Module 5 Assignment

Steve Mazza

The three top risk issues in managing for integration that I will address were chosen because they satisfy the criteria of being applicable to a broad range of projects both inside the DoD and beyond, carrying a potentially large impact on project schedule and outcomes, and not being domain specific.

## Product Maturity

The principal driver of product maturity is development lifecycle. A large risk in managing for integration is that the individual development timelines will not align or, if aligned, will slip to cause mis-alignment. It is also not uncommon for projects to uncover defects in later phases of development. For products already in use, there are a number of other factors to consider including how many people are using the product, how long it has been in service, and how actively it is maintained.

## Market Direction

Inclusion of a product into an integrated system of systems implies a reliance on the intended use, and subsequently, future development of that product. Not infrequently, products will bow to market pressure or changes in industry trends and standards. As a result, these products may find a developmental tack or market niche that represents a fundamentally new direction for them. Water Displacement – 40th Attempt, known to you and me as WD-40 was originally designed solely as an agent to displace standing water, preventing corrosion in nuclear missiles.

## Product Support

Given a sufficient complexity, the system of systems integrators will, no doubt, require support from the product developers at some point. Availability and quality of that support, turn-around time, existing documentation, and the depth of knowledge of support points of contact will all affect the outcome of the integration effort.

These three risk issues, while just a small subset of a large list, all have the ability to negatively impact an integration effort and must be managed carefully in order to ensure overall success.