

# ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

## Organizational Frameworks

### What is needed?

Measurement provides information but how does it get accumulated from project to project?

How does an organization develop core competencies?

How do I accumulate and build upon knowledge that is relevant to the domain?

We need to

- build baselines of resource use, defects, etc. over time
- build a measurement program that lasts across individual projects
- capture what we have learned about individual programs
- learn from project project to project
- store results of our measurement program for future analysis

## Organizational Frameworks

### Quality Improvement Paradigm

**Characterize** the current project and its environment with respect to models and metrics.

**Set** quantifiable **goals** for successful project performance and improvement.

**Choose** the appropriate **process** model and supporting methods and tools for this project.

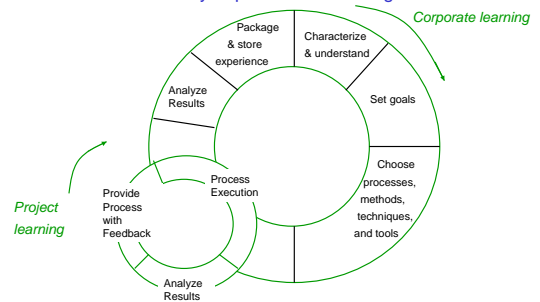
**Execute** the **processes**, construct the products, collect, validate, and analyze the data to provide real-time feedback for corrective action.

**Analyze** the **data** to evaluate the current practices, determine problems, record findings, and make recommendations for future project improvements.

**Package** the **experience** in the form of updated and refined models and other forms of structured knowledge gained from this and prior projects and save it in an experience base to be reused on future projects.

## Approaches To Quality

### Quality Improvement Paradigm



## Quality Improvement Paradigm

### Step 1: Characterizing the Project and Environment

**Build models to**  
 help us understand what we are doing  
 provide a basis for defining goals  
 provide a basis for measurement

**Build models of**  
 people, processes, products  
 and study their interactions

**Use models to**  
 classify the current project  
 distinguish the relevant project environment  
 find the class of projects with similar characteristics and goals

**Models provides a context for**  
 Goal Definition  
 Reusable Experience/Objects  
 Process Selection  
 Evaluation/Comparison  
 Prediction

## Characterization

### Project Characteristics and Environmental Factors

**People Factors:** number of people, level of expertise, group organization, problem experience, process experience,...

**Problem Factors:** application domain, newness to state of the art, susceptibility to change, problem constraints, ...

**Process Factors:** life cycle model, methods, techniques, tools, programming language, other notations, ...

**Product Factors:** deliverables, system size, required qualities, e.g., reliability, portability, ...

**Resource Factors:** target and development machines, calendar time, budget, existing software, ...

## Quality Improvement Paradigm Step 2: Goal Setting and Measurement

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Need to **establish goals** for the processes and products

Goals should be **measurable**, driven by the **models**

Goals should be defined from a **variety of perspectives**:

**Customer:** predictable schedule, correct functionality  
**Project:** quality controllable process, adherence to schedule  
**Corporation:** reusable experiences, improved quality/productivity over time

There are a variety of mechanisms for defining measurable goals:

Goal/Question/Metric Paradigm (**GQM**)  
 Software Quality Metrics Approach (**SQM**)  
 Quality Function Deployment Approach (**QFD**)

## Quality Improvement Paradigm Step 3: Choosing the Processes

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We need to **choose** and **tailor** an appropriate generic process model, integrated set of methods, and integrated set of techniques

We need to **define their goals** and give its definitions (models)

Choosing and tailoring are always done **in the context of the environment**, project characteristics, and goals established for the products and other processes

Examples:

If problem and solution well understood  
 choose **waterfall process model**

If high number of faults of omission expected  
 emphasize **traceability reading** approach embedded in **design inspections**

When embedding **traceability reading in design inspections**, make sure **traceability matrix** exists

## Choose The Process Choosing the Technique: Reading

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**Input object:** Requirements, specification, design, code, test plan,...

**Output object:** set of anomalies

**Approach:** Sequential, path analysis, stepwise abstraction, ...

**Formality:** Reading, correctness demonstrations, ...

**Emphasis:** Fault detection, traceability, performance, ...

**Method:** Walk-throughs, inspections, reviews, ...

**Consumers:** User, designer, tester, maintainer, ...

**Product qualities:** Correctness, reliability, efficiency, portability,...

**Process qualities:** Adherence to method, integration into process,...

**Quality view:** Assurance, control, ...

## Choose The Process Choosing the Technique: Testing

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**Input object:** System, subsystem, feature, module,...

**Output object:** Test results

**Approach:** structural, functional, error-based, statistical testing,...

**Formality:** Full adherence, partial adherence, ...

**Emphasis:** Fault detection, new features, reliability, performance,...

**Method:** As specified in the test plan

**Consumers:** Various classes of customer/hardware configurations,

**Product qualities:** Reliability, efficiency, ...

**Process qualities:** Adherence to method, integration into process,...

**Quality view:** Assurance, control

## Quality Improvement Paradigm Step 4: Executing the Processes

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The development process must **support** the access and reuse of packaged experience

Data items must be **defined** by the models and driven the by the goals

Data collection must be **integrated** into the processes, not an add on, e.g., defect classification forms part of configuration control mechanism

**Data validation** important and necessary. e.g., defect data is error prone

**Education and training** in data collection are necessary, everyone must understand the models

Some analysis must be done in close to **real time** for **feedback** for corrective action

The **suppliers** of the data **need to gain** from the data too

**Automated support** is necessary to:  
 support mechanical tasks  
 deal with large amounts of data and information needed for analysis  
 however, the collection of the most interesting data cannot be automated

## Executing The Processes Kinds of Data Collected

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**Resource Data:**

Effort by activity, phase, type of personnel  
 Computer time  
 Calendar time

**Change/Defect Data:**

Changes and defects by various classification schemes

**Process Data:**

Process definition  
 Process conformance  
 Domain understanding

**Product Data:**

Product characteristics  
 logical, e.g., application domain, function  
 physical, e.g. size, structure  
 dynamic, e.g., reliability, coverage  
 Use and context information, e.g., design method used

## Quality Improvement Paradigm Step 5: Analyzing the Data

Based upon the goals, we interpret the data that has been collected.

We can use this data to:

**characterize and understand**, e.g.,

what project characteristics effect the choice of processes, methods and techniques?

which phase is typically the greatest source of errors?

**evaluate and analyze**, e.g.,

what is the statement coverage of the acceptance test plan?

does the Cleanroom Process reduce the rework effort?

**predict and control**, e.g.,

given a set of project characteristics, what is the expected cost and reliability, based upon our history?

**motivate and improve**, e.g.,

for what classes of errors is a particular technique most effective

## Quality Improvement Paradigm Step 6: Packaging the Experience

**Resource Models and Baselines**,

e.g., local cost models, resource allocation models

**Change and Defect Baselines and Models**,

e.g., defect prediction models, types of defects expected for application

**Product Models and Baselines**,

e.g., actual vs. expected product size and library access over time

**Process Definitions and Models**,

e.g., process models for Cleanroom, Ada

**Method and Technique Evaluations**,

e.g., best method for finding interface faults

**Products**, e.g., Ada generics for simulation of satellite orbits

**Quality Models**,

e.g., reliability models, defect slippage models, ease of change models

**Lessons Learned**, e.g., risks associated with an Ada development

## Packaging Experience Forms of Packaged Experience

**Equations** defining the relationship between variables,

e.g. Effort =  $1.48 * \text{KSLOC}^{0.8}$ , Number of Runs =  $108 + 150 * \text{KSLOC}$

**Histograms** or **pie charts** of raw or analyzed data,

e.g., Classes of Faults: 30% data, 24% interface, 16% control,  
15% initialization, 15% computation

Effort Distribution: 23% design, 21% code, 30% test, 26% other

**Graphs** defining ranges of "normal"

e.g., Fault Slippage Rate: halve faults after each test phase (4,2,1,.5)

**Specific lessons learned**, e.g.,

an Ada design should use library units rather than a deeply nested structure  
minimize the use of tasking as its payoff is minimal in this environment  
size varies inversely with defect rate up to about 1KLOC per module

**Processes descriptions** (adapted to SEL), e.g.,

Recommended Approach, Manager's Handbook,  
Cleanroom Process Handbook,  
Ada Developer's Guide, Ada Efficiency Guide

## Quality Improvement Paradigm Reuse Inhibitors

Need to reuse **more than** just **code**, need to reuse all kinds of experience

Experience requires the **appropriate context** definition for to be reusable

Experience needs to be **identified and analyzed** for its reuse potential

Experience cannot always be reused as is, it needs to be **tailored**

Experience needs to be **packaged** to make it easy to reuse

Reuse of experience has been too informal, not **supported** by the organization

Reuse has to be **fully incorporated** into the development or maintenance process models

Project focus is delivery, not reuse,  
i.e., **reuse cannot be a byproduct** of software development

*Need a separate organization to support the reuse of local experience*

## Quality Improvement Paradigm

### Activity Support for Improvement

**Improving** the software process and product requires

**Learning**

- the continual accumulation of evaluated experiences

**Experience models**

- in a form that can be effectively understood and modified

**Experience base**

- stored in a repository of integrated experience models

**Reuse**

- accessible and modifiable to meet the needs of the projects being developed by the organization

## Quality Improvement Paradigm

### Activity Support For Improvement

Systematic **learning** requires support for recording, **off-line** generalizing, tailoring, synthesizing and formalizing experience

Packaging and **modeling** useful experience requires a variety of models and formal notations that are tailorable, extendible, understandable, flexible and accessible

An effective **experience base** must contain accessible and integrated set of models that capture the **local** experiences

Systematic **reuse** requires support for using existing experience on-line generalizing or tailoring of candidate experience

## Quality Improvement Paradigm

### Organizational Support for Improvement

This combination of ingredients requires an **organizational structure** that supports:

- A software evolution model that supports reuse
- Processes for learning, packaging, and storing experience
- The integration of these two functions

It requires **separate logical or physical organizations**:

- with different focuses/priorities,
- process models,
- expertise requirements

**Project Organization**

**Experience Factory**

## Quality Improvement Paradigm

### Organizational Support for Experience Reuse

#### Project Organization

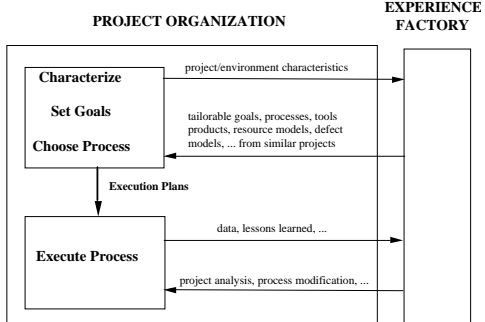
- focus/priority is delivery
- supported by packaged experiences

#### Experience Factory

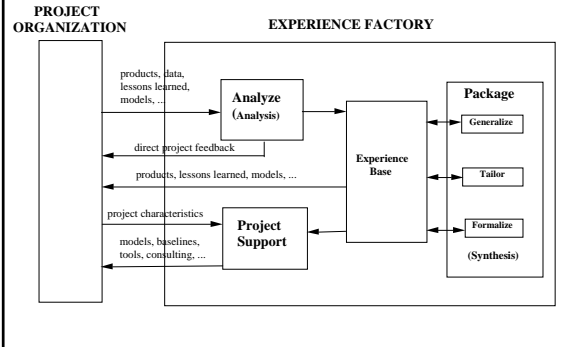
- focus is project development support
- analyzes and synthesizes all kinds of experience
- acts as a repository for such experience
- supplies that experience to various projects on demand

The **Experience Factory** packages experience by building informal, formal or schematized, and productized models and measures of various software processes, products, and other forms of knowledge via people, documents, and automated support

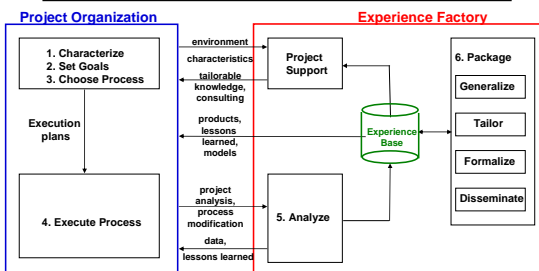
## Experience Factory Organization Role of the Project Organization



## Experience Factory Organization Role of the Experience Factory



## THE EXPERIENCE FACTORY ORGANIZATION



## Experience Factory Organization

### A Different Paradigm

#### Project Organization

Problem Solving

#### Experience Factory

Experience Packaging

Decomposition of a problem into simpler ones

Unification of different solutions and re-definition of the problem

Instantiation

Generalization, Formalization

Design/Implementation process

Analysis/Synthesis process

Validation and Verification

Experimentation

## The Experience Factory Organization

### Some Important Characteristics

The QIP process is **iterative**  
don't be overly concerned with perfecting any step on the first pass  
the better your initial guess at the baselines, the sooner it will converge

No method is "packaged" that hasn't been tried:  
**applied, analyzed, tailored**

Experience Factory provides a way to evaluate  
**process conformance** and **domain understanding**

## The Experience Factory Organization

### Some Important Characteristics

**Everyone** is **part of** the technology infusion **process**  
can be a developer on one project and an experimenter on another

**Project personnel play** the **major role** in the feedback mechanism  
if they are not using the technology right it can be because:  
they don't understand it / it wasn't taught right  
it doesn't fit/interface with other project activities  
it needs to be tailored  
it doesn't work  
and you need the user to tell you how to change it

Technology infusion is **motivated by** the **local problems**,  
so people are more willing to try something new

## The Experience Factory Organization

### Iterating the QIP

Get the **commitment**

Put the **organization in place**, collect data to **establish baselines**  
e.g., defects and resources that are process and product independent

Measure your **strengths** and **weaknesses**  
Provides a focus and goals for improvement

Select and **experiment** with methods and techniques  
to improve process based upon product quality needs

**Evaluate** improvement based upon existing resource and defect baselines

Understand **process characteristics** and **product qualities relationship**  
Manipulate process to achieve those product characteristics  
Define and tailor better and measurable processes based upon  
experience and knowledge of the environment  
process conformance and domain understanding

Establish **new baselines**

**Repeat** the process and find the next opportunity for improvement

## The Experience Factory Organization

### Comparison with Other Approaches to Quality

#### Plan-Do-Check-Act

a quality improvement process based upon a feedback cycle for  
optimizing a single process model/production line

#### Total Quality Management

a management approach to long term success through customer  
satisfaction based on the participation of all members of an  
organization

#### SEI Capability Maturity Model

staged process improvement based upon assessment with regard to a set  
of key process areas until you reach a level 5 which represents a  
continuous process improvement

#### Lean Enterprise Management

principle supporting the concentration of production on "value added"  
activities and the elimination or reduction of "not value added" activities

## Approaches To Quality

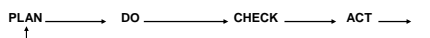
### Plan-Do-Check-Act Cycle (PDCA)

Based upon work by W. A. Stewart and made popular by W. E. Deming

**Goal:** optimize and improve a single process model/production line

**Approach:** uses such techniques as  
feedback loops  
statistical quality control  
design of experiments  
data models based upon multiple replications

**Result:** predictive models of the relationship between process and product



**Note:** that any application of the process produces a large quantity of  
products, sufficient to generate an accurate statistical model

## Approaches To Quality

### PDCA vs. EF

#### Similarities

scientific method  
feedback loops from product to process  
learn from experiments

#### Differences

PDCA based upon production  
it attempts to optimize a single process model/production line  
based upon continual repetition of the same process  
can collect sufficient data to develop quantitative models  
can evaluate/predict accurately effects of the process  
can use accurate models for statistical quality control

EF based upon development,  
rarely replicate the same thing twice  
must learn from one process about another  
models are less rigorous and more abstract  
processes more human based  
effects building, use, and accuracy of models built

## Approaches To Quality

### Total Quality Management

Term coined by Navy in 1985. Based upon work by Feigenbaum, Taguchi, ...

**Goal:** generate institutional commitment to success through customer satisfaction

**Approach:** varied, a philosophy supported by a variety of techniques, e.g., \*  
Quality Function Deployment (QFD)  
design of experiments (DOE)  
statistical process control (SPC)



**Result:** An customer driven organization and a satisfied set of customers

\*Source: Michael Deutsch at Hughes

## Approaches To Quality

### TQM vs. EF

#### Similarities

cover goals that are customer satisfaction driven  
based upon the philosophy that quality is everyone's job  
everyone is part of the technology infusion process  
can be on project team on one project, experimenting team on another  
all the project personnel play the major role in the feedback mechanism

#### Differences

EF provides  
specific steps, model types  
more specific and aimed at software

## APPROACHES TO QUALITY

### Lean Enterprise Management (LEM)

Philosophy used to improve factory output. Book by Womack, et. al. (1989), on the application of lean enterprises in the automotive industry

**Goal:** to build products using the minimal set of activities needed, eliminating non essential steps, i.e., tailoring the process to the product needs

**Approach:** uses such concepts as  
technology management  
human centered management  
decentral organization  
quality management  
supplier and customer integration  
internationalization/regionalization

**Result:** A set of processes individualized for each particular product line

## Approaches To Quality

### LEM vs. EF

#### Similarities

scientific method /PDCA philosophy  
feedback loops, learn from experiments, process/product relationship  
goal is to generate an optimum set of processes  
based upon tailoring a set of processes for particular product

#### Differences

LEM based upon production  
model building based upon continual repetition of the same process  
can use accurate models for statistical quality control

EF based upon development,  
must learn from one process about another  
models are less rigorous and more abstract  
processes more human based  
effects building, use, and accuracy of models built

## Approaches To Quality

### SEI Capability Maturity Model (CMM)

Organizational/quality management maturity models by R. Likert/P. Crosby, Software model by R. Radice, made popular by Watts Humphrey at SEI

**Goal:** a level 5 maturity rating, implying continuous process improvement via defect prevention, technology innovation, and process change management

**Approach:** A 5 level process maturity model defined. Maturity level defined based on repeated assessment of an organization's capability in key process areas. Improvement achieved by action plans for poorly assessed processes

Level	Focus
5 Optimizing	Continuous Process Improvement
4 Managed	Product & Process Quality
3 Defined	Engineering Process
2 Repeatable	Project Management
1 Initial	Heros

**Result:** A set of well-defined key processes

## Approaches To Quality

### CMM vs. EF

#### Similarities

characterize processes

#### Differences

CMM  
goal is to improve process  
characterize processes  
baseline is process assessment  
common yardstick drives change (key process areas)  
change based upon assessment of processes  
measurement plays key role at level 4  
process emphasis is on management activities

#### EF

goal is to improve product  
characterizes all kinds of experiences: products, defects, resources  
baseline is process and product understanding  
many goals drive change, e.g., customer satisfaction  
change based upon achieving goals  
measurement fundamental at all stages  
process emphasis is on technological and management activities

## Approaches to Quality SEI Process Improvement Cycle

### Initialize

Establish Sponsorship  
Create vision and strategy  
Establish improvement structure

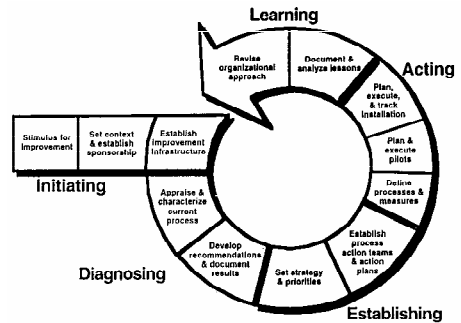
### For Each Maturity Level

Characterize current practice in terms of key process areas  
Assessment recommendations  
Revise strategy (generate action plans and prioritize key process areas)

### For Each key Process Area

Establish process action teams  
Implement tactical plan, define processes, plan and execute pilot(s), plan and execute institutionalization  
Document and analyze lessons  
Revise organizational approach

## SEI's Ideal Improvement Model



## Evolution of Process Capability

Level	Process Characteristics	Predicted Performance
Optimizing	Process improvement is institutionalized	
Managed	Product and process are quantitatively controlled	
Defined	Software engineering and management processes defined and integrated	
Repeatable	Project management system in place; performance is repeatable	
Initial	Process is informal and ad hoc; performance is unpredictable	

Source: Carnegie Mellon University, Software Engineering Institute

## Experience Factory Organization

### Can it make you a 5?

Using the Experience Factory Organization:

You pull yourself up from the top rather than pushing up from the bottom

At step 1 you start with a level 5 organization but not level 5 capabilities

You are driven by an **understanding** of **your** business, **your** product and process problems, **your** business goals, **your** experience with methods, etc.

You learn from your business, not on an external model of process

You make process improvements based upon an understanding of the relationship between process and product in your organization

## Experience Factory Organization

### Can it make you a 5?

What does a level 5 organization mean?

It is an organization that can manipulate process to achieve various product characteristics.

This requires that we have a process and an organizational structure to help us:

- Understand our processes and products
- Measure and model the project and the organization
- Define and tailor process and product qualities explicitly
- Understand the relationship between process and product qualities
- Feedback information for project control
- Experiment with methods and techniques
- Evaluate our successes and failures
- Learn from our experiences
- Package successful experiences
- Reuse successful experiences

## Experience Factory Organization

### Can it make you a 5?

Using EF may not get you a level 5 rating

(depending on how it gets defined when you get there)  
because your technologies are not from the "key set of processes"  
but you are operating at a level 5 definition  
and have chosen and tailored processes to create a lean, optimizing, continuously improving organization

### How does this fit in with the CMM?

EF is not incompatible with the SEI CMM model

can use key process assessments to evaluate where you stand (along with your internal goals, needs, etc.).

Using the EF will move you up the maturity scale faster

offers experience early on with an improvement-based organization  
can demonstrate product improvement benefits early

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS Business Requirements

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### Any successful business requires:

- combination of **technical and managerial** solutions
- well-defined set of **product needs**
- well-defined set of **processes**
- **closed loop processes** that support project control, learning and improvement

### Key technologies for supporting these needs include:

**modeling, measurement, reuse**  
of processes, products, and other knowledge relevant to the business

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS Business Requirements

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**Business goal:** To win in the market place

### Approach:

Develop strategy for your business  
Map strategy onto different parts of the business, e.g., software  
Choose where you want to be strong  
This provides a road map for the business  
Set goals for each part of the business  
Understand your existing capabilities and competencies  
what are your competencies relative to your needs  
Reset your goals in the context of this understanding  
Put the competencies in place

### Need to:

Recognize the role software plays in our business  
Invest heavily in our software core competencies

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS Implications for the Software Business

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**Understand** the process and product

**Define** process and product qualities

**Evaluate** successes and failures

**Feedback** information for project control

**Learn** from our experiences

**Package** successful experiences and core competencies

**Use** those experiences and core competencies

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS The Nature of Software

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Learning in the software discipline is **evolutionary** and **experimental**

Software is **development** (design) not production

Software technologies are **human based**

There is a **lack of models** for reasoning about the process and product

**All software is not the same:** processes, goals are variable

Packaged, reusable, experiences require a **additional resources** in the form of organization, processes, people, etc.

Software is **difficult**

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS Software Quality Needs

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**Quality Definition:** Define qualities and quality goals operationally relative to the project and the organization

**Process Selection:** Find criteria for selecting the appropriate methods and tools and tailoring them to the needs of the project and the organization

**Quality Evaluation:** Evaluate the quality of the process and product relative to the specific project and organizational goals

**Quality Organization:** Organize quality assurance from planning through execution through evaluation, feedback and improvement

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS Software Quality: State of the Practice

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### **Quality Definition:**

Quality means less errors reported from the customer

### **Process Selection:**

Companies have a software development methodology standards document  
(which few projects follow)

### **Quality Evaluation:**

Evaluation means counting the number of customer trouble reports generated

### **Quality Organization:**

A quality assurance organization means providing management with the trouble report data

**THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS**  
**Software Quality: State of the Practice**

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What's wrong with these definitions?

**Quality Definition:** *Customer reported defects*  
Too narrow - Quality means more than error reports

**Process Selection:** *Methodology standards document*  
Too general - Not all projects are the same

**Quality Evaluation:** *Number of customer trouble reports*  
Passive rather than active -  
No way to learn how to do better  
No evaluation of the methods or tools

**Quality Organization:** *Trouble Report graphs*  
Not quality oriented - Quality is the result not the driver

**THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS**  
**Quality Control vs. Quality Assurance**

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**Quality control:**

The act of directing, influencing, verifying, and correcting for ensuring the conformance of a specific product to a design or specification.

**Quality assurance:**

The act of leading, teaching, auditing the process by which the product is produced to provide confidence in the conformance of a specific product to a design or specification.

**THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS**  
**Quality Control Organization**

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(Inside the project)

Activities:

- Evaluates products
- Provides feedback to project

Infrastructure

- Part of the project
- Interactive with the project

People requirements:

- Knowledge of the processes
- Knowledge of the product requirements
- Understanding of the solutions

**THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS**  
**Quality Assurance Organization**

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Activities:

- Defines and evaluates processes
- Collects data from quality control
- Provides feedback to projects
- Provides feedback to the organization
- Provides feedback to QA

Infrastructure

- Independent chain of command
- Interactive with the projects

People requirements:

- High level with respect to technology and management
- Deep understanding of the process and the product

**THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS**  
**Quality Control**

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What types of constructive and analytic activities do we perform?

CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES
Specifying	Reviewing
Designing	Inspecting
Coding	Testing

What % of the time is spent in constructive vs. analytic activities?

How do we define and differentiate these activities?

What are the goals of each activity?

From whose perspective are they studied?  
e.g., customer, manager, corporation

**THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS**  
**Quality Control and Assurance Needs**

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What power do QC and QA have?

- Can a project be stopped from moving on to the next phase?
- Can part of a design be rejected because it doesn't pass standards?

What is needed?

- We need better models of the processes and products
- We need better feedback of information for project control
- We need to have prioritize goals (e.g., schedule vs. quality)
- We need a basis for comparison in the form of baselines (measurement data)
- We need to evolve to something akin to statistical quality control
- We need to improve with experiences

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS Software Quality Needs

### Characterize/Understand

- Differentiate project environments and understand the current software process and product
- Provide baselines for future assessment

*Build descriptive models and baselines*

### Evaluate/Assess

- Assess the achievement of quality goals
- Assess the impact of technology on products
- Understand where technology needs to be improved, tailored

*Compare models*

### Predict

- Be able to control and understand the relationships between and among processes and products

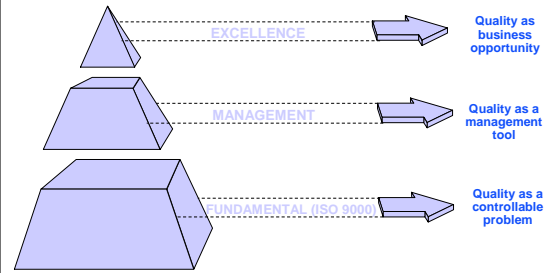
*Find patterns in models*

### Motivate/Manage/Control

- Provide quantitative motivation and guidelines that support what it is we are trying to accomplish

*Build and Package prescriptive models for reuse*

## THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS The Pyramid of Quality



## CORE COMPETENCIES Four Principles of Corporate Success

**Business processes** are the building blocks of the corporate strategy

**Competitive success** depends on understanding and transforming the key business processes into **strategic capabilities**

**Strategic capabilities** are created by sustained investments in a support infrastructure that links together and transcends the business units

A **capability-based strategy** must be sponsored by the top management of the corporation

From: [Stalk, Evans and Shulman in HBR](#)

## CORE COMPETENCIES Definitions

- Strategic Capabilities** are corporate goals defined by the business position of the organization and implemented by key business processes  
E.g., **Cycle-time reduction**
- Core competencies** are aggregate tailored technologies that play a key role in supporting the strategic capabilities of an organization  
E.g., **Integrated software engineering environment**
- Technologies/methodologies** are basic processes and tools, associated artifacts used in any stage of the life cycle (from project generation to post-deployment operation and support)  
E.g., **Domain specific architectures**

## CORE COMPETENCIES Examples of technologies and methodologies

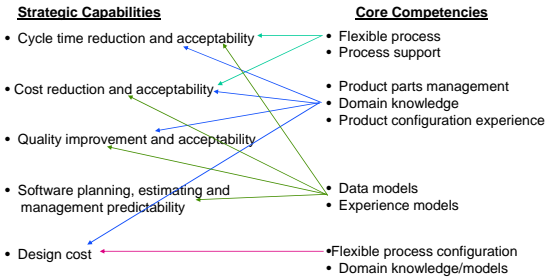
- **Domain analysis and architectures**
- Tool integration
- **Structured analysis and design**
- Object-Oriented Techniques (OOA, OOD, OOPL)
- **Reuse libraries, mechanisms and methods**
- DB compression techniques
- **Data and process modeling**
- Data sharing and communication in heterogeneous environments
- **Business process re-engineering**
- Inspections
- **Defect counting, categorization and analysis**
- Defect prevention methods
- **Testing technologies**
- Domain specific algorithms
- **Measurement and data collection and analysis**
- Reliability modeling and prediction

## CORE COMPETENCIES Example Technologies and Core Competencies

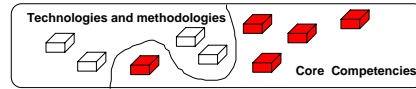
- | <u>Core competencies</u>   | <u>Technologies</u>  |
|--|--|
| • Availability and use of a software management environment based on "local" data for estimate, control and prediction of projects | ◊ Measurement and data collection and analysis                 |
| • Use of an integrated software engineering environment tailored to one or more specific application domains                       | ◊ Data and process modeling                                    |
| • Availability of reusable components (modules, algorithms, architectures) and tools portable across different platforms           | ◊ Defect counting, categorization and analysis                 |
|  | ◊ Tool integration   |
|  | ◊ Domain analysis and architectures                            |
|  | ◊ Data sharing and communication in heterogeneous environments |
|  | ◊ Reuse libraries, mechanisms and methods                      |
|  | ◊ Domain analysis and architectures                            |
|  | ◊ Object-Oriented Techniques (OOA, OOD, OOPL)                  |

## CORE COMPETENCIES AND STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES

### Examples

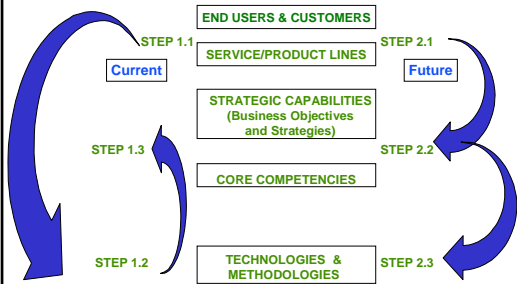


## CORE COMPETENCIES Characteristics



- **Characteristics of core competencies among technologies:**
  - non-transitional
  - have a consistent evolution
  - require commitment, investment and leadership to remain
  - typically fueled by and work with multiple technologies
  - generally support multiple product/service lines
- **Existing products and services can become core competencies if the appropriate strategy is decided**

## STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES Planning Process



## STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES Example Industrial Groups

- G1 Computer manufacturers:** Software represents the operating environments.  
Examples: IBM/Commercial, Siemens, Sun, DEC, ...
- G2 System integrators/Contractors:** Software delivers services to users.  
Examples: EDS, CSC, SAIC, Hughes/IS, ...
- G3 Software Houses:** Software commodities are their product.  
Examples: Microsoft, Lotus, Borland, ...
- G4 Manufacturers of Systems:** Systems are critically dependent on software.  
Examples: ABB, Alcatel, Daimler-Benz, Ericsson, Motorola, Siemens...

## STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES Relevance by Industry Group

Strategic Capability	Relative Importance			
	G1 (Hw)	G2 (Contr)	G3 (Sw House)	G4 (Syst.)
Software planning, estimating and management predictability	Low	High	Medium	Medium
Cycle time reduction/acceptability	High	Low	High	Medium
Cost reduction/acceptability	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Quality Improvement/acceptability	Low	Low	Medium	High

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