The Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) is a method that assists organizations with streamlining and improving productivity while also minimizing risk. CMMI is delineated into five different levels of maturity. The maturity of a company determines its functionality as a whole and whether it is more reactive or proactive.

The first level of maturity is referred to as ‘Initial’. In this stage the company is more in a reactive state and constantly fixing issues. Level two is considered to be ‘Managed’. This means that while there are still some problems to fix, it is a little more organized. Maturity at the third level is ‘Defined’, so this is when you would see a company start becoming more proactive. They would have standards in place and while there may still be concerns, they know how to handle them and move forward. Level four is when a company would start implementing quantitative data to improve their business processes. With this ‘Quantitatively Managed’ level of maturity a company is getting more proactive and ahead of risk. The final level five is ‘Optimizing’. This is when a company is consistently enhancing themselves and can be more inventive in a comfortable environment.

Organizations would want to use the CMMI if they are looking to further their company and reach certain business goals. The more organized and prepared that you are allows you to progress within your industry and create a business built on a solid foundation. In order to integrate CMMI within your organization you would need to implement company-wide policies to have the best practices secured and embraced, put the correct staff in their appropriate positions and ensure critical information isn’t shared. The benefits of adopting this model would improve a business’ consistency, performance, and self-improvement but there could also be some disadvantages. This model could present an unnecessary amount of overhead regarding time and paperwork if the company considering this model is too small.

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