

UNIT 1:

Introduction

What is Software Engineering?

The term **software engineering** is the product of two words, **software**, and **engineering**.

The **software** is a collection of integrated programs.

Software subsists of carefully-organized instructions and code written by developers on any of various particular computer languages.

Computer programs and related documentation such as requirements, design models and user manuals.

Engineering is the application of **scientific** and **practical** knowledge to **invent, design, build, maintain, and improve frameworks, processes, etc.**



Software Engineering is an engineering branch related to the evolution of software product using well-defined scientific principles, techniques, and procedures. The result of software engineering is an effective and reliable software product.

Why is Software Engineering required?

Software Engineering is required due to the following reasons:

- To manage Large software
- For more Scalability
- Cost Management
- To manage the dynamic nature of software
- For better quality Management

Need of Software Engineering

The necessity of software engineering appears because of a higher rate of progress in user requirements and the environment on which the program is working.

- **Huge Programming:** It is simpler to manufacture a wall than to a house or building, similarly, as the measure of programming become extensive engineering has to step to give it a scientific process.
- **Adaptability:** If the software procedure were not based on scientific and engineering ideas, it would be simpler to re-create new software than to scale an existing one.
- **Cost:** As the hardware industry has demonstrated its skills and huge manufacturing has let down the cost of computer and electronic hardware. But the cost of programming remains high if the proper process is not adapted.
- **Dynamic Nature:** The continually growing and adapting nature of programming hugely depends upon the environment in which the client works. If the quality of the software is continually changing, new upgrades need to be done in the existing one.
- **Quality Management:** Better procedure of software development provides a better and quality software product.

Characteristics of a good software engineer

The features that good software engineers should possess are as follows:

Exposure to systematic methods, i.e., familiarity with software engineering principles.

Good technical knowledge of the project range (Domain knowledge).

Good programming abilities.

Good communication skills. These skills comprise of oral, written, and interpersonal skills.

High motivation.

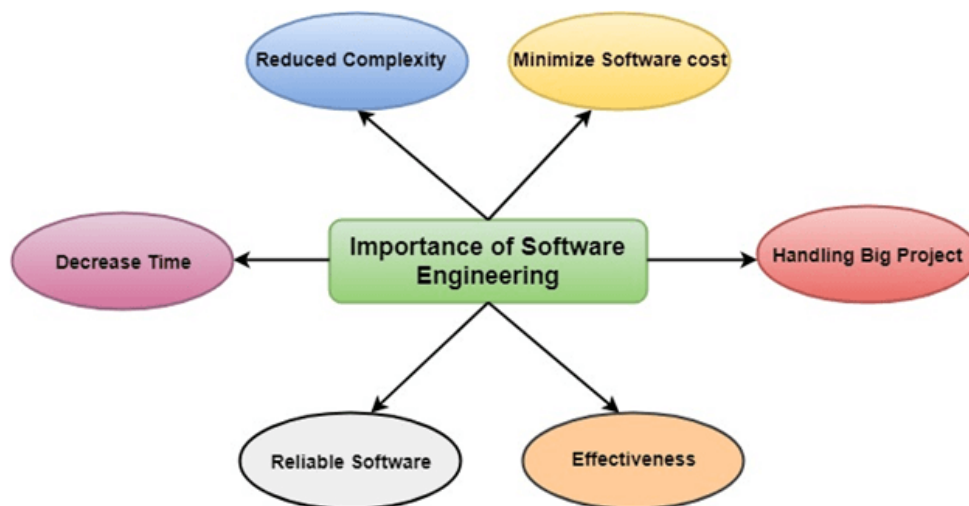
Sound knowledge of fundamentals of computer science.

Intelligence.

Ability to work in a team

Discipline, etc.

Importance of Software Engineering



The importance of Software engineering is as follows:

1. **Reduces complexity:** Big software is always complicated and challenging to progress. Software engineering has a great solution to reduce the complication of any project. Software engineering divides big problems into various small issues. And then start solving each small issue one by one. All these small problems are solved independently to each other.
2. **To minimize software cost:** Software needs a lot of hardwork and software engineers are highly paid experts. A lot of manpower is required to develop software with a large number of codes.

But in software engineering, programmers project everything and decrease all those things that are not needed. In turn, the cost for software productions becomes less as compared to any software that does not use software engineering method.

3. **To decrease time:** Anything that is not made according to the project always wastes time. And if you are making great software, then you may need to run many codes to get the definitive running code. This is a very time-consuming procedure, and if it is not well handled, then this can take a lot of time. So if you are making your software according to the software engineering method, then it will decrease a lot of time.
4. **Handling big projects:** Big projects are not done in a couple of days, and they need lots of patience, planning, and management. And to invest six and seven months of any company, it requires heaps of planning, direction, testing, and maintenance. No one can say that he has given four months of a company to the task, and the project is still in its first stage. Because the company has provided many resources to the plan and it should be completed. So to handle a big project without any problem, the company has to go for a software engineering method.
5. **Reliable software:** Software should be secure, means if you have delivered the software, then it should work for at least its given time or subscription. And if any bugs come in the software, the company is responsible for solving all these bugs. Because in software engineering, testing and maintenance are given, so there is no worry of its reliability.
6. **Effectiveness:** Effectiveness comes if anything has made according to the standards. Software standards are the big target of companies to make it more effective. So Software becomes more effective in the act with the help of software engineering.

SDLC - Overview

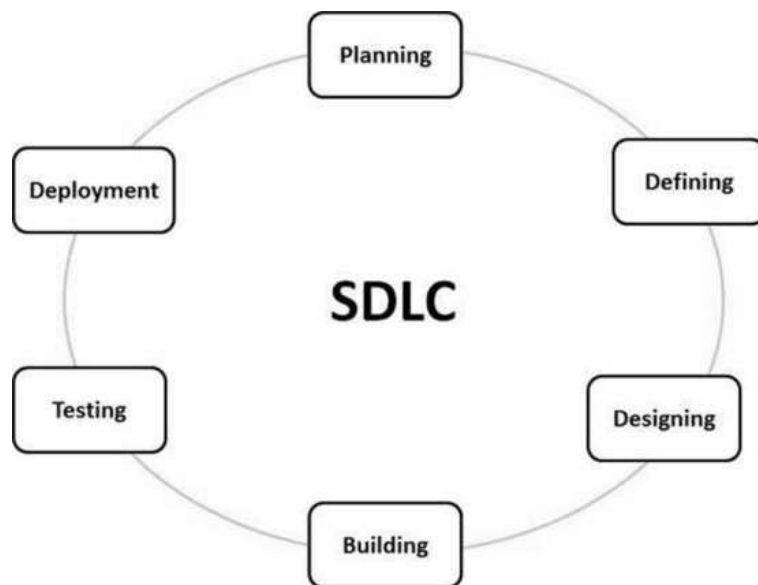
Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) is a process used by the software industry to design, develop and test high quality softwares. The SDLC aims to produce a high-quality software that meets or exceeds customer expectations, reaches completion within times and cost estimates.

- SDLC is the acronym of Software Development Life Cycle.
- It is also called as Software Development Process.
- SDLC is a framework defining tasks performed at each step in the software development process.
- ISO/IEC 12207 is an international standard for software life-cycle processes. It aims to be the standard that defines all the tasks required for developing and maintaining software.

What is SDLC?

SDLC is a process followed for a software project, within a software organization. It consists of a detailed plan describing how to develop, maintain, replace and alter or enhance specific software. The life cycle defines a methodology for improving the quality of software and the overall development process.

The following figure is a graphical representation of the various stages of a typical SDLC.



A typical Software Development Life Cycle consists of the following stages –

Stage 1: Planning and Requirement Analysis

Requirement analysis is the most important and fundamental stage in SDLC. It is performed by the senior members of the team with inputs from the customer, the sales department, market surveys and domain experts in the industry. This information is then used to plan the basic project approach and to conduct product feasibility study in the economical, operational and technical areas.

Planning for the quality assurance requirements and identification of the risks associated with the project is also done in the planning stage. The outcome of the technical feasibility study is to define the various technical approaches that can be followed to implement the project successfully with minimum risks.

Stage 2: Defining Requirements

Once the requirement analysis is done the next step is to clearly define and document the product requirements and get them approved from the customer or the market analysts. This is done through an **SRS (Software Requirement Specification)** document which consists of all the product requirements to be designed and developed during the project life cycle.

Stage 3: Designing the Product Architecture

SRS is the reference for product architects to come out with the best architecture for the product to be developed. Based on the requirements specified in SRS, usually more than one design approach for the product architecture is proposed and documented in a DDS - Design Document Specification.

This DDS is reviewed by all the important stakeholders and based on various parameters as risk assessment, product robustness, design modularity, budget and time constraints, the best design approach is selected for the product.

A design approach clearly defines all the architectural modules of the product along with its communication and data flow representation with the external and third party modules (if any). The internal design of all the modules of the proposed architecture should be clearly defined with the minutest of the details in DDS.

Stage 4: Building or Developing the Product

In this stage of SDLC the actual development starts and the product is built. The programming code is generated as per DDS during this stage. If the design is performed in a detailed and organized manner, code generation can be accomplished without much hassle.

Developers must follow the coding guidelines defined by their organization and programming tools like compilers, interpreters, debuggers, etc. are used to generate the code. Different high level programming languages such as C, C++, Pascal, Java and PHP are used for coding. The programming language is chosen with respect to the type of software being developed.

Stage 5: Testing the Product

This stage is usually a subset of all the stages as in the modern SDLC models, the testing activities are mostly involved in all the stages of SDLC. However, this stage refers to the testing only stage of the product where product defects are reported, tracked, fixed and retested, until the product reaches the quality standards defined in the SRS.

Stage 6: Deployment in the Market and Maintenance

Once the product is tested and ready to be deployed it is released formally in the appropriate market. Sometimes product deployment happens in stages as per the business strategy of that organization. The product may first be released in a limited segment and tested in the real business environment (UAT- User acceptance testing).

Then based on the feedback, the product may be released as it is or with suggested enhancements in the targeting market segment. After the product is released in the market, its maintenance is done for the existing customer base.

SDLC Models

There are various software development life cycle models defined and designed which are followed during the software development process. These models are also referred as Software Development Process Models". Each process model follows a Series of steps unique to its type to ensure success in the process of software development.

Following are the most important and popular SDLC models followed in the industry –

- Waterfall Model
- Iterative Model
- Spiral Model
- V-Model
- Big Bang Model

Other related methodologies are Agile Model, RAD Model, Rapid Application Development and Prototyping Models.

SDLC - Waterfall Model

The Waterfall Model was the first Process Model to be introduced. It is also referred to as a **linear-sequential life cycle model**. It is very simple to understand and use. In a waterfall model, each phase must be completed before the next phase can begin and there is no overlapping in the phases.

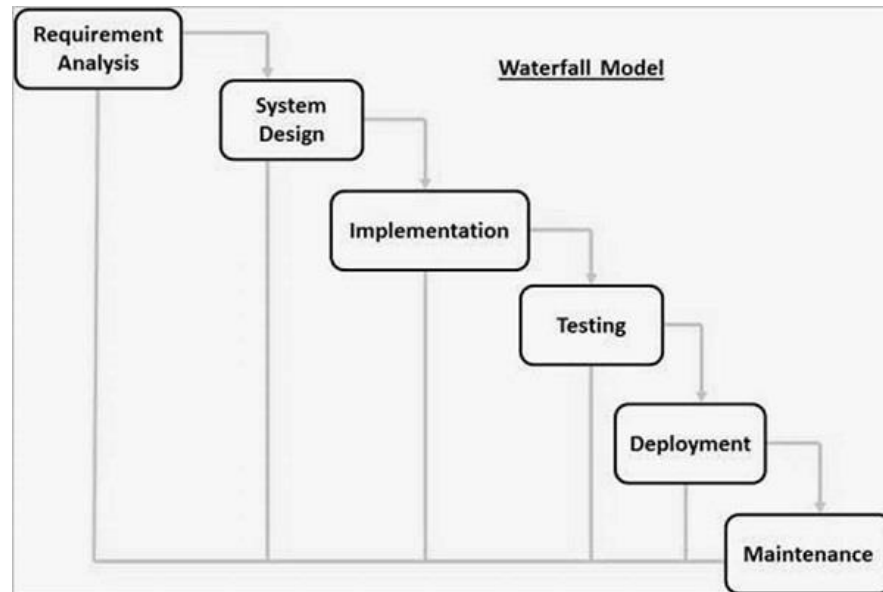
The Waterfall model is the earliest SDLC approach that was used for software development.

The waterfall Model illustrates the software development process in a linear sequential flow. This means that any phase in the development process begins only if the previous phase is complete. In this waterfall model, the phases do not overlap.

Waterfall Model - Design

Waterfall approach was first SDLC Model to be used widely in Software Engineering to ensure success of the project. In "The Waterfall" approach, the whole process of software development is divided into separate phases. In this Waterfall model, typically, the outcome of one phase acts as the input for the next phase sequentially.

The following illustration is a representation of the different phases of the Waterfall Model.



The sequential phases in Waterfall model are –

- **Requirement Gathering and analysis** – All possible requirements of the system to be developed are captured in this phase and documented in a requirement specification document.
- **System Design** – The requirement specifications from first phase are studied in this phase and the system design is prepared. This system design helps in specifying hardware and system requirements and helps in defining the overall system architecture.
- **Implementation** – With inputs from the system design, the system is first developed in small programs called units, which are integrated in the next phase. Each unit is developed and tested for its functionality, which is referred to as Unit Testing.
- **Integration and Testing** – All the units developed in the implementation phase are integrated into a system after testing of each unit. Post integration the entire system is tested for any faults and failures.
- **Deployment of system** – Once the functional and non-functional testing is done; the product is deployed in the customer environment or released into the market.
- **Maintenance** – There are some issues which come up in the client environment. To fix those issues, patches are released. Also to enhance the product some better versions are released. Maintenance is done to deliver these changes in the customer environment.

Waterfall Model - Application

Every software developed is different and requires a suitable SDLC approach to be followed based on the internal and external factors. Some situations where the use of Waterfall model is most appropriate are –

- Requirements are very well documented, clear and fixed.
- Product definition is stable.
- Technology is understood and is not dynamic.
- There are no ambiguous requirements.

- Ample resources with required expertise are available to support the product.
- The project is short.

Waterfall Model - Advantages

The advantages of waterfall development are that it allows for departmentalization and control. A schedule can be set with deadlines for each stage of development and a product can proceed through the development process model phases one by one.

Development moves from concept, through design, implementation, testing, installation, troubleshooting, and ends up at operation and maintenance. Each phase of development proceeds in strict order.

Some of the major advantages of the Waterfall Model are as follows –

- Simple and easy to understand and use
- Easy to manage due to the rigidity of the model. Each phase has specific deliverables and a review process.
- Phases are processed and completed one at a time.
- Works well for smaller projects where requirements are very well understood.
- Clearly defined stages.
- Well understood milestones.
- Easy to arrange tasks.
- Process and results are well documented.

Waterfall Model - Disadvantages

The disadvantage of waterfall development is that it does not allow much reflection or revision. Once an application is in the testing stage, it is very difficult to go back and change something that was not well-documented or thought upon in the concept stage.

The major disadvantages of the Waterfall Model are as follows –

- No working software is produced until late during the life cycle.
- High amounts of risk and uncertainty.
- Not a good model for complex and object-oriented projects.
- Poor model for long and ongoing projects.
- Not suitable for the projects where requirements are at a moderate to high risk of changing. So, risk and uncertainty is high with this process model.
- It is difficult to measure progress within stages.
- Cannot accommodate changing requirements.
- Adjusting scope during the life cycle can end a project.
- Integration is done as a "big-bang" at the very end, which doesn't allow identifying any technological or business bottleneck or challenges early.

SDLC - Iterative Model

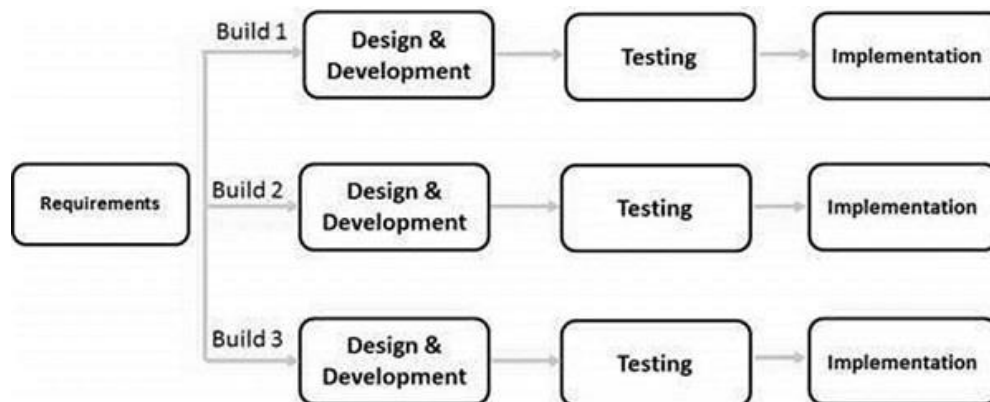
In the Iterative model, iterative process starts with a simple implementation of a small set of the software requirements and iteratively enhances the evolving versions until the complete system is implemented and ready to be deployed.

An iterative life cycle model does not attempt to start with a full specification of requirements. Instead, development begins by specifying and implementing just part of the software, which is then reviewed to identify further requirements. This process is then repeated, producing a new version of the software at the end of each iteration of the model.

Iterative Model - Design

Iterative process starts with a simple implementation of a subset of the software requirements and iteratively enhances the evolving versions until the full system is implemented. At each iteration, design modifications are made and new functional capabilities are added. The basic idea behind this method is to develop a system through repeated cycles (iterative) and in smaller portions at a time (incremental).

The following illustration is a representation of the Iterative and Incremental model –



Iterative and Incremental development is a combination of both iterative design or iterative method and incremental build model for development. "During software development, more than one iteration of the software development cycle may be in progress at the same time." This process may be described as an "evolutionary acquisition" or "incremental build" approach."

In this incremental model, the whole requirement is divided into various builds. During each iteration, the development module goes through the requirements, design, implementation and testing phases. Each subsequent release of the module adds function to the previous release. The process continues till the complete system is ready as per the requirement.

The key to a successful use of an iterative software development lifecycle is rigorous validation of requirements, and verification & testing of each version of the software against those requirements within each cycle of the model. As the software evolves through successive cycles, tests must be repeated and extended to verify each version of the software.

Iterative Model - Application

Like other SDLC models, Iterative and incremental development has some specific applications in the software industry. This model is most often used in the following scenarios –

- Requirements of the complete system are clearly defined and understood.
- Major requirements must be defined; however, some functionalities or requested enhancements may evolve with time.
- There is a time to the market constraint.
- A new technology is being used and is being learnt by the development team while working on the project.
- Resources with needed skill sets are not available and are planned to be used on contract basis for specific iterations.
- There are some high-risk features and goals which may change in the future.

Iterative Model - Pros and Cons

The advantage of this model is that there is a working model of the system at a very early stage of development, which makes it easier to find functional or design flaws. Finding issues at an early stage of development enables to take corrective measures in a limited budget.

The disadvantage with this SDLC model is that it is applicable only to large and bulky software development projects. This is because it is hard to break a small software system into further small serviceable increments/modules.

The advantages of the Iterative and Incremental SDLC Model are as follows –

- Some working functionality can be developed quickly and early in the life cycle.
- Results are obtained early and periodically.
- Parallel development can be planned.
- Progress can be measured.
- Less costly to change the scope/requirements.
- Testing and debugging during smaller iteration is easy.
- Risks are identified and resolved during iteration; and each iteration is an easily managed milestone.
- Easier to manage risk - High risk part is done first.
- With every increment, operational product is delivered.
- Issues, challenges and risks identified from each increment can be utilized/applied to the next increment.
- Risk analysis is better.
- It supports changing requirements.
- Initial Operating time is less.
- Better suited for large and mission-critical projects.
- During the life cycle, software is produced early which facilitates customer evaluation and feedback.

The disadvantages of the Iterative and Incremental SDLC Model are as follows –

- More resources may be required.
- Although cost of change is lesser, but it is not very suitable for changing requirements.
- More management attention is required.
- System architecture or design issues may arise because not all requirements are gathered in the beginning of the entire life cycle.
- Defining increments may require definition of the complete system.
- Not suitable for smaller projects.
- Management complexity is more.
- End of project may not be known which is a risk.
- Highly skilled resources are required for risk analysis.
- Projects progress is highly dependent upon the risk analysis phase.

SDLC - Spiral Model

The spiral model combines the idea of iterative development with the systematic, controlled aspects of the waterfall model. This Spiral model is a combination of iterative development process model and sequential linear development model i.e. the waterfall model with a very high emphasis on risk analysis. It allows incremental releases of the product or incremental refinement through each iteration around the spiral.

Spiral Model - Design

The spiral model has four phases. A software project repeatedly passes through these phases in iterations called Spirals.

Identification

This phase starts with gathering the business requirements in the baseline spiral. In the subsequent spirals as the product matures, identification of system requirements, subsystem requirements and unit requirements are all done in this phase.

This phase also includes understanding the system requirements by continuous communication between the customer and the system analyst. At the end of the spiral, the product is deployed in the identified market.

Design

The Design phase starts with the conceptual design in the baseline spiral and involves architectural design, logical design of modules, physical product design and the final design in the subsequent spirals.

Construct or Build

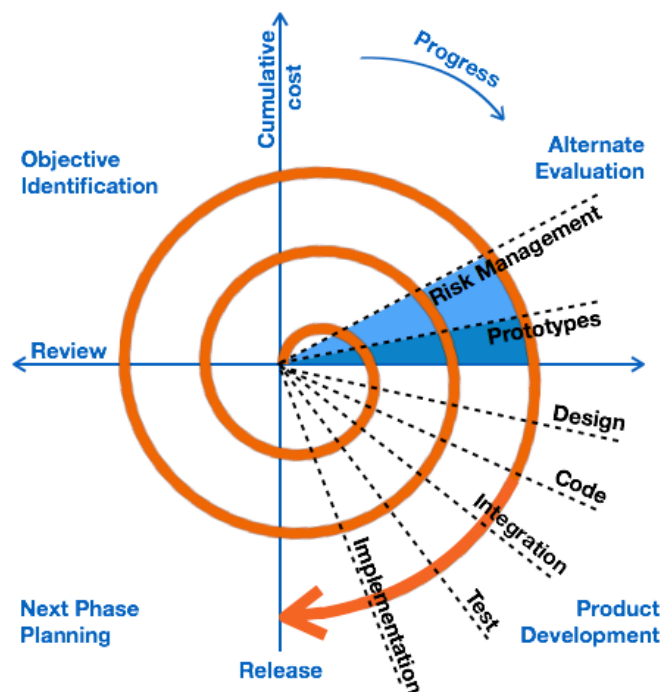
The Construct phase refers to production of the actual software product at every spiral. In the baseline spiral, when the product is just thought of and the design is being developed a POC (Proof of Concept) is developed in this phase to get customer feedback.

Then in the subsequent spirals with higher clarity on requirements and design details a working model of the software called build is produced with a version number. These builds are sent to the customer for feedback.

Evaluation and Risk Analysis

Risk Analysis includes identifying, estimating and monitoring the technical feasibility and management risks, such as schedule slippage and cost overrun. After testing the build, at the end of first iteration, the customer evaluates the software and provides feedback.

The following illustration is a representation of the Spiral Model, listing the activities in each phase.



Based on the customer evaluation, the software development process enters the next iteration and subsequently follows the linear approach to implement the feedback suggested by the customer. The process of iterations along the spiral continues throughout the life of the software.

Spiral Model Application

The Spiral Model is widely used in the software industry as it is in sync with the natural development process of any product, i.e. learning with maturity which involves minimum risk for the customer as well as the development firms.

The following pointers explain the typical uses of a Spiral Model –

- When there is a budget constraint and risk evaluation is important.
- For medium to high-risk projects.

- Long-term project commitment because of potential changes to economic priorities as the requirements change with time.
- Customer is not sure of their requirements which is usually the case.
- Requirements are complex and need evaluation to get clarity.
- New product line which should be released in phases to get enough customer feedback.
- Significant changes are expected in the product during the development cycle.

Spiral Model - Pros and Cons

The advantage of spiral lifecycle model is that it allows elements of the product to be added in, when they become available or known. This assures that there is no conflict with previous requirements and design.

This method is consistent with approaches that have multiple software builds and releases which allows making an orderly transition to a maintenance activity. Another positive aspect of this method is that the spiral model forces an early user involvement in the system development effort.

On the other side, it takes a very strict management to complete such products and there is a risk of running the spiral in an indefinite loop. So, the discipline of change and the extent of taking change requests is very important to develop and deploy the product successfully.

The advantages of the Spiral SDLC Model are as follows –

- Changing requirements can be accommodated.
- Allows extensive use of prototypes.
- Requirements can be captured more accurately.
- Users see the system early.
- Development can be divided into smaller parts and the risky parts can be developed earlier which helps in better risk management.

The disadvantages of the Spiral SDLC Model are as follows –

- Management is more complex.
- End of the project may not be known early.
- Not suitable for small or low risk projects and could be expensive for small projects.
- Process is complex
- Spiral may go on indefinitely.
- Large number of intermediate stages requires excessive documentation.

SDLC - V-Model

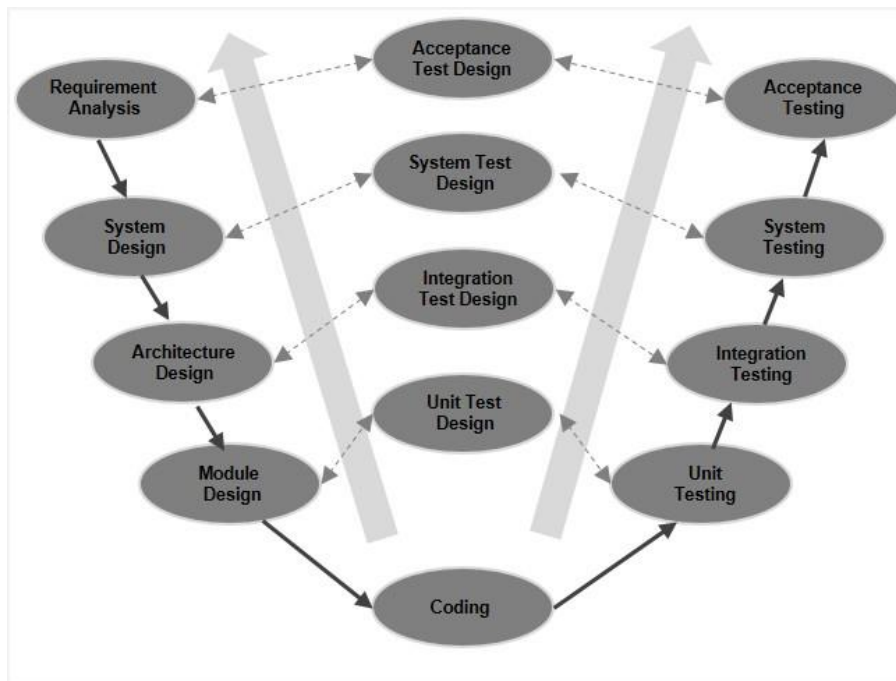
The V-model is an SDLC model where execution of processes happens in a sequential manner in a V-shape. It is also known as **Verification and Validation model**.

The V-Model is an extension of the waterfall model and is based on the association of a testing phase for each corresponding development stage. This means that for every single phase in the development cycle, there is a directly associated testing phase. This is a highly-disciplined model and the next phase starts only after completion of the previous phase.

V-Model - Design

Under the V-Model, the corresponding testing phase of the development phase is planned in parallel. So, there are Verification phases on one side of the 'V' and Validation phases on the other side. The Coding Phase joins the two sides of the V-Model.

The following illustration depicts the different phases in a V-Model of the SDLC.



V-Model - Verification Phases

There are several Verification phases in the V-Model, each of these are explained in detail below.

Business Requirement Analysis

This is the first phase in the development cycle where the product requirements are understood from the customer's perspective. This phase involves detailed communication with the customer to understand his expectations and exact requirement. This is a very important activity and needs to be managed well, as most of the customers are not sure about what exactly they need. The **acceptance test design planning** is done at this stage as business requirements can be used as an input for acceptance testing.

System Design

Once you have the clear and detailed product requirements, it is time to design the complete system. The system design will have the understanding and detailing the complete hardware and communication setup for the product under development. The system test plan is developed based on the system design. Doing this at an earlier stage leaves more time for the actual test execution later.

Architectural Design

Architectural specifications are understood and designed in this phase. Usually more than one technical approach is proposed and based on the technical and financial feasibility the final decision is taken. The system design is broken down further into modules taking up different functionality. This is also referred to as **High Level Design (HLD)**.

The data transfer and communication between the internal modules and with the outside world (other systems) is clearly understood and defined in this stage. With this information, integration tests can be designed and documented during this stage.

Module Design

In this phase, the detailed internal design for all the system modules is specified, referred to as **Low Level Design (LLD)**. It is important that the design is compatible with the other modules in the system architecture and the other external systems. The unit tests are an essential part of any development process and helps eliminate the maximum faults and errors at a very early stage. These unit tests can be designed at this stage based on the internal module designs.

Coding Phase

The actual coding of the system modules designed in the design phase is taken up in the Coding phase. The best suitable programming language is decided based on the system and architectural requirements.

The coding is performed based on the coding guidelines and standards. The code goes through numerous code reviews and is optimized for best performance before the final build is checked into the repository.

Validation Phases

The different Validation Phases in a V-Model are explained in detail below.

Unit Testing

Unit tests designed in the module design phase are executed on the code during this validation phase. Unit testing is the testing at code level and helps eliminate bugs at an early stage, though all defects cannot be uncovered by unit testing.

Integration Testing

Integration testing is associated with the architectural design phase. Integration tests are performed to test the coexistence and communication of the internal modules within the system.

System Testing

System testing is directly associated with the system design phase. System tests check the entire system functionality and the communication of the system under development with external systems. Most of the software and hardware compatibility issues can be uncovered during this system test execution.

Acceptance Testing

Acceptance testing is associated with the business requirement analysis phase and involves testing the product in user environment. Acceptance tests uncover the compatibility issues with the other systems available in the user environment. It also discovers the non-functional issues such as load and performance defects in the actual user environment.

SDLC - RAD Model

The **RAD (Rapid Application Development)** model is based on prototyping and iterative development with no specific planning involved. The process of writing the software itself involves the planning required for developing the product.

Rapid Application Development focuses on gathering customer requirements through workshops or focus groups, early testing of the prototypes by the customer using iterative concept, reuse of the existing prototypes (components), continuous integration and rapid delivery.

What is RAD?

Rapid application development is a software development methodology that uses minimal planning in favor of rapid prototyping. A prototype is a working model that is functionally equivalent to a component of the product.

In the RAD model, the functional modules are developed in parallel as prototypes and are integrated to make the complete product for faster product delivery. Since there is no detailed preplanning, it makes it easier to incorporate the changes within the development process.

RAD projects follow iterative and incremental model and have small teams comprising of developers, domain experts, customer representatives and other IT resources working progressively on their component or prototype.

The most important aspect for this model to be successful is to make sure that the prototypes developed are reusable.

RAD Model Design

RAD model distributes the analysis, design, build and test phases into a series of short, iterative development cycles.

Following are the various phases of the RAD Model –

Business Modelling

The business model for the product under development is designed in terms of flow of information and the distribution of information between various business channels. A complete business analysis is performed to find the vital information for business, how it can be obtained, how and when is the information processed and what are the factors driving successful flow of information.

Data Modelling

The information gathered in the Business Modelling phase is reviewed and analyzed to form sets of data objects vital for the business. The attributes of all data sets is identified and defined. The relation between these data objects are established and defined in detail in relevance to the business model.

Process Modelling

The data object sets defined in the Data Modelling phase are converted to establish the business information flow needed to achieve specific business objectives as per the business model. The process model for any changes or enhancements to the data object sets is defined in this phase. Process descriptions for adding, deleting, retrieving or modifying a data object are given.

Application Generation

The actual system is built and coding is done by using automation tools to convert process and data models into actual prototypes.

Testing and Turnover

The overall testing time is reduced in the RAD model as the prototypes are independently tested during every iteration. However, the data flow and the interfaces between all the components need to be thoroughly tested with complete test coverage. Since most of the programming components have already been tested, it reduces the risk of any major issues.

The following illustration describes the RAD Model in detail.



The customer may need some changes after he gets to see the software. However, the change process is quite rigid and it may not be feasible to incorporate major changes in the product in the traditional SDLC.

RAD Model - Application

The following pointers describe the typical scenarios where RAD can be used –

- RAD should be used only when a system can be modularized to be delivered in an incremental manner.
- It should be used if there is a high availability of designers for Modelling.
- It should be used only if the budget permits use of automated code generating tools.
- RAD SDLC model should be chosen only if domain experts are available with relevant business knowledge.

- Should be used where the requirements change during the project and working prototypes are to be presented to customer in small iterations of 2-3 months.

RAD Model - Pros and Cons

RAD model enables rapid delivery as it reduces the overall development time due to the reusability of the components and parallel development. RAD works well only if high skilled engineers are available and the customer is also committed to achieve the targeted prototype in the given time frame. If there is commitment lacking on either side the model may fail.

The advantages of the RAD Model are as follows –

- Changing requirements can be accommodated.
- Progress can be measured.
- Iteration time can be short with use of powerful RAD tools.
- Productivity with fewer people in a short time.
- Reduced development time.
- Increases reusability of components.
- Quick initial reviews occur.
- Encourages customer feedback.
- Integration from very beginning solves a lot of integration issues.

The disadvantages of the RAD Model are as follows –

- Dependency on technically strong team members for identifying business requirements.
- Only system that can be modularized can be built using RAD.
- Requires highly skilled developers/designers.
- High dependency on Modelling skills.
- Inapplicable to cheaper projects as cost of Modelling and automated code generation is very high.
- Management complexity is more.
- Suitable for systems that are component based and scalable.
- Requires user involvement throughout the life cycle.
- Suitable for project requiring shorter development times.

SDLC - Software Prototype Model

The Software Prototyping refers to building software application prototypes which displays the functionality of the product under development, but may not actually hold the exact logic of the original software.

Software prototyping is becoming very popular as a software development model, as it enables to understand customer requirements at an early stage of development. It helps get valuable feedback from the customer and helps software designers and developers understand about what exactly is expected from the product under development.

What is Software Prototyping?

Prototype is a working model of software with some limited functionality. The prototype does not always hold the exact logic used in the actual software application and is an extra effort to be considered under effort estimation.

Prototyping is used to allow the users evaluate developer proposals and try them out before implementation. It also helps understand the requirements which are user specific and may not have been considered by the developer during product design.

Following is a stepwise approach explained to design a software prototype.

Basic Requirement Identification

This step involves understanding the very basics product requirements especially in terms of user interface. The more intricate details of the internal design and external aspects like performance and security can be ignored at this stage.

Developing the initial Prototype

The initial Prototype is developed in this stage, where the very basic requirements are showcased and user interfaces are provided. These features may not exactly work in the same manner internally in the actual software developed. While, the workarounds are used to give the same look and feel to the customer in the prototype developed.

Review of the Prototype

The prototype developed is then presented to the customer and the other important stakeholders in the project. The feedback is collected in an organized manner and used for further enhancements in the product under development.

Revise and Enhance the Prototype

The feedback and the review comments are discussed during this stage and some negotiations happen with the customer based on factors like – time and budget constraints and technical feasibility of the actual implementation. The changes accepted are again incorporated in the new Prototype developed and the cycle repeats until the customer expectations are met.

Prototypes can have horizontal or vertical dimensions. A Horizontal prototype displays the user interface for the product and gives a broader view of the entire system, without concentrating on internal functions. A Vertical prototype on the other side is a detailed elaboration of a specific function or a sub system in the product.

The purpose of both horizontal and vertical prototype is different. Horizontal prototypes are used to get more information on the user interface level and the business requirements. It can even be presented in the sales demos to get business in the market. Vertical prototypes are technical in nature and are used to get details of the exact functioning of the sub systems. For example, database requirements, interaction and data processing loads in a given sub system.

Software Prototyping - Types

There are different types of software prototypes used in the industry. Following are the major software prototyping types used widely –

Throwaway/Rapid Prototyping

Throwaway prototyping is also called as rapid or close ended prototyping. This type of prototyping uses very little efforts with minimum requirement analysis to build a prototype. Once the actual requirements are understood, the prototype is discarded and the actual system is developed with a much clear understanding of user requirements.

Evolutionary Prototyping

Evolutionary prototyping also called as breadboard prototyping is based on building actual functional prototypes with minimal functionality in the beginning. The prototype developed forms the heart of the future prototypes on top of which the entire system is built. By using evolutionary prototyping, the well-understood requirements are included in the prototype and the requirements are added as and when they are understood.

Incremental Prototyping

Incremental prototyping refers to building multiple functional prototypes of the various sub-systems and then integrating all the available prototypes to form a complete system.

Extreme Prototyping

Extreme prototyping is used in the web development domain. It consists of three sequential phases. First, a basic prototype with all the existing pages is presented in the HTML format. Then the data processing is simulated using a prototype services layer. Finally, the services are implemented and integrated to the final prototype. This process is called Extreme Prototyping used to draw attention to the second phase of the process, where a fully functional UI is developed with very little regard to the actual services.

Software Prototyping - Application

Software Prototyping is most useful in development of systems having high level of user interactions such as online systems. Systems which need users to fill out forms or go through various screens before data is processed can use prototyping very effectively to give the exact look and feel even before the actual software is developed.

Software that involves too much of data processing and most of the functionality is internal with very little user interface does not usually benefit from prototyping. Prototype development could be an extra overhead in such projects and may need lot of extra efforts.

Software Prototyping - Pros and Cons

Software prototyping is used in typical cases and the decision should be taken very carefully so that the efforts spent in building the prototype add considerable value to the final software developed. The model has its own pros and cons discussed as follows.

The advantages of the Prototyping Model are as follows –

- Increased user involvement in the product even before its implementation.
- Since a working model of the system is displayed, the users get a better understanding of the system being developed.
- Reduces time and cost as the defects can be detected much earlier.
- Quicker user feedback is available leading to better solutions.
- Missing functionality can be identified easily.
- Confusing or difficult functions can be identified.

The Disadvantages of the Prototyping Model are as follows –

- Risk of insufficient requirement analysis owing to too much dependency on the prototype.
- Users may get confused in the prototypes and actual systems.
- Practically, this methodology may increase the complexity of the system as scope of the system may expand beyond original plans.
- Developers may try to reuse the existing prototypes to build the actual system, even when it is not technically feasible.
- The effort invested in building prototypes may be too much if it is not monitored properly.

JAD (Joint Application Development)

Joint Application Development in short JAD is the process which is used to design and develop computer based system/solutions. It collects requirements side by side as per business needs while developing new information systems for a company that means JAD involves the client or end-users in designing and development process. It also comprises of approaches for improving the quality of specification and user participation through a successive collaborative workshops called JAD sessions. Since client is involved throughout the development process it leads to faster development times and greater client satisfaction.

History of Joint Application Development :

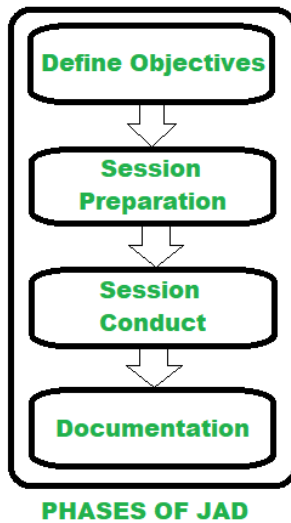
Joint Application Development is developed by Chris Morris of and Tony Crawford during late 1970s with the aim to improve client satisfaction. In 1980s they conducted various workshops to prove the project and since then it has been applied in numerous industry sectors which has produced excellent products.

Participants in JAD :

There are many key stakeholders involved in JAD Process. These are:

1. **Execution Process** : This process is from customer's side which includes Project Manager, CIO, CEO or CISO who has the power to make decisions regarding the project.
2. **Facilitator** : This individual is responsible for creating, managing and executing the JAD activities, minimize disagreements, encourage end-user involvement, maintaining focus and unbiased approach.
3. **IT Representatives** : This individual for giving technical advice and to help the team to develop technical models and to build the prototype of end result. They must approach and support the customers in turning their visualizations into models as per the requirements, develop an understanding of the end-user business goals, represent in IT functions, render end solutions which are affordable in nature etc.
4. **End-User** : This concerned person is usually the main focus of JAD. They offer proper business knowledge and strategy, illustrate all key user groups who are affected by development and represent multiple levels within organization.
5. **Scribe** : This person is responsible for documenting JAD process and JAD sessions precisely and effectively. They generally serve as partner to facilitator in each JAD sessions and provide reference for the review.
6. **Observer** : The observer will observe each JAD session and will gather knowledge for end-user needs and of JAD session decisions, interact with JAD participants outside JAD sessions only.

The below figure illustrates different phases of JAD



JAD Sessions :

- The JAD sessions must have well-defined objectives and agenda items. It is to be ensured that key persons are present from both technical and business world and from the one who take notes.
- For driving the meeting, questions and items are the essence of the discussion, and where we should not expect fast answers. Also we should ask questions, record important items and assign action items.
- The aim of JAD sessions is to trigger creative thinking which leads to joint discussion that requires expertise from various departments.
- Teams should help each other in making decisions. If the teams can't arrive to a decision then we need to run scheduled JAD sessions known as JAD workshops.
- We know that most of the JAD sessions are scheduled in developmental phase, it may happen during the requirement of the project.

Advantages of Joint Application Development :

These are some of the key benefits of JAD:

1. Produce a design from the customer's perspective.
2. The teamwork between company and client helps to remove all risks.
3. Due to the close interactions, progress is faster.
4. JAD helps to accelerate design and also to enhance quality.
5. JAD cheers the team to push each other which leads them to work faster and also to deliver on time.

Challenges faced in Joint Application Development :

1. Sometimes opinions within the team members may differ which make difficult to align goals and maintain focus.
2. On depending upon size of the project, in JAD people may have to spent significant amount of time.

Fourth Generation Techniques

Implementation using a **4GL**(4th Generation Techniques) enables the software developer to represent desired results in a manner that leads to automatic generation of code to create those results. Obviously, a data structure with relevant information must exist and be readily accessible by the 4GL. To transform a 4GT implementation into a product, the developer must conduct thorough testing, develop meaningful documentation, and perform all other solution integration activities that are required in other software engineering paradigms. In addition, the 4GT developed software must be built in a manner that enables maintenance to be performed expeditiously.

Software development environment that supports the 4GT paradigm includes some or all of the following tools:

- 1) Non-procedural languages for database query
- 2) Report generation
- 3) Data manipulation
- 4) Screen interaction and definition
- 5) Code generation and High-level graphics capability
- 6) Spreadsheet capability
- 7) Automated generation of HTML and similar languages used for Web-site creation using advanced software tools.

Pros and Cons Proponents claim dramatic reduction in software development time and greatly improved productivity for people who build software. Opponents claim that current 4GT tools are not all that much easier to use than programming languages, that the resultant source code produced by such tools is "inefficient" and that the maintainability of large software systems developed using 4GT is open to question.

Advantages:

- Simplified the programming process.
- Use non-procedural languages that encourage users and programmers to specify the results they want, while the computers determines the sequence of instruction that will accomplish those results.
- Use natural languages that impose no rigid grammatical rules.

Disadvantages:

- Less flexible than other languages
- Programs written in 4GLs are generally far less efficient during program execution than programs in high-level languages.

Therefore, their use is limited to projects that do not call for such efficiency.

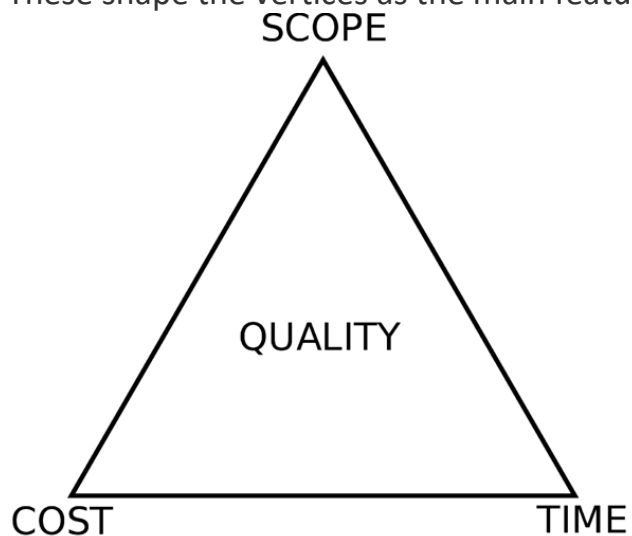
Definition of Project Management

Project Management Institute (PMI) defined Project Management as *"the application of knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to a broad range of activities in order to meet the requirements of a particular project."*

An easy project management definition involves a few main premises:

1. project management is no small challenge.
2. The management of the project has a definite start and end. It's not an ongoing method.
3. Project management utilizes different instruments to evaluate performance and monitor project tasks. These include structures for work breakdown, charts for Gantt and charts for PERT.
4. Projects often need resources that are ad-hoc rather than committed, prevalent full-time positions in organizations.
5. Project management lowers risk and improves opportunities for achievement.

Often, a triangle is used to summarize project management, frequently referred to as the *"triple constraint."* Time, price and range are the three most significant variables. These shape the vertices as the main feature of value.



Generally, there are four key elements in the "triple constraint":

1. projects must be cost-effective.

2. Projects need to be delivered on time.
3. There must be scope for projects.
4. Projects must satisfy the demands of client quality.

Phases of Project Management

A project runs through six stages during its lifecycle:

1. **Project Definition:** Defining the objectives, priorities and critical success factors for the project
2. **Project Initiation:** Everything needed to build up the project before the job can begin
3. **Project Planning:** Detailed instructions on how the project will be carried out, including moment, price and resource estimates
4. **Project Execution:** Working to deliver the product, service or desired outcome
5. **Project Monitoring & Control:** Ensuring that a project remains on track and taking corrective action to ensure completion of the project:
6. **Project Closure:** Formal acceptance of the deliverables and disbandment of all the elements required to run the project

Software Measurement and Metrics

Software Measurement: A measurement is a manifestation of the size, quantity, amount, or dimension of a particular attribute of a product or process. Software measurement is a titrate impute of a characteristic of a software product or the software process. It is an authority within software engineering. The software measurement process is defined and governed by ISO Standard.

Software Measurement Principles:

The software measurement process can be characterized by five activities-

1. **Formulation:** The derivation of software measures and metrics appropriate for the representation of the software that is being considered.

2. **Collection:** The mechanism used to accumulate data required to derive the formulated metrics.
3. **Analysis:** The computation of metrics and the application of mathematical tools.
4. **Interpretation:** The evaluation of metrics resulting in insight into the quality of the representation.
5. **Feedback:** Recommendation derived from the interpretation of product metrics transmitted to the software team.

Need for Software Measurement:

Software is measured to:

- Create the quality of the current product or process.
- Anticipate future qualities of the product or process.
- Enhance the quality of a product or process.
- Regulate the state of the project in relation to budget and schedule.
- Enable data-driven decision-making in project planning and control.
- Identify bottlenecks and areas for improvement to drive process improvement activities.
- Ensure that industry standards and regulations are followed.
- Give software products and processes a quantitative basis for evaluation.
- Enable the ongoing improvement of software development practices.

Classification of Software Measurement:

There are 2 types of software measurement:

1. **Direct Measurement:** In direct measurement, the product, process, or thing is measured directly using a standard scale.
2. **Indirect Measurement:** In indirect measurement, the quantity or quality to be measured is measured using related parameters i.e. by use of reference.

Metrics:

A metric is a measurement of the level at which any impute belongs to a system product or process.

Software metrics will be useful only if they are characterized effectively and validated so that their worth is proven. There are 4 functions related to software metrics:

1. Planning
2. Organizing
3. Controlling
4. Improving

Characteristics of software Metrics:

1. **Quantitative:** Metrics must possess quantitative nature. It means metrics can be expressed in values.
2. **Understandable:** Metric computation should be easily understood, and the method of computing metrics should be clearly defined.
3. **Applicability:** Metrics should be applicable in the initial phases of the development of the software.
4. **Repeatable:** The metric values should be the same when measured repeatedly and consistent in nature.
5. **Economical:** The computation of metrics should be economical.
6. **Language Independent:** Metrics should not depend on any programming language.

Classification of Software Metrics:

There are 3 types of software metrics:

1. **Product Metrics:** Product metrics are used to evaluate the state of the product, tracing risks and undercover prospective problem areas. The ability of the team to control quality is evaluated. Examples include lines of code, cyclomatic complexity, code coverage, defect density, and code maintainability index.
2. **Process Metrics:** Process metrics pay particular attention to enhancing the long-term process of the team or organization. Examples include effort variance, schedule variance, defect injection rate, and lead time.
3. **Project Metrics:** The project matrix describes the project characteristic and execution process. Examples include effort estimation accuracy, schedule deviation, cost variance, and productivity.
 - Number of software developer
 - Staffing patterns over the life cycle of software
 - Cost and schedule
 - Productivity

Advantages of Software Metrics :

1. Reduction in cost or budget.
2. It helps to identify the particular area for improvising.
3. It helps to increase the product quality.
4. Managing the workloads and teams.
5. Reduction in overall time to produce the product,.
6. It helps to determine the complexity of the code and to test the code with resources.
7. It helps in providing effective planning, controlling and managing of the entire product.

Disadvantages of Software Metrics :

1. It is expensive and difficult to implement the metrics in some cases.
2. Performance of the entire team or an individual from the team can't be determined. Only the performance of the product is determined.
3. Sometimes the quality of the product is not met with the expectation.
4. It leads to measure the unwanted data which is wastage of time.
5. Measuring the incorrect data leads to make wrong decision making.

