

CHAPTER 5

SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE

ACRONYMS

KA	Knowledge Area
MR	Modification Request
PR	Problem Report
SCM	Software Configuration Management
SLA	Software Level Agreement
SQA	Software Quality Assurance
V&V	Verification and Validation

INTRODUCTION

Software development efforts result in the delivery of a software product that satisfies user requirements. Accordingly, the software product must change or evolve. Once in operation, defects are uncovered, operating environments change, and new user requirements surface. The maintenance phase of the life cycle begins following a warranty period or post-implementation support delivery, but maintenance activities occur much earlier.

Software maintenance is an integral part of a software life cycle. However, it has not, historically, received the same degree of attention that the other phases have. Historically, software development has had a much higher profile than software maintenance in most organizations. This is now changing, as organizations strive to squeeze the most out of their software development investment by keeping software operating as long as possible. The open source paradigm has brought further attention to the issue of maintaining software artifacts developed by others.

In this Guide, software maintenance is defined as the totality of activities required to provide cost-effective support to software. Activities are performed during the pre-delivery stage as well as during the post-

delivery stage. Pre-delivery activities include planning for post-delivery operations, maintainability, and logistics determination for transition activities (IEEE 2006, c6s9). Post-delivery activities include software modification, training, and operating or interfacing to a help desk.

The Software Maintenance KA is related to all other aspects of software engineering. Therefore, this KA description is linked to all other chapters of the Guide.

BREAKDOWN OF TOPICS FOR SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE

The Software Maintenance KA breakdown of topics is shown in Figure 1.

1. Software Maintenance Fundamentals

This first section introduces the concepts and terminology that form an underlying basis to understanding the role and scope of software maintenance. The topics provide definitions and emphasize why there is a need for maintenance. Categories of software maintenance are critical to understanding its underlying meaning.

1.1. Definitions and Terminology (1, c1s2, c2s2, c3s2; 2, c3)

The purpose for software maintenance is defined in the international standard for software maintenance: ISO/IEC/IEEE 14764.¹ In the context of software engineering, software maintenance is essentially one of the many technical processes.

The objective of software maintenance is to modify existing software while preserving

¹ For the purpose of conciseness and ease of reading, this standard is referred to simply as IEEE 14764 in the subsequent text of this Knowledge area.

79 its integrity. The international standards also
80 state the importance of having some
81 maintenance activities (pre-delivery
82 activities) prior to the final delivery of a
83 software. Notably, IEEE 14764 emphasizes
84 the importance of the pre-delivery aspects of
85 maintenance—planning, for example.

86

87 1.2. *Nature of Maintenance* 88 (1, c1s3)

89 Software maintenance sustains the software
90 product throughout its life cycle (from
91 development to operations). Modification
92 requests are logged and tracked, the impact
93 of proposed changes is determined, code and
94 other software artifacts are modified, testing
95 is conducted, and a new version of the

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96 software product is released. Also, training
97 and daily support are provided to users. The
98 term *maintainer* is defined as an
99 organization that performs maintenance
100 activities. In this KA, the term will
101 sometimes refer to individuals who perform
102 those activities, contrasting them with the
103 developers.

104 IEEE 14764 identifies the primary activities
105 of software maintenance as process
106 implementation, problem and modification
107 analysis, modification implementation,
108 maintenance review/acceptance, migration,
109 and retirement. These activities are
110 discussed in section 3.2, “Maintenance
111 Activities.”

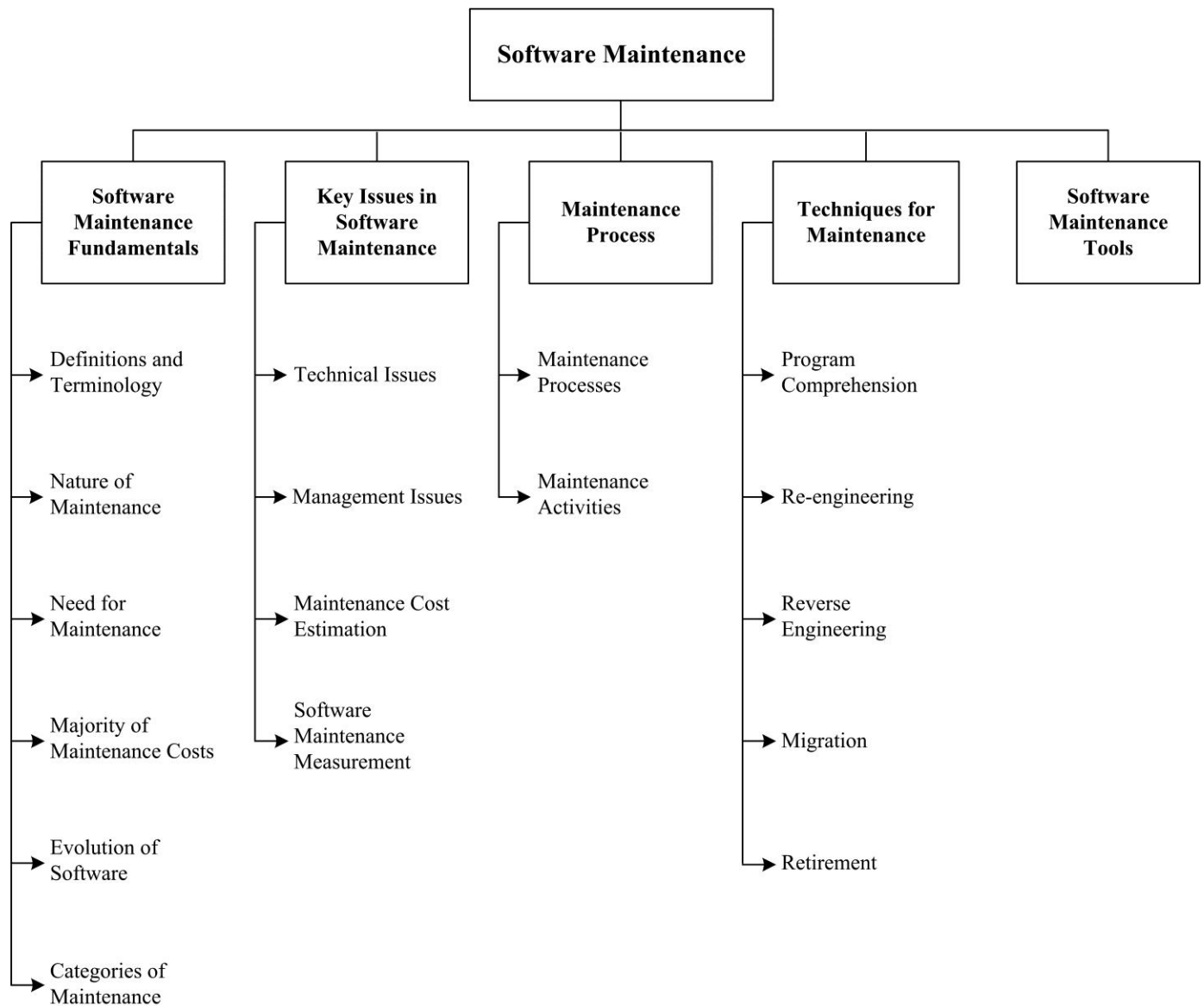


Figure 1: Breakdown of Topics for Software Maintenance

Maintainers can learn from the developer's knowledge of the software. Contact with the developers and early involvement by the maintainer helps reduce the maintenance effort. In some instances, the initial developer cannot be reached or has moved on to other tasks, which creates an additional challenge for maintainers. Maintenance must take the products of the development, code, or

documentation (for example) and support them immediately and evolve/maintain them progressively over a software life cycle.

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1.3. Need for Maintenance (1, c1s5)

Maintenance is needed to ensure that the software continues to satisfy user requirements. Maintenance is applicable to software that is developed using any software life cycle model (for example,

spiral). The software changes due to corrective and non-corrective software actions. Maintenance must be performed in order to

- correct faults;
- improve the design;
- implement enhancements;
- interface with other softwares;
- adapt programs so that different hardware, software, system features, and telecommunications facilities can be used;
- migrate legacy software; and
- retire software.

The maintainer's activities comprise five key characteristics:

- maintaining control over the software's day-to-day functions;
- maintaining control over software modification;
- perfecting existing functions;
- identifying security threats and fixing security vulnerabilities; and
- preventing software performance from degrading to unacceptable levels.

1.4. Majority of Maintenance Costs (1, c4s3, c5s5.2)

Maintenance consumes a major share of a software's life-cycle financial resources. A common perception of software maintenance is that it merely fixes faults. However, studies and surveys over the years have indicated that the majority, over 80 percent, of software maintenance is used for non-corrective actions (1, figure 4.1). Grouping enhancements and corrections together in management reports contributes to some misconceptions regarding the high cost of corrections.

Understanding the categories of software maintenance helps to understand the structure of software maintenance costs. Also, understanding the factors that influence the maintainability of a software can help to contain costs. Grubb and Takang present some of the environmental factors and their relationship to software maintenance costs, as follows.

- Operating environment refers to hardware and software.
- Organizational environment refers to policies, competition, process, product, and personnel.

1.5. Evolution of Software (1, c3s5)

Lehman first addressed software maintenance and evolution in the late 1960s. Over a period of twenty years, his research led to the formulation of eight "Laws of Evolution." Lehman's key findings include a proposal that maintenance is evolutionary development and that maintenance decisions are aided by understanding what happens to softwares over time. Others state that maintenance is continued development, except that there is an extra input (or constraint)—in other words, existing large software is never complete and continues to evolve; as it evolves, it grows more complex unless some action is taken to reduce this complexity.

1.6. Categories of Maintenance (1, c3s3.1; 2, c3, c6s2)

Lientz and Swanson initially defined three categories (types) of maintenance: corrective, adaptive, and perfective (1, c4s3). This classification was later updated in IEEE 14764 to include four categories, as follows.

- **Corrective maintenance:** reactive modification (or repairs) of a software product performed after delivery to correct discovered problems. Included in this category is emergency maintenance, which is an unscheduled modification performed to temporarily keep a software operational pending corrective maintenance.
 - **Adaptive maintenance:** modification of a software product, performed after delivery, to keep a software product usable in a changed or changing environment. For example, the operating system might be upgraded and some changes to the software may be necessary.
 - **Perfective maintenance:** modification of a software product after delivery to provide enhancements for users, improvement of program documentation, and recoding to improve software performance, maintainability or other software attributes.
 - **Preventive maintenance:** modification of a software product after delivery to detect and correct latent faults in the software product before they become operational faults.
- IEEE 14764 classifies adaptive and perfective maintenance as maintenance enhancements. It also groups together the corrective and preventive maintenance categories into a correction category, as shown in Table 1.

Correction		Enhancement
Proactive	Preventive	Perfective

Reactive	Corrective	Adaptive
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Table 1: Software maintenance categories

2. Key Issues in Software Maintenance

A number of key issues must be dealt with to ensure the effective maintenance of software. It is important to understand that software maintenance provides unique technical and management challenges for software engineers—for example, trying to find a fault in software containing 500K lines of code that another software engineer developed is a good example. Similarly, competing with software developers for resources is a constant battle. Planning for a future release, which often includes coding the next release while sending out emergency patches for the current release, also creates a challenge. The following section presents some of the technical and management issues related to software maintenance. They have been grouped under the following topic headings:

- technical issues,
- management issues,
- cost estimation, and
- measurement.

2.1. Technical Issues

2.1.1. Limited Understanding (1, c6)

Limited understanding refers to how quickly a software engineer can understand where to make a change or correction in software that he or she did not develop. Research indicates that about half of the total maintenance effort is devoted to understanding the software

313 to be modified. Thus, the topic of
314 software comprehension is of great
315 interest to software engineers.
316 Comprehension is more difficult in text-
317 oriented representation—in source code,
318 for example—where it is often difficult
319 to trace the evolution of software
320 through its releases/versions if changes
321 are not documented and if the developers
322 are not available to explain it, which is
323 often the case. Thus, software engineers
324 may initially have a limited
325 understanding of the software; much has
326 to be done to remedy this.

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328 2.1.2. Testing

329 (1, c9; 2, c5s2.2.2)

330 The cost of repeating full testing on a
331 major piece of software can be
332 significant in terms of time and money.
333 In order to ensure that the requested
334 problem reports are valid, the maintainer
335 should

336 replicate or verify problems by running
337 the appropriate tests. Regression testing
338 (the selective retesting of a software or
339 component to verify that the
340 modifications have not caused
341 unintended effects) is an important
342 testing concept to maintenance.
343 Additionally, finding time to test is often
344 difficult. There is also the challenge of
345 coordinating tests when different
346 members of the maintenance team are
347 working on different problems at the
348 same time. When software performs
349 critical functions, it may be difficult to
350 bring it offline to test. The Software
351 Testing KA provides additional
352 information and references on this
353 matter in its sub-topic on regression
354 testing.

355

356 2.1.3. Impact Analysis

357 (1, c13s3; 2, c5s2.5)

358 Impact analysis describes how to
359 conduct, cost effectively, a complete
360 analysis of the impact of a change in
361 existing software. Maintainers must
362 possess an intimate knowledge of the
363 software's structure and content. They
364 use that knowledge to perform impact
365 analysis, which identifies all systems and
366 software products affected by a software
367 change request and develops an estimate
368 of the resources needed to accomplish
369 the change. Additionally, the risk of
370 making the change is determined. The
371 change request, sometimes called a
372 modification request (MR) and often
373 called a problem report (PR), must first
374 be analyzed and translated into software
375 terms. It is performed after a change
376 request enters the software configuration
377 management process. IEEE 14764 states
378 impact analysis's tasks:

- 379
- 380 • analyze MRs/PRs;
 - 381 • replicate or verify the problem;
 - 382 • develop options for
383 implementing the modification;
 - 384 • document the MR/PR, the
385 results, and the execution
386 options;
 - 387 • obtain approval for the selected
388 modification option.

388 The severity of a problem is often used
389 to decide how and when a problem will
390 be fixed. The software engineer then
391 identifies the affected components.
392 Several potential solutions are provided
393 and then a recommendation is made as
394 to the best course of action.

395 Software designed with maintainability
396 in mind greatly facilitates impact
397 analysis. More information can be found
398 in the Software Configuration
399 Management KA.

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401 2.1.4. Maintainability
402 (1, c12s5.5; 2, c6s8)
403 How does one promote and follow up on
404 maintainability issues during
405 development? IEEE 14764 (2, c3s4)
406 defines maintainability as the capability
407 of the software product to be modified.
408 Modifications may include corrections,
409 improvements, or adaptation of the
410 software to changes in environment and
411 in requirements and
412 functional specifications. Maintainability
413 is one of software's main quality
414 characteristics. Maintainability
415 characteristics should be specified,
416 reviewed, and controlled during the
417 software development activities in order
418 to reduce maintenance costs. If this is
419 done successfully, the software's
420 maintainability will improve. This is
421 often difficult to achieve because the
422 maintainability sub-characteristics is not
423 an important focus during the process of
424 software development. The developers
425 are often more preoccupied with many
426 other activities and often disregard the
427 maintainer's requirements. This in turn
428 can, and often does, result in a lack of
429 software documentation and test
430 environments, which is a leading cause
431 of difficulties in program comprehension
432 and impact analysis afterwards. It has
433 also been observed that the presence of
434 systematic and mature processes,
435 techniques, and tools helps to enhance
436 the maintainability of a software.

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438 2.2. *Management Issues*

439 2.2.1. Alignment with Organizational 440 Objectives (1, c4)

441 Organizational objectives describe how
442 to demonstrate the return on investment
443 of software maintenance activities.
444 Initial software development is usually
445 project-based, with a defined time scale

446 and budget. The main emphasis is to
447 deliver a product, on time and within
448 budget, that meets user needs. In
449 contrast, software maintenance often has
450 the objective of extending the life of
451 software for as long as possible. In
452 addition, it may be driven by the need to
453 meet user demand for software updates
454 and enhancements. In both cases, the
455 return on investment is much less clear,
456 so that the view at senior management
457 level is often of a major activity
458 consuming significant resources with no
459 clear quantifiable benefit for the
460 organization.

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462 2.2.2. Staffing

463 (1, c4s5, c10s4)

464 Staffing refers to how to attract and keep
465 software maintenance staff. Maintenance
466 is not often viewed as glamorous work.
467 As a result, software maintenance
468 personnel are frequently viewed as
469 "second-class citizens", and morale
470 therefore suffers.

471

472 2.2.3. Process

473 (1, c5; 2, c5)

474 The software life-cycle process is a set
475 of activities, methods, practices, and
476 transformations that people use to
477 develop and maintain software and its
478 associated products. At the process level,
479 software maintenance activities share
480 much in common with software de-
481 velopment (for example, software
482 configuration management is a crucial
483 activity in both). Maintenance also
484 requires several activities that are not
485 found in software development (see
486 section 3.2 on unique activities for
487 details). These activities present
488 challenges to management.

489

490 2.2.4. Organizational Aspects of

491 Maintenance
 492 (1, c10; 2, c7s2.3)

493 Organizational aspects describe how to
 494 identify which organization and/or
 495 function will be responsible for the
 496 maintenance of software. The team that
 497 develops the software is not necessarily
 498 assigned to maintain the software once it
 499 is operational.

500 In deciding where the software
 501 maintenance function will be located,
 502 software engineering organizations may,
 503 for example, stay with the original
 504 developer or go to a permanent
 505 maintenance-specific team (or
 506 maintainer). Having a permanent
 507 maintenance team has many benefits:

- 508 • allows for specialization;
- 509 • creates communication
- 510 channels;
- 511 • promotes an egoless, collegiate
- 512 atmosphere;
- 513 • reduces dependency on
- 514 individuals;
- 515 • allows for periodic audit checks.

516 Since there are many pros and cons to
 517 each option, the decision should be made
 518 on a case-by-case basis. What is
 519 important is the delegation or
 520 assignment of the maintenance
 521 responsibility to a single group or
 522 person, regardless of the organization's
 523 structure.

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525 2.2.5.Outsourcing
 526 (4)
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528 Outsourcing and sometimes offshoring
 529 software maintenance has become a
 530 major industry. Organizations are
 531 outsourcing entire portfolios of software,
 532 including software maintenance. More
 533 often, the outsourcing option is selected
 534 for less mission-critical software, as
 535 organizations are unwilling to lose

536 control of the software used in their core
 537 business. One of the major challenges
 538 for outsourcers is to determine the scope
 539 of the maintenance services required, the
 540 terms of a service level agreement, and
 541 the contractual details. Outsourcers will
 542 need to invest in a maintenance
 543 infrastructure, and the help desk at the
 544 remote site should be staffed with
 545 native-language speakers. Outsourcing
 546 requires a significant initial investment,
 547 the setup of a maintenance process that
 548 will require automation.

549

550 2.3. Maintenance Cost Estimation 551

552 Software engineers must understand the
 553 different categories of software
 554 maintenance, discussed above, in order
 555 to address the question of estimating the
 556 cost of software maintenance. For
 557 planning purposes, estimating costs is an
 558 important aspect of software
 559 maintenance.

560

561 2.3.1.Cost Estimation 562 (1, c7s2.4)

563 It was mentioned in section 2.1.3 that
 564 Impact Analysis identifies all systems
 565 and software products affected by a
 566 software change request and develops an
 567 estimate of the resources needed to
 568 accomplish that change.

569 Maintenance cost estimates are affected
 570 by many technical and non-technical
 571 factors. IEEE 14764 states that “the two
 572 most popular approaches to estimating
 573 resources for software maintenance are
 574 the use of parametric models and the use
 575 of experience” (2, c7s4.1). A
 576 combination of these two can also be
 577 used.

578

579 2.3.2. Parametric Models

580 (1, c12s5.6)

581 Some work has been undertaken in
582 applying parametric cost modeling
583 (mathematical model) to software
584 maintenance. Of significance is that
585 historical data from past maintenance are
586 needed in order to use and calibrate the
587 mathematical models. Cost driver
588 attributes affect the estimates.

589

590 2.3.3. Experience

591 (1, c12s5.6)

592 Experience, in the form of expert
593 judgment, is often used to estimate
594 maintenance effort. Clearly, the best
595 approach to maintenance estimation is to
596 combine historical data and experience.
597 Cost to conduct a modification (in terms
598 of number of people and amount of
599 time) is then derived. Maintenance
600 estimation historical data should be
601 provided as a result of a measurement
602 program.

603

604 2.4. *Software Maintenance*

605 *Measurement*

606 (1, c12; 2, c6s5)

607 Fenton identifies three entities related to
608 software maintenance, whose attributes
609 can be subjected to measurement:
610 process, resource, and product (1,
611 c12s3.1). Robert Grady presents a
612 company-wide software-measurement
613 program for maintenance, in which
614 software-maintenance measurement
615 forms and data collection are described
616 (1).

617 There are several software measures that
618 can be derived from the attributes of the
619 software, the maintenance process, and
620 personnel; Grubb and Takang have listed
621 size, complexity, quality,
622 understandability, maintainability, and
623 effort. Complexity measures—like

624 McCabe's and Halstead's complexity
625 measures of software can also be
626 obtained using available commercial
627 tools. These measures constitute a good
628 starting point for the maintainer's
629 measurement program. Discussion of
630 process and product measurement is also
631 presented in the Software Engineering
632 Process KA. The topic of a software
633 measurement program is described in the
634 Software Engineering Management KA.

635

636 2.4.1. Specific Measures

637 (1, c12)

638 The maintainer must determine which
639 measures are appropriate for his specific
640 organization based on that organization's
641 own context. The software quality
642 model suggests measures that are
643 specific for software maintenance. That
644 list includes a number of measures for
645 each of the four sub-characteristics of
646 maintainability.

- 647 • Analyzability: measures of the
648 maintainer's effort or resources
649 expended in trying to either
650 diagnose deficiencies or causes
651 of failure or identifying parts to
652 be modified.
- 653 • Changeability: measures of the
654 maintainer's effort associated
655 with implementing a specified
656 modification.
- 657 • Stability: measures of the
658 unexpected behavior of
659 software, including that
660 encountered during testing.
- 661 • Testability: measures of the
662 maintainer's and users' effort in
663 trying to test the modified
664 software.

665 Grubb and Takang also present other
666 measures that maintainers use:

- 667 • size of a software,
- 668 • complexity of a software

(McCabe and Halstead),

- understandability, and
- maintainability.

Providing software maintenance effort, by categories, for different applications provides business information to users and their organizations. It can also measure and compare software maintenance profiles internally to an organization.

3. Maintenance Process

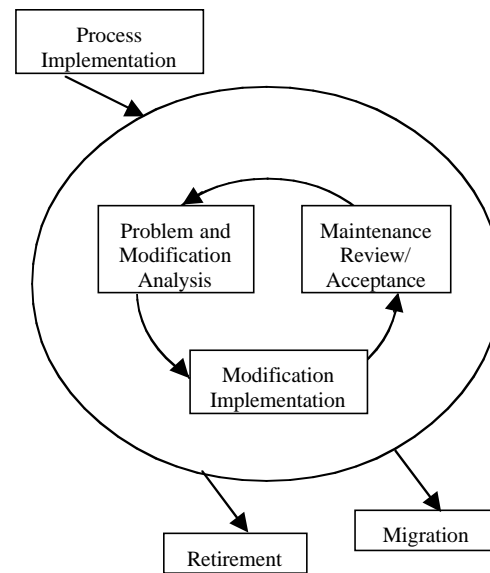
The maintenance process has been described in IEEE 174764. In addition to standard software engineering processes and activities, there are a number of activities that are unique to maintainers.

3.1. Maintenance Processes (1, c5; 2, s5)

Maintenance processes provide needed activities and detailed inputs/outputs to those activities; they are described in the software maintenance international standard IEEE 14764. The maintenance process activities of IEEE 14764 are shown in Figure 2. The IEEE 14764 software maintenance activities include

- process implementation,
- problem and modification analysis,
- modification implementation,
- maintenance review/acceptance,
- migration, and
- software retirement.

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705 **Figure 2** Software Maintenance Process

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707 Grubb and Takang describe a number of
708 other maintenance process models:

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732 The maintenance process contains the
 733 activities and tasks necessary to modify
 734 an existing software product while
 735 preserving its integrity. These activities
 736 and tasks are the responsibility of the
 737 maintainer. As already noted, many
 738 maintenance activities are similar to
 739 those of software development.
 740 Maintainers perform analysis, design,
 741 coding, testing, and documentation.
 742 They must track requirements in their
 743 activities—just as is done in
 744 development—and update
 745 documentation as baselines change.
 746 IEEE 14764 recommends that when a
 747 maintainer uses a development process,
 748 he must tailor it to meet his specific
 749 needs (2, c5s3.3.2). However, for
 750 software maintenance, some activities
 751 involve processes unique to software
 752 maintenance.

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754 3.2.1.Unique Activities

755 (1, c6,c7; 2, c3s10, c6s9, c7s2-
 756 c7s3)

757 There are a number of processes,
 758 activities, and practices that are unique
 759 to software maintenance.

760 • Program understanding:
 761 activities needed to obtain a
 762 general knowledge of what a
 763 software does and how the parts
 764 work together.

765 • Transition: a controlled and
 766 coordinated sequence of
 767 activities during which software
 768 is transferred progressively
 769 from the developer to the
 770 maintainer.

771 • Modification request
 772 acceptance/rejection:
 773 modifications requesting work
 774 beyond a certain
 775 size/effort/complexity may be
 776 rejected by maintainers and

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rerouted to a developer.

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794 3.2.2.Supporting Activities

795 (1, c9; 2, c4s1, c5, c6s7)

796 Maintainers may also perform support
 797 activities, such as documentation,
 798 software configuration management,
 799 verification and validation, problem
 800 resolution, software quality assurance,
 801 reviews, and audits. Another important
 802 support activity consists of training the
 803 maintainers and users.

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805 3.2.3.Maintenance Planning Activities

806 (2, c7s3)

807 An important activity for software
 808 maintenance is planning, and
 809 maintainers must address the issues
 810 associated with a number of planning
 811 perspectives:

812 • business planning
 813 (organizational level),

814 • maintenance planning
 815 (transition level),

816 • release/version planning
 817 (software level), and

818 • individual software change
 819 request planning (request level).

820 At the individual request level, planning
821 is carried out during the impact analysis
822 (refer to section 2.1.3, Impact Analysis,
823 for details). The release/version planning
824 activity requires that the maintainer:

- 825 • collect the dates of availability
826 of individual requests,
- 827 • agree with users on the content
828 of subsequent releases/versions,
- 829 • identify potential conflicts and
830 develop alternatives,
- 831 • assess the risk of a given release
832 and develop a back-out plan in
833 case problems should arise, and
- 834 • inform all the stakeholders.

835 Whereas software development projects
836 can typically last from some months to a
837 few years, the maintenance phase
838 usually lasts for many years. Making
839 estimates of resources is a key element
840 of maintenance planning. Software
841 maintenance planning should begin with
842 the decision to develop a new software
843 and should consider quality objectives.
844 A concept document should be
845 developed, followed by a maintenance
846 plan. The maintenance concept for each
847 software needs to be documented in the
848 plan (2, c7s2) and should address:

- 849 • scope of the software
850 maintenance,
- 851 • adaptation of the software
852 maintenance process,
- 853 • identification of the software
854 maintenance organization, and
- 855 • estimate of software
856 maintenance costs.

857 The next step is to develop a
858 corresponding software maintenance
859 plan. This plan should be prepared
860 during software development and should
861 specify how users will request software
862 modifications or report problems.
863 Software maintenance planning is

864 addressed in IEEE 14764. It provides
865 guidelines for a maintenance plan.
866 Finally, at the highest level, the
867 maintenance organization will have to
868 conduct business planning activities
869 (budgetary, financial, and human
870 resources) just like all the other divisions
871 of the organization. The management
872 knowledge required to do so can be
873 found in the chapter “Related
874 Disciplines of Software Engineering.”

875

876 3.2.4. Software Configuration 877 Management 878 (1, c11; 2, c5s1.2.3)

879 IEEE 14764 describes software
880 configuration management as a critical
881 element of the maintenance process.
882 Software configuration management
883 procedures should provide for the
884 verification, validation, and audit of each
885 step required to identify, authorize,
886 implement, and release the software
887 product.

888 It is not sufficient to simply track
889 modification requests or problem
890 reports. The software product and any
891 changes made to it must be controlled.
892 This control is established by
893 implementing and enforcing an approved
894 software configuration management
895 (SCM) process. The Software
896 Configuration Management KA provides
897 details of SCM and discusses the process
898 by which software change requests are
899 submitted, evaluated, and approved.
900 SCM for software maintenance is
901 different from SCM for software
902 development in the number of small
903 changes that must be controlled on
904 operational software. The SCM process
905 is implemented by developing and
906 following a configuration management
907 plan and operating procedures.
908 Maintainers participate in Configuration

909 Control Boards to determine the content
910 of the next release/version.

911

912 3.2.5. Software Quality

913 (1, c12s5.3; 2, c6s5, c6s7-c6.8)

914 It is not sufficient, either, to simply hope
915 that increased quality will result from the
916 maintenance of software. Maintainers
917 should have a software quality program.
918 It must be planned and processes
919 implemented to support the maintenance
920 process. The activities and techniques
921 for Software Quality Assurance (SQA),
922 V&V, reviews, and audits must be
923 selected in concert with all the other
924 processes to achieve the desired level of
925 quality. It is also recommended that the
926 maintainer adapt the software
927 development processes, techniques and
928 deliverables (for instance, testing
929 documentation), and test results. More
930 details can be found in the Software
931 Quality KA.

932 4. Techniques for Maintenance

933 This subarea introduces some of the
934 generally accepted techniques used in
935 software maintenance.

936

937 4.1. Program Comprehension

938 (1, c6, c14s5)

939 Programmers spend considerable time
940 reading and understanding programs in
941 order to implement changes. Code
942 browsers are key tools for program
943 comprehension and are used to organize
944 and present source code. Clear and
945 concise documentation can also aid in
946 program comprehension.

947

948 4.2. Reengineering

949 (1, c7)

950 Reengineering is defined as the
951 examination and alteration of software to
952 reconstitute it in a new form, and

953 includes the subsequent implementation
954 of the new form. It is often not
955 undertaken to improve maintainability
956 but to replace aging legacy software.
957 Refactoring is a reengineering technique
958 that aims at reorganizing a program
959 without changing its behavior. It seeks to
960 improve a program structure and its
961 maintainability. Refactoring techniques
962 can be used during minor changes.

963

964 4.3. Reverse Engineering

965 (1, c7, c14s5; 2, c6s2)

966 Reverse engineering is the process of
967 analyzing software to identify the
968 software's components and their inter-
969 relationships and to create
970 representations of the software in
971 another form or at higher levels of
972 abstraction. Reverse engineering is
973 passive; it does not change the software
974 or result in new software. Reverse
975 engineering efforts produce call graphs
976 and control flow graphs from source
977 code. One type of reverse engineering is
978 redocumentation. Another type is design
979 recovery. Finally, data reverse
980 engineering has grown in importance
981 over the last few years where logical
982 schemas are recovered from physical
983 databases. Tools are key for reverse
984 engineering and related tasks such as
985 redocumentation and design recovery.

986

987 4.4. Migration

988 (2, c5s5)

989 During a software's life, it may have to
990 be modified to run in different
991 environments. In order to migrate it to a
992 new environment, the maintainer needs
993 to determine the actions needed to
994 accomplish the migration, and then
995 develop and document the steps required
996 to effect the migration in a migration
997 plan that covers migration requirements,
998 migration tools, conversion of product

999 and data, execution, verification, and
1000 support. Migrating a software will entail
1001 a number of activities:

- 1002 • notification of intent: a
1003 statement of why the old
1004 environment is no longer to be
1005 supported, followed by a
1006 description of the new
1007 environment and its date of
1008 availability;
- 1009 • parallel operations: make
1010 available the old and new
1011 environments so that the user
1012 experiences a smooth transition
1013 to the new environment;
- 1014 • notification of completion:
1015 when the scheduled migration
1016 arrives, a notification is sent to
1017 all concerned;
- 1018 • post-operation review: an
1019 assessment of parallel operation
1020 and the impact of changing to
1021 the new environment;
- 1022 • data archival: storing the old
1023 software data.

1025 4.5. Retirement

1026 (2, c5s6)

1027 Once a software has reached the end of
1028 its useful life, it must be retired. An
1029 analysis should be performed to assist in
1030 making the retirement decision. This
1031 analysis should be included in the
1032 retirement plan, which covers retirement
1033 requirements, impact, replacement,
1034 schedule, and effort. Accessibility of
1035 archive copies of data may also be
1036 included. Retiring a software will entail
1037 a number of activities similar to
1038 migration.

1040 5. Software Maintenance Tools

1041 (1, c14) (2, c6s4)

1042 This topic encompasses tools that are
1043 particularly important in software
1044 maintenance where existing software is
1045 being modified. Program understanding
1046 and reverse engineering are the main
1047 maintenance tasks, tools are useful.
1048 Tools can assist in human
1049 comprehension of programs. Examples
1050 include

- 1051 • program slicers, which select
1052 only parts of a program affected
1053 by a change;
- 1054 • static analyzers, which allow
1055 general viewing and summaries
1056 of a program content;
- 1057 • dynamic analyzers, which allow
1058 the maintainer to trace the
1059 execution path of a program;
- 1060 • data flow analyzers, which
1061 allow the maintainer to track all
1062 possible data flows of a
1063 program;
- 1064 • cross-referencers, which
1065 generate indices of program
1066 components; and
- 1067 • dependency analyzers, which
1068 help maintainers analyze and
1069 understand the
1070 interrelationships between
1071 components of a program.

1072 Reverse engineering tools assist the
1073 process by working backwards from an
1074 existing product to create artifacts such
1075 as specification and design descriptions,
1076 which can then be transformed to
1077 generate a new product from an old one.
1078 Maintainers also use software test,
1079 software configuration management,
1080 software documentation, and software
1081 measurement tools.

1083 RECOMMENDED REFERENCES FOR 1084 SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE

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	(IEEE/ISO/I EC 24765 2010)	(IEEE/ISO/I EC 14764 2006)	(Grubb and Takang 2003)	(Snead 2008)
1. Software Maintenance Fundamentals				
<i>1.1 Definitions and Terminology</i>		C3	c1s2, c2s2	
<i>1.2 Nature of Maintenance</i>			c1s3	
<i>1.3 Need for Maintenance</i>			c1s5	
<i>1.4 Majority of Maintenance Costs</i>			c4s3, c5s5.2	
<i>1.5 Evolution of Software</i>			c3s5	
<i>1.6 Categories of Maintenance</i>		c3, c6s2	c3s3.1, c4s3	
2. Key Issues in Software Maintenance				
<i>2.1 Technical Issues</i>				
Limited understanding			c6	
Testing		c6s2.2.2	c9	
Impact analysis		c5s2.5	c13s3	
Maintainability		c6s8, c3s4	c12s5.5	
<i>2.2 Management Issues</i>				
Alignment with organizational objectives			c4	
Staffing			c4s5, c10s4	
Process		c5	c5	
Organizational aspects of maintenance		c7s.2.3	c10	
Outsourcing/Offshoring				all
<i>2.3 Maintenance Cost Estimation</i>				
Cost estimation		c7s4.1	c7s2.4	
Parametric models			c12s5.6	
Experience			c12s5.5	
<i>2.4 Software Maintenance Measurement</i>		c6s5	c12, c12s3.1	
Specific Measures			c12	
3. Maintenance Process				

	(IEEE/ISO/I EC 24765 2010)	(IEEE/ISO/I EC 14764 2006)	(Grubb and Takang 2003)	(Sneed 2008)
<i>3.1 Maintenance Processes</i>	s5.5	c5	c5	
<i>3.2 Maintenance Activities</i>		c5, c5s3.3.2 c6s8.2, c7s3.3		
Unique Activities		c3s10, c6s9, c7s2, c7s3	c6,c7	
Supporting Activities		c4s1, c5, c6s7	c9	
Maintenance Planning Activities		c7s2, c7s.3		
Software Configuration Management		c5s1.2.3	c11	
Software Quality		c6s5,c6s7, c6s8	c12s5.3	
4. Techniques for Maintenance				
<i>4.1 Program Comprehension</i>			c6,c14s5	
<i>4.2 Reengineering</i>			c7	
<i>4.3 Reverse Engineering</i>		c6s2	c7, c14s5	
<i>4.4 Migration</i>		c5s5		
<i>4.5 Retirement</i>		c5s6		
5. Software Maintenance Tools		c6s4	c14	

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1110 **APPENDIX A. LIST OF FURTHER READINGS**

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