Thoughts from the Shire

Geoff Wright
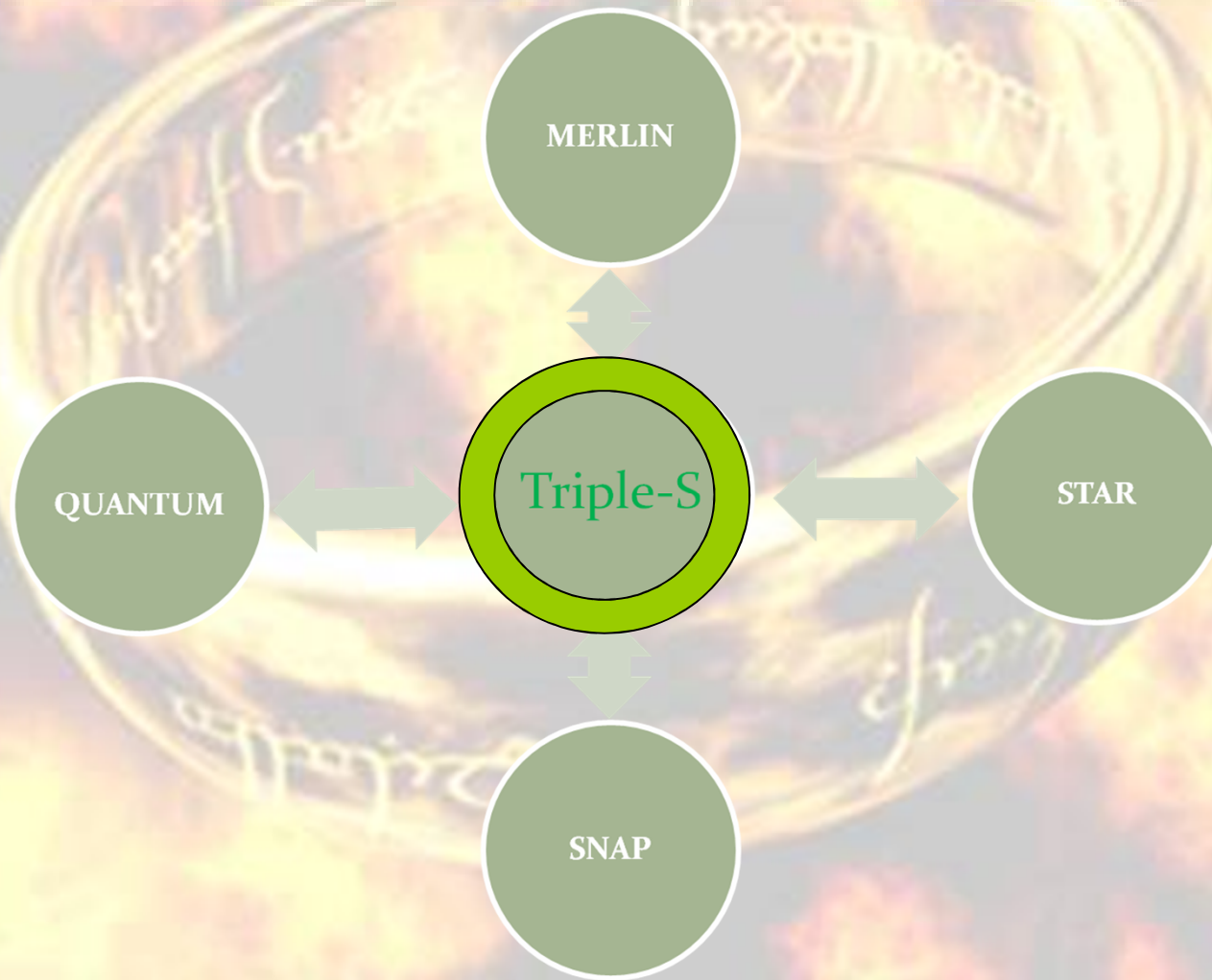
A standard for moving surveys between survey packages on various hardware and software platforms

One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them

The Ring

The Ring

Consists of

three parts
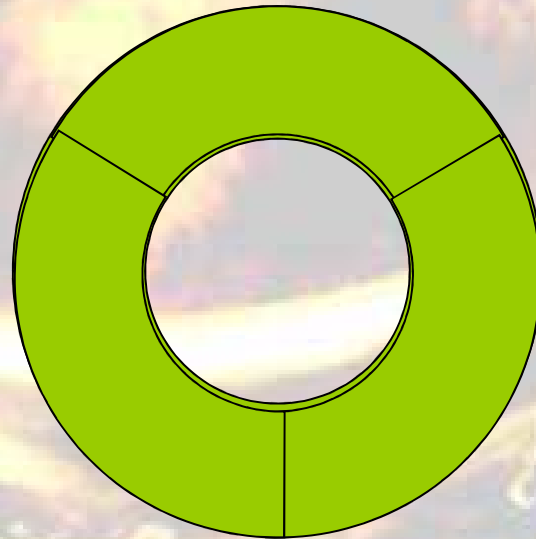
Classic

XML 1.1/1.2

XML 2.0

The Ring

XML 2.0 contains significant optional items
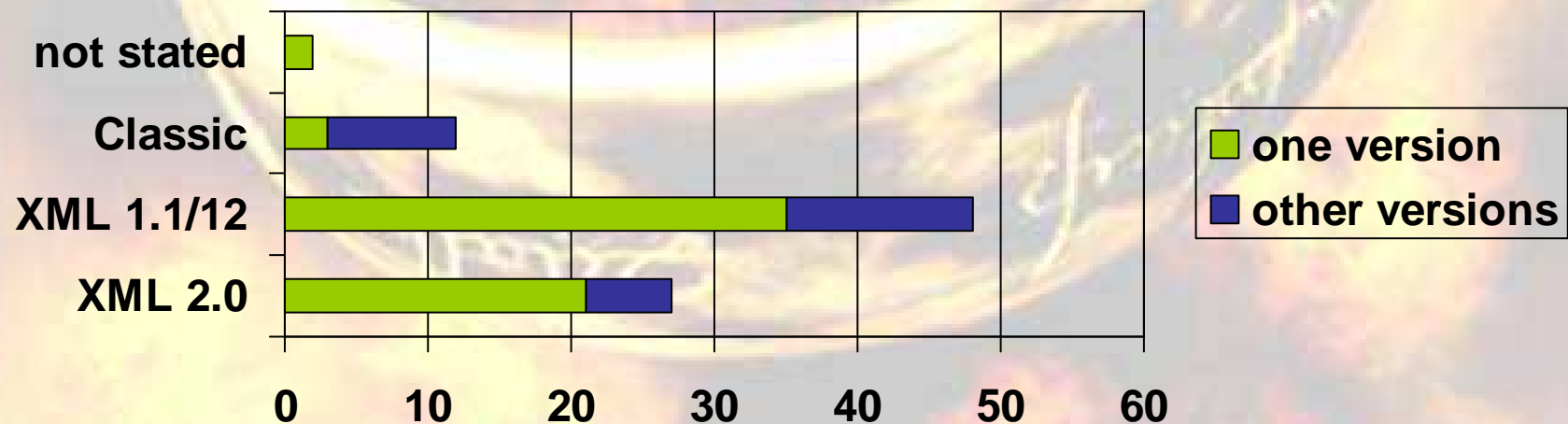
Hierarchical surveys

CSV data
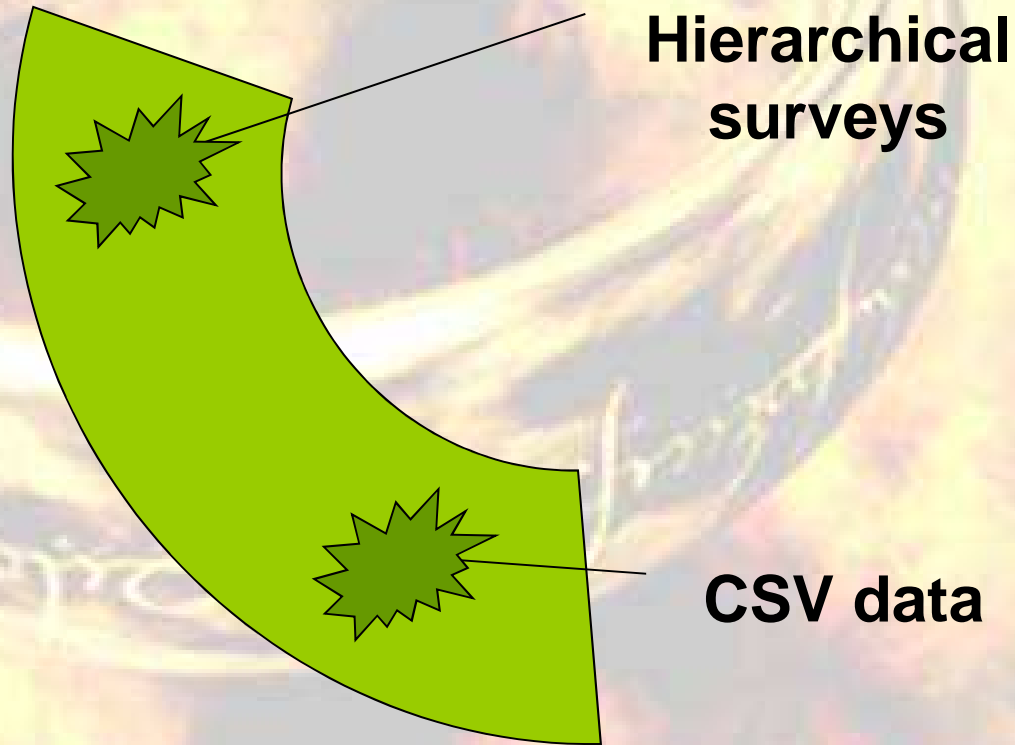
The Ring

Different versions supported by different products
- 12 Classic
- 48 XML 1.1/1.2
- 27 XML 2.0

Only 13 from the 74 registrations support more than one version

The Ring

- How does having different versions affect the usefulness of Triple-S?

- Should Triple-S be doing something to improve interoperability between the different versions?

- Does having significant optional features help or hinder users and implementers?

- Is an enhanced standard or improved support more important?

The Fellowship
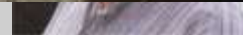
The Fellowship

- Age – 200 years experience, but is this more of a hindrance than a benefit?

- UK based – does the lack of international representation affect the status of the standard?

- Benevolent dictatorship – does being accountable to no-one help the independence of the standard?

- Volunteers – should implementers provide some sort of financial contribution to the work of Triple-S?

Council of Elrond

- The Ring
  - Start work on a new standard that learns from the existing ones
  - Do some remedial work to reduce the flaws and deficiencies in the existing standard
  - Make no changes – a standard that keeps changing is no standard at all
  - Hand the standard over to the implementers and users
- The Fellowship
  - Create a new Fellowship
  - Find a way in which more people can contribute
  - Retain the existing group and way of working – if it ain't broke ...
  - Disband the Triple-S Group and go back to the Shire