

Software change

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- Software change is inevitable
 - New requirements emerge when the software is used
 - The business environment changes
 - Errors must be repaired
 - New equipment must be accommodated
 - The performance or reliability may have to be improved
- A key problem for organizations is implementing and managing change to their legacy systems
 - DISCUSSION
- Project
 - A change to your project
 - A change to someone else's project
 - Another team in your class
 - Another team from 2000
 - Another team from 1990

Software maintenance

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- Modifying a program after it has been put into use
- Maintenance does not normally involve major changes to the system's architecture
- Changes are implemented by modifying existing components and adding new components to the system

Maintenance is inevitable

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- The system requirements are likely to change while the system is being developed because the environment is changing. Therefore a delivered system won't meet its requirements!
- Systems are tightly coupled with their environment. When a system is installed in an environment it changes that environment and therefore changes the system requirements.
- Systems **MUST** be maintained if they are to remain useful in an environment

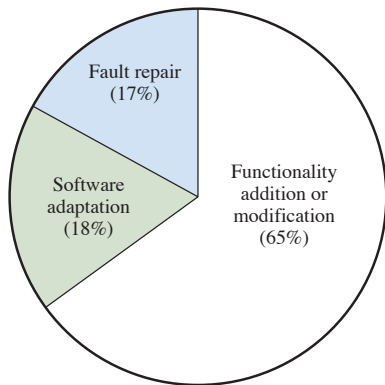
Types of maintenance

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- Maintenance to repair software faults
 - Changing a system to correct deficiencies in the way it meets its requirements
- Maintenance to adapt software to a different operating environment
 - Changing a system so that it operates in a different environment (computer, OS, etc.) from its initial implementation
- Maintenance to add to or modify the system's functionality
 - Modifying the system to satisfy new requirements
- Which one is most common?

Distribution of maintenance effort

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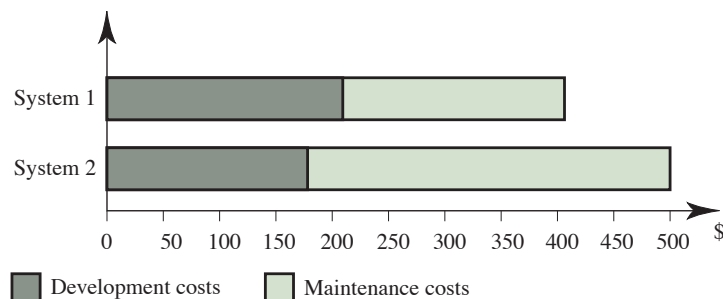
Maintenance costs

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- Usually greater than development costs (2* to 100* depending on the application)
- Affected by both technical and non-technical factors
- Increases as software is maintained. Maintenance corrupts the software structure so makes future maintenance more difficult.
- Ageing software can have high support costs (e.g. old languages, compilers etc.)

Development/maintenance costs

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Maintenance cost factors

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- Team stability
 - Maintenance costs are reduced if the same staff is involved with them for some time
- Contractual responsibility
 - The developers of a system may have no contractual responsibility for maintenance so there is no incentive to design for future change
- Staff skills
 - Maintenance staff is often inexperienced and has limited domain knowledge
- Program age and structure
 - As programs age, their structure is degraded and they become harder to understand and change

Change requests

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- Change requests are requests for system changes from users, customers or management
- In principle, all change requests should be carefully analyzed as part of the maintenance process and then implemented
- In practice, some change requests must be implemented urgently
 - Fault repair
 - Changes to the system's environment
 - Urgently required business changes

The maintenance process

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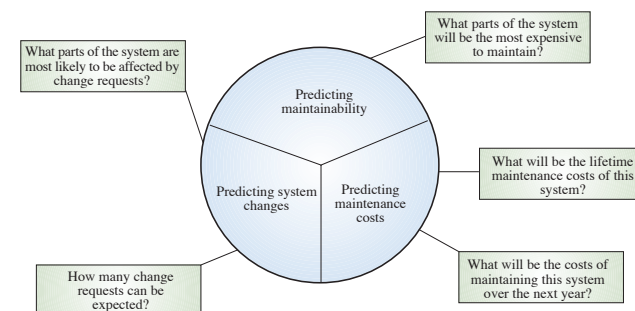
Maintenance prediction

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- Maintenance prediction is concerned with assessing what parts of the system may cause problems and have high maintenance costs
 - Change acceptance depends on the maintainability of the components affected by the change
 - Implementing changes degrades the system and reduces its maintainability
 - Maintenance costs depend on the number of changes and costs of change depend on maintainability

Maintenance prediction

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Change prediction

- Predicting the number of changes requires understanding the relationships between a system and its environment
- Tightly coupled systems require changes whenever the environment is changed
- Factors influencing this relationship are
 - Number and complexity of system interfaces
 - The business processes where the system is used

Evolutionary software

- Rather than think of separate development and maintenance phases, evolutionary software is software that is designed so that it can continuously evolve throughout its lifetime

Configuration management

- New versions of software systems are created as they change
 - For different machines/OS
 - Offering different functionality
 - Tailored for particular user requirements
- Configuration management is concerned with managing evolving software systems
 - System change is a team activity
 - CM aims to control the costs and effort involved in making changes to a system

Configuration management

- Involves the development and application of procedures and standards to manage an evolving software product
- May be seen as part of a more general quality management process

Configuration management planning

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- All products of the software process may have to be managed
 - Specifications
 - Designs
 - Programs
 - Test data
 - User manuals
- Thousands of separate documents are generated for a large software system
- DISCUSSION

CM planning

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- Starts during the early phases of the project
- Must define the documents or document classes that are to be managed
- Documents which might be required for future system maintenance should be identified and specified as managed documents

The CM plan

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- Defines the types of documents to be managed and a document naming scheme
- Defines who takes responsibility for the CM procedures
- Defines policies for change and version management
- Defines the CM records which must be maintained

The CM plan

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- Describes the tools which should be used to assist the CM process and any limitations on their use
- Defines the process of tool use
- Defines the CM database used to record configuration information
- May include information such as the CM of external software, process auditing, etc.

The configuration database

- All CM information should be maintained in a configuration database
- This should allow queries about configurations to be answered
 - Who has a particular system version?
 - What platform is required for a particular version?
 - What versions are affected by a change to component X?
 - How many reported faults in version T?
- The CM database should preferably be linked to the software being managed