Model-Based Software Process Improvement

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This presentation demonstrates our organization's approach to model-based Software Process Improvement (SPI). Our organization, a Process Transfer Technology Affiliate of the STARS program, was selected in April 1993 to participate as a field test site for the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Software Process Definition (SPD) project. The products tested included the improvement model itself, descriptive modeling techniques, the CMM level 2 framework document, and the use of process definition guidelines and templates.

The SPI model developed by the SPD project at the SEI represents a five stage cyclic approach for organizational process improvement. The cycle consists of the initiating, diagnosing, establishing, acting, and leveraging phases. Our organization's three year Total Quality Initiative facilitated the adoption of this model for our software improvement teams.

The process improvement infrastructure includes the steering committee, SEPG team leader, the SEPG core advisors, Quality Management Boards (QMB), and designated working groups chartered by the SEPG. The QMB's directly support the strategic goals of the organization. Monthly briefings from the SEPG team leader to the steering committee and the QMB's facilitate the integration of the SPI initiative with the strategic business goals.

The SPD project at SEI field-tested the Process Framework Document for CMM level 2 at our organization. The document provides checklists to determine CMM compliance for each Key Process Area (KPA). In addition, we gained insight into the necessary organizational components to support well-defined processes.

Process Definition (PD) training was provided for our SEPG, Technology QMB, and the Project Planning Working Group. Our SEPG recognized the need to establish a documented standard approach for PD that all software improvement teams can use (i.e. a well-defined process!). Our Process Breakdown Structure establishes planning, definition, and enactment as the top-level phases of the Process Engineering life-cycle.
The process planning phase is necessary to baseline and document the current process by establishing the purpose and the high-level process flow. In addition, it is important to set the policy that will over-arch the process and help set the context for the follow-on process definition engineering. The process definition phase is decomposed into three activities: layout, design, and enactment information. The layout activity establishes the process relationships by organizing the high-level entry/tasks/validation/exit (ETVX) information and defining the work flow and work products associated with the process. In addition, a mid-level process flow is established during this step which will facilitate using the information organizers in the design activity. The agents that will perform each task are also identified during this activity.

The design activity of the definition phase is characterized by the use of multiple information organizers (i.e. templates) which provide the necessary data to develop the enactment information. Measurement criteria and the validation method are further defined in this stage of process definition.

The development of the enactment information is the last activity to be performed in the definition phase of process engineering. The procedures must be developed during this activity in order to trial test the process during a pilot project. The training requirements for the process must also be established at this time.

The enactment and process support is the final phase of process engineering and constitutes the institutionalization of the process. This phase must establish process control and process assurance procedures to ensure that the process has the ability to improve. A training plan is important to support the on-going use of the process.

The outer ring represents all of the work products developed during the process engineering life-cycle. In an attempt to avoid shelfware, the SEPG is targeting a Process User’s Manual for each KPA that will contain only the essential information required for the user of the process.
MODEL - BASED SOFTWARE PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

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AGENDA

SPI MODEL
IMPROVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE
ESSENCE OF LEVEL 2
PROCESS DEFINITION FRAMEWORK
  - PLANNING
  - LAYOUT
  - DESIGN
  - ENACTMENT
PROCESS MANUAL
SOFTWARE PROCESS IMPROVEMENT MODEL

**Initiating**
- Stimulus for Improvement
  - Set Context and Establish Sponsorship
  - Establish Improvement Infrastructure

**Leveraging**
- Revise Organizational Approach
- Appraise and Characterize Current Processes
- Develop Recommendations & Document Phase Results
- Document and Analyze Lessons

**Acting**
- Implementation plan
  - Define processes
  - Define measures
  - Plan and execute pilot(s)
  - Plan, execute, and track installation
- Establish Process Action Teams
- Action Planning
- Set Strategy and Priorities
- PAT Charters & Plans

**Diagnosing**
- Current, Planning, and Establishing
STRATEGIC PLAN

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
DEPARTMENT

SEPG LEADER

SEPG CORE ADVISORS

SEPG -- SOFTWARE ENG. PROCESS GROUP
TQMB -- TECHNOLOGY
MQMB -- MARKETING
IQMB -- ISEA
WEQMB -- WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT
RDQMB -- RESOURCE / DEMOGRAPHICS
QA -- QUALITY ASSURANCE
WG -- WORKING GROUP

OIC
DIRECTOR
DEPT A
DEPT B
DEPT X

STEERING COMMITTEE
MQMB
IQMB
TQMB
WEQMB
RDQMB

WG

WG

WG
THE ESSENCE OF LEVEL 2
"TAKES COMMITMENT
AND TIME!"

SEPG Process Improvement
Senior Management
Product Engineering
Software Configuration Management (Product Integrity)
Software Quality Assurance (Process Assurance)

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

POLICY
STANDARDS

PROCESS

PROCEDURES "How To"

TOOLS
TRAINING

Informed Decisions
Oversight & enforcement
Plan the Work
Work the Plan
Conformance/Non Conformance

Constraints
Implemented By...
Supported By...
NSWC PROCESS DEFINITION FRAMEWORK

PLANNING

- BASELINE

DEFINITION

- FLOW
- INFORMATION ORGANIZERS
- PROCEDURES

ENACTMENT

- INSTITUTIONALIZE
- PROCESS ENACTMENT
- PROCESS SUPPORT

NSWC PROCESS DEFINITION FRAMEWORK
PROCESS DEFINITION FRAMEWORK

PLANNING

- PROCESS PLANNING

DEFINITION

- LAYOUT
- DESIGN
- ENACTMENT INFORMATION

ENACTMENT

ENACTMENT & PROCESS SUPPORT

- BASELINE
  - DATA GATHERING
  - AUDIENCE
  - ROLES
  - USAGE
  - KNOWLEDGE
  - MOTIVATION
  - INTERVIEW

- HIGH LEVEL PROCESS FLOW

- POLICY STATEMENT
NEW BUSINESS FORM

- Prepare Project Planning Requirements Form
  - Stage 1
- Generate Project Estimates
  - Stage 2
- Consolidation and Concurrence
  - Stage 3

Consolidation and Concurrence Group
PROCESS DEFINITION FRAMEWORK

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- PROCESS RELATIONSHIPS
  - INITIAL MODEL
    - ETVX
  - MID-LEVEL PROCESS FLOW
  - WORK PRODUCTS DEFINED
THE ETVX PROCESS
(ENTRY, TASK, VALIDATION, EXIT)

PURPOSE: Ensure all Departments and Divisions are involved in Project planning process

TASK: Project Planning (Bids, RFP, Potential)

INPUT
1. Task Letter
2. Estimate Request
3. New Business Opportunity Form

ENTRY CRITERIA
• New Business Form
• Formal Project Officer identified

TASK
Agent: Project Coordinator
1. Determine Scope of SOW
2. Establish Key Codes
3. Requirements Brief
4. Complete Checklists
5. Prepare Schedule, WBS, Funding
6. Resolve Comments
7. QA Checkpoints Complete

EXIT CRITERIA
• Checklist, WBS
• Resolution Meeting

VALIDATION
• Approval to Proceed

OUTPUT
1. To Sponsor:
   - Estimate
   - Schedule
   - Risk Analysis
2. Commitment to Task
3. To Resource Allocation Committee:
   - Schedule
   - WBS
   - Funding

PARENT: Project Officer's Handbook
ACTION CODE: Project Coordinator
Project Planning Process
(Bid, Proposal, Potential)

Legend:

- Input
- Activities Performed
- Output Product
- QA Review

PO = Project Officer
DH = Department Head
PPRF = Project Planning Requirements Form
PROCESS DEFINITION
FRAMEWORK

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- INFORMATION ORGANIZERS
  - INPUTS
  - OUTPUTS
  - TASKS
  - AGENTS
  - MEASUREMENTS
  - VALIDATION
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- PROCEDURES
- PILOT PROJECT
- PROCESS MANUAL
- TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
# Process Definition Framework

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- **Institutionalization**
  - Process Control
    - Monitor
    - Measurement
    - Analysis
    - Improvement
  - Process Assurance
    - Tailoring / Guidance
    - Enforcement
  - Training Plan
KEY PROCESS AREA
PROCESS MANUAL

QUALITY ASSURANCE
POLICY
PROCEDURES
PROCESS FLOW
TOOLS
TRAINING
MEASUREMENT
AGENTS / ROLES
PROCESS USERS MANUAL