Software Development Life Cycle

Which SDLC and Why?

RAD Model

The rapid application development also known as rapid prototyping model aims at decreasing the time taken and cost incurred to develop software systems. This software development model facilitates accommodating change requests as early as possible before large investments have been made in development. An important underlying principle of RAD is “Make only short-term plans and make heavy reuse of existing code.”

Why RAD?

RAD is the most suitable SDLC model as:

- The software to be developed is a customized product for the owner and only a few customers to use at a time.
- This product does not critically require high performance and reliability.
- The system can be split into several independent modules.
- The project schedule is highly constrained.
- RAD facilitates for a faster development by testing the core modules thoroughly using specialized tools.
- This reduces chances of error in final software.
- RAD uses reusable components i.e. reusable code reducing the effort required for testing.
- This leads to a lower development and maintenance costs.

RAD methodology in the development of this product

- The plans are made for one increment at a time.
- Each iteration enhances the implemented functionality of the software by a little.
- During each iteration, a quick and dirty prototype style software for some selected functionality is developed.
- The customer evaluates the prototype and gives his/her feedback.
- The prototype is then refined based on the customer feedback.