

Chapter 2 – Software Processes

Lecture 1

Topics covered



- ♦ Software process models
- ♦ Process activities
- ♦ Coping with change
- ♦ The Rational Unified Process
 - An example of a modern software process.

The software process



- ♦ A structured set of activities required to develop a software system.
- ♦ Many different software processes but all involve:
 - Specification defining what the system should do;
 - Design and implementation defining the organization of the system and implementing the system;
 - Validation checking that it does what the customer wants;
 - Evolution changing the system in response to changing customer needs.
- ♦ A software process model is an abstract representation of a process. It presents a description of a process from some particular perspective.

Software process descriptions



- When we describe and discuss processes, we usually talk about the activities in these processes such as specifying a data model, designing a user interface, etc. and the ordering of these activities.
- ♦ Process descriptions may also include:
 - Products, which are the outcomes of a process activity;
 - Roles, which reflect the responsibilities of the people involved in the process;
 - Pre- and post-conditions, which are statements that are true before and after a process activity has been enacted or a product produced.

Plan-driven and agile processes



- Plan-driven processes are processes where all of the process activities are planned in advance and progress is measured against this plan.
- In agile processes, planning is incremental and it is easier to change the process to reflect changing customer requirements.
- Agile methods break tasks into small increments with minimal planning and do not directly involve long-term planning.
- ♦ Iterations are short time frames (timeboxes) that typically last from one to four weeks.

- Each iteration involves a cross functional team wor in all functions: planning, requirements analysis, design, coding, unit testing, and acceptantesting.
- At the end of the iteration a working product is demonstrated to stakeholders. This minimizes overall risk and allows the project to adapt to changes quickly.
- An iteration might not add enough functionality to warrant a market release, but the goal is to have an available release (with minimal <u>bugs</u>) at the end of each iteration.
- Multiple iterations might be required to release a product or new features.



- ♦ In practice, most practical processes include elements of both plan-driven and agile approaches.
- ♦ There are no right or wrong software processes.
- ♦ Although there is no 'ideal' software process, there is scope for improving the software process in many organizations.
- ♦ E.g., by standardization where the diversity in software processes across an organization is reduced
- This leads to improved communication and a reduction in training time, and makes automated process support more economical.

Software process models



♦ The waterfall model

 Plan-driven model. Separate and distinct phases of specification and development.

♦ Incremental development

- Specification, development and validation are interleaved.
- May be plan-driven or agile.

♦ Reuse-oriented software engineering

- The system is assembled from existing components. May be plan-driven or agile.
- In practice, most large systems are developed using a process that incorporates elements from all of these models.



- Parts of the system that are well understood can be specified and developed using a waterfall-based process.
- ♦ Parts of the system which are difficult to specify in advance, such as the user interface, should always be developed using an incremental approach.

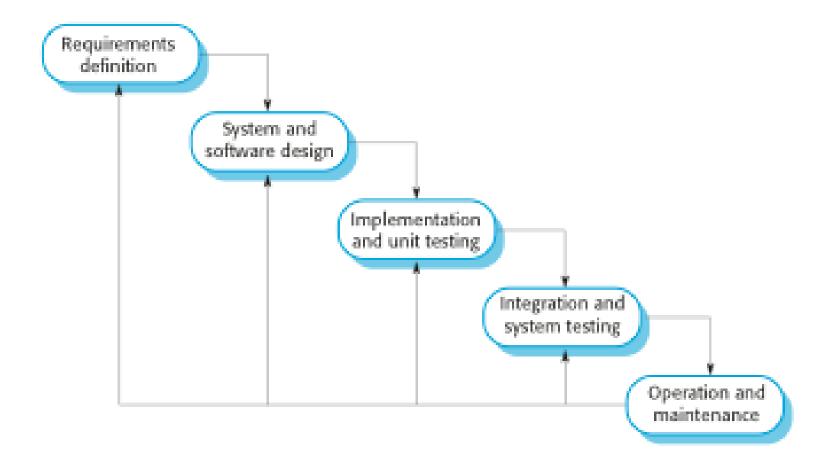
The waterfall model



The waterfall model is an example of a plan-driven process—in principle, you must plan and schedule all of the process activities before starting work on them.

The waterfall model





The principal stages of the waterfall model



1. Requirements analysis and definition

The system's **services**, **constraints**, **and goals** are established by **consultation with system users**. They are then defined in detail and **serve as a system specification**.

2. System and software design

The systems design process allocates the requirements to either hardware or software systems by establishing an overall system architecture.

3. Implementation and unit testing

During this stage, the software design is **realized as a set of programs** or program units. Unit testing **involves verifying that each unit meets its specification**



4. Integration and system testing

The individual program units or programs are integrated and tested as a complete system to ensure that the software requirements have been met. After testing, the software system is delivered to the customer.

5. Operation and maintenance

Normally (although not necessarily), this is **the longest life cycle** phase. The system is installed and put into practical use. Maintenance **involves correcting errors** which were not discovered in earlier stages of the life cycle, **improving the implementation** of system units and **enhancing the system's services as new requirements are discovered**.

the result of each phase is one or more documents



- In principle, the result of each phase is one or more documents that are approved ('signed off'). The following phase should not start until the previous phase has finished.
- ♦ In practice, these stages overlap and feed information to each other.
- During design, problems with requirements are identified.
- During coding, design problems are found and so on. The software process is not a simple linear model but involves feedback from one phase to another.
- ♦ Documents produced in each phase may then have to be modified to reflect the changes made

Because of the costs of producing and approving documents



- ♦ iterations can be costly and involve significant rework.
- Therefore, after a small number of iterations, it is normal to freeze parts of the development, such as the specification, and to continue with the later development stages.
- Problems are left for later resolution, ignored, or programmed around.
- ♦ This premature freezing of requirements may mean that the system won't do what the user wants.
- It may also lead to badly structured systems as design problems are circumvented by implementation tricks.

Deliverables (Documents) in Waterfall Model



- ♦ Project plan and feasibility report
- Requirements documents (SRS: Software Requirement Specifications)
- ♦ System Design documents
- ♦ Test plans and test reports
- ♦ Source code
- ♦ Software manuals
- ♦ Each step ends with a review process and report

Advantages of producing documents



- Different teams can work on different steps of the projects
- ♦ Important for quality assurance and testing
- ♦ Important for evolution

Waterfall model drawback



- The main drawback of the waterfall model is the difficulty of accommodating change after the process is underway.
- ♦ In principle, a phase has to be complete before moving onto the next phase.

Waterfall model problems



- Inflexible partitioning of the project into distinct stages makes it difficult to respond to changing customer requirements.
 - Therefore, this model is only appropriate when the requirements are well-understood (e.g. there is a manual counterpart) and changes will be fairly limited during the design process.
 - Few business systems have stable requirements.
 - Documentation heavy
- ♦ The waterfall model is mostly used for large systems engineering projects where a system is developed at several sites.
 - In those circumstances, the plan-driven nature of the waterfall model helps coordinate the work.

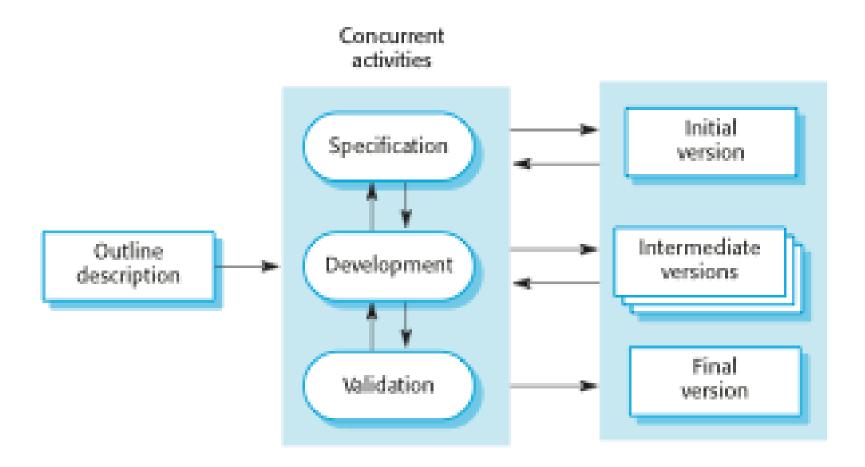
Incremental development



- Incremental development is based on the idea of developing an initial implementation, exposing this to user comment and evolving it through several versions until an adequate system has been developed
- Specification, development, and validation activities are interleaved rather than separate, with rapid feedback across activities.
- A fundamental part of agile approaches, is better than a waterfall approach for most business, e-commerce, and personal systems
- ♦ By developing the software incrementally, it is cheaper and easier to make changes in the software as it is being developed. Chapter 2 Software Processes

Incremental development





Incremental development benefits



- The cost of accommodating changing customer requirements is reduced.
 - The amount of analysis and documentation that has to be redone is much less than is required with the waterfall model.
- ♦ It is easier to get customer feedback on the development work that has been done.
 - Customers can comment on demonstrations of the software and see how much has been implemented.
- More rapid delivery and deployment of useful software to the customer is possible.
 - Customers are able to use and gain value from the software earlier than is possible with a waterfall process.

Incremental development problems



- ♦ The process is not visible.
 - Managers need regular deliverables to measure progress. If systems are developed quickly, it is not cost-effective to produce documents that reflect every version of the system.
- System structure tends to degrade as new increments are added.
 - Unless time and money is spent on refactoring to improve the software, regular change tends to corrupt its structure.
 Incorporating further software changes becomes increasingly difficult and costly.

Reuse-oriented software engineering



- in the 21st century, software development processes that focus on the reuse of existing software have become widely used.
- Reuse-oriented approaches rely on a large base of reusable software components and an integrating framework for the composition of these components.
- Based on systematic reuse where systems are integrated from existing components or COTS (Commercial-off-the-shelf) systems.
- ♦ Popular in web software development
- Reuse is now the standard approach for building many types of business system

Chapter 2 Software Processes

Reuse covered in more depth in Chapter 16.



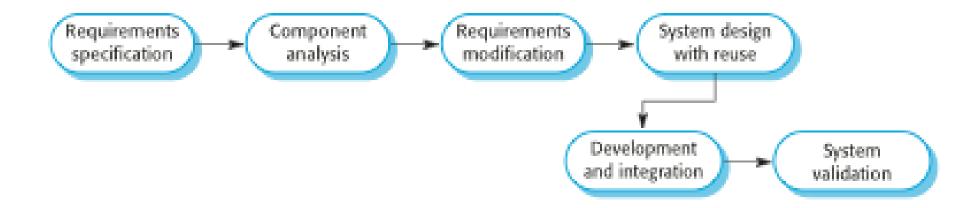
- 1. Component analysis Given the requirements specification, a search is made for components to implement that specification. Usually, there is no exact match and the components that may be used only provide some of the functionality required.
- 2. Requirements modification During this stage, the requirements are analyzed using information about the components that have been discovered. They are then modified to reflect the available components. Where modifications are impossible, the component analysis activity may be re-entered to search for alternative solutions.



- 3. System design with reuse During this phase, the framework of the system is designed or an existing framework is reused. The designers take into account the components that are reused and organize the framework to cater for this. Some new software may have to be designed if reusable components are not available.
- 4. Development and integration Software that cannot be externally procured is developed, and the components and COTS systems are integrated to create the new system.

Reuse-oriented software engineering





Types of software component



- Web services that are developed according to service standards and which are available for remote invocation.
- ♦ Collections of objects that are developed as a package to be integrated with a component framework such as .NET or J2EE.
- ♦ Stand-alone software systems (COTS) that are configured for use in a particular environment.

Advantages and Disadvantages



- Reuse-oriented software engineering has the obvious advantage of reducing the amount of software to be developed and so reducing cost and risks. It usually also leads to faster delivery of the software.
- However, requirements compromises are inevitable and this may lead to a system that does not meet the real needs of users.
- Furthermore, some control over the system evolution is lost as new versions of the reusable components are not under the control of the organization using them.

Process activities



- Real software processes are inter-leaved sequences of technical, collaborative and managerial activities with the overall goal of specifying, designing, implementing and testing a software system.
- ♦ The four basic process activities of specification, development, validation and evolution are organized differently in different development processes. In the waterfall model, they are organized in sequence, whereas in incremental development they are interleaved.

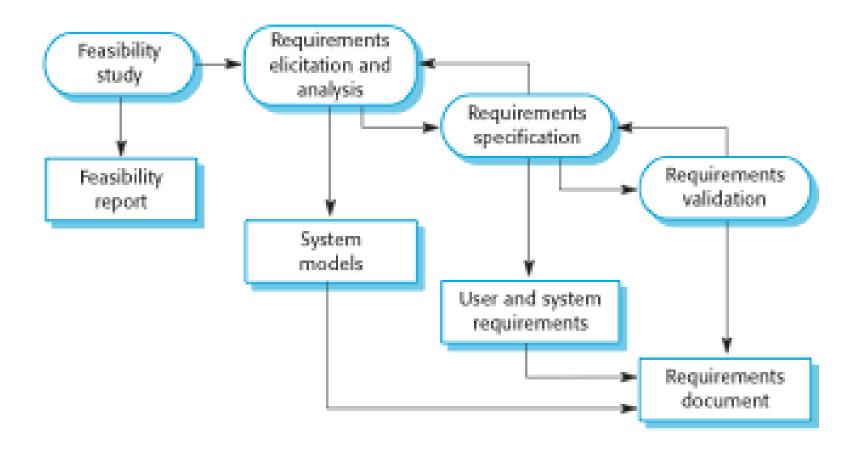
Software specification



- The process of establishing what services are required and the constraints on the system's operation and development.
- ♦ Requirements engineering process
 - Feasibility study
 - Is it technically and financially feasible to build the system?
 - Requirements elicitation and analysis
 - What do the system stakeholders require or expect from the system?
 - Requirements specification
 - Defining the requirements in detail
 - Requirements validation
 - Checking the validity of the requirements

The requirements engineering process





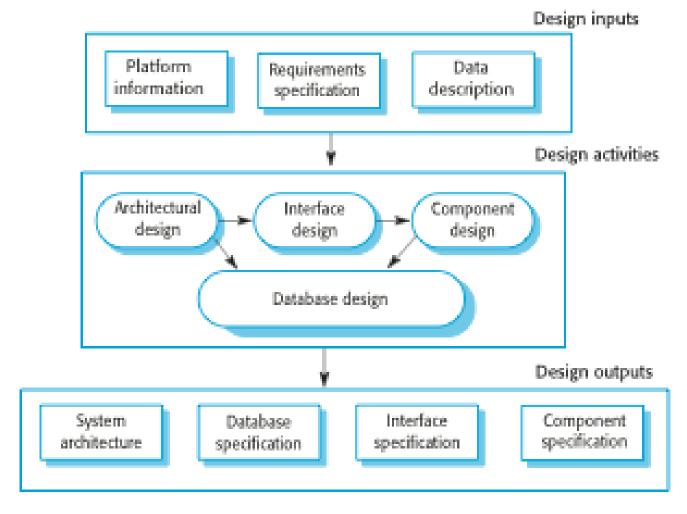
Software design and implementation



- The process of converting the system specification into an executable system.
- ♦ Software design
 - Design a software structure that realises the specification;
- ♦ Implementation
 - Translate this structure into an executable program;
- The activities of design and implementation are closely related and may be inter-leaved.

A general model of the design process





Design activities



- Architectural design, where you identify the overall structure of the system, the principal components (sometimes called sub-systems or modules), their relationships and how they are distributed.
- ♦ Interface design, where you define the interfaces between system components.
- ♦ Component design, where you take each system component and design how it will operate.
- Database design, where you design the system data structures and how these are to be represented in a database.

Software validation



- ♦ Verification and validation (V & V) is intended to show that a system conforms to its specification and meets the requirements of the system customer.
- Involves checking and review processes and system testing.
- ♦ System testing involves executing the system with test cases that are derived from the specification of the real data to be processed by the system.
- ♦ Testing is the most commonly used V & V activity.

Stages of testing





Testing stages



- ♦ Development or component testing
 - Individual components are tested independently by the people developing the system;
 - Components may be functions or objects or coherent groupings of these entities.
 - Test automation tools, such as JUnit (Massol and Husted, 2003), that can re-run component tests when new versions of the component are created, are commonly used



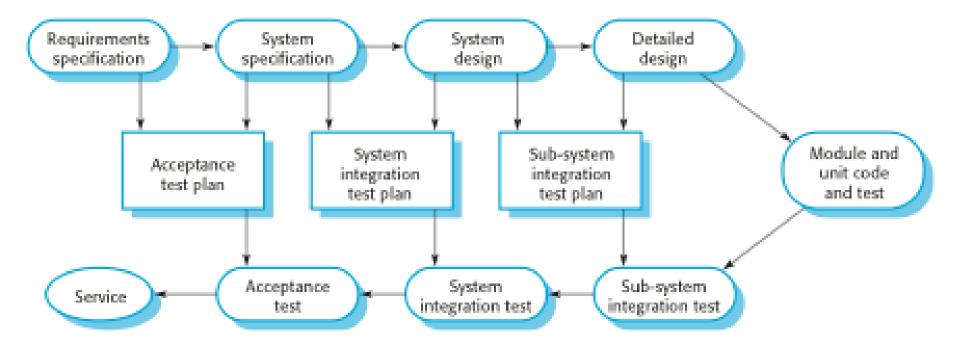
- System testing (Testing of the system as a whole)
 - concerned with finding errors that result from unanticipated interactions between components and component interface problems
 - Testing the functional as well as non-functional requirements.
 - Testing of emergent properties (e.g. Reliability, Security, Repair ability) is particularly important.



- Acceptance testing (sometimes called 'alpha testing'.)
 - Testing with customer data to check that the system meets the customer's needs.
 - May reveal errors and omissions in the system requirements definition
 - may also reveal requirements problems where the system's facilities do not really meet the user's needs or the system performance is unacceptable.

Testing phases in a plan-driven software process (the V-model of development)





Beta Testing



- When a system is to be marketed as a software product, a testing process called 'beta testing' is often used.
- Deta testing involves delivering a system to a number of potential customers who agree to use that system.
- ♦ They report problems to the system developers.
- This exposes the product to real use and detects errors that may not have been anticipated by the system builders.
- After this feedback, the system is modified and released either for further beta testing or for general sale.

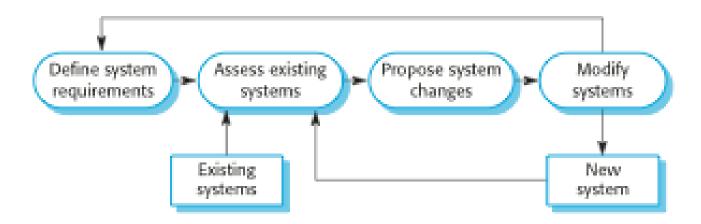
Software evolution



- ♦ Software is inherently flexible and can change.
- As requirements change through changing business circumstances, the software that supports the business must also evolve and change.
- Although there has been a demarcation between development and evolution (maintenance) this is increasingly irrelevant as fewer and fewer systems are completely new.
- the costs of maintenance are often several times the initial development costs,

System evolution





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.

Key points



- ♦ Requirements engineering is the process of developing a software specification.
- 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.



Chapter 2 – Software Processes

Lecture 2

Coping with change



- ♦ Change is inevitable in all large software projects.
 - Business changes lead to new and changed system requirements
 - New technologies open up new possibilities for improving implementations
 - Changing platforms require application changes
- Change leads to rework so the costs of change include both rework (e.g. re-analysing requirements) as well as the costs of implementing new functionality

Reducing the costs of rework



- 1. Change avoidance, where the software process includes activities that can anticipate possible changes before significant rework is required.
 - For example, a prototype system may be developed to show some key features of the system to customers.
 - They can experiment with the prototype and refine their requirements before committing to high software production costs.

2. Change Tolerance

Reducing the costs of rework



- Change tolerance, where the process is designed so that changes can be accommodated at relatively low cost.
 - This normally involves some form of incremental development.
 - Proposed changes may be implemented in increments that have not yet been developed.
 - If this is impossible, then only a single increment (a small part of the system) may have be altered to incorporate the change.
- → The notion of refactoring, namely improving the structure and organization of a program, is also an important mechanism that supports change tolerance (see chap3 20n Agile development)

Two ways of coping with change and changing system requirements



♦ System prototyping

- supports change avoidance as it allows users to experiment with the system before delivery and so refine their requirements.
- The number of requirements change proposals made after delivery is therefore likely to be reduced.

♦ Incremental delivery

- system increments are delivered to the customer for comment and experimentation
- supports both change avoidance and change tolerance
- It avoids the premature commitment to requirements for the whole system and allows changes to be incorporated into later increments at relatively low cost.

Software prototyping



- A prototype is an initial version of a system used to demonstrate concepts and try out design options, and find out more about the problem and its possible solutions.
- ♦ A prototype can be used in:
 - The requirements engineering process to help with requirements elicitation and validation of system requirements;
 - In design processes to explore options and develop
 a UI design (to check the feasibility of a proposed design or
 to check that it supports efficient data access);
 - In the testing process to run back-to-back tests.

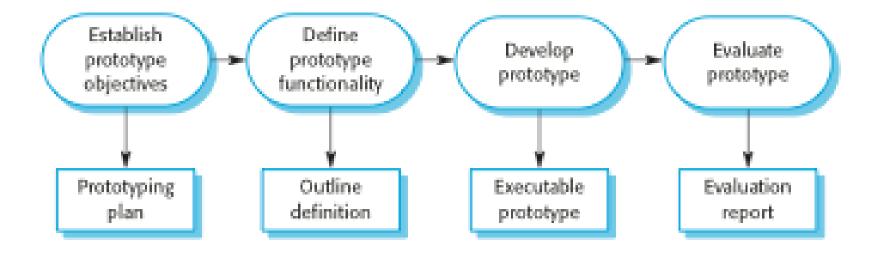
Benefits of prototyping



- ♦ Improved system usability.
 - Prototyping is also an essential part of the user interface design process.
- ♦ A closer match to users' real needs.
 - A prototype may reveal errors and omissions in the requirements that have been proposed.
- ♦ Improved design quality.
 - For example, a database design may be prototyped and tested to check that it supports efficient data access for the most common user queries.
- ♦ Improved maintainability.
- ♦ Reduced development effort.

The process of prototype development





Prototype development



- ♦ May be based on rapid prototyping languages or tools
- ♦ May involve leaving out functionality
 - Prototype should focus on areas of the product that are not well-understood;
 - Error checking and recovery may not be included in the prototype;
 - Focus on functional rather than non-functional requirements such as reliability and security

Throw-away prototypes



- Prototypes should be discarded after development as they are not a good basis for a production system:
- ♦ Developers are sometimes pressured by managers to deliver throwaway prototypes, particularly when there are delays in delivering the final version of the soft-ware.
- ♦ However, this is usually unwise:
 - It may be impossible to tune the system to meet nonfunctional requirements;
 - Prototypes are normally undocumented;
 - The prototype structure is usually degraded through rapid change;
 - The prototype probably will not meet normal organizational quality standards. Chapter 2 Software Processes

Paper-based mock-ups Prototypes



- Prototypes do not have to be executable to be useful. Paper-based mock-ups of the system user interface (Rettig, 1994) can be effective in helping users refine an interface design and work through usage scenarios.
- ♦ These are very cheap to develop and can be constructed in a few days.
- An extension of this technique is a Wizard of Oz prototype where only the user interface is developed.
- Users interact with this interface but their requests are passed to a person who interprets them and outputs the appropriate response.

Incremental delivery



- Rather than deliver the system as a single delivery, the development and delivery is broken down into increments with each increment delivering part of the required functionality.
- ♦ User requirements are prioritised and the highest priority requirements are included in early increments.
- Once the development of an increment is started, the requirements are frozen though requirements for later increments can continue to evolve.
- Once an increment is completed and delivered, customers can put it into service
- ♦ Unlike prototypes, increments are part of the real system

Incremental development and delivery



♦ Incremental development

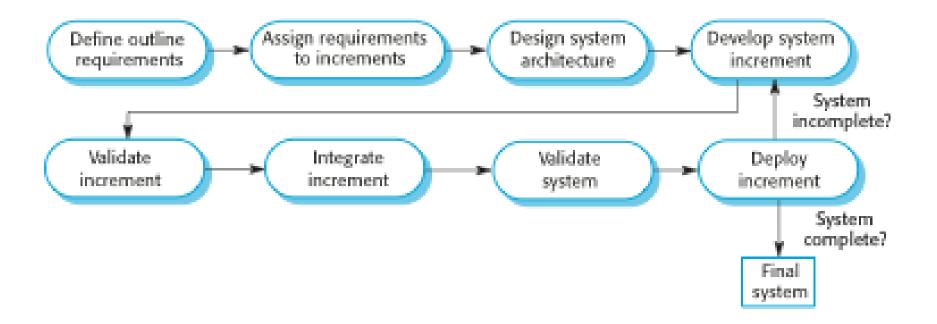
- Develop the system in increments and evaluate each increment before proceeding to the development of the next increment;
- Normal approach used in agile methods;
- Evaluation done by user/customer proxy.

♦ Incremental delivery

- Deploy an increment for use by end-users;
- More realistic evaluation about practical use of software;
- Difficult to implement for replacement systems (i.e. to replace an existing system) as increments have less functionality than the system being replaced.

Incremental delivery





Incremental delivery advantages



- Customer value can be delivered with each increment so system functionality is available earlier.
- Early increments act as a prototype to help elicit requirements for later increments but unlike prototypes, these are part of the real system.
- ♦ Lower risk of overall project failure.
- The highest priority system services tend to receive the most testing.

Incremental delivery problems



- ♦ Most systems require a **set Of basic facilities** that are used by different parts of the system.
 - As requirements are not defined in detail until an increment is to be implemented, it can be hard to identify common facilities that are needed by all increments.
- Users want all of the functionality of the old system and are often unwilling to experiment with an incomplete new system. Therefore, getting useful customer feedback is difficult.
- ♦ The essence of iterative processes is that the specification is developed in conjunction with the software.
 - However, this conflicts with the procurement model of many organizations, where the complete system specification is part of the system development contract. In the incremental approach, there is no complete system specification until the final increment is specified.

The spiral model



- Here, the software process is represented as a spiral, rather than a sequence of activities with some backtracking from one activity to another.
- Each loop in the spiral represents a phase of the software process.
- Thus, the innermost loop might be concerned with system feasibility, the next loop with requirements definition, the next loop with system design, and so on.
- No fixed phases such as specification or design loops in the spiral are chosen depending on what is required.

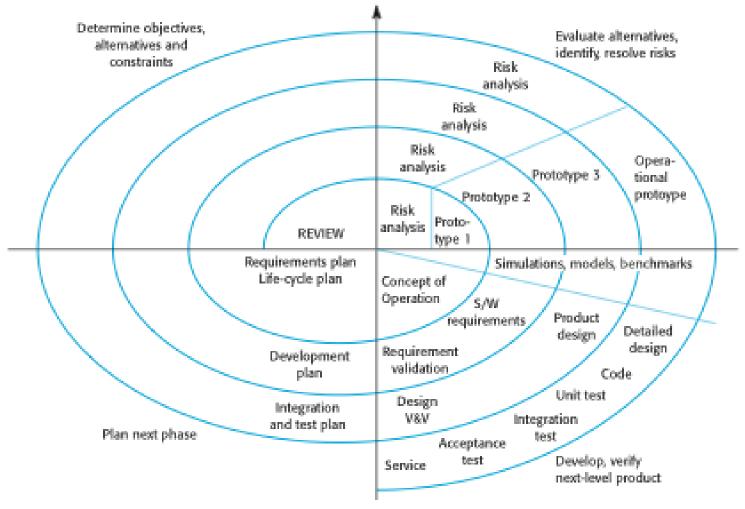
The spiral model



- The spiral model combines change avoidance with change tolerance.
- The main difference between the spiral model and other software process models is its explicit recognition of risk.
- This model of development combines the features of the prototyping and the waterfall model.
- The spiral model is intended for large, expensive and complicated projects.
- ♦ It allows for incremental releases of the product, or incremental refinement through each time around the spiral.
- ♦ The spiral model also explicitly includes risk

Boehm's spiral model of the software process







- ♦ Starting at the center, each turn around the spiral goes through several task regions :
 - Determine the objectives, alternatives, and constraints on the new iteration.
 - Evaluate alternatives and identify and resolve risk issues.
 - Develop and verify the product for this iteration.
 - Plan the next iteration.

Spiral model sectors



♦ Objective setting

Specific objectives for the phase are identified.

♦ Risk assessment and reduction

 Risks are assessed and activities put in place to reduce the key risks.

♦ Development and validation

 A development model for the system is chosen which can be any of the generic models.

♦ Planning

The project is reviewed and the next phase of the spiral is planned.

Spiral model usage



- Spiral model has been very influential in helping people think about iteration in software processes and introducing the risk-driven approach to development.
- ♦ In practice, however, the model is rarely used as published for practical software development.

The Rational Unified Process



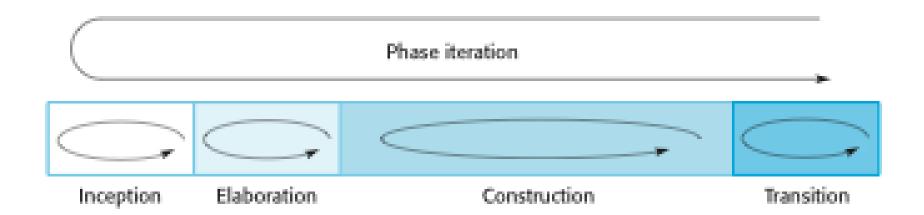
- A modern generic process derived from the work on the UML and associated process.
- ♦ A good example of a hybrid process model.
- It brings together elements from all of the generic process models, illustrates good practice in specification and design and supports prototyping and incremental delivery.
- ♦ Normally described from 3 perspectives
 - A dynamic perspective that shows phases over time;
 - A static perspective that shows process activities;
 - A practice perspective that suggests good practice



- the RUP is a phased model that identifies four discrete
 phases in the software process.
- However, unlike the waterfall model where phases are equated with process activities, the phases in the RUP are more closely related to business rather than technical concerns.

Phases in the Rational Unified Process (Dynamic Perspective)





RUP phases



♦Inception

- Establish the business case for the system.
- You should identify all external entities (people and systems) that will interact with the system and define these interactions.
- You then use this information to assess the contribution that the system makes to the business.
- If this contribution is minor, then the project may be cancelled after this phase.



♦ Elaboration

- Develop an understanding of the problem domain and the system architecture.
- develop the project plan,
- and identify key project risks.
- On completion of this phase you should have
 - a requirements model for the system, which may be a set of UML use-cases,
 - an architectural description,
 - And a development plan for the software.



♦ Construction

- System design, programming and testing.
- On completion of this phase, you should have a working software system and associated documentation that is ready for delivery to users.

♦ Transition

- Deploy the system (move it to the user community)
- This is something that is ignored in most software process models but is, in fact, an expensive and sometimes problematic activity.
- On completion of this phase, you should have a documented software system that is working correctly in its operational environment.

Inception



- In this phase the business case which includes business context, success factors (expected revenue, market recognition, etc.), and financial forecast is established.
- → To complement the business case, a basic use case model, project plan, initial risk assessment and project description (the core project requirements, constraints and key features) are generated.

Elaboration Phase



- ♦ The elaboration phase is where the project starts to take shape.
- ♦ In this phase the problem domain analysis is made and the architecture of the project gets its basic form.

♦ Outcomes

- ♦ A use-case model in which the use-cases and the actors have been identified and most of the use-case descriptions are developed. The use-case model should be 80% complete.
- ♦ A description of the software architecture in a software system development process.
- Business case and risk list which are revised.
- ♦ A development plan for the overall project.
- Prototypes that demonstrably mitigate each identified technical risk.
- ♦ A preliminary user manual (optional)

Construction Phase



- In this phase, the main focus is on the development of components and other features of the system.
- ♦ This is the phase when the **bulk of the coding** takes place.
- In larger projects, several construction iterations may be developed in an effort to divide the use cases into manageable segments that produce demonstrable prototypes.
- ♦ This phase produces the first external release of the software.

Transition Phase



The primary objective is to 'transit' the system from development into production, making it available to and understood by the end user

- The activities of this phase include training the end users and maintainers and beta testing the system to validate it against the end users' expectations.
- The product is also checked against the quality level set in the Inception phase.

RUP iteration



- Iteration within the RUP is supported in two ways.
 - In-phase iteration
 - Each phase is iterative with results developed incrementally.
 - Cross-phase iteration
 - As shown by the loop in the RUP model, the whole set of phases may be enacted incrementally.

The static view of the RUP



- focuses on the activities that take place during the development process.
- ♦ These are called workflows in the RUP description.
- ♦ There are six core process workflows identified in the process and three core supporting work-flows.
- The RUP has been designed in conjunction with the UML, so the workflow description is oriented around associated UML models such as sequence models, object models

Static workflows in the Rational Unified Process



Workflow	Description
Business modelling	The business processes are modelled using business use cases.
Requirements	Actors who interact with the system are identified and use cases are developed to model the system requirements.
Analysis and design	A design model is created and documented using architectural models, component models, object models and sequence models.
Implementation	The components in the system are implemented and structured into implementation sub-systems. Automatic code generation from design models helps accelerate this process.

Static workflows in the Rational Unified Process



Workflow	Description
Testing	Testing is an iterative process that is carried out in conjunction with implementation. System testing follows the completion of the implementation.
Deployment	A product release is created, distributed to users and installed in their workplace.
Configuration and change management	This supporting workflow managed changes to the system (see Chapter 25).
Project management	This supporting workflow manages the system development (see Chapters 22 and 23).
Environment	This workflow is concerned with making appropriate software tools available to the software development team.

The advantage in presenting dynamic and static views



- ♦ is that phases of the development process are not associated with specific workflows.
- In principle at least, all of the RUP workflows may be active at all stages of the process.
- In the early phases of the process, most effort will probably be spent on workflows such as business modeling and requirements and,
- ♦ in the later phases, in testing and deployment

RUP good practice



♦ Develop software iteratively

 Plan increments based on customer priorities and deliver highest priority increments first.

♦ Manage requirements

- Explicitly document customer requirements and keep track of changes to these requirements.
- Analyze the impact of changes on the system before accepting them.

♦ Use component-based architectures

 Organize the system architecture as a set of reusable components.

RUP good practice



- ♦ Visually model software
 - Use graphical UML models to present static and dynamic views of the software.
- ♦ Verify software quality
 - Ensure that the software meet's organizational quality standards.
- ♦ Control changes to software
 - Manage software changes using a change management system and configuration management tools.

Key points



- Processes should include activities to cope with change. This may involve a prototyping phase that helps avoid poor decisions on requirements and design.
- Processes may be structured for iterative development and delivery so that changes may be made without disrupting the system as a whole.
- ♦ The Rational Unified Process is a modern generic process model that is organized into phases (inception, elaboration, construction and transition) but separates activities (requirements, analysis and design, etc.) from these phases.