

Key points



- ✧ Software engineering is an engineering discipline that is concerned with all aspects of software production.
- ✧ Essential software product attributes are maintainability, dependability and security, efficiency and acceptability.
- ✧ The high-level activities of specification, development, validation and evolution are part of all software processes.
- ✧ The fundamental notions of software engineering are universally applicable to all types of system development.

Key points



- ✧ There are many different types of system and each requires appropriate software engineering tools and techniques for their development.
- ✧ The fundamental ideas of software engineering are applicable to all types of software system.
- ✧ Software engineers have responsibilities to the engineering profession and society. They should not simply be concerned with technical issues.
- ✧ Professional societies publish codes of conduct which set out the standards of behaviour expected of their members.

Key points



- ✧ Software processes are the activities involved in producing a software system. Software process models are abstract representations of these processes.
- ✧ General process models describe the organization of software processes.
 - Examples of these general models include the 'waterfall' model, incremental development, and reuse-oriented development.
- ✧ Requirements engineering is the process of developing a software specification.

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- ✧ Design and implementation processes are concerned with transforming a requirements specification into an executable software system.
- ✧ Software validation is the process of checking that the system conforms to its specification and that it meets the real needs of the users of the system.
- ✧ Software evolution takes place when you change existing software systems to meet new requirements. The software must evolve to remain useful.
- ✧ Processes should include activities such as prototyping and incremental delivery to cope with change.

Key points



- ✧ Processes may be structured for iterative development and delivery so that changes may be made without disrupting the system as a whole.
- ✧ The principal approaches to process improvement are agile approaches, geared to reducing process overheads, and maturity-based approaches based on better process management and the use of good software engineering practice.
- ✧ The SEI process maturity framework identifies maturity levels that essentially correspond to the use of good software engineering practice.

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- ✧ Agile methods are incremental development methods that focus on rapid software development, frequent releases of the software, reducing process overheads by minimizing documentation and producing high-quality code.
- ✧ Agile development practices include
 - User stories for system specification
 - Frequent releases of the software,
 - Continuous software improvement
 - Test-first development
 - Customer participation in the development team.

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- ✧ Scrum is an agile method that provides a project management framework.
 - It is centred round a set of sprints, which are fixed time periods when a system increment is developed.
- ✧ Many practical development methods are a mixture of plan-based and agile development.
- ✧ Scaling agile methods for large systems is difficult.
 - Large systems need up-front design and some documentation and organizational practice may conflict with the informality of agile approaches.

Key points



- ✧ Requirements for a software system set out what the system should do and define constraints on its operation and implementation.
- ✧ Functional requirements are statements of the services that the system must provide or are descriptions of how some computations must be carried out.
- ✧ Non-functional requirements often constrain the system being developed and the development process being used.
- ✧ They often relate to the emergent properties of the system and therefore apply to the system as a whole.

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- ✧ The requirements engineering process is an iterative process that includes requirements elicitation, specification and validation.
- ✧ Requirements elicitation is an iterative process that can be represented as a spiral of activities – requirements discovery, requirements classification and organization, requirements negotiation and requirements documentation.
- ✧ You can use a range of techniques for requirements elicitation including interviews and ethnography. User stories and scenarios may be used to facilitate discussions.

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- ✧ Requirements specification is the process of formally documenting the user and system requirements and creating a software requirements document.
- ✧ The software requirements document is an agreed statement of the system requirements. It should be organized so that both system customers and software developers can use it.

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- ✧ Requirements validation is the process of checking the requirements for validity, consistency, completeness, realism and verifiability.
- ✧ Business, organizational and technical changes inevitably lead to changes to the requirements for a software system. Requirements management is the process of managing and controlling these changes.

Key points



- ✧ A model is an abstract view of a system that ignores system details. Complementary system models can be developed to show the system's context, interactions, structure and behavior.
- ✧ Context models show how a system that is being modeled is positioned in an environment with other systems and processes.
- ✧ Use case diagrams and sequence diagrams are used to describe the interactions between users and systems in the system being designed. Use cases describe interactions between a system and external actors; sequence diagrams add more information to these by showing interactions between system objects.
- ✧ Structural models show the organization and architecture of a system. Class diagrams are used to define the static structure of classes in a system and their associations.

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- ✧ Behavioral models are used to describe the dynamic behavior of an executing system. This behavior can be modeled from the perspective of the data processed by the system, or by the events that stimulate responses from a system.
- ✧ Activity diagrams may be used to model the processing of data, where each activity represents one process step.
- ✧ State diagrams are used to model a system's behavior in response to internal or external events.
- ✧ Model-driven engineering is an approach to software development in which a system is represented as a set of models that can be automatically transformed to executable code.

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- ✧ A software architecture is a description of how a software system is organized.
- ✧ Architectural design decisions include decisions on the type of application, the distribution of the system, the architectural styles to be used.
- ✧ Architectures may be documented from several different perspectives or views such as a conceptual view, a logical view, a process view, and a development view.
- ✧ Architectural patterns are a means of reusing knowledge about generic system architectures. They describe the architecture, explain when it may be used and describe its advantages and disadvantages.

Key points



- ✧ Models of application systems architectures help us understand and compare applications, validate application system designs and assess large-scale components for reuse.
- ✧ Transaction processing systems are interactive systems that allow information in a database to be remotely accessed and modified by a number of users.
- ✧ Language processing systems are used to translate texts from one language into another and to carry out the instructions specified in the input language. They include a translator and an abstract machine that executes the generated language.

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- ✧ Software design and implementation are inter-leaved activities. The level of detail in the design depends on the type of system and whether you are using a plan-driven or agile approach.
- ✧ The process of object-oriented design includes activities to design the system architecture, identify objects in the system, describe the design using different object models and document the component interfaces.
- ✧ A range of different models may be produced during an object-oriented design process. These include static models (class models, generalization models, association models) and dynamic models (sequence models, state machine models).
- ✧ Component interfaces must be defined precisely so that other objects can use them. A UML interface stereotype may be used to define interfaces.

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- ✧ When developing software, you should always consider the possibility of reusing existing software, either as components, services or complete systems.
- ✧ Configuration management is the process of managing changes to an evolving software system. It is essential when a team of people are cooperating to develop software.
- ✧ Most software development is host-target development. You use an IDE on a host machine to develop the software, which is transferred to a target machine for execution.
- ✧ Open source development involves making the source code of a system publicly available. This means that many people can propose changes and improvements to the software.



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- ✧ Testing can only show the presence of errors in a program. It cannot demonstrate that there are no remaining faults.
- ✧ Development testing is the responsibility of the software development team. A separate team should be responsible for testing a system before it is released to customers.
- ✧ Development testing includes unit testing, in which you test individual objects and methods component testing in which you test related groups of objects and system testing, in which you test partial or complete systems.

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- ✧ When testing software, you should try to 'break' the software by using experience and guidelines to choose types of test case that have been effective in discovering defects in other systems.
- ✧ Wherever possible, you should write automated tests. The tests are embedded in a program that can be run every time a change is made to a system.
- ✧ Test-first development is an approach to development where tests are written before the code to be tested.
- ✧ Scenario testing involves inventing a typical usage scenario and using this to derive test cases.
- ✧ Acceptance testing is a user testing process where the aim is to decide if the software is good enough to be deployed and used in its operational environment.