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Emory University Case Study I2 Day Camp

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About Emory

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Facts & Figures

- Private university in suburban Atlanta
- ~ 13,000 undergrads, 7,000 grads
- Professional schools, including Medical, Law, Business, Public Health schools
- ~ 24,000 employees, including those from our academic medical center (hospitals and clinics)
- Centralized IT, but many strong departmental IT groups

IT Foundation -- 2006

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Standard Approach for Directory Services (ID Management, Authentication, Authorization)

Synchronize existing directories (e.g., LDAP and Active Directory) so that phone and email lookups can occur for all University and Healthcare staff, irrespective of location. Synchronize approach for assigning network IDs across the Academic and Healthcare Enterprise. Migrate existing network IDs and synchronize password credentials and expiration policies.

Identity Management

- Select identity management vendor; develop a phased-in approach for implementing priority modules such as provisioning and single sign-on.
- *Completion Target Dates:*
  - Proof of Concept by the end of October 2006.
  - Business case presented to IT Governance by January 2007.

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Governance and Prioritization for IT Initiatives

"Create a set of timely, transparent processes for IT governance and prioritization clearly aligned with the missions of Emory. Create a common business case template that can be used across Healthcare and the Academic enterprise. Develop reporting mechanisms that allow committees to understand performance of application and project portfolios."

Governance

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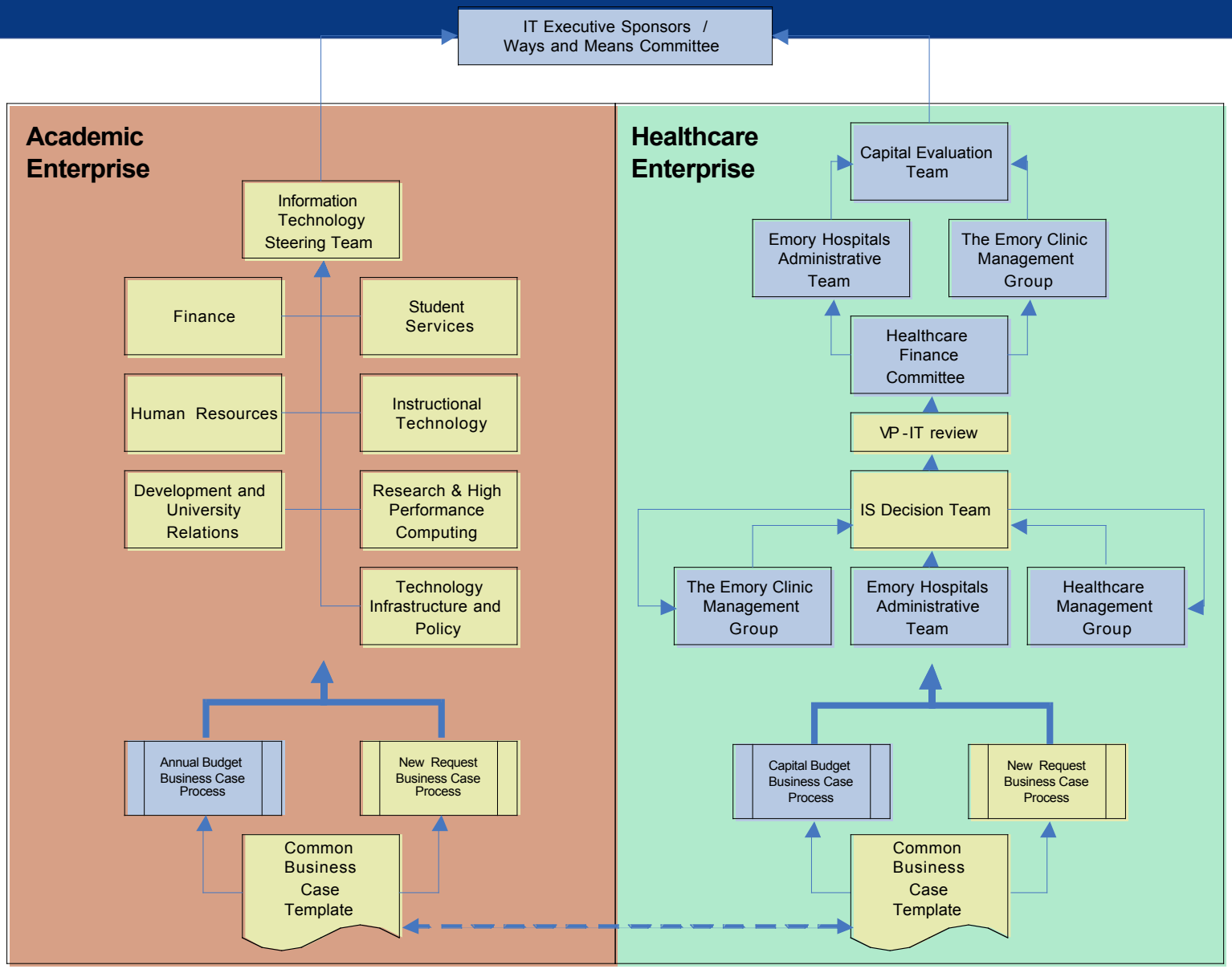

Organizational Waves

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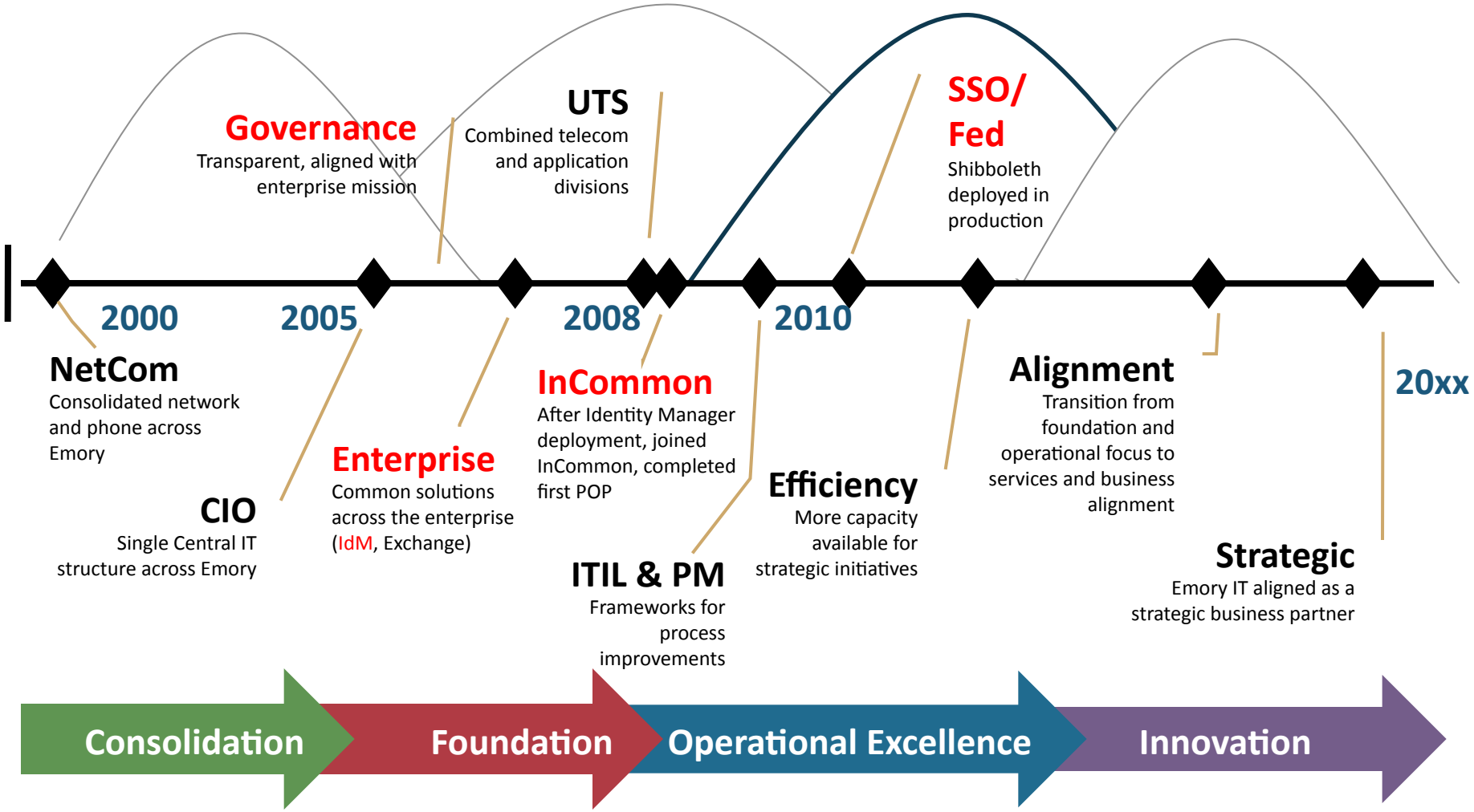

SSO History

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Siteminder

- In 2008, Emory had been using Siteminder for number of years
- Complex, difficult to maintain, difficult to use, and expensive
- Very low adoption rate
- No benefits from "single" sign-on
- Most sites used direct LDAP connections

SSO Choice

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With an eye towards federation

- Wanted to provide better SSO service, improved security
- Did detailed comparison of popular options: CAS, CoSign, Siteminder, OpenSSO, Shibboleth, etc.
- Shibboleth distinguished by federation support

Shibboleth Chosen

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Proof of Concept deployed first

- Shibboleth is complex, but well documented
- Most implementation time spent re-reading docs, packaging software
- Completely successfully in a few months, ahead of schedule
- Commercial contract implementations also available

Our implementation

- Deployment on shared JBoss app cluster somewhat challenging
- Clustering multiple nodes with Terracotta inelegant but straightforward
- In production and stable on around half a dozen apps
- Additional apps on hold pending JBoss upgrade to fix bug inherited from old version of Tomcat

Challenges

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- Need to support common attributes for federation – eduPerson, EPPN, etc.
- Two LDAP infrastructures.
- User education – understanding SSO
- Sign-off issues

What's Next

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- Proof of concept federated authentication with Georgia Tech
- Gartner integration
- InCommon Wiki

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