

Contents

Preface	III
Abstract.....	V
Contents.....	VII
I Motivation, Objectives, Methodologies, and Conceptual Foundations.....	1
1 Introduction.....	3
1.1 Motivation	3
1.2 Research Questions and Study Objective	5
1.3 Structure and Research Design of the Thesis.....	7
2 Research Methodology	11
2.1 Reference Models in Information Systems	11
2.2 Foundations of Reference Modeling.....	16
2.3 Adapted Reference Modeling Method	25
2.4 Data Collection and Auxiliary Research Methods.....	32
2.4.1 Structured Literature Review	33
2.4.2 Case Study Research Through Interviews	40
2.4.3 Mixed-Methods Research.....	47
2.4.4 Requirements Engineering.....	49
2.5 Object Classification Methods	51
2.5.1 Taxonomy Design.....	51
2.5.2 Archetype Derivation Through Cluster Analysis	57
3 Conceptual Foundations	63
3.1 Digital Twins.....	63
3.1.1 The History of Digital Twins.....	64
3.1.2 Conceptual Background of Digital Twins	67
3.1.3 Architectural Approaches and Current Reference Models.....	75
3.1.4 Present Use of Digital Twins	78
3.2 Related Conceptions.....	83
3.2.1 Digital Models	83
3.2.2 Digital Shadows.....	85
3.2.3 Digital Threads	87
3.2.4 Industrial Metaverse	89
3.3 Production, Logistics, and Cyber-Physical Systems.....	91
3.3.1 Production Systems	92
3.3.2 Logistics Systems	94
3.3.3 Cyber-Physical Systems	97
II A Categorization of Digital Twins.....	101
4 A Literature-Based Taxonomy of Digital Twins.....	103

4.1 Objectives and Research Design	103
4.2 Definition and Conceptualization of Review Scope	105
4.3 Literature Search	107
4.4 Literature Analysis and Derivation of the Taxonomy.....	109
4.4.1 Derivation of the Taxonomy – First Iteration.....	113
4.4.2 Derivation of the Taxonomy – Second Iteration	130
4.4.3 Derivation of the Taxonomy – Third Iteration	139
4.5 Defining the Research Agenda.....	146
4.6 Interim Summary	148
5 An Industry-Based Taxonomy of Digital Twins	151
5.1 Objectives and Research Design.....	151
5.2 Preparation of Case Studies for Digital Twin Configuration.....	153
5.3 Case Study A – Engineering and Technology Service and Product Provider ...	154
5.4 Case Study B – Logistics and Infrastructure Service Provider	157
5.5 First Interview Series on Digital Twins	160
5.6 Evolution of the Taxonomy of Digital Twins	167
5.6.1 Meta-Dimension Data Collection	170
5.6.2 Meta-Dimension Data Handling and Distribution.....	173
5.6.3 Meta-Dimension Conceptual Scope	180
5.7 Interim Summary	183
6 Archetypes of Digital Twins.....	185
6.1 Objectives and Structure	185
6.2 Research Preparation and Objects Analysis.....	186
6.3 Cluster Analysis of Literature and Industry	187
6.4 Synthesis and Triangulation of the Archetypes	200
6.5 Evaluation Interviews and Industrial Applications	205
6.6 Interim Summary	211
III A Reference Model of Digital Twins	213
7 Requirements for Digital Twins	215
7.1 Objectives and Structure	215
7.2 Introductory Findings.....	215
7.3 Architectural Requirements	221
7.4 Capability Requirements	231
7.5 Data Governance Requirements.....	240
7.6 General Requirements	244
7.7 Evaluation of the Requirements	248
7.8 Interim Summary	252
8 A Reference Model of Digital Twins	255
8.1 Objectives and Structure	255
8.2 Partial Reference Models	258
8.2.1 Reference Model of the System Interface Layer	260

8.2.2 Reference Model of the Data Handling Unit	267
8.2.3 Reference Model of the Virtual Representation	272
8.2.4 Reference Model of the Internal Data Processing	277
8.3 Synthesis of the Reference Model.....	281
8.4 A Process Model for Digital Twin Implementation.....	287
8.5 Evaluation of the Generic Reference Model	300
8.5.1 Fulfillment of the Requirements	301
8.5.2 Fulfillment of the Principles of Orderly Modeling.....	308
8.5.3 Comparison with Real-World Applications	311
8.6 Interim Summary	321
IV Concluding Statements	325
9 Conclusion, Limitations, and Outlook.....	327
9.1 Summary and Contributions of the Research Study	327
9.2 Limitations of the Research Study	332
9.3 Paths for Further Research	334
V Directories and Appendix	337
References	339
List of Abbreviations.....	407
List of Figures.....	409
List of Tables.....	411
Glossary.....	413
Appendix	419
A Auxiliary Information	419
B Interview Guide.....	422
C Literature-Based Requirements.....	424