

SWE 205 - Introduction to Software Engineering

Lecture 3

Introduction to Software Engineering



Lecture Objectives

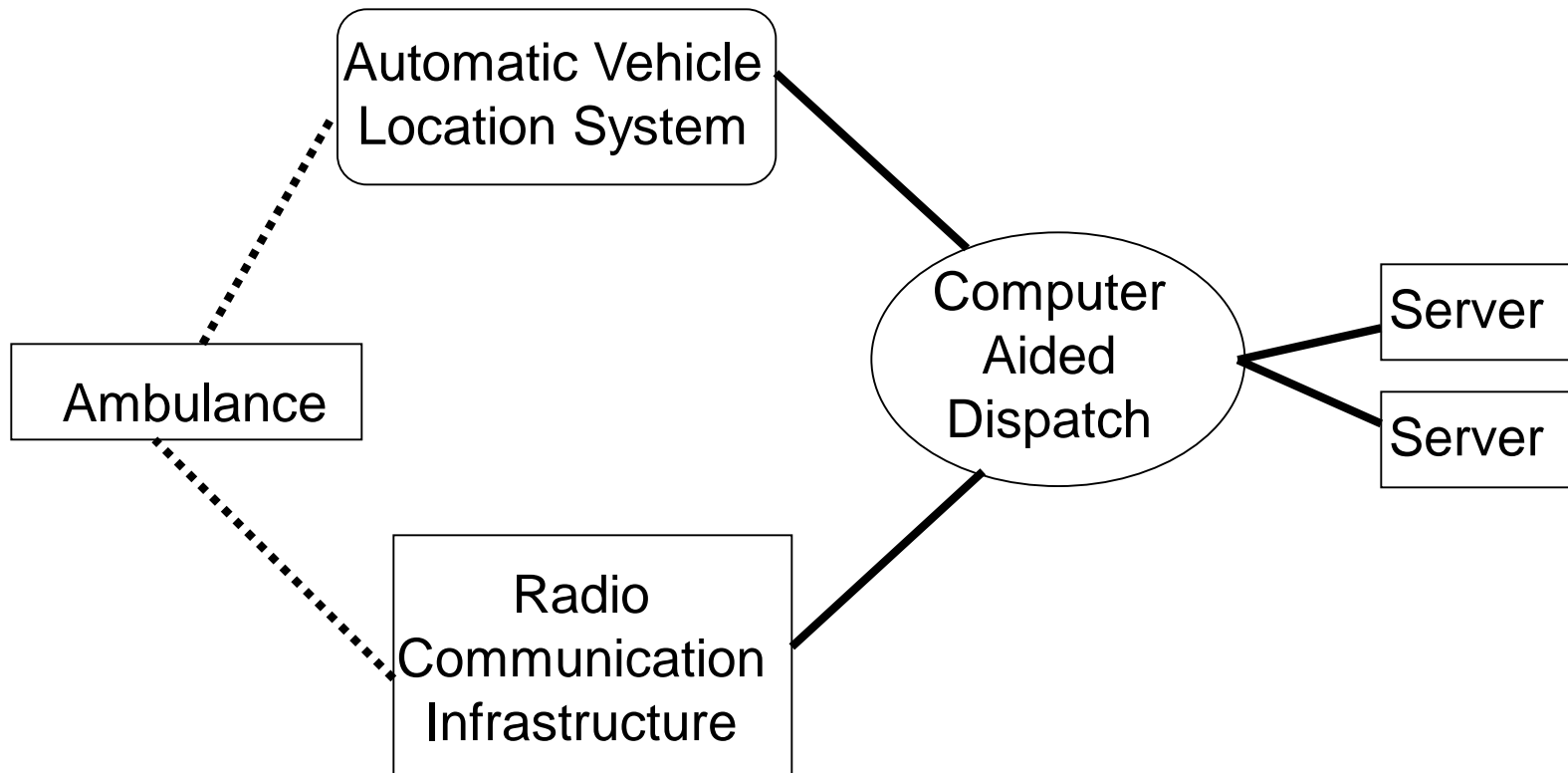
- Software Myths.
- Software Engineering Challenges.
- What is a software process?
- Generic framework activities.



Important Question

- Why do we continue to have difficulty in software development projects?

London Ambulance Service Case Study





Software Myths

- Affect managers, stakeholders, and practitioners.
- Are believable because they often have elements of truth.

but...

- Invariably lead to bad decisions,

therefore....

- Insist on reality as you navigate your way through software engineering.



Management Myths

- *‘We already have books full of standards and procedures for building software. That will provide my people with everything they need to know’.*
- *‘My people do have state-of-the-art software development tools. After all, we buy them the latest computers’.*



Management Myths

- *'If we get behind schedule we can add more programmers and catch up'.*
- *'If I decide to outsource the software project to a third party, I can just relax and let that firm build it.'*



Customer Myths

- ‘A general statement of objectives is sufficient to begin writing software - we can fill in the details later’.
- ‘Project requirements continually change but change can be easily accommodated because software is flexible’.



Practitioner's Myths

- 'Once we write the program and get it to work our job is done'.
- 'Until I get the program running I really have no way of assessing its quality'.
- 'The only deliverable for a successful project is the working program'.



Key Challenges

- Heterogeneity
 - Developing techniques for building software that can cope with heterogeneous platforms and execution environments;
- Delivery
 - Developing techniques that lead to faster delivery of software;
- Trust
 - Developing techniques that demonstrate that software can be trusted by its users.



Key Challenges

- An accompanying shift from a concern with whether a system will work towards how well it will work.
- Components are selected and purchased 'off the shelf' (COTS) with development effort being refocused on configuration and interoperability.



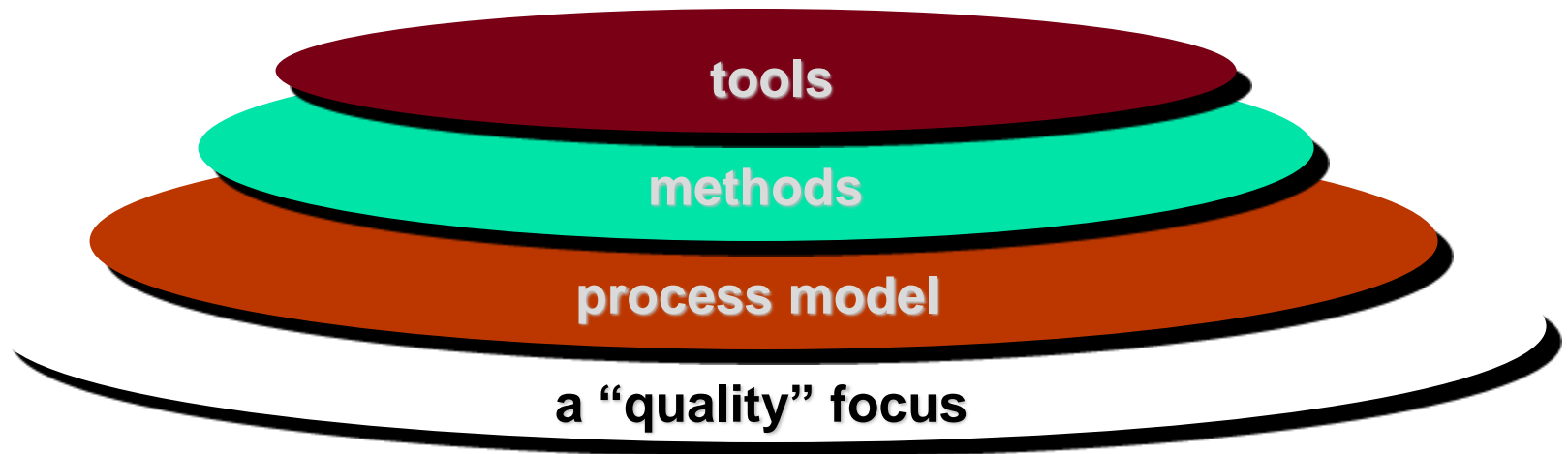
How a Project Starts?

- Every software project is precipitated by some business need
 - Need to correct a defect in an existing application.
 - Need to adapt a legacy system to a changing business environment.
 - Need to extend the functions and features of an existing application.
 - Need to create a new product or system.



A Layered Technology

Software Engineering





A Software Process

Umbrella Activities

Activity # 1

Work tasks

Milestones & deliverable

QA check points

Activity # 2

Process Framework



The software process

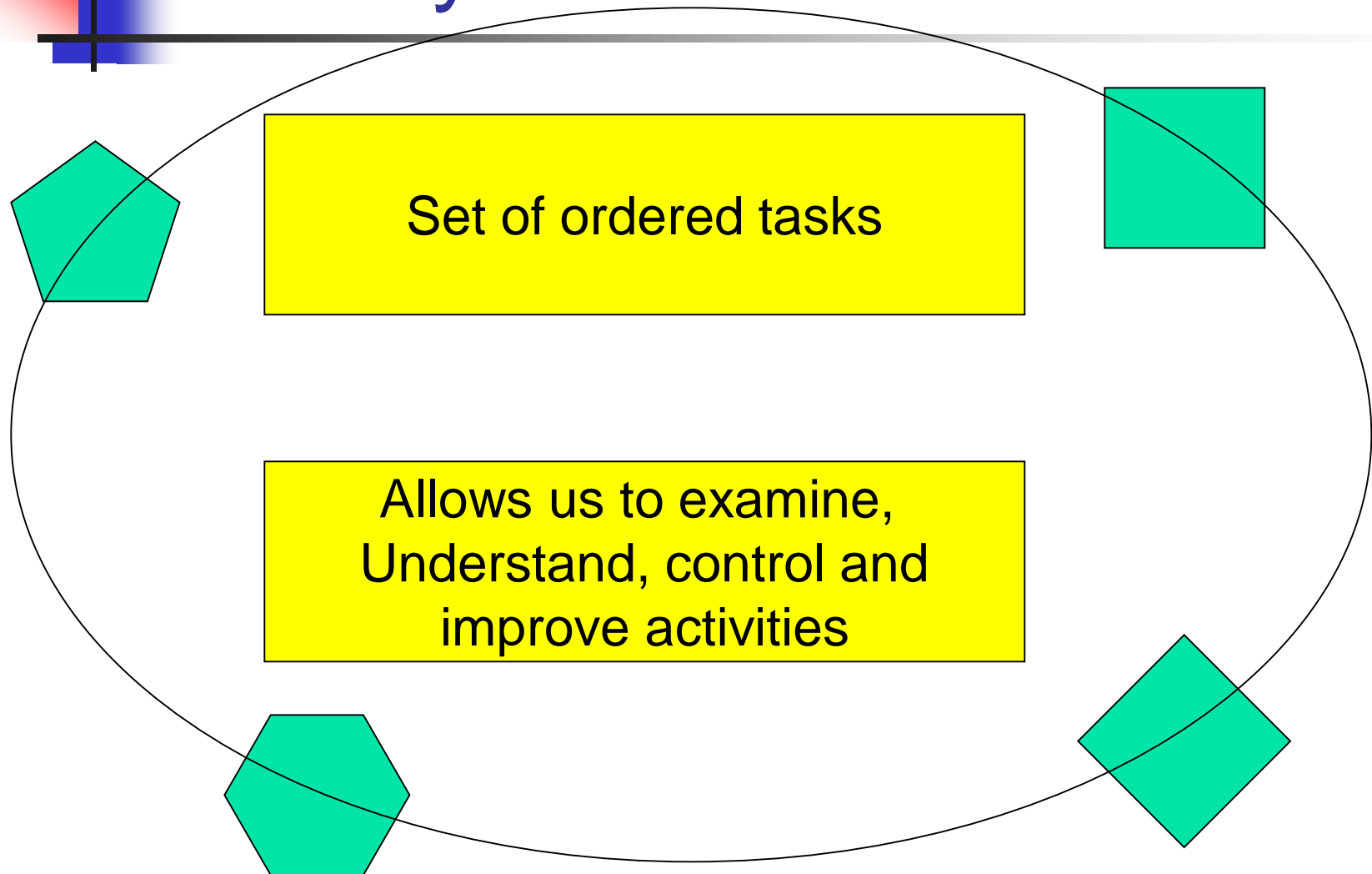
- A structured set of activities required to develop a software system
 - Specification;
 - Design;
 - Validation;
 - Evolution.



Umbrella Activities

- Software project management.
- Formal technical reviews.
- Software quality assurance.
- Measurements.
- Risk management.

Software Process - Software Life Cycle





Key Points

- Approaches which work for constructing small programs for personal use do not scale-up to the challenges of real software construction.
- Software processes are the activities involved in producing and evolving a software system.



Announcements

- Quiz 1 moved from
 - Saturday 18/10/2008 to
 - Wednesday 22/10/2008.
- Project Team member names by Wednesday 22/10/2008.
 - A team will be of four students.