



(SOFTWARE) CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Background

Software process capability assessments have been used to verify the conformance with quality reference models or standards, usually in a context of software process improvement programs. Most of these assessments are concerned with just one specific model or standard (e.g., CMMI or Automotive SPICE) and focus on software processes only.

However, process standardization is no guarantee for real performance improvements. That is why aiming at higher process maturity levels only is a wrong approach. It is a narrow view on a multi-dimensional problem. The recommendation is to focus on multiple dimensions determining the performance of an organization and derive improvements in those areas where they have highest pay-off.

Our offering

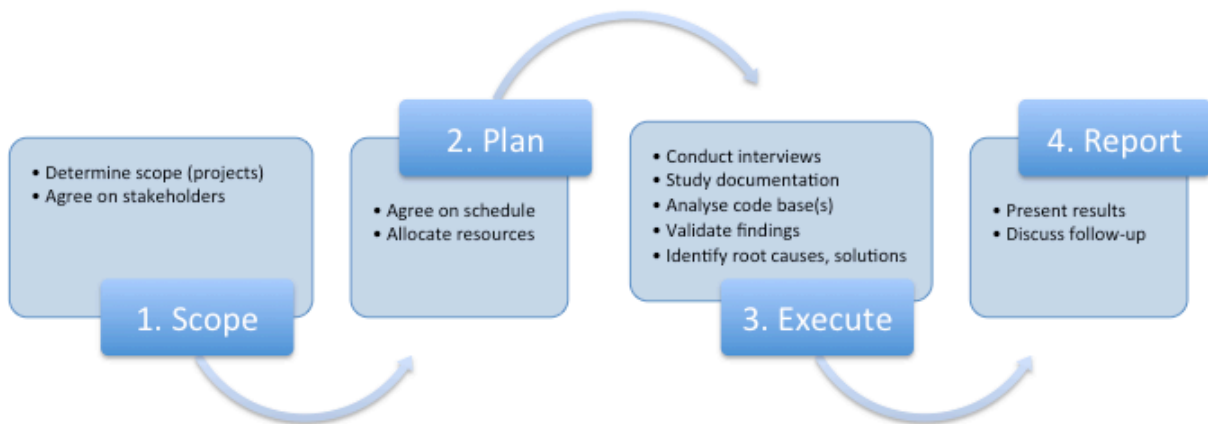
We assess the performance of your R&D organization, normally selecting one or more running projects.

We reveal what the current performance level (strengths, weaknesses and risks) is from a multi-dimensional point of view. This means that performance is not solely measured against a specific reference standard or model. Instead, the performance is investigated from different dimensions: Organisation (structure, roles), Process (maturity, lifecycle), Product (architecture, code) and People (skills, experience). Optionally, other dimensions can be added on request.

We identify recommendations for each identified weakness. Distinction is made between recommendations that will support meeting existing customer deadlines (“quick-wins” with short-term character) and recommendations that will contribute to structural improvements to the organization’s performance on the mid- and long-term. The recommendations made are practical and implementable, i.e. global statements that do not match reality are avoided.

For further information

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Typical phases for “(Software) Capability Assessment”.

Dimension	Status
Organization	Organization suffers from steep ramp-up, lack of concurrent design experience, high maintenance backlog with high resolution time, frequent organizational changes, and lack of clear team structures; reported problems have been ignored Organization is unstable, not transparent and indecisive
Product	Main bottleneck is requirements analysis and architectural design, allocated resources are overloaded with open maintenance issues; multiple customers excess pressure on timely deliveries, potentially causing a divergence of the platform approach Severe bottlenecks available, platform approach with planned re-use not in place
Process	Newly proposed processes have a too large gap with reality, current ad-hoc way of working is characterized by fire-fighting instead of adopting mature management and engineering processes and practices Current way of working is unpredictable, ineffective, and inefficient
People	People in general have proper skills, experience and domain knowledge, and show high commitment to deliver high-quality work; large differences exist between two development sites Potential to get improvements successfully adopted is high, but site differences exist

■ Immature ■ Average ■ Best-in-class

Snapshot: Example of high-level summary.