eInfrastructure: A View from the Edge

…looking in both directions

e-IRG Workshop, Vilnius

Agenda

- Assumptions
- Context
- Model
- Wrap Up

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Assumptions

- eScience is a good thing
- eInfrastructure should support eScience

- Computer science not at heart of all research
- Reaching the “research tail” is important
- Research results are important

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Assumptions

- Long term presence required

- Everything changes
- Change does not mean defeat

- Structural and Cohesion aspects to this

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Assumptions

- Unity and Collaboration is good

- ERIC is a good thing

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Context

- My background
  - -> ERIC
- eInfrastructure background
  - Metacomputing and (inter)networking
  - Géant
  - Grid
    - EDG
    - EEGE
    - EGI
  - Cloud
  - Big data
- What Next?

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PUCE Model

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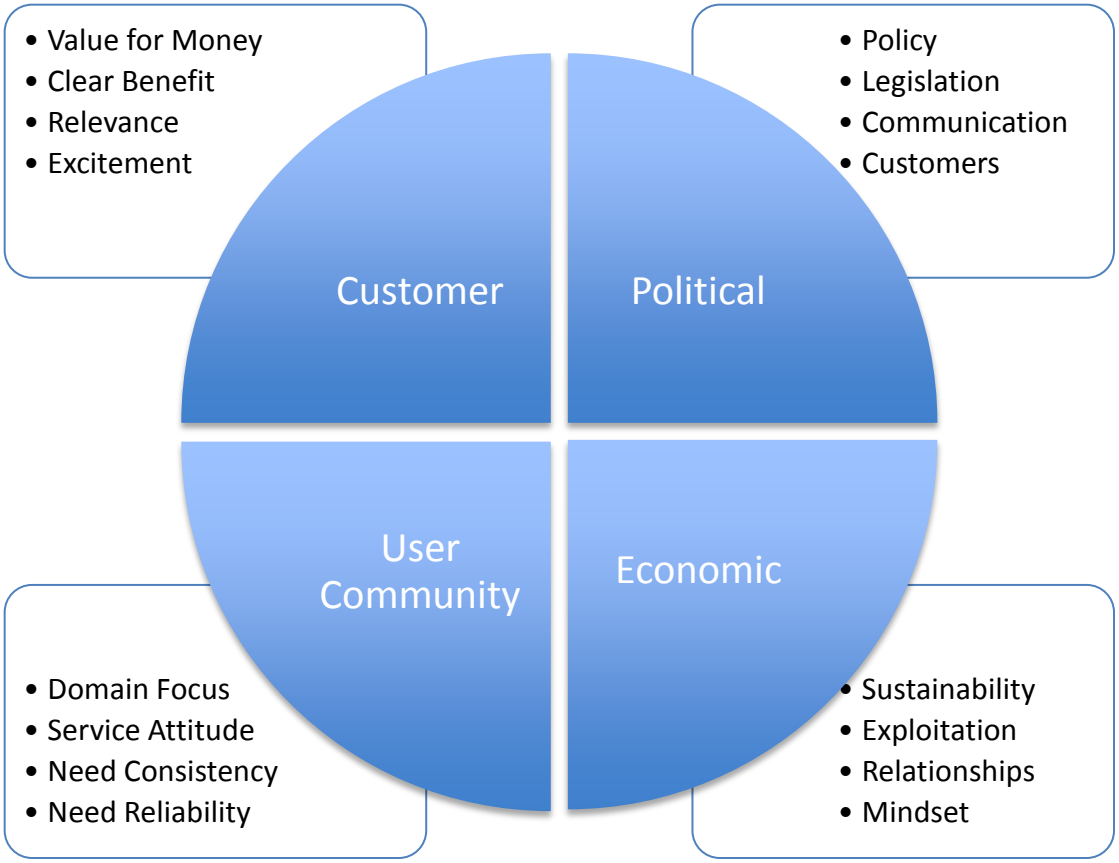

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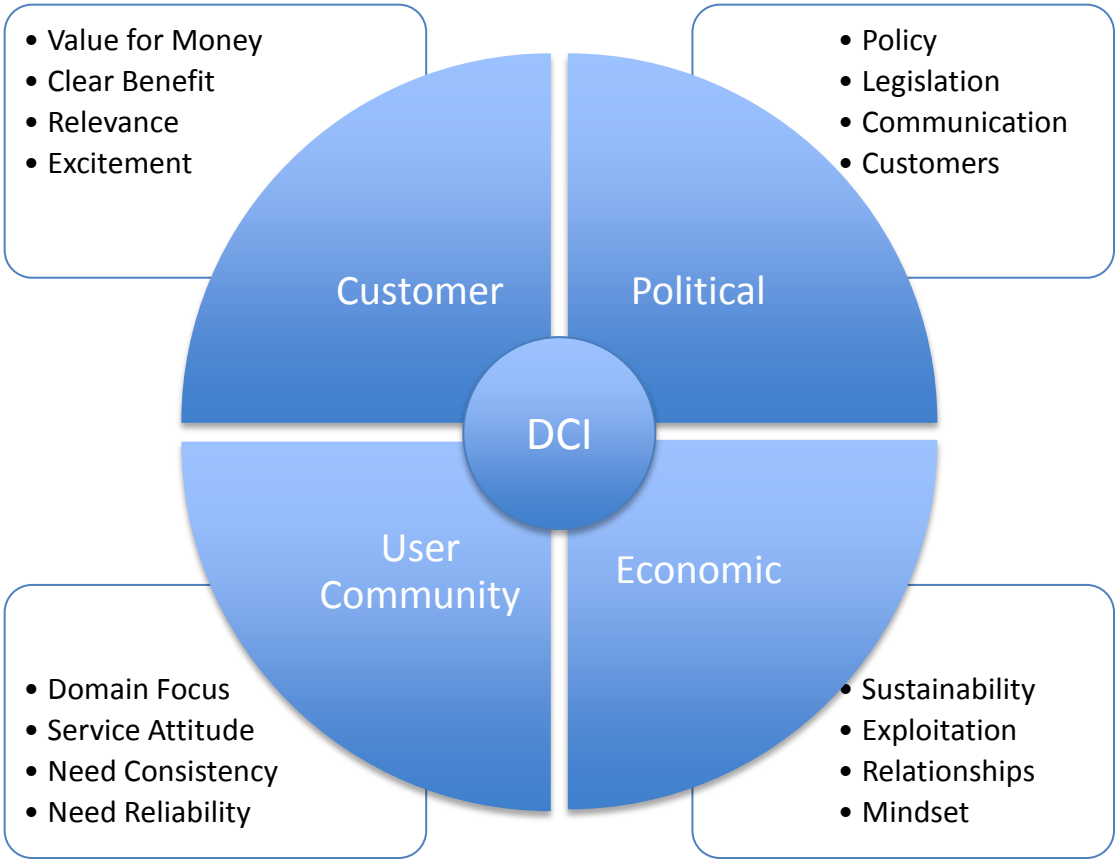

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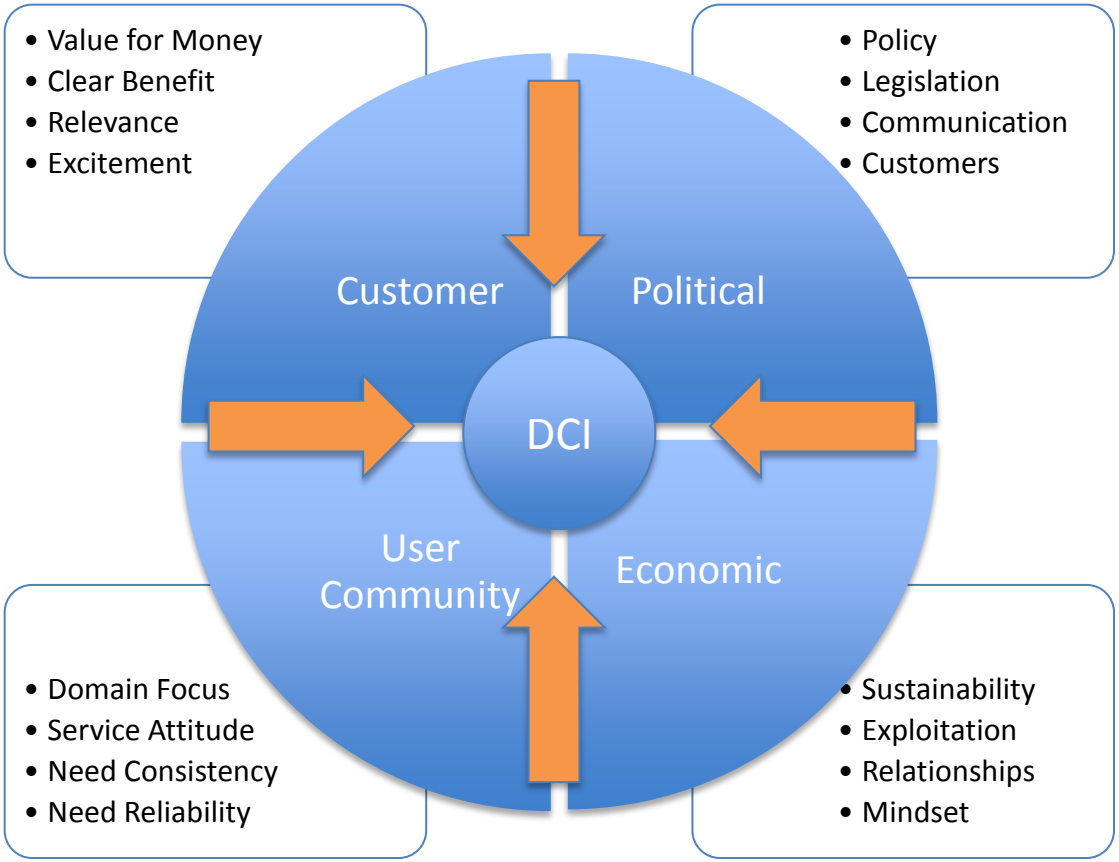

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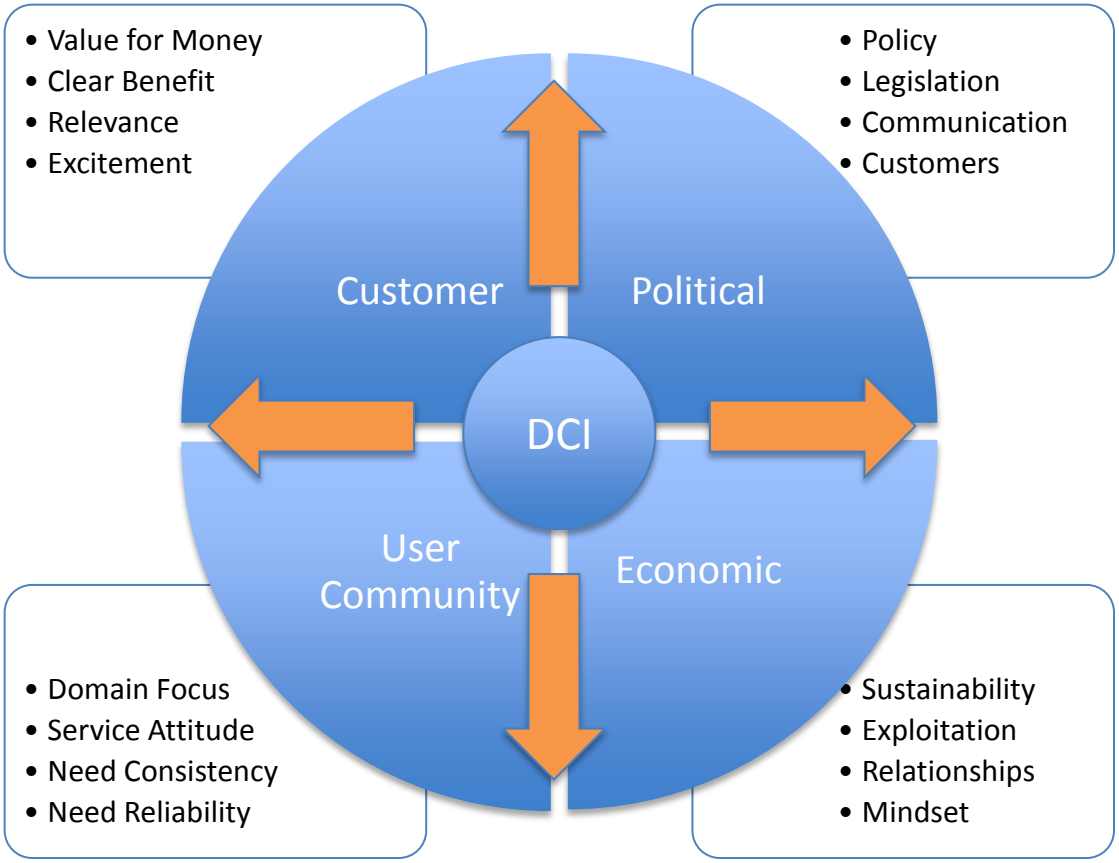

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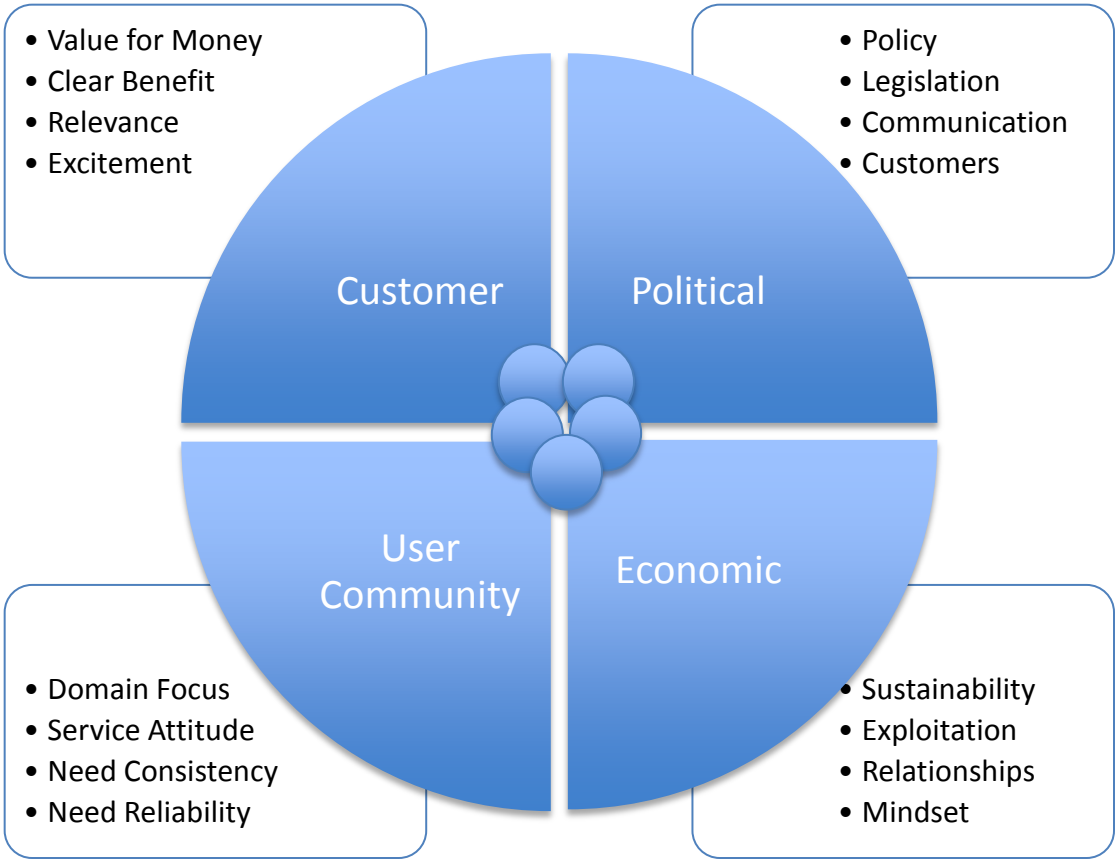

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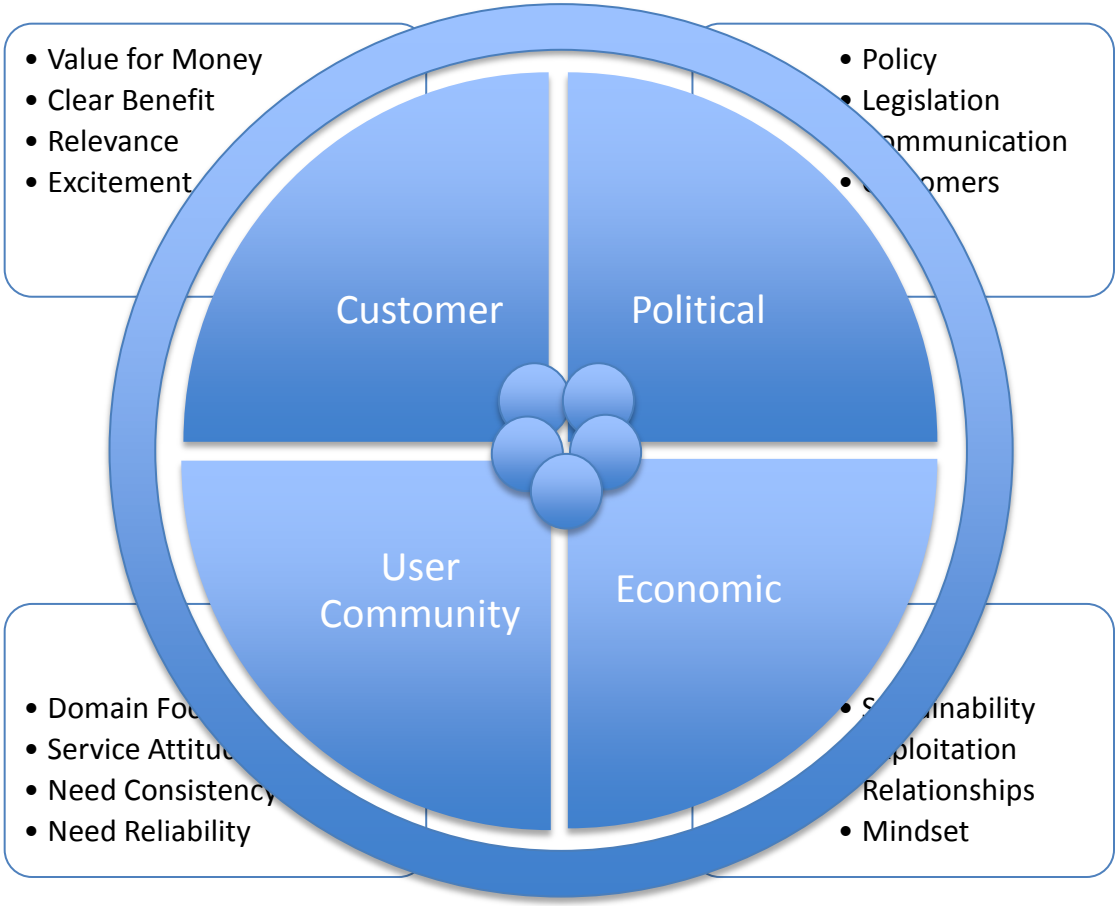

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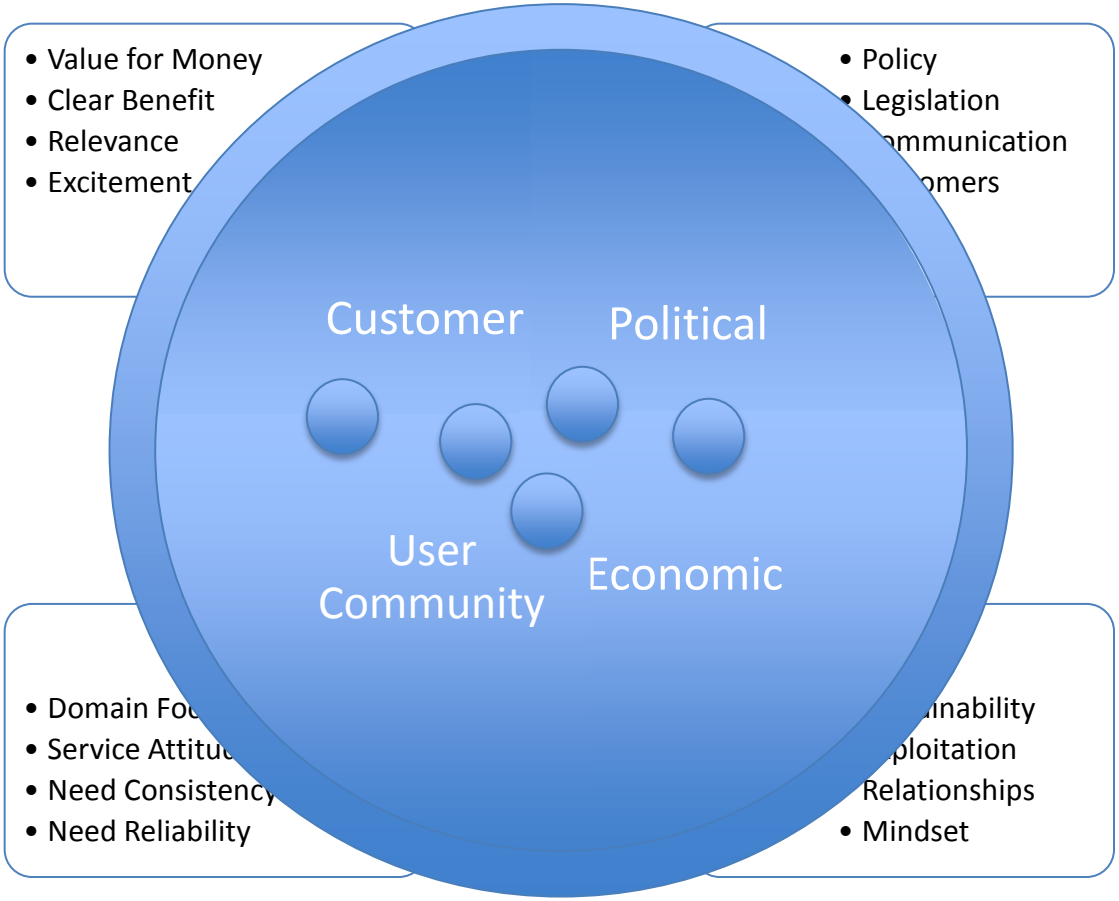

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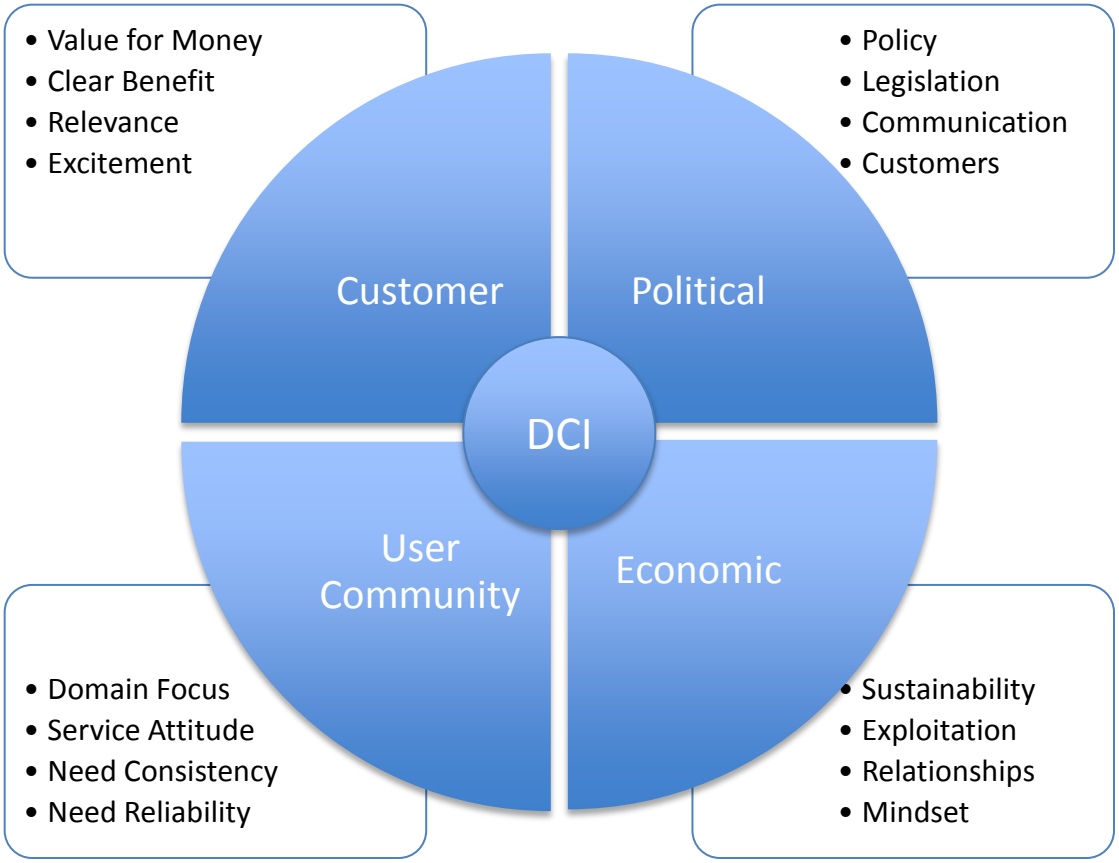

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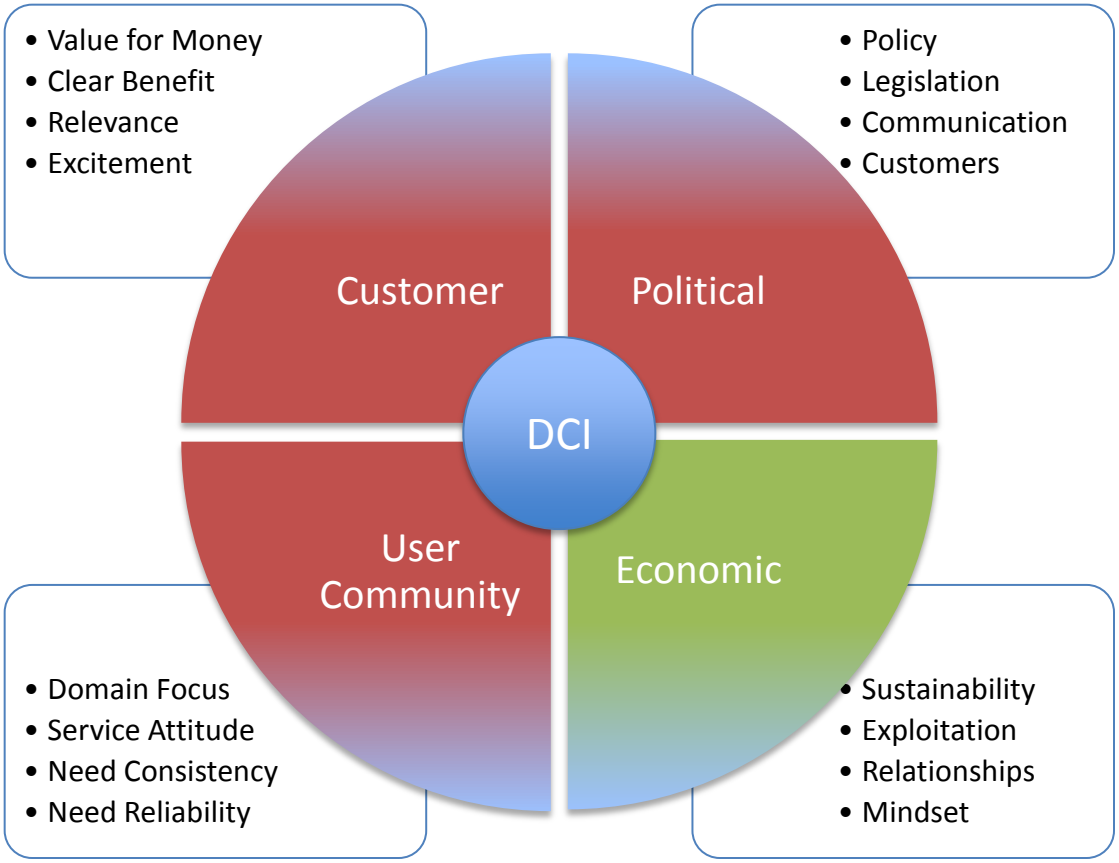

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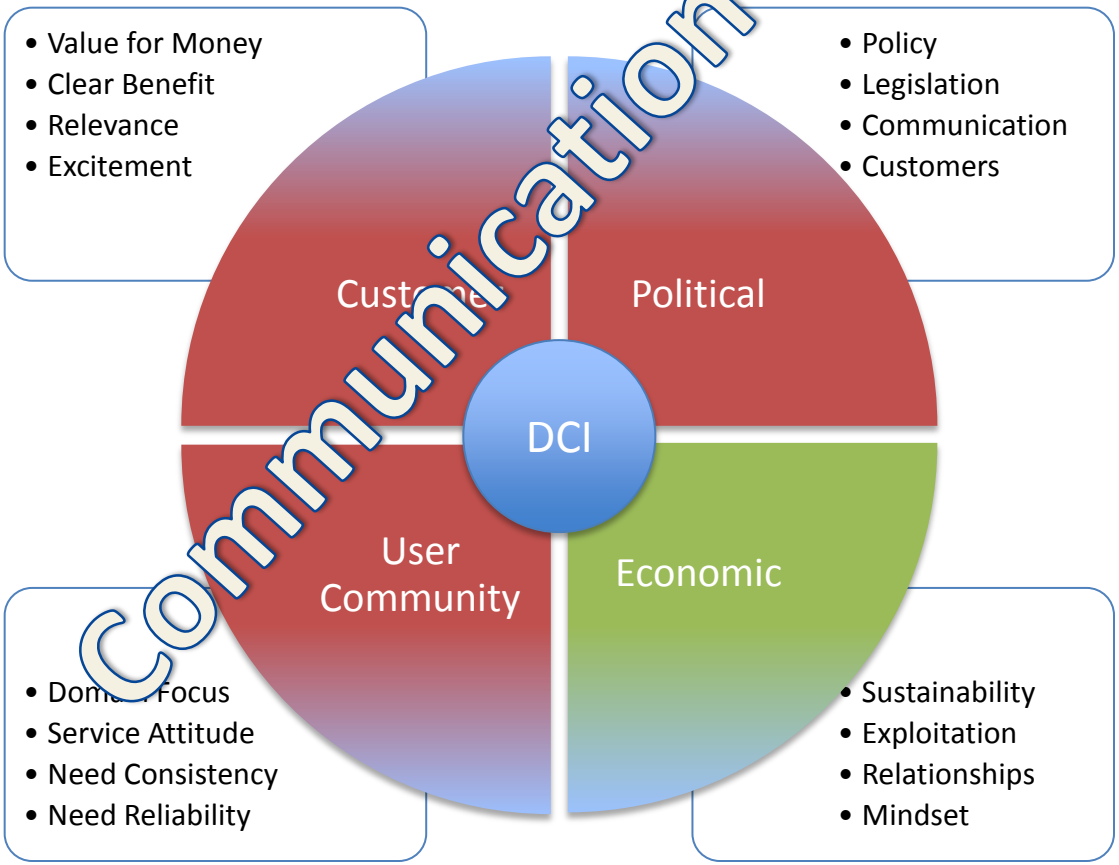

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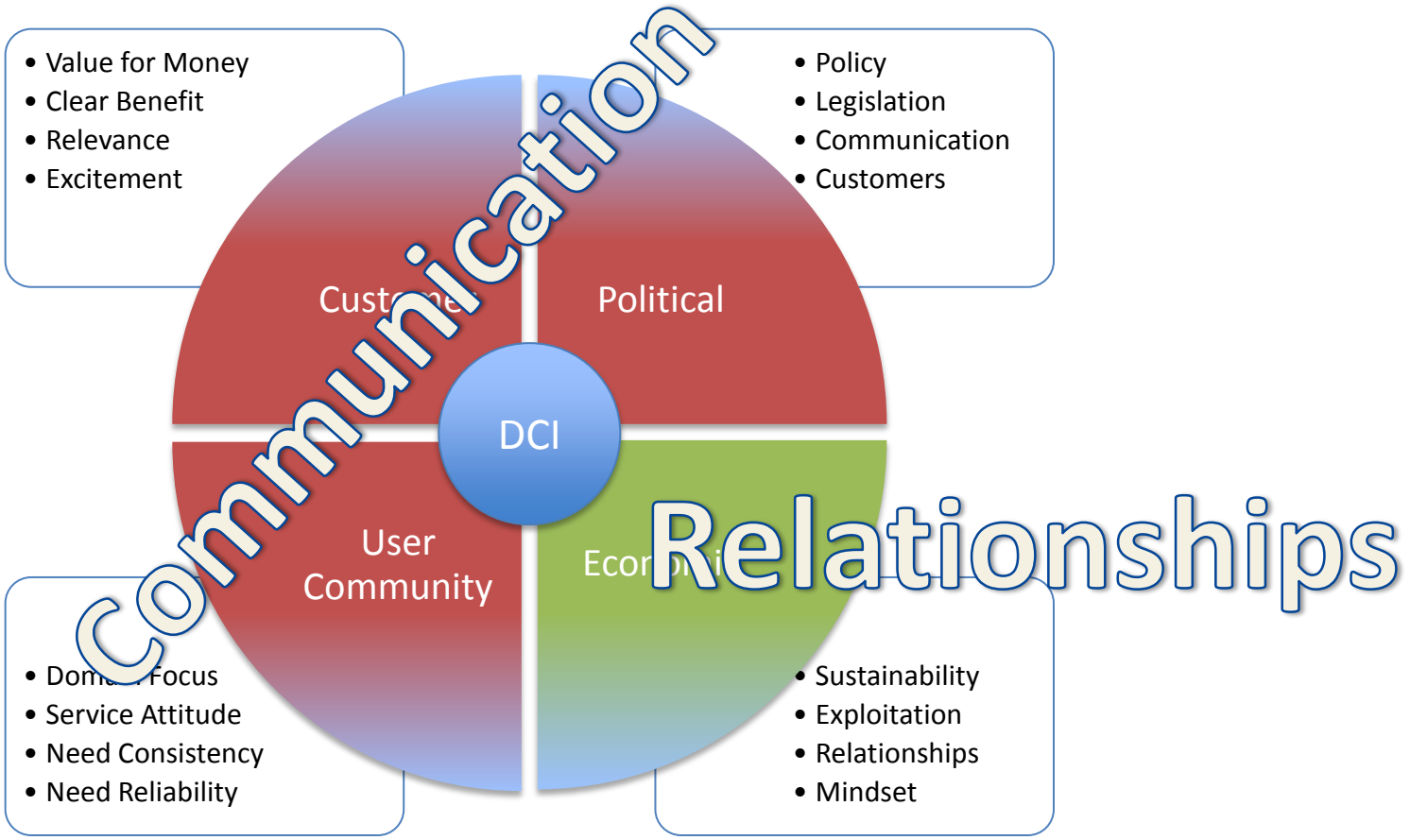

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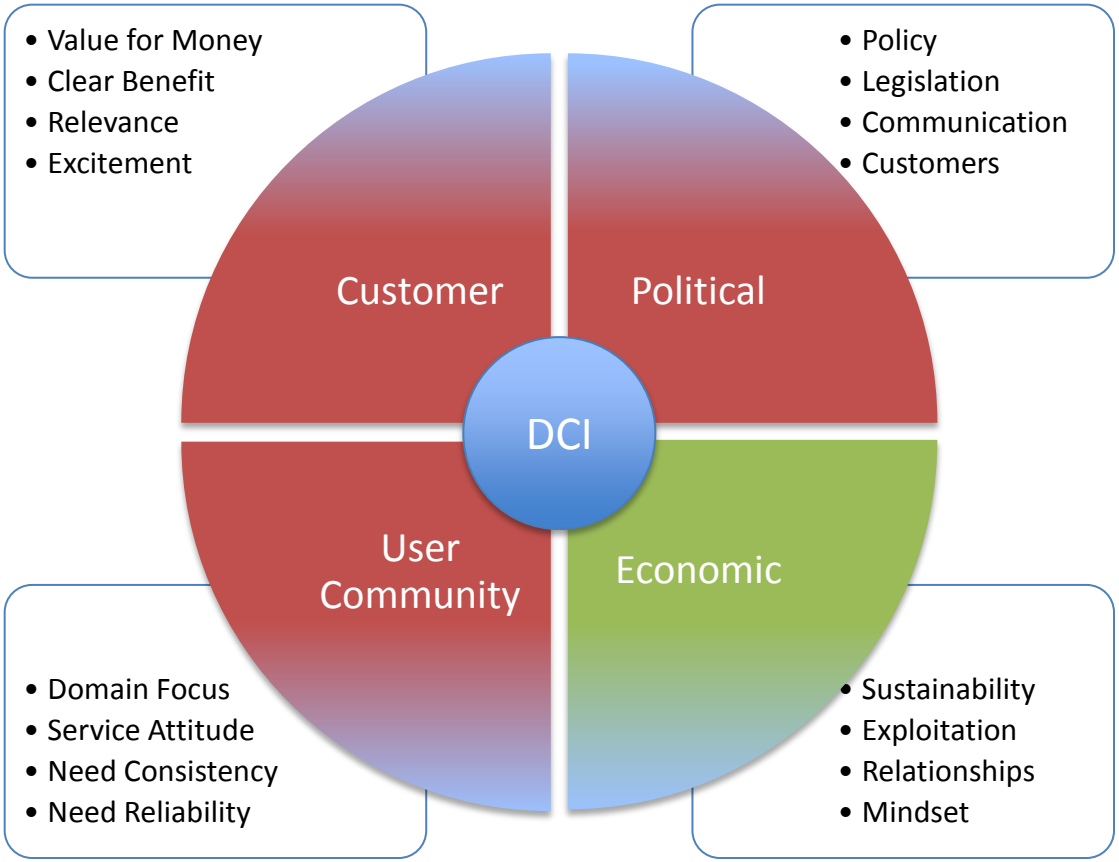

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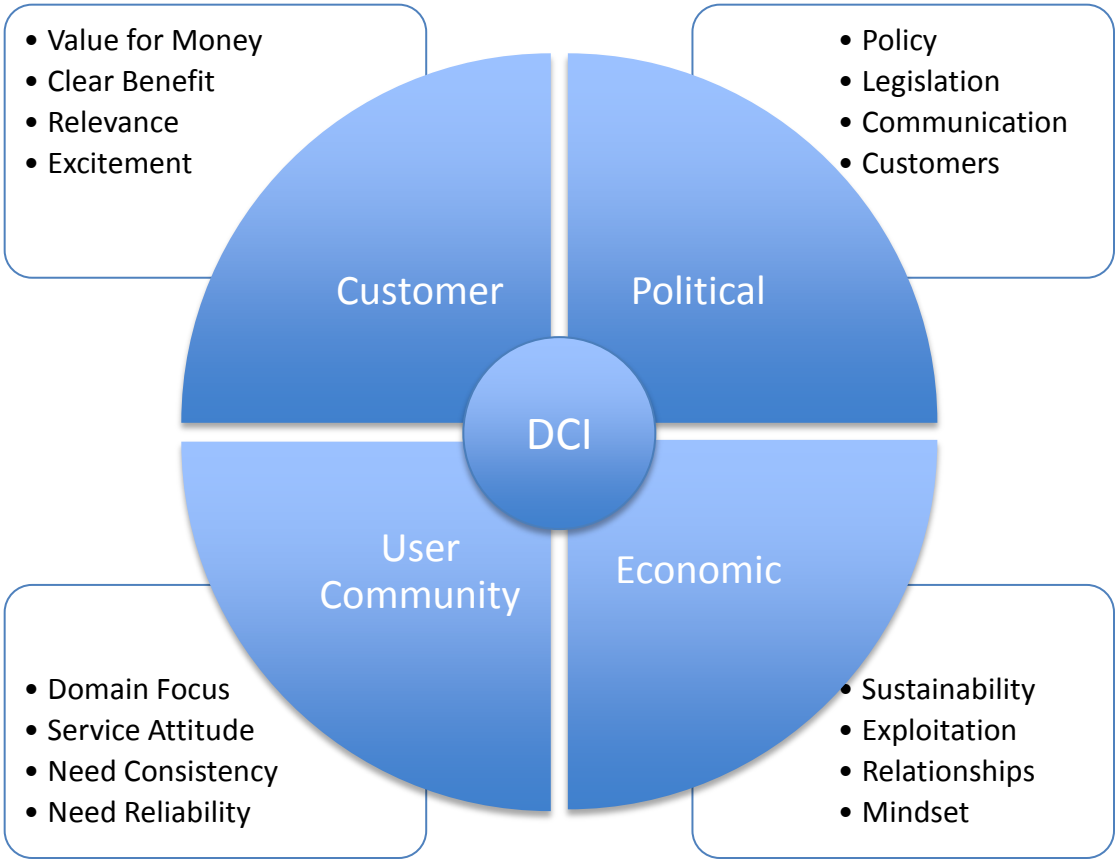

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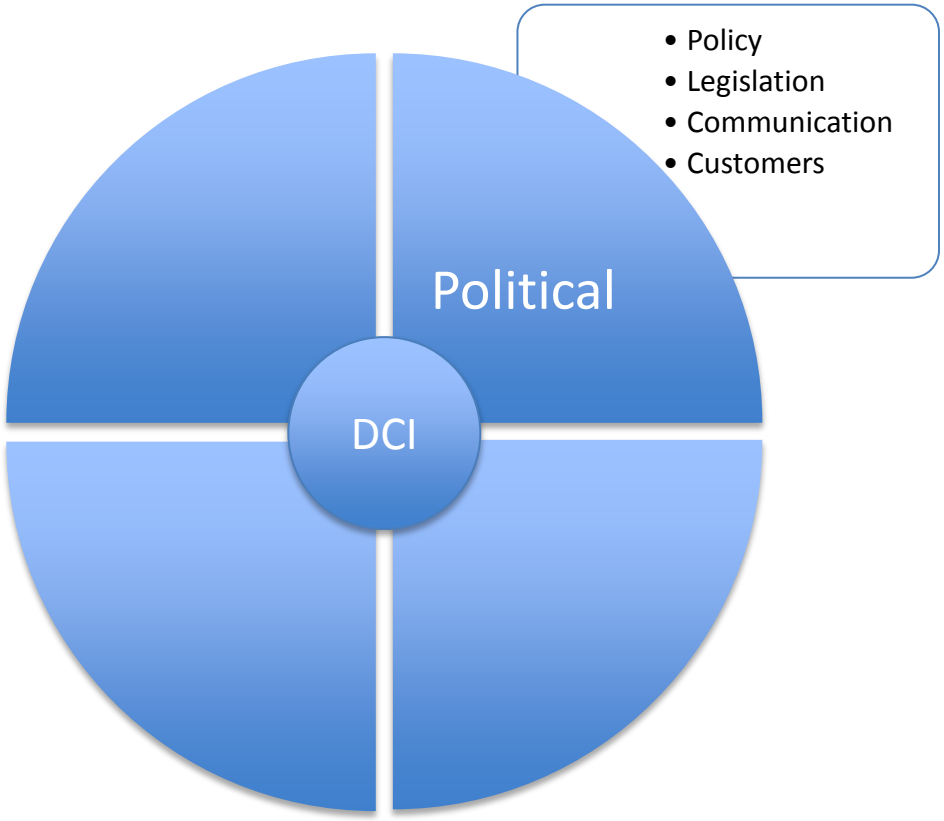

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Political Context

- Regional Discrepancies
  - Make life difficult
- Motivation
  - Elections
  - Popularity (relative)
  - Short-termism
- Decisions made here
  - Decisions lead to legislation
  - Decisions can be influenced

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Lobbying is effective
if a single voice is used

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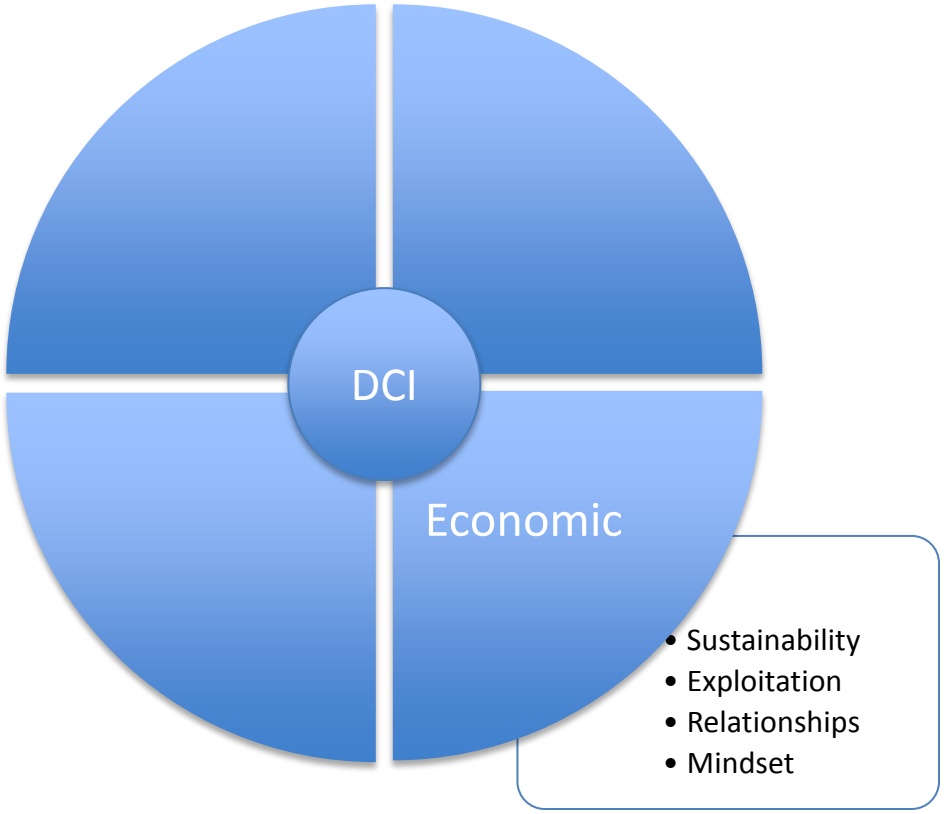

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Economic Context

- Ecosystem
  - Sustainability through engagement
  - Survival through relevance
  - Service-oriented thinking
    - Technology is irrelevant
    - Policy decisions already taken that affect everyone here
  - Exploitation route for relevant research results
- Benefits easier to see
- Requires unified approach
- Innovation is “wilder” than invention
- Think… Calvinball

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Calvinball

l Watterson

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Economic Context

- Actually, don't think Calvinball…
- Think additional skills
- Think complementary skills
- Think like entrepreneurs
  - Work collaboratively
  - Make alliances
  - Grow networks
  - Develop spheres of influence
- Create and sustain an impact that is un-ignorable

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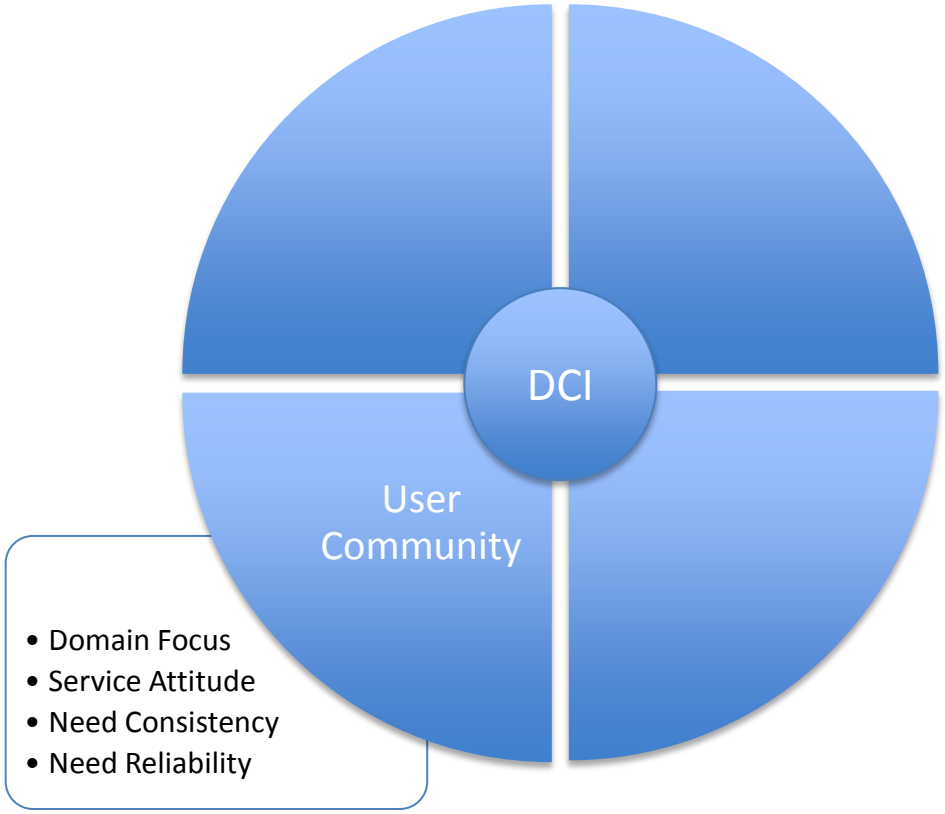

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User Context

- Users don’t care about technology
- Users want support to improve the quality of their results
- Users want access to EASY TO USE services
- Users want continuity and dependability
- Give them a “one-stop-shop”
  - Make the (technology agnostic) service easy to find

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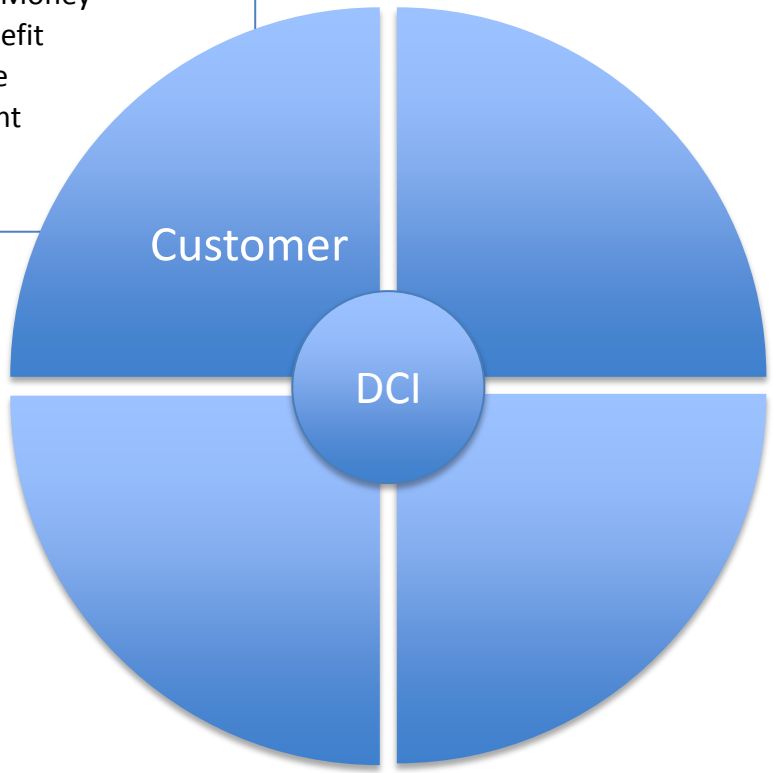
PUCE Model

- Value for Money
- Clear Benefit
- Relevance
- Excitement



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Customer Context

- End users are not your customers
  - Customers pay for something
- Taxpayers are your customers
  - Politicians are the servants of your customers
    - … every four years or so
  - Politicians understand “vote potential”
- Engage with customers in a meaningful way
- Create a public idea that what you do is great

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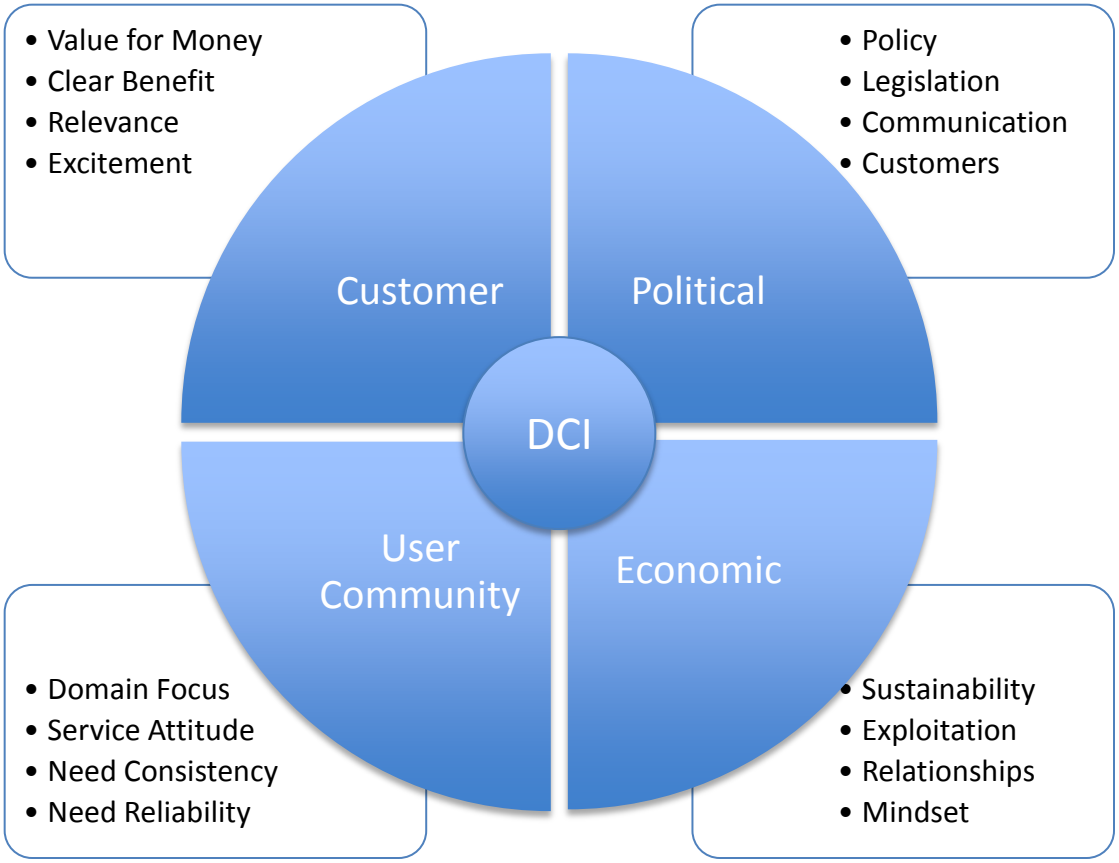

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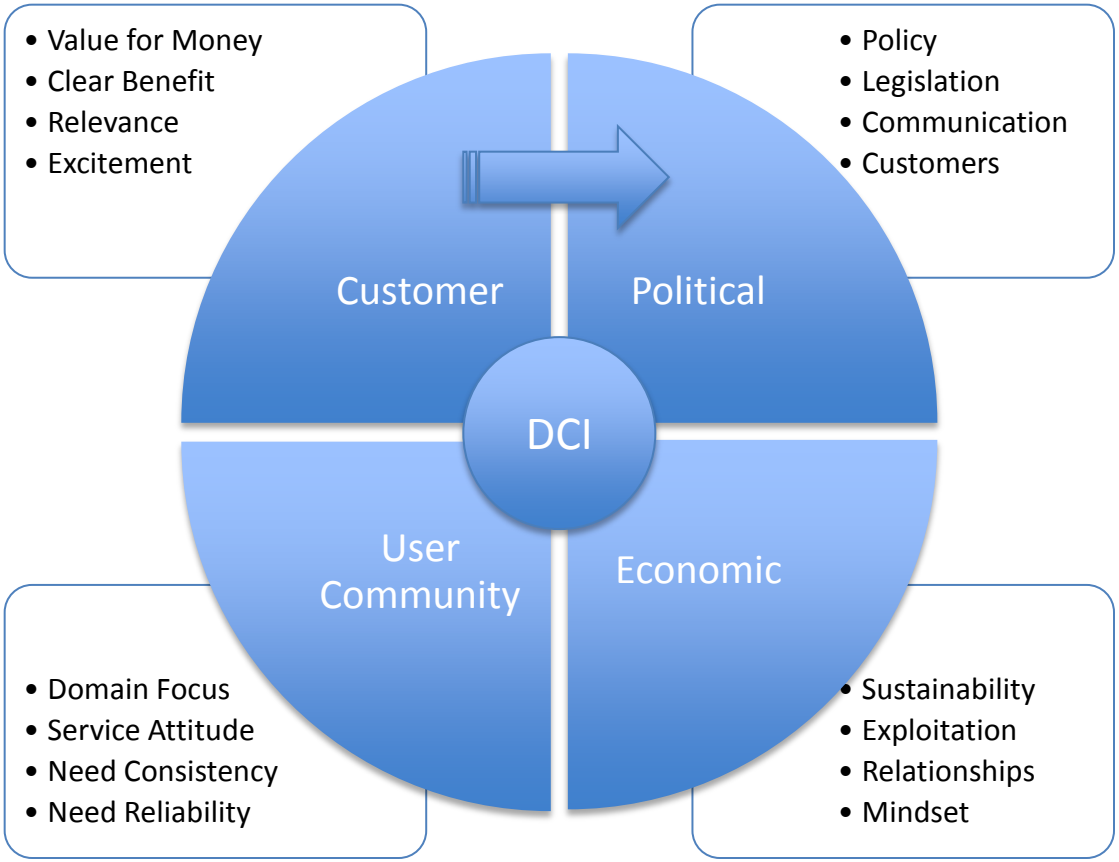

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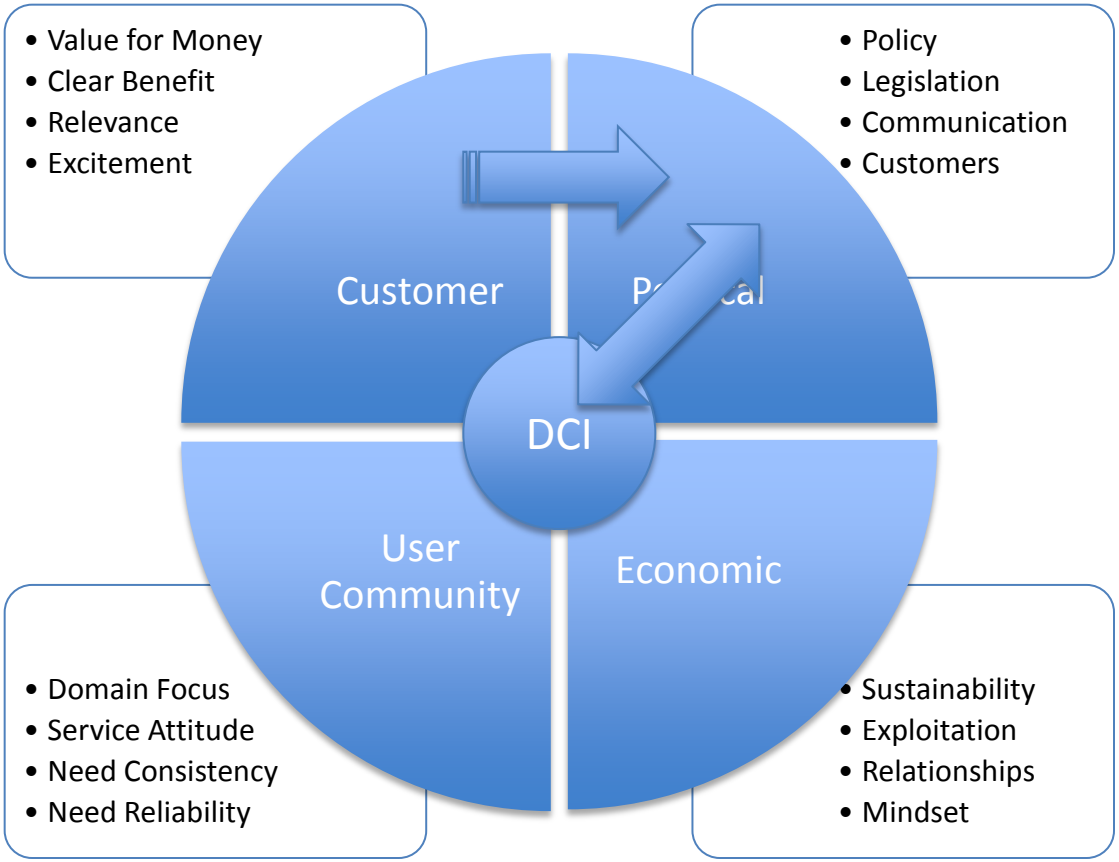

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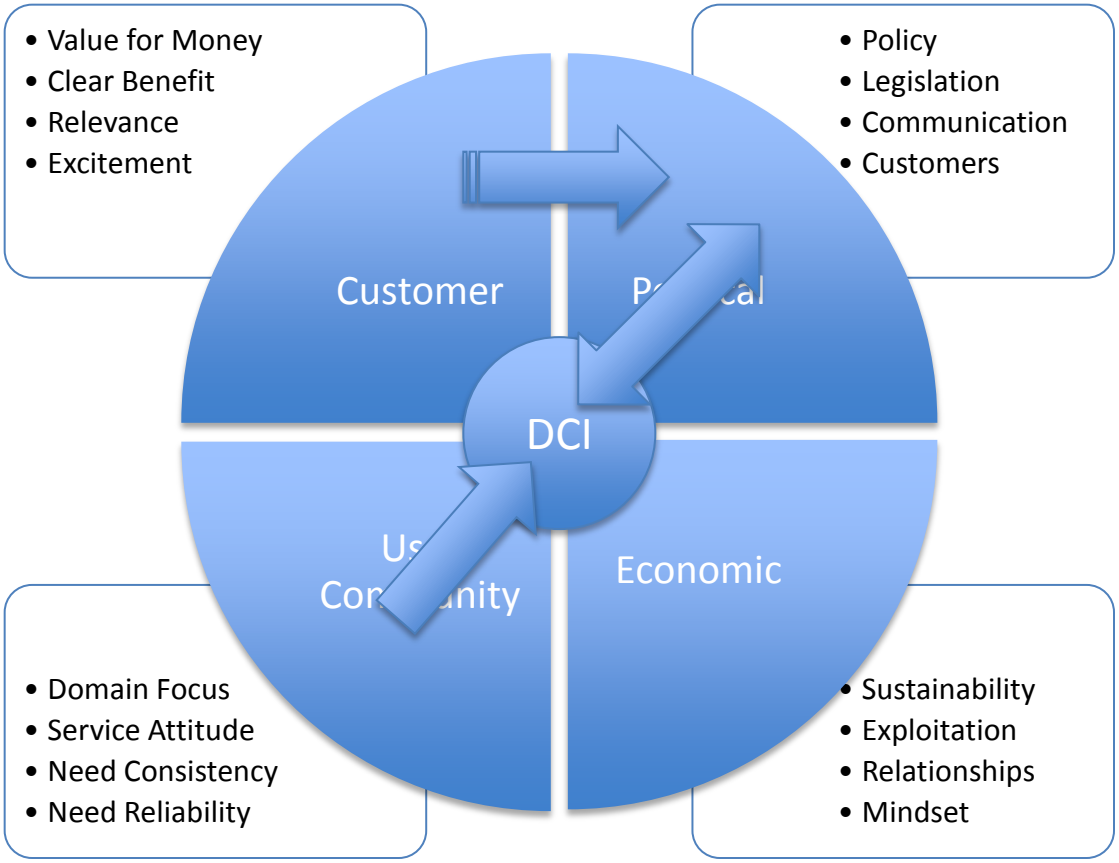

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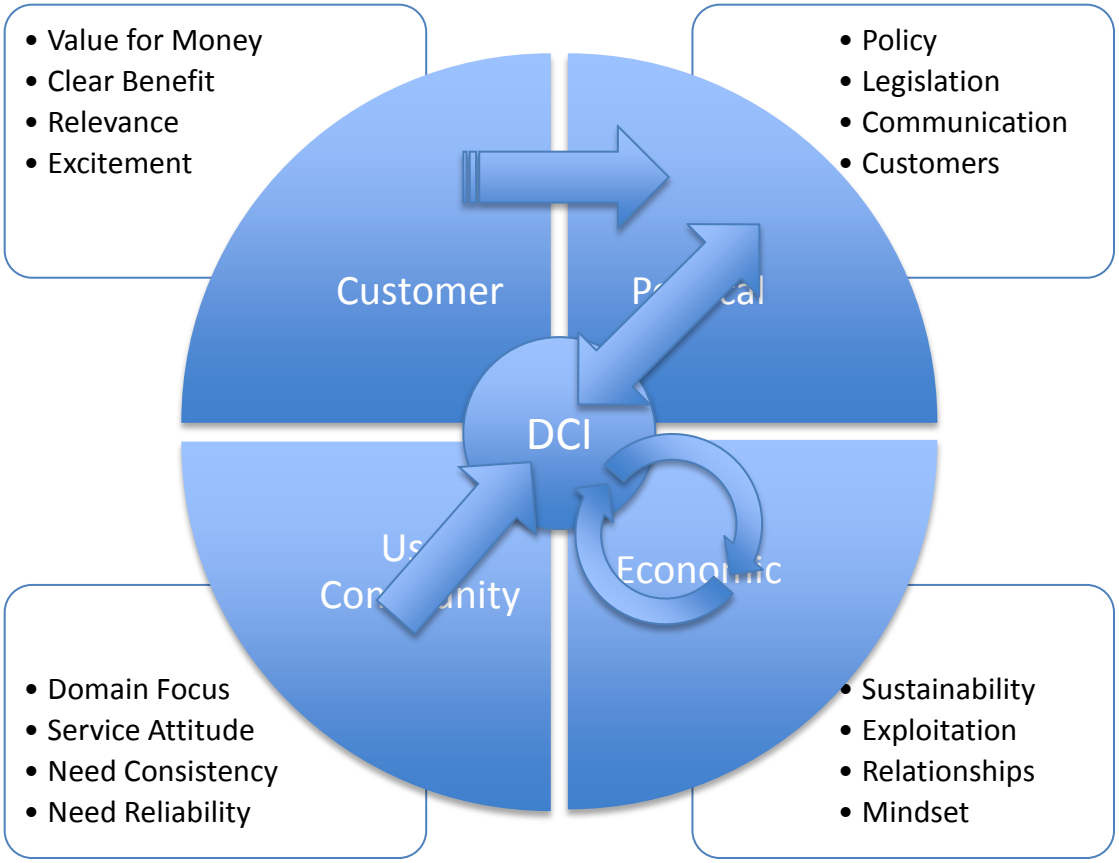

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Wrap Up

- Critical Mass
  - Democratic Decision-making
- Unified Strategic Approach to
  - Thinking and Planning
  - Communication
- Single Focal Point
  - for End-users
  - for Suppliers
- Unified Lobbying
  - Self Determination

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Wrap Up

- But…

- Complimentary Skills
- Community Cohesion
- Structural and Organisational Transition
- Long Term Presence
- The Future is Still Uncertain

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Questions?

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