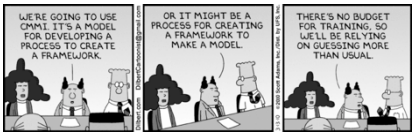
CIS 422/522

Software Life cycles and Process Models

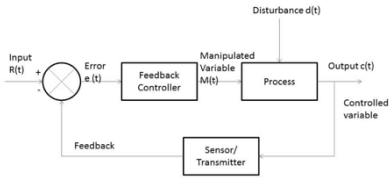


View of SE in this Course

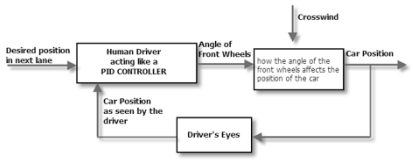
- The purpose of software engineering is to *gain and maintain* intellectual and managerial control over the *products* and *processes* of software development.
- Intellectual control implies
  - We understand the developmental goals
  - Can distinguish good choices from bad
  - We can effectively build to meet our goals
    - Behavioral requirements (functionality)
    - Software Qualities (reliability, security, maintainability, etc.)
- Managerial control implies
  - We make accurate recourse estimates
  - We deliver on schedule and within budget

Control Realities

- Reality Check:
  - Cannot fully predict consequences of our choices
  - Control is never absolute
- Implication: maintaining control is an active process (view as a feedback-control loop)



Active Control



- Control in a software development means
  - Understand where we want to be (ideal)
  - Evaluate current delta
  - Make adjustments

Control and Risk

- Risk: a *risk* is defined as a condition that can lead to a loss of control
  - Incorrect, misunderstood, or missing requirements
  - Poor design choices
  - Differing assumptions by developers
  - Inadequate testing, validation, etc.
- Can lead to delivering wrong product, late, over cost..
- Assessing and mitigating risk is a critical SE activity
- Assertion: well defined processes help organize work and control risks

Need to Organize the Work

- Nature of a software project
  - Software development produces a set of interlocking, interdependent work products
    - E.g. Requirements -> Design -> Code -> Test
  - Implies dependencies between tasks
  - Implies dependencies between people
- Must organize the work such that:
  - Every task gets done
  - Tasks get done in the right order
  - Tasks are done by the right people
  - The required qualities are built in
  - Steps are done on schedule to meet delivery

Addressed by Software Processes

- Developed as a conceptual tool for organizing complex software developments
- Answers the “who”, “what”, “when”, etc. questions
  - What product should we work on next?
  - What kind of person should do the work?
  - What information is needed to do the work?
  - When is the work finished?
- Intended use (idealized)
  1. *Model* of development (what does or should occur)
  2. *Guide* to developers in what to produce and when to produce it

Definitions

- *Software Life Cycle*: evolution of a software development effort from concept to retirement
- *Software Process Model*: Abstract representation of a software life cycle as a set of
  1. Activities: tasks to be performed (how)
  2. Artifacts: work products produced (what)
  3. Roles: skills needed (who)
- *Software Process*: institutionalized version of a life software model defining specific roles, activities, and artifacts

Examples of Use

- Software life-cycle: in choosing whether to build or buy, companies should consider the entire life-cycle cost of software
- Software process model: many companies are currently adapting the agile model of development
- Software process: organizations often standardize their software process across developments

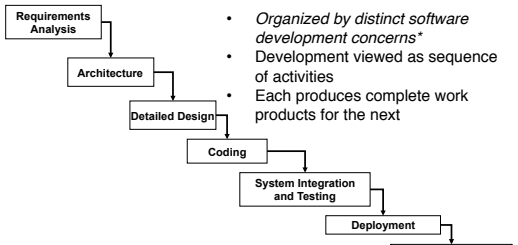
Discussion

- Why might we need different models?

Common Process Models

Waterfall
Prototyping
Iterative
Spiral
Agile

A "Waterfall" Model



- *Organized by distinct software development concerns**
- Development viewed as sequence of activities
- Each produces complete work products for the next

Based on first clearly defined process model (Winn Royce)

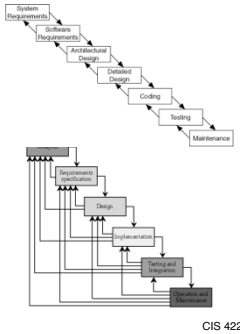
Activities and Products

- Requirements Analysis
  - Activities: understand and define what the software must do and any properties it must have
  - Artifacts: Software Requirements Specification (SRS)
  - Roles: Requirements Analyst
- Architectural Design
  - Activities: decompose the problem into components that together satisfy the requirements
  - Artifacts: architectural design specification, interface specs.
  - Roles: Software Architect
- Detail Design
  - Activities: internal design of components (e.g., objects) defining algorithms and data structures supporting the interfaces
  - Artifacts: design documentation, code documentation
  - Roles: Coder

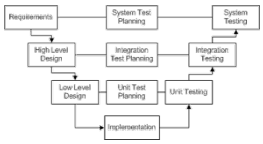
Phases and Products

- Implementation
  - Activities: realization of the design in executable form
  - Artifacts: code, makefiles, etc.
  - Roles: Coder
- Integration and Testing
  - Activities: validation and verification of the implementation against requirements and design
  - Artifacts: test plan, test cases
  - Roles: tester, user (customer)
- Maintenance (really multiple distinct activities)
  - Activities: repair errors or update deployed system
  - Artifacts: bug fixes, patches, new versions
  - Roles: Architect, Coder, Tester

Waterfall Model Variations



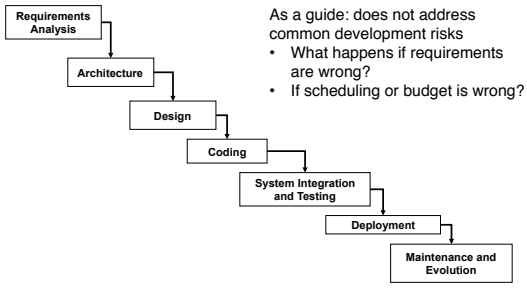
There have been many variations



Issues with the Waterfall Model

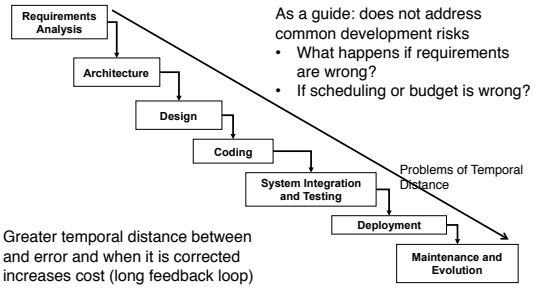
- Variations created to address perceived shortcomings
- Model implies that you should complete each stage before moving on to the next
  - Implies that you can get the requirements right up front: does not account for inevitable changes
  - Implies testing and validation occur only when development is finished
    - Customers does not see the product until the end
  - Implies that once the product is finished, everything else is maintenance

A "Waterfall" Model*



As a guide: does not address common development risks
- What happens if requirements are wrong?
- If scheduling or budget is wrong?

A "Waterfall" Model*



As a guide: does not address common development risks
- What happens if requirements are wrong?
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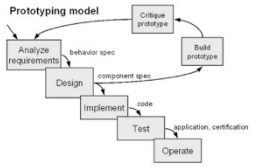
Greater temporal distance between and error and when it is corrected increases cost (long feedback loop)

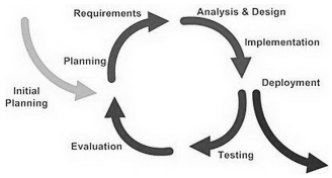
Characteristic Model: Prototyping

- Waterfall variation
- First system versions are prototypes, either:
  - Interface
  - Functional
- Which waterfall risks does this try to address?



Characteristic Processes: The Iterative Model

- Process is viewed as a sequence of iterations
  - Essentially, a *series of waterfalls*
  - Each iteration builds on the previous one (e.g., adds requirements, design components, code features, tests)
  - Each iteration produces complete set of work products deliverable software
  - Customers provide feedback on each release
  - There is no "maintenance" phase – each version includes problem fixes as well as new features



Iterative Model

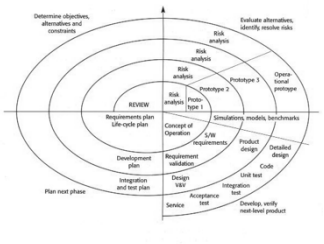
- Also called "incremental development"
- Addresses some common waterfall risks
  - Risk that software cannot be completed – build incremental subsets
  - Risk of building the wrong system – stakeholder have opportunities to see the software each increment
  - Each iteration provides checkpoint for feasibility, schedule, budget and others issues

Advantages of Incremental Development

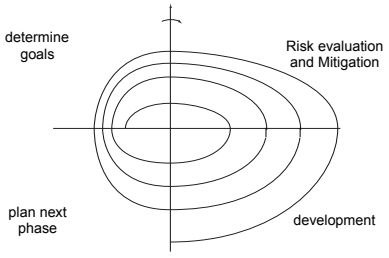
- Customers get usable functionality earlier than with waterfall
- Early feedback improves likelihood of producing a product that satisfies customers
  - Reduces market risk: if customers hate the product, find out before investing too much effort and money
- The quality of the final product is better
  - The core functionality is developed early and tested multiple times
  - Only a relatively small subset of functionality added in each release: easier to get it right and test it thoroughly
  - Detect design problems early and get a chance to redesign

Characteristic Processes: The Spiral Model

- Process viewed as repeating cycles of increasing scale
- Identify risks and determine (next set of) requirements
- Each cycle builds next version by extension, increasing scale each time



Spiral Model

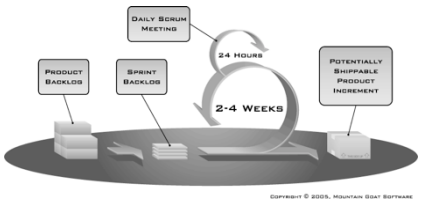


Spiral Model Goals

- Response lack of explicit risk analysis and risk mitigation in “waterfall” process
- Includes risk analysis and mitigation activities at each phase (e.g., prototyping)
- Explicit Go/No-Go decision points in process

Characteristic Processes: Agile (e.g. scrum)

- Process viewed as nested sequence of builds (sprints)
  - Each build adds very small feature set (one or two)
  - Nightly build/test, frequent customer validation
  - Focus on delivering code, little or no time spent on documentation



Also…

- RAD models
- Extreme Programming
- Etc., etc.

Why so many models?

How do we Choose a Development Process?

E.g., for your projects

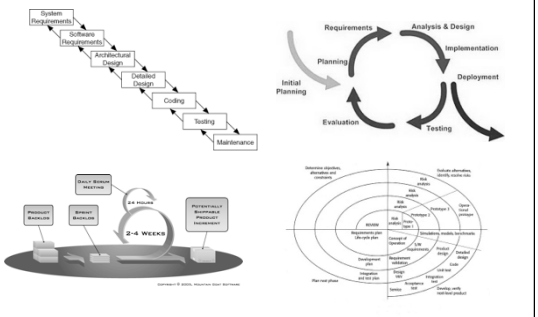
Objectives

- Goal: proceed as rationally and systematically as possible (I.e., in a controlled manner) from a statement of goals to a design that demonstrably meets those goals within design and management constraints
  - Understand that any process description is an abstraction
  - Always must compensate for deviation from the ideal (e.g., by iteration)
  - Still important to have a well-defined process to follow and measure against

A Software Engineering Perspective

- Question of control vs. cost: processes introduce *overhead*
- Choose process to provide an appropriate level of control for the given product and context
  - Sufficient control to mitigate risks, achieve results
  - No more than necessary to contain cost and effort
- Provides a basis for choosing or evaluating processes, methods, etc.
  - Does it achieve our objectives at reasonable cost?
  - Does it address the most important developmental risks?
- Need to agree on kind of control you need and how you will accomplish it

Exercise: Which Model?



Exercise: Project Processes

- Discuss: which process is the best fit for your projects and why?
- For each process you do not select, what characteristics do not fit well with the project?
- For the process selected
  - How does it fit with project characteristics?
  - How does it help address project risks?

Take-away

- Expected to know standard processes and their rationale
- Understand how and why people use different development models
- Understand how to choose an appropriate model for a given developments
  - Often poorly understood in industry

Project Preparation

Project Requirements
Worksite
Teams

Project 1: Simple Address Book

- Simple programming exercise but with significant quality constraints
- Requires developing a number of non-code artifacts
  - Require significant time and effort
  - Must be *planned for!*
- Requires distributing and coordinating the work
  - Must have two or more programmers
  - Must show that system meets requirements

Project Requirements

- Are the project requirements complete and well defined?
  - If not, what will you do about it?
- Goal for this week: be clear on what you plan to build
  - Clarify Address Book requirements
  - Generate questions for instructor
  - Plan iterations
- Think in terms of *useful subsets*
  - Build the smallest useful subset first: think about which capabilities will be needed by any future enhancements
  - Plan how you will add to it each increment

Questions?