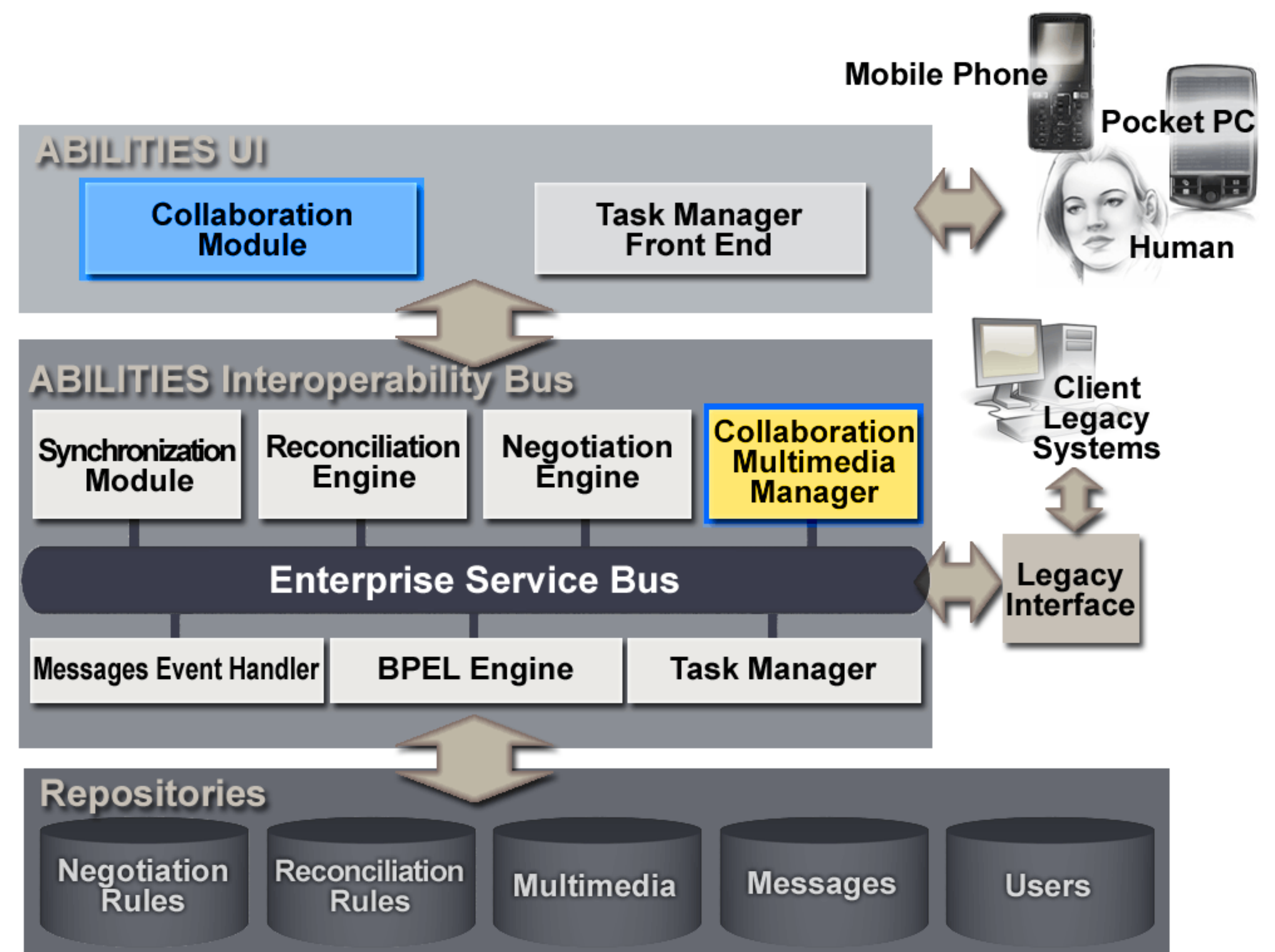
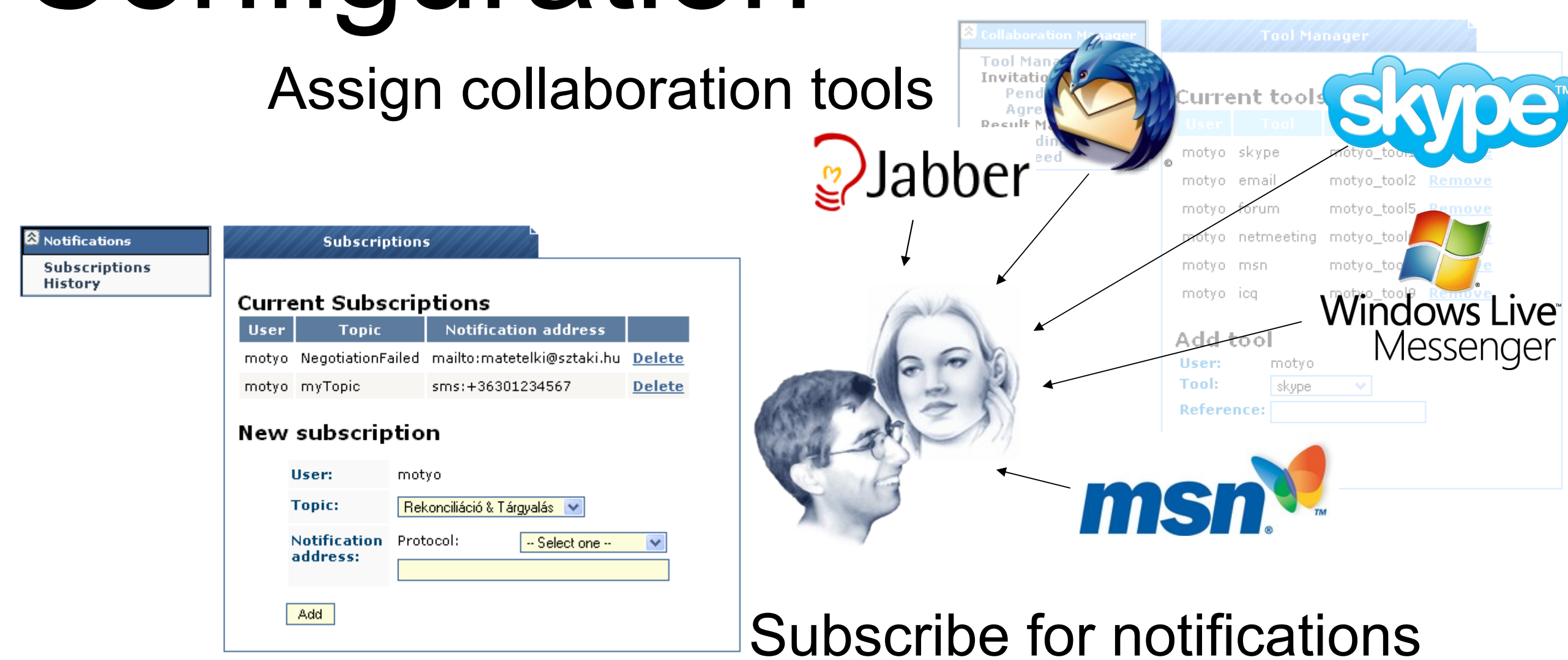


ABILITIES: “Collaborative Work Support”

Collaborative work in ABILITIES focuses on the pre-planned or ad-hoc organization of group activities between or among participants of the ABILITIES network.

Configuration



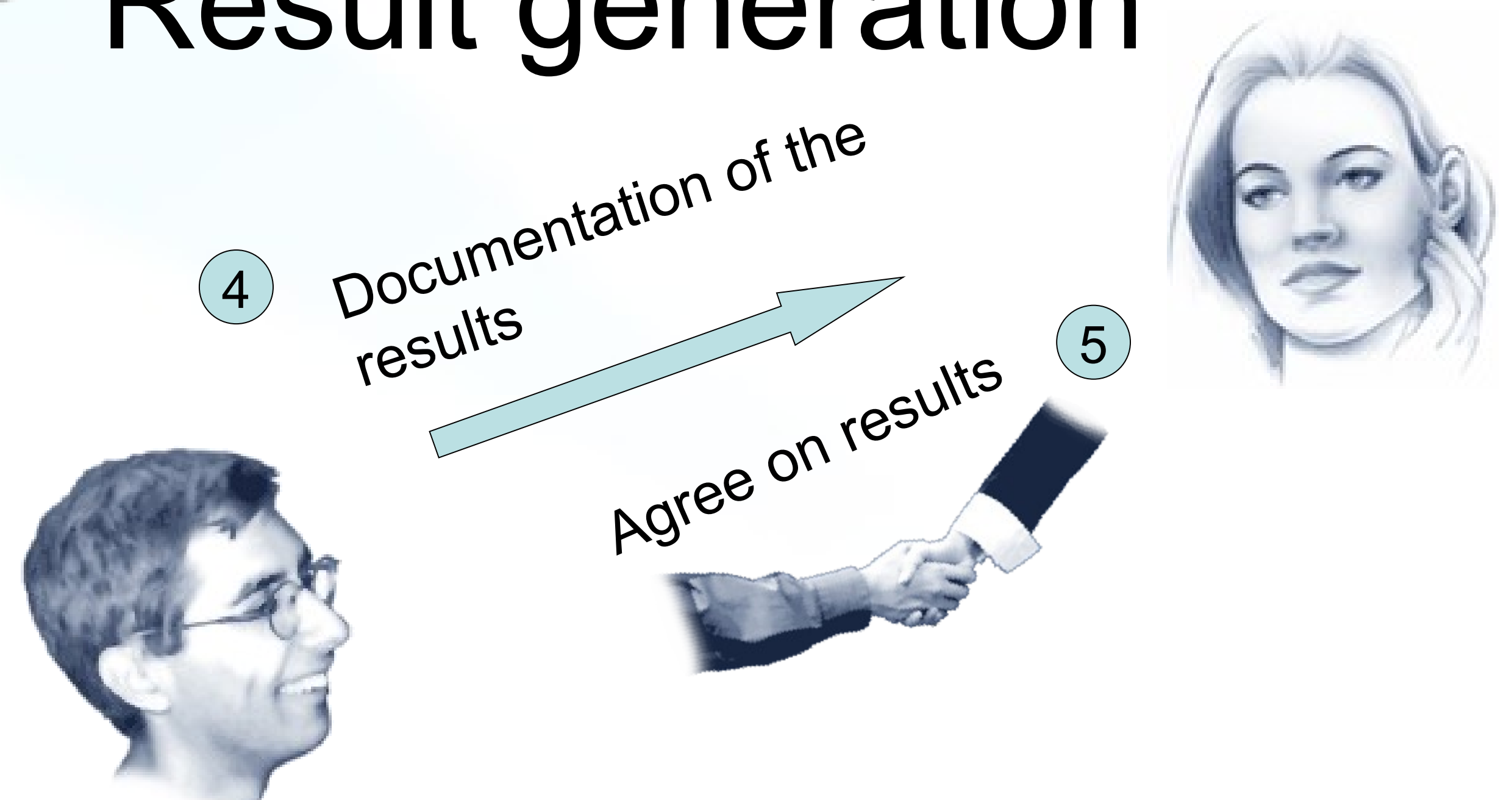
Initialization



- Notification.** Collaboration can be started after a notification is received by an ABILITIES user. However, a collaborative work session can be started without a preceding notification as well, so this step is optional.
- Invitation for collaboration.** In this phase an ABILITIES user is invited to take part in a collaborative session. At minimum, the invitation contains who is invited using what collaboration tool at what date and time.
- Agreement on collaboration parameters.** Closely related to initialization, this phase is used to agree on the actual parameters of the collaboration. So, for example, if the proposed time or the collaboration medium is not suitable to one of the parties, this party may suggest a new schedule or an alternative collaboration method. These collaboration parameters are exchanged by the involved parties until they reach an agreement or completely cancel the collaborative session.
- Collaborative work.** In this phase happens the actual collaboration using whatever groupware tool the partners agreed on.
- Generating collaboration result.** At the end of collaboration the parties generate a formal result document where they record what results and achievements they made during the collaboration. This result document can be proposed by any participant. The document should be modified until all participants agree with it to consider a collaborative work session finished.



Result generation



Collaborative work is provided as an aid for business partners to resolve conflicts or misunderstandings during their business activities. While collaboration itself is not handled by ABILITIES, it provides a framework for the design time setup of collaboration related parameters, as well as provides runtime assistance in the start-up of a collaborative work session, as well as the archival of formally defined results of such collaborative work.