



Value Stream Mapping: Graphic Standards

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Basic Flowchart Symbols

If using more than the most basic flowchart symbols in a diagram, a good practice is to include a legend or symbol key.



Start/End Symbol

The terminator symbol marks the starting or ending point of the system. It usually contains the word "Start" or "End."



Action or Process Symbol

A box can represent a single step ("add two cups of flour"), or an entire sub-process ("make bread") within a larger process.



Decision Symbol

A decision or branching point. Lines representing different decisions emerge from different points of the diamond.

Basic Flowchart Symbols



Document Symbol

A printed document or report.



Multiple Documents Symbol

Represents multiple documents in the process.



Preparation Symbol

Represents a set-up to another step in the process.

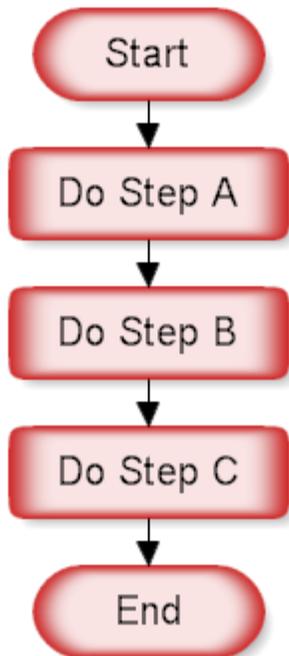


Connector Symbol

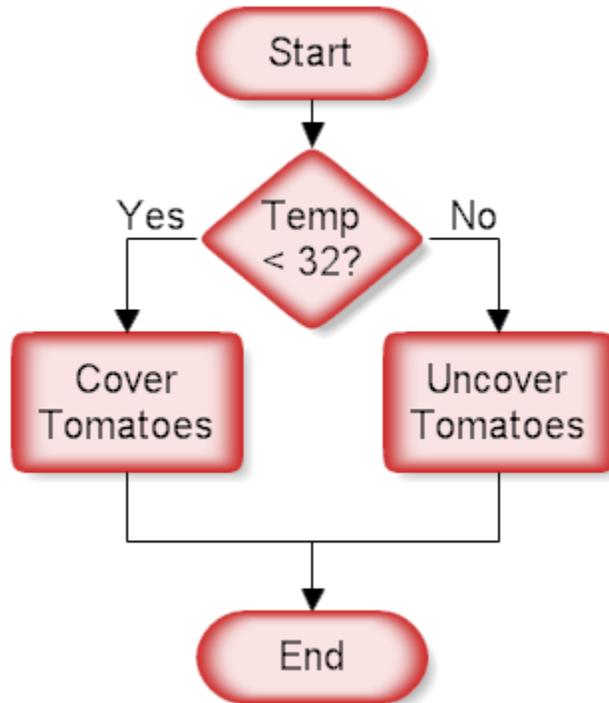
Indicates that the flow continues where a matching symbol (containing the same letter) has been placed.

Connectors

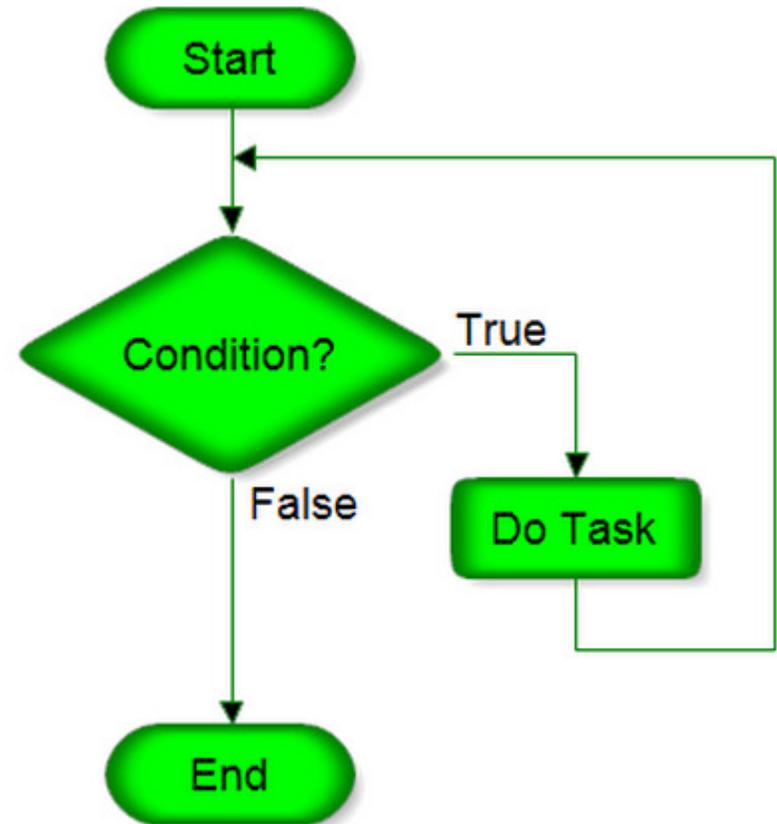
Simple Sequence

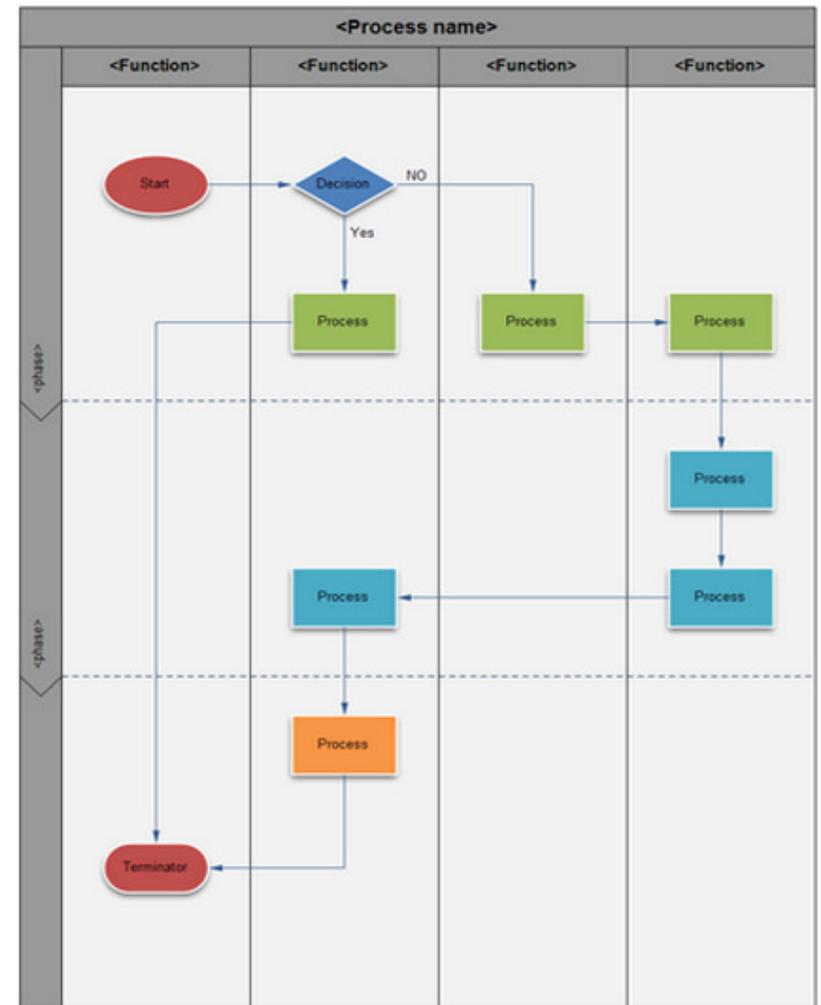
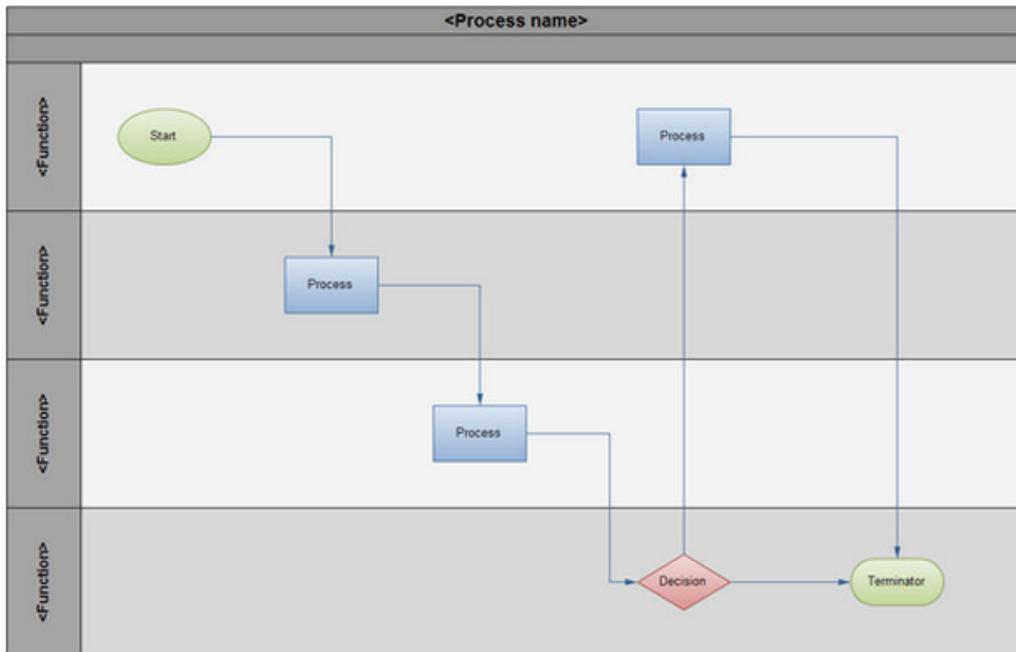


Decision



Condition Loop





Swimlane (Cross Functional)

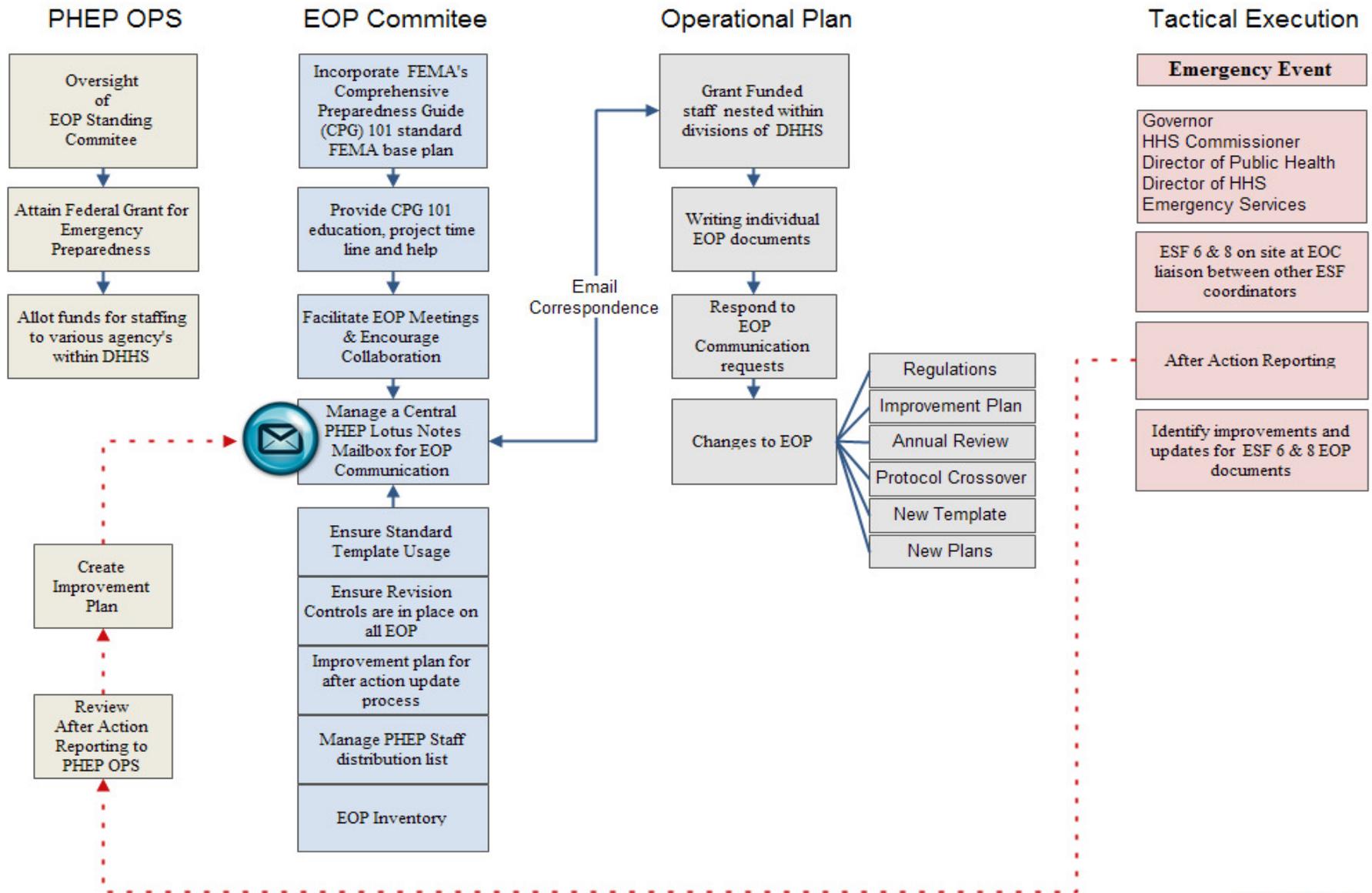
Horizontal layout emphasizes the process.

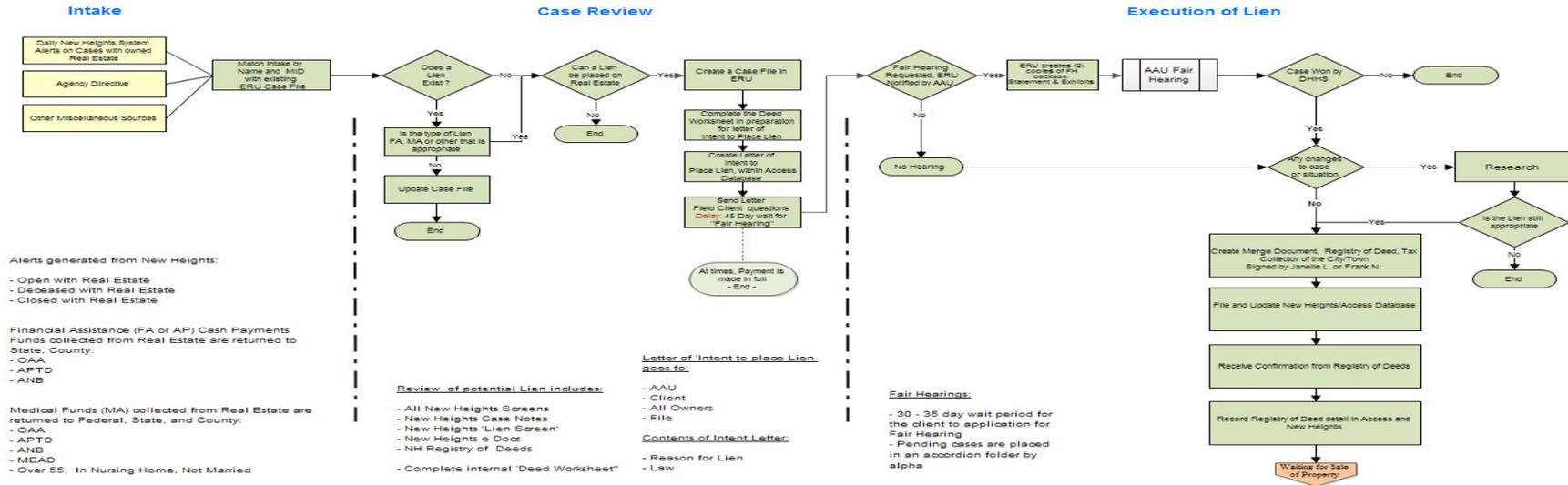
Vertical layout places slightly more emphasis on the functional units.

The orientation depends on personal taste, rather than a strict requirement or guideline. Swimlane charts tell a robust story about who does what and when. Swimlane charts clearly demonstrates when hand-offs occur and shows relative timing. This chart provides a big-picture perspective of a team and how they intermingle.

Department of Health and Human Services

Emergency Plan - Current State





Flow Process

Provides detailed task-level information. Specifically, it looks at value-added operational steps and illuminates potential non-value-added transportation, inspection, delay, rework, or storage. This perspective provides depth to the steps and challenges how they contribute to the overall process; whether the step is necessary or not. *Think of Lean Brown Paper.*

A Logic Flow (Left to Right) presents the flow of work in the same manner as we read, that is, left to right. This natural representation eases understanding. Placement of key **Decision** points makes the chart valuable. The decision diamonds and arrows guide the reader toward what activities follow if the decision is "yes" or "no."

General Standards

- ❖ Have some base steps on paper before developing an electronic map.
- ❖ First, establish the expected page size, page orientation and standard font. Consider making a general master template.
- ❖ Avoid using individual names on a process map, instead state the process step.
- ❖ Always include a proper map **title**, **date created** and **author** on the finished product.
- ❖ Spell check the work, misspelled words will appear in red.
- ❖ Validate process maps with subject matter experts, check for clarity, content and continuity.
- ❖ Keep all project related process maps in one file by adding 'Pages' within the Edraw file.

General Standards

- ❖ The final step on a map is to apply color and pertinent images to dress up the finished product.
- ❖ To share electronic maps with others, save the document as a **PDF** file. **P**ortable **D**ocument **F**ormat (PDF) is a universal method to share/view any type of electronic file. An example of a **free** PDF file creation application is CutePDF.
- ❖ Edraw files can also be **Exported** into Word, Excel or Power Point.
- ❖ There are two Edraw file extensions .edx and .edxz, if unable to open an older Edraw document (file) in a newer version of Edraw, rename the file extension to '.EDX'
- ❖ Looking for mapping examples/ideas? Run a Google search on 'Process Map' and select 'Images' instead of Web results.

General Standards

Figure 6: Request for and Issuance of Airline Ticket (Process Map That Looks Like a Plate of Spaghetti)

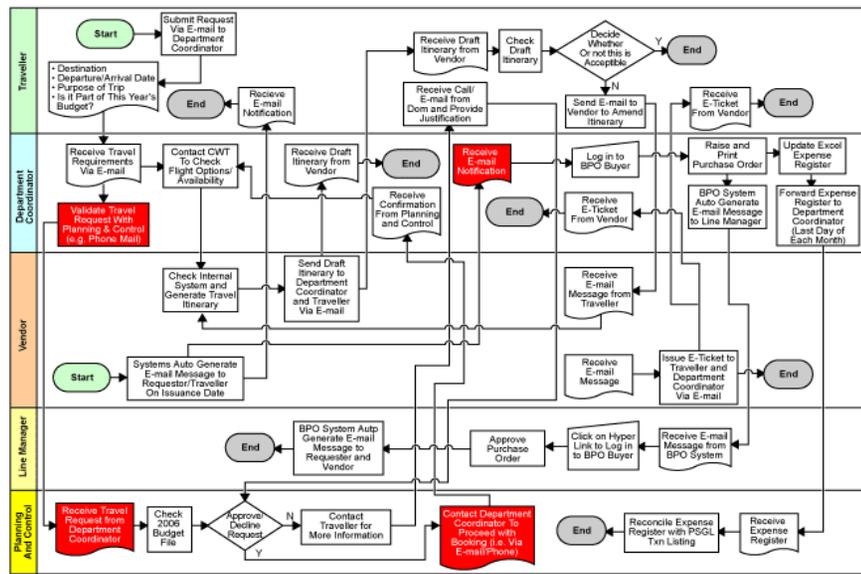
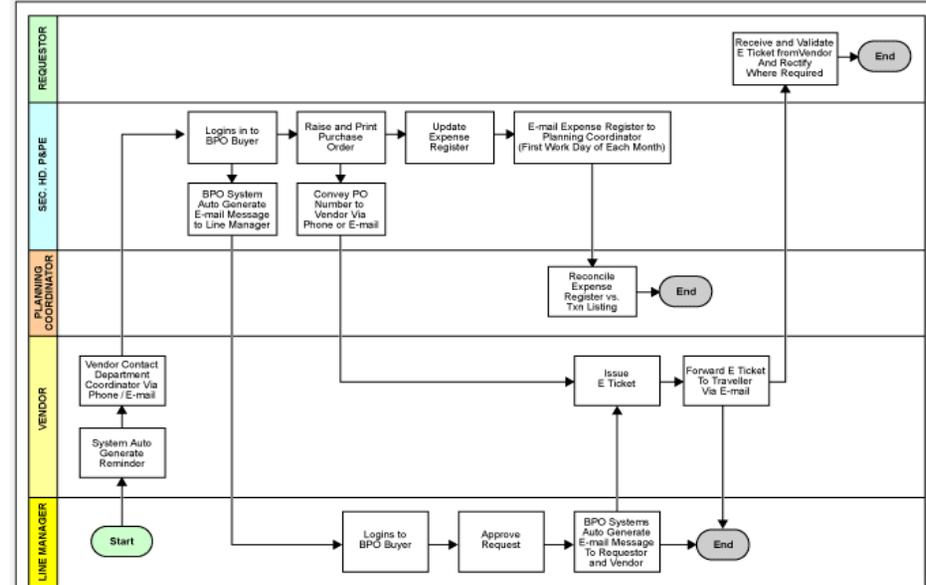


Figure 8: A Simplified Flow (Part 2): Issuance of an Airline Ticket



- ✓ **Avoid crisscross connectors.** Crisscross lines make a process map much less readable.
- ✓ The direction of connectors is always to either the **right, down** or **up**. Follow the thinking of reading from left to right.
- ✓ Select the **best route** to avoid crisscrossing connectors and/or to reduce the length of the connectors on the outcomes of a **Decision** shape.

Edraw Mind Map

A Getting Started Guide for Edraw is located here:

<http://lean.nh.gov/Documents/Edraw%20Getting%20Started.pdf>

Edraw Mind Map has a **free** mind mapping **freeware** which contains examples and templates which make it easy to create process maps, brain-storming diagrams and flowcharts.

Edraw is currently available in two editions: Free Version & Professional Version (\$)

Both editions share the same file format. The Professional version has additional templates and examples for more diagram types.

The free version of Edraw is distributed for personal, **non-profit organization**, and educational purpose.

The free version can be downloaded at <http://www.edrawsoft.com/download.php>

Questions



Process mapping is the perfect combination of business insight and art.