

## Assignment 2: COMP 8081

### Overview

McConnell outlines a number of Best Practices in **Section III** for improving the effectiveness and the speed of software development projects. The goal of this class assignment is to research and compare these Best Practices and to fully describe your findings to the class.

In this assignment you will form a team of two or three. The instructor reserves the right to level teams if necessary. Your team will select a pair of Best Practices from the list below, and present your findings in class on **one Thursday**, either **March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

### To Do:

You will need to (1) partner with another person from the class (2) review the list of assignment topics and select one that interests you, and which is still available; then, (3) self enroll in an Assignment 2 group on D2L course site for the topic/date you choose. The topics, dates and corresponding group numbers are shown below. (3) Wait for the course instructor to confirm final groups, before beginning to work on the assignment.

To register a group, in D2L click the **Course Tools** dropdown, select **Groups** and then enroll in the group that corresponds to the topic and date you want.

(4) Create and practice a 10 minute presentation explaining your topics.

### Deadlines:

PDF versions of presentations (slides) are **ALL** due on **Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>** before **11:59pm**. This is to make to increase fairness, regardless of when each group presents. Earlier groups may have the relief of “getting it over with”, and later groups may have the advantage of more practice time. But the materials are all due at the same time.

### Total Marks

- Each assignment is worth 15% of your total grade for the course
- This grade for this assignment will be calculated from a total of 50 possible points according to the table described below
- All team members will receive the same mark for the assignment since each team member is expected to participate in and contribute equally to its execution and delivery
- Failure to participate and contribute equally could lead to a reduction in an individual mark

Component	Points
Overview	10
Analysis	15
Conclusions	5
Presentation – Delivery	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>

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### Academic Honesty

As we discussed in our first class Academic Honesty is a critically important topic. Plagiarism is unacceptable. It will be caught and dealt with according to [BCIT policies](#) regarding academic integrity. Penalties could include a grade of zero for an assignment or for a whole course, or even expulsion from the institute.

Please ensure that you meet the following minimum guidelines:

- The final submission for this assignment is your own team's original work
- Collaboration is encouraged but the final submission must be in your own words
- All resources **must be cited** and correctly referenced

There are many resources available for you to reference on referencing if you are unclear on the details of how to properly cite your sources for an academic deliverable:

- The BCIT Library has a resources page of [Citation Styles](#) – you can use [APA style](#) for this assignment
- There is a short [video](#) to help you make sense of the issues
- You can speak to a Librarian
- **Microsoft Word** includes built-in tools under the **References** ribbon to help automate the process of citation – it couldn't be easier

If you have any questions or concerns about referencing and academic honesty please do not hesitate to ask your instructor.

### Deliverable

#### Presentation

The presentation enables you to present your analysis and conclusions to the class – and to pose a question for discussion.

- Deliverable submitted to D2L in PDF format
- Cover slide that includes the title of your report, your names and student ID numbers and the date
- As many slides as needed to deliver your key messages during a **10 minute** in-class presentation

### Instructions

In your team, you are to select **a pair** of McConnell's Best Practices from the list provided below. Then, you are to develop and present an analysis that fully describes the Best Practices you have selected.

When analyzing and presenting your Best Practices, also identify and describe some software development project that you will use to illustrate your points; the project can be anything you like. Prepare and deliver your report and presentation from the perspective of that project, i.e. how would those Best Practices apply or not apply to the project.

Imagine that the purpose of your presentation is to convince the instructor and your classmates of your point(s) of view, and in effect, to get us to "buy" what you're selling, one way or the other.

All team members must be present for and actively participate in the presentation. Try to make speaking times as equally distributed as possible.

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Please note – an assignment that merits maximum points is one that goes beyond just providing minimally what is asked for below. An assignment that merits maximum points shows clarity, creativity, refinement and critical engagement with the content.

### Grading Details

<b>Overview</b> What do we need to know about both of your Best Practices, what are these topics, what are the key points and what are we supposed to think? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What are the similarities and differences between the Best Practices</li><li>- How are they complementary (if at all) and what gaps are there?</li><li>- Please do not simply paraphrase the textbook – demonstrate some creativity, critical engagement and lateral thinking – additional sources will help</li></ul>	10 points total
<b>Analysis</b> Explain how the Best Practices would fit with this software development project? What are the benefits, risks and issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To what extent do the Best Practices enable and address: the Four Pillars of Rapid Development, Scheduled-Oriented Practices, the Four Dimensions of Development Speed, helping to avoid Classic Mistakes, establishing effective Risk Management, and achieving Customer-Orientation?</li></ul>	15 points total
<b>Conclusions</b> Make an explicit recommendation about whether either or both of the Best Practices should be adopted for the software development project you outlined <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- State a clear conclusion following directly from the analysis</li><li>- Refer to the parameters McConnell outlines for selecting Lifecycle Models</li></ul>	5 points total
<b>Presentation – Delivery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Were you professional, prepared, clear, creative and engaging on the day?</li></ul>	20 points total
	<b>50 points</b>

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### Schedule

Chapter	Page	Best Practice	Group	Presentation Date
18	405	Daily build and smoke test	1	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
36	549	Staged delivery		
19	415	Designing for change	2	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
42	589	User-Interface Prototyping		
24	449	Joint application development (JAD)	3	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
27	481	Miniature milestones		
36	549	Staged Delivery	4	March 15 <sup>th</sup>
39	575	Timebox development		
29	503	Principled Negotiation	5	March 15 <sup>st</sup>
37	559	Theory-W Management		
26	467	Measurement	6	March 15 <sup>st</sup>
33	527	Reuse		
30	505	Productivity Environments	7	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
34	539	Signing Up		
20	425	Evolutionary delivery	8	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
35	547	Spiral Lifecycle Model		
21	432	Evolutionary prototyping	9	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
38	569	Throwaway Prototyping		