## An Introduction to Systems Thinking





www.iseesystems.com Phone: (603) 448-4990 | Fax: (603) 448-4992 support@iseesystems.com ISBN 0-9704921-0-3

## **Contents**

Part 1.	Setting the Stage	1
Chapter 1.	A Pressing Need: Improving Performance	3
Chapter 2.	Systems Thinking & the <i>iThink</i> Software Better Mental Models, Simulated More Reliably	13
Part 2.	Learning to "Write" Using the Language of Systems Thinking	29
Chapter 3.	Nouns & Verbs Operational Thinking	31
Chapter 4.	Writing Sentences Operational Thinking	43
Chapter 5.	Linking Sentences Operational Thinking	49
Chapter 6.	Constructing Simple Paragraphs Closed-Loop Thinking	59
	Appendix: Generic Flow Templates	70
Chapter 7.	Constructing "More Interesting" Paragraphs Closed-loop & Non-linear Thinking	75
	Appendix: Formulating Graphical Functions	86
Chapter 8.	Storylines, Part 1: Main Chain Infrastructures	91
Chapter 9.	Storylines, Part 2: Support Infrastructures	105

Part 3.	"Writing" Short Stories	127
Chapter 10.	An Overview of the "Writing" Process	129
Chapter 11.	Illustrating the "Writing" Process	135
Chapter 12.	Guidelines for the "Writing" Process	155
	<b>Appendix:</b> Initializing Your Models in Steady-State	176
Chapter 13.	Adding Texture to Your Compositions  Modeling "Soft" Variables	179
List of Figures		185
Index		189