

Summary Configuration Management

Configuration management (CM) is concerned with the policies, processes and tools for managing changing software systems. CM is needed because it is easy to lose track of what changes and component versions have been incorporated into each system version. CM has four processes. Change management, version management, system building and release management.

Change management process is concerned with analyzing the costs and benefits of proposed changes, approving those changes that are worthwhile and tracking which components in the system have been changed.

Version management for Keeping track of the multiple versions of system components and ensuring that changes made to components by different developers do not interfere with each other.

To document a release, we have to record the specific versions of the source code components that were used to create the executable code. The technical work is also involved in creating a release distribution, advertising and publicity material have to be prepared and marketing strategies put in place to convince customers to buy the new release of the system. We should also record the versions of the operating system, libraries, compilers and other tools used to build the software.