Chapter 1

Software & Software Engineering

Slide Set to accompany
Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach, 7/e
by Roger S. Pressman

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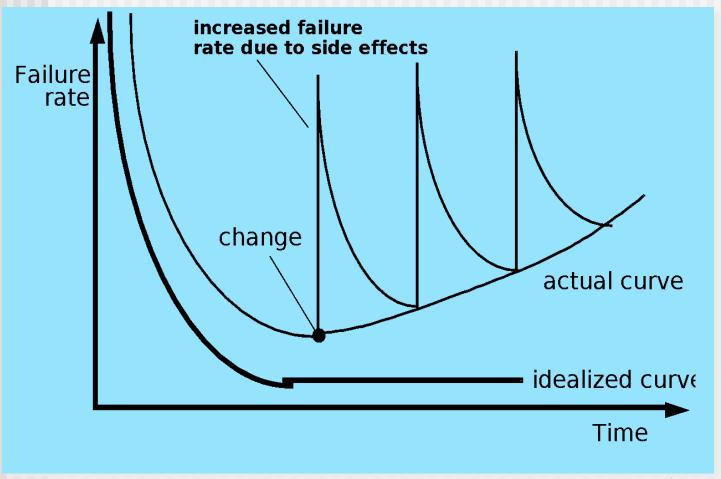
What is Software?

Software is: (1) instructions (computer programs) that when executed provide desired features, function, and performance; (2) data structures that enable the programs to adequately manipulate information and (3) documentation that describes the operation and use of the programs.

What is Software?

- Software is developed or engineered, it is not manufactured in the classical sense.
- Software doesn't "wear out."
- Although the industry is moving toward component-based construction, most software continues to be custom-built.

Wear vs. Deterioration



Software Applications

- system software
- application software
- engineering/scientific software
- embedded software
- product-line software
- WebApps (Web applications)
- Al software

Software - New Categories

- Cloud computing pervasive, distributed computing
- Ubiquitous computing—wireless networks
- Netsourcing—the Web as a computing engine
- Open source—"free" source code open to the computing community (a blessing, but also a potential curse!)
- Also ... (see Chapter 31)
 - Data mining
 - Grid computing
 - Cognitive machines
 - Software for nanotechnologies

Legacy Software

Why must it change?

- software must be adapted to meet the needs of new computing environments or technology.
- software must be enhanced to implement new business requirements.
- software must be extended to make it interoperable with other more modern systems or databases.
- software must be re-architected to make it viable within a network environment.

Characteristics of WebApps - I

- Network intensiveness. A WebApp resides on a network and must serve the needs of a diverse community of clients.
- Concurrency. A large number of users may access the WebApp at one time.
- Unpredictable load. The number of users of the WebApp may vary by orders of magnitude from day to day.
- Performance. If a WebApp user must wait too long (for access, for server-side processing, for client-side formatting and display), he or she may decide to go elsewhere.
- Availability. Although expectation of 100 percent availability is unreasonable, users of popular WebApps often demand access on a "24/7/365" basis.

Characteristics of WebApps - II

- Data driven. The primary function of many WebApps is to use hypermedia to present text, graphics, audio, and video content to the end-user.
- Content sensitive. The quality and aesthetic nature of content remains an important determinant of the quality of a WebApp.
- Continuous evolution. Unlike conventional application software that evolves over a series of planned, chronologically-spaced releases, Web applications evolve continuously.
- Immediacy. Although immediacy—the compelling need to get software to market quickly—is a characteristic of many application domains, WebApps often exhibit a time to market that can be a matter of a few days or weeks.
- Security. Because WebApps are available via network access, it is difficult, if not impossible, to limit the population of end-users who may access the application.
- Aesthetics. An undeniable part of the appeal of a WebApp is its look and feel.

Software Engineering

Some realities:

- a concerted effort should be made to understand the problem before a software solution is developed
- design becomes a pivotal activity
- software should exhibit high quality
- software should be maintainable

The seminal definition:

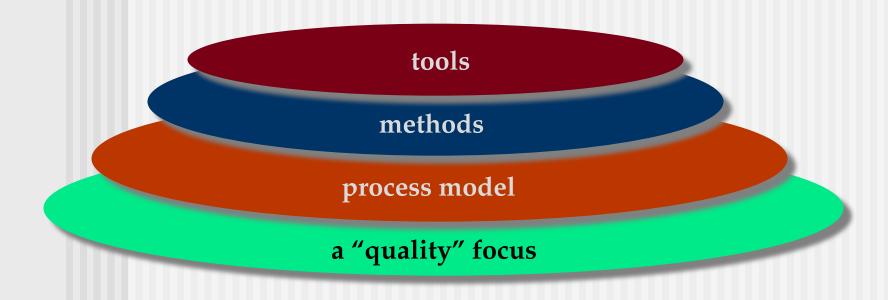
■ [Software engineering is] the establishment and use of sound engineering principles in order to obtain economically software that is reliable and works efficiently on real machines.

Software Engineering

The IEEE definition:

■ Software Engineering: (1) The application of a systematic, disciplined, quantifiable approach to the development, operation, and maintenance of software; that is, the application of engineering to software. (2) The study of approaches as in (1).

A Layered Technology



Software Engineering

A Process Framework

Process framework Framework activities

work tasks
work products
milestones & deliverables
QA checkpoints

Umbrella Activities

Framework Activities

Sequentially Accomplished

- Communication
- Planning
- Modeling
 - Analysis of requirements
 - Design
- Construction
 - Code generation
 - Testing
- Deployment

Umbrella Activities

Consistently applied/updated when able

- Software project management
- Formal technical reviews
- Software quality assurance
- Software configuration management
- Work product preparation and production
- Reusability management
- Measurement
- Risk management

Adapting a Process Model

- the overall flow of activities, actions, and tasks and the interdependencies among them
- the degree to which actions and tasks are defined within each framework activity
- the degree to which work products are identified and required
- the manner which quality assurance activities are applied
- the manner in which project tracking and control activities are applied
- the overall degree of detail and rigor with which the process is described
- the degree to which the customer and other stakeholders are involved with the project
- the level of autonomy given to the software team
- the degree to which team organization and roles are prescribed

The Essence of Practice

Polya suggests:

- 1. Understand the problem (communication and analysis).
- 2. Plan a solution (modeling and software design).
- 3. Carry out the plan (code generation).
- 4. Examine the result for accuracy (testing and quality assurance).

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Understand the Problem

- Who has a stake in the solution to the problem? That is, who are the stakeholders?
- What are the unknowns? What data, functions, and features are required to properly solve the problem?
- Can the problem be compartmentalized? Is it possible to represent smaller problems that may be easier to understand?
- Can the problem be represented graphically? Can an analysis model be created?

Plan the Solution

- *Have you seen similar problems before?* Are there patterns that are recognizable in a potential solution? Is there existing software that implements the data, functions, and features that are required?
- Has a similar problem been solved? If so, are elements of the solution reusable?
- Can subproblems be defined? If so, are solutions readily apparent for the subproblems?
- Can you represent a solution in a manner that leads to effective implementation? Can a design model be created?

Carry Out the Plan

- *Does the solution conform to the plan?* Is source code traceable to the design model?
- Is each component part of the solution provably correct? Has the design and code been reviewed, or better, have correctness proofs been applied to algorithm?

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Examine the Result

- Is it possible to test each component part of the solution? Has a reasonable testing strategy been implemented?
- Does the solution produce results that conform to the data, functions, and features that are required? Has the software been validated against all stakeholder requirements?

Hooker's General Principles

- 1: The Reason It All Exists
- 2: KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid!)
- 3: *Maintain the Vision*
- 4: What You Produce, Others Will Consume
- 5: *Be Open to the Future*
- 6: Plan Ahead for Reuse
- 7: Think!

How It all Starts

SafeHome:

- Every software project is precipitated by some business need—
 - the need to correct a defect in an existing application;
 - the need to the need to adapt a 'legacy system' to a changing business environment;
 - the need to extend the functions and features of an existing application, or
 - the need to create a new product, service, or system.

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