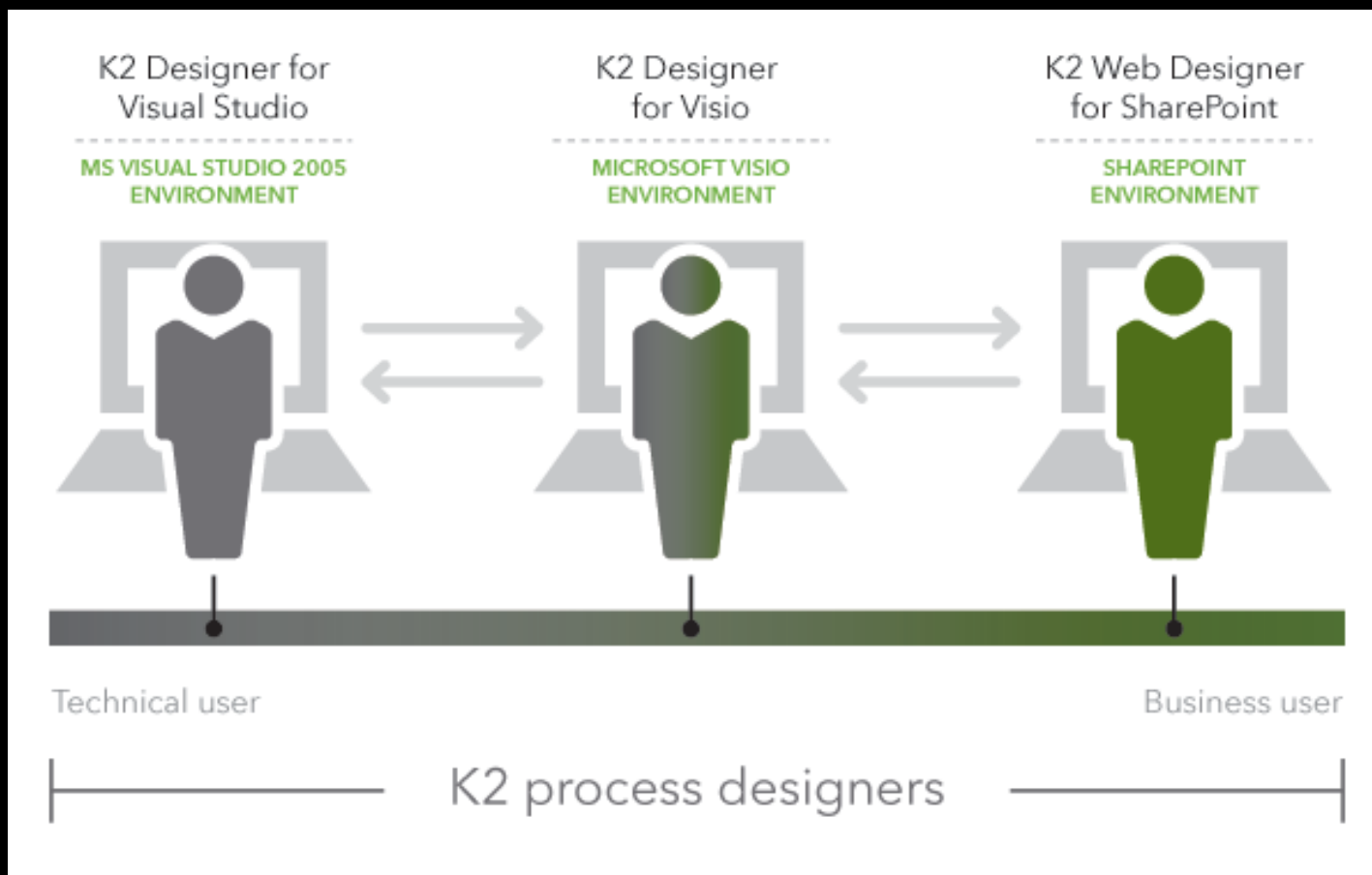
Designer vs Visual Studio (cont)

Criteria	SharePoint Designer 2007	Visual Studio for Workflow Foundation
Forms	Automatic; customizable	Any forms technology, eg ASP.NET
Workflow Modifications	No	Yes
Custom Activities	No	Yes
Deployment	Automatic	Feature
Debugging	No	Visual Studio debugging
Sequential & State Workflows	Sequential Only	Both Sequential & State



What is K2 blackpearl

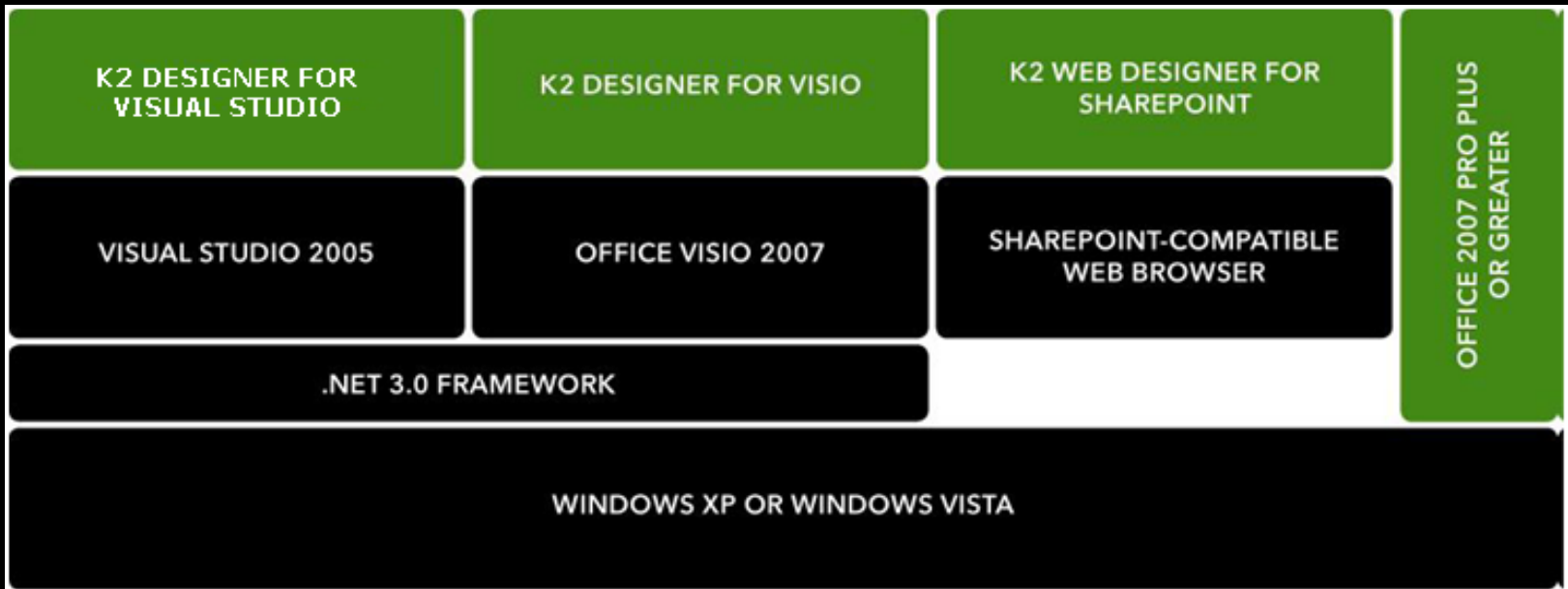
- The Right Tool for the Right Person





What is K2 blackpearl (cont)

- Fully integrated process designers
 - SharePoint Designer
 - Visio
 - Visual Studio





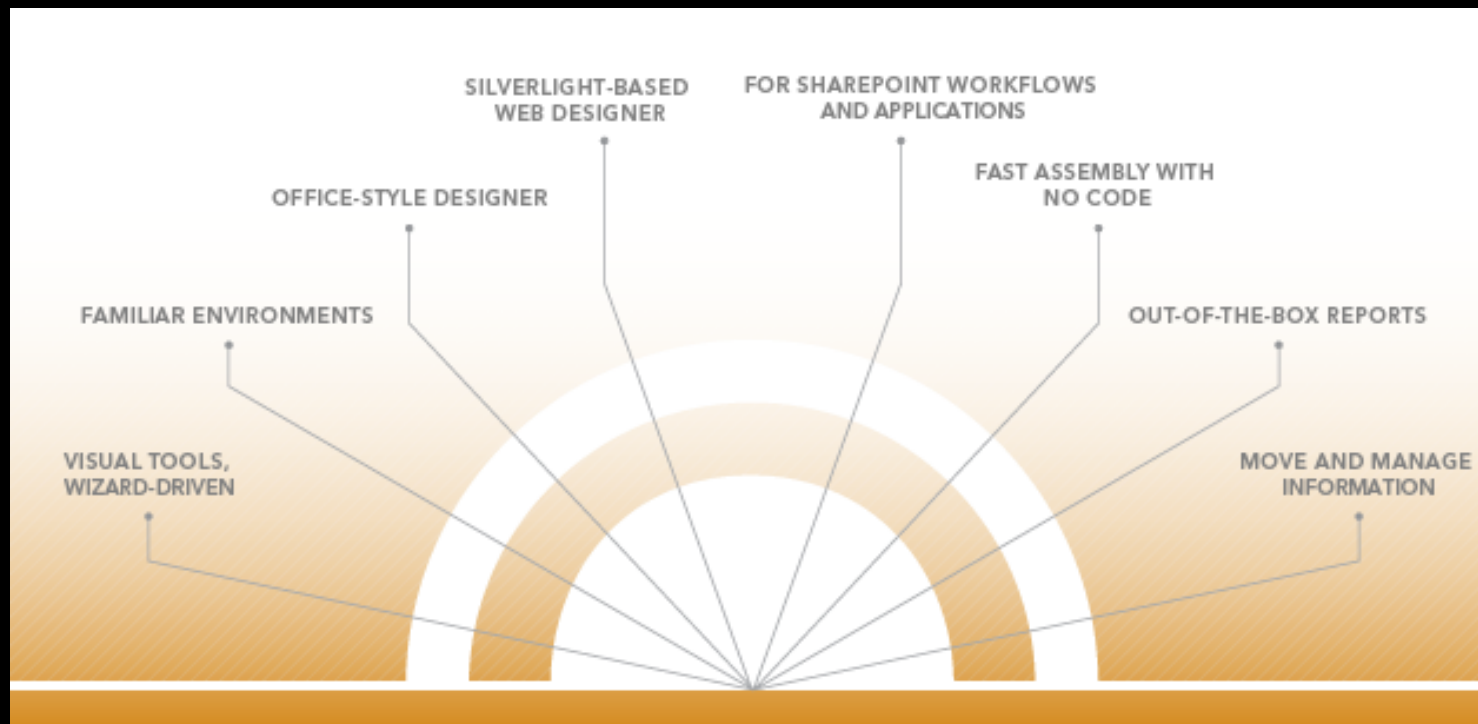
Benefits of K2 blackpearl

- Increased Efficiency
 - Speed Up Development
 - Reusable Components
- SharePoint Integration Wizards
 - Managing Sites, Libraries, Documents and Lists
 - Starting Processes Based On SharePoint Events
- Office 2007 Integration
 - Alerts and Task Lists Within Office Suite
 - Integration with InfoPath and Forms Server



What is K2 blackpoint

- K2 blackpoint
 - “SharePoint workflow. More features. No code.”
 - SharePoint-Specific





Resources

- Kenneth Lo's Bookmarks
 - delicious.com/kennethlo/workflow
- Gartner Magic Quadrant
 - www.gartner.com
- Workflow Development Tools Comparison
 - klopmp.com/wf-tools



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