Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC)

Overview, Models, Challenges, and Correct Approach

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What is SDLC?

Definition: SDLC stands for Software Development Life Cycle. It is a structured process for developing Software Applications.

key stages includes:

- Planning
- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing
- Deployment
- Maintenance

Types of SDLC Models

- Waterfall Model: Sequential Approach, Each phase must be completed before the next begins .
- *Iterative Model*: Incremental approach where the development is divided into smaller cycles (iterations). Each iteration produces a working version of the software with added features and improvements.
- **Spiral Model**: Combines iterative development with risk management. Focuses on early identification and mitigation of risks.
- *V-Model (Validation and Verification):* Extension of the waterfall with a focus on testing at each stage .

Challenges & Drawbacks in SDLC Waterfall:

- Model Inflexible to changes once the process starts.
- Poor adaptability to evolving customer requirements.
- Agile Model Can become chaotic without proper management.
- Difficult to predict timelines and costs due to its flexible nature.
- Spiral Model High complexity and management overhead.
- Suitable only for large, high-risk projects.
- Difficult to address changes after testing begins.
- Needs a high degree of automation and collaboration

Is this a Correct Approach?

why yes?

- For well-defined, low-risk projects, a structured approach like Waterfall works well.
- For fast-paced, evolving environments, Agile is preferable as this provide flexibility.

Why No?

- No single model fits all projects .
- The right approach depends on :
- Project size
- Complexity
- Stakeholder involvement
- Risk management requirements Slide