Oyster Creek Development Process

Ray Gagnon SCIENTECH, LLC

August 2004





Development Model

OPEN Framework (Graham et al., 1997)



Model Implementation

- Model Recognizes Iterative Process
 - Model Implementation limits iteration
 - Design and Requirements Definition Evolve with System Knowledge
 - Process may be iterative but can't be infinite. As implemented, process allowed for a maximum of 3 design update cycles
- Design Process Extension
 - Same process used test phases or project
 - High level of plant involvement





Design Phase

Design Basis

- Plant Provided SRS documents
- RTIME Documentation and Training
- Turn SRS into Software Design Description quickly as possible to flush out gross misinterpretation early in process.
- Use Review Process to Refine Design as well as to clarify Requirements Elicitation





Development Process (Cont.)

Early Initial Implementation Provided

- Provided initial application and HMI to aid in design review and validation.
- Environments provided on Engineer laptops to facilitate site review.





Test Process

- Like Design, Iterative Process
- Test Case Developed
 - Many Customer Provided
 - Cases Run and Validated by Developer
 - Procedure "Dry-Run" with Customer assistance
 - Official FAT conducted with Customer witness/assistance





Test Process (Cont.)

Automated Testing used to the maximum extent possible

- Benefits
 - Facilitate Retest and Regression Testing
 - Test Repeatability
 - Reduce Test Time
 - Reduce Manual Labor
- Drawbacks
 - Test cases can be difficult to craft
 - Possible tendency toward "Over Testing"





Process Summary

Benefits

- Based on Current Software Industry Thinking and Models
- Highly Customer Interactive
- Customer Focused
- Good for Fast-Track Projects
- Tends to avoid late discovery issues





Process Summary (Cont.)



Drawbacks

- Scope Creep Needs to be managed
- Requires Training
- Culture Issues





Fact or Artifact?



- Requirements Documents
- Design Documents
- Test Case and Procedure Documents
- Test Result Documents
- Etc.



Are these Artifacts Facts?





Fact or Artifact? (Cont.)



- Requirements are Ambiguous
- Requirements are Incomplete
- Requirements are Inconsistent
- Requirements are Numerous
- All of the above prove to be consistently true. OPEN Framework strives to minimize impact.





Lessons Learned

- Heavy involvement by the client in developing SRS documents is a strong positive.
- Client Involvement in FAT Dry Run is a strong positive
- Removing Hardware from Fixed Price, Fixed Scope is a strong positive for contract change avoidance and flexibility.
- Requirements should be elicited based on what it should do not in terms of how it works now.
- In General, requirements information is aged and should be questioned for current validity.





Lessons Learned (Cont.)

- All stakeholders should be involved *Early* in the process (IT, Engineering, Ops, etc.)
- To optimize design cohesion and consistency, system should be viewed from a top level perspective.
- Open Communication Essential to analyzing why schedules/requirements change.
- Simulator work should start earlier
- Requirements will evolve



