

Software Process and Process Models

Software Processes is a coherent set of activities for specifying, designing, implementing and testing software systems. A software process model is an abstract representation of a process that presents a description of a process from some particular perspective. There are 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.

Types of Software Process Model

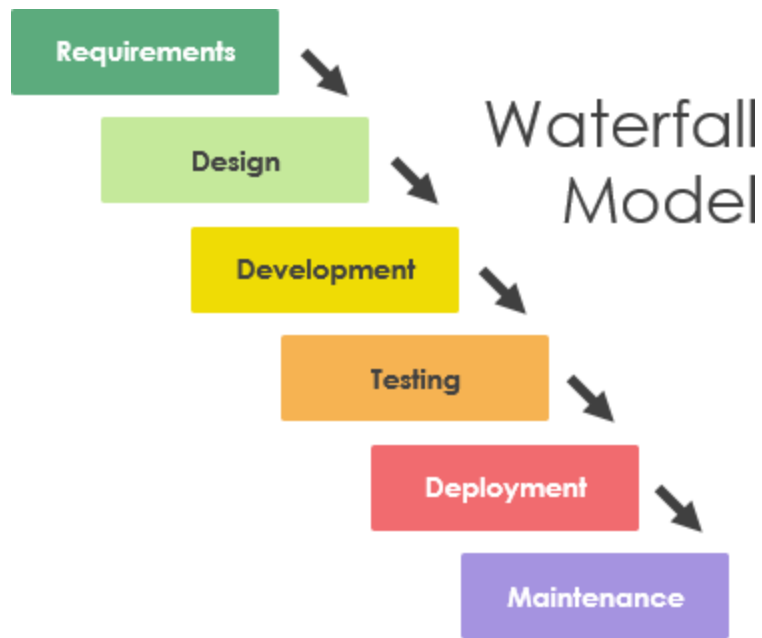
Software Process and Software Development Lifecycle Model

One of the basic notions of the software development process is SDLC models which stands for Software Development Life Cycle models. There are many development life cycle models that have been developed in order to achieve different required objectives. The models specify the various stages of the process and the order in which they are carried out. The most used, popular and important SDLC models are given below:

- Waterfall model
- V model
- Incremental model
- RAD model
- Agile model
- Iterative model
- Spiral model
- Prototype model

Waterfall Model

The waterfall model is a breakdown of project activities into linear sequential phases, where each phase depends on the deliverables of the previous one and corresponds to a specialisation of tasks. The approach is typical for certain areas of engineering design.



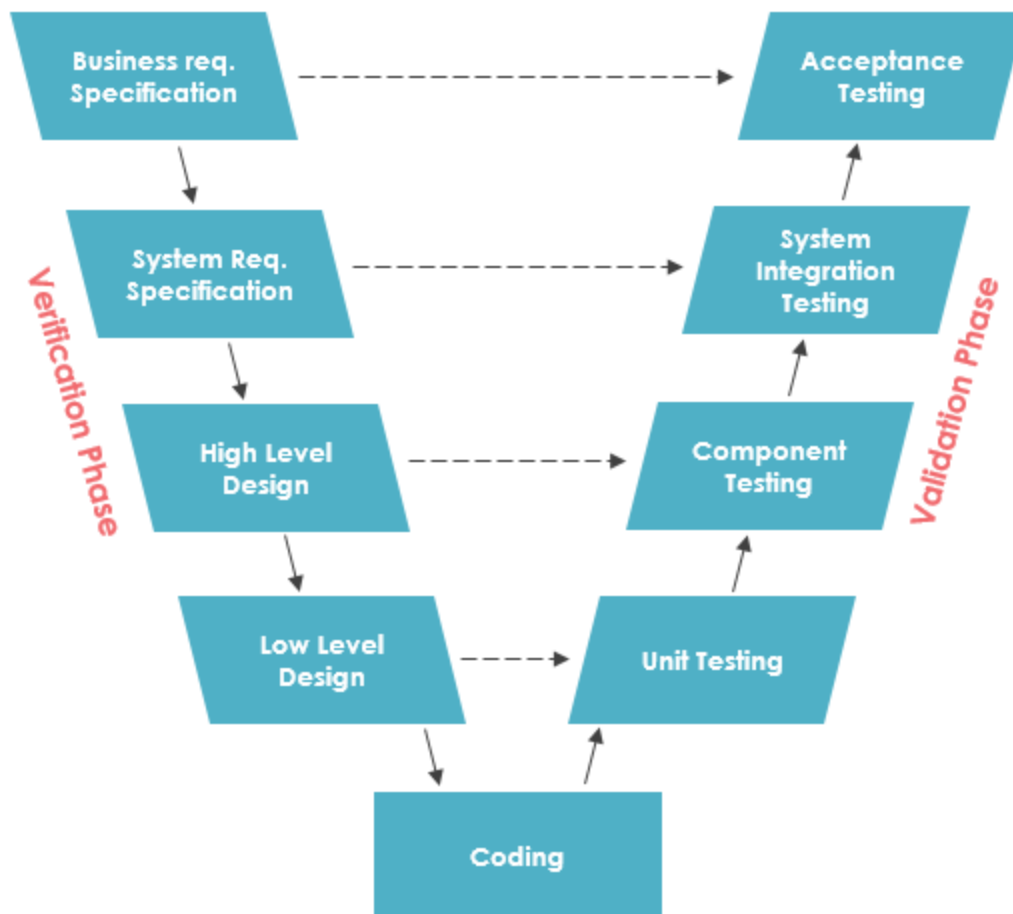
V Model

The V-model represents a development process that may be considered an extension of the waterfall model and is an example of the more general V-model. Instead of moving down in a linear way, the process steps are bent upwards after the coding phase, to form the typical V shape. The V-Model demonstrates the relationships between each phase of the development life cycle and its associated phase of testing. The horizontal and vertical axes represent time or project completeness (left-to-right) and level of abstraction (coarsest-grain abstraction uppermost), respectively.

V-Model

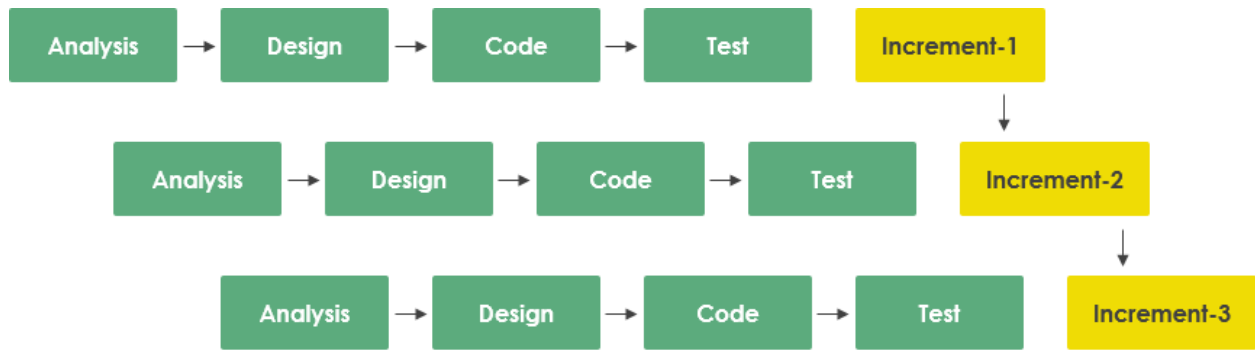
Developer's Life Cycle

Tester's Life Cycle



Incremental model

The incremental build model is a method of software development where the model is designed, implemented and tested incrementally (a little more is added each time) until the product is finished. It involves both development and maintenance. The product is defined as finished when it satisfies all of its requirements. Each iteration passes through the requirements, design, coding and testing phases. And each subsequent release of the system adds function to the previous release until all designed functionality has been implemented. This model combines the elements of the waterfall model with the iterative philosophy of prototyping.

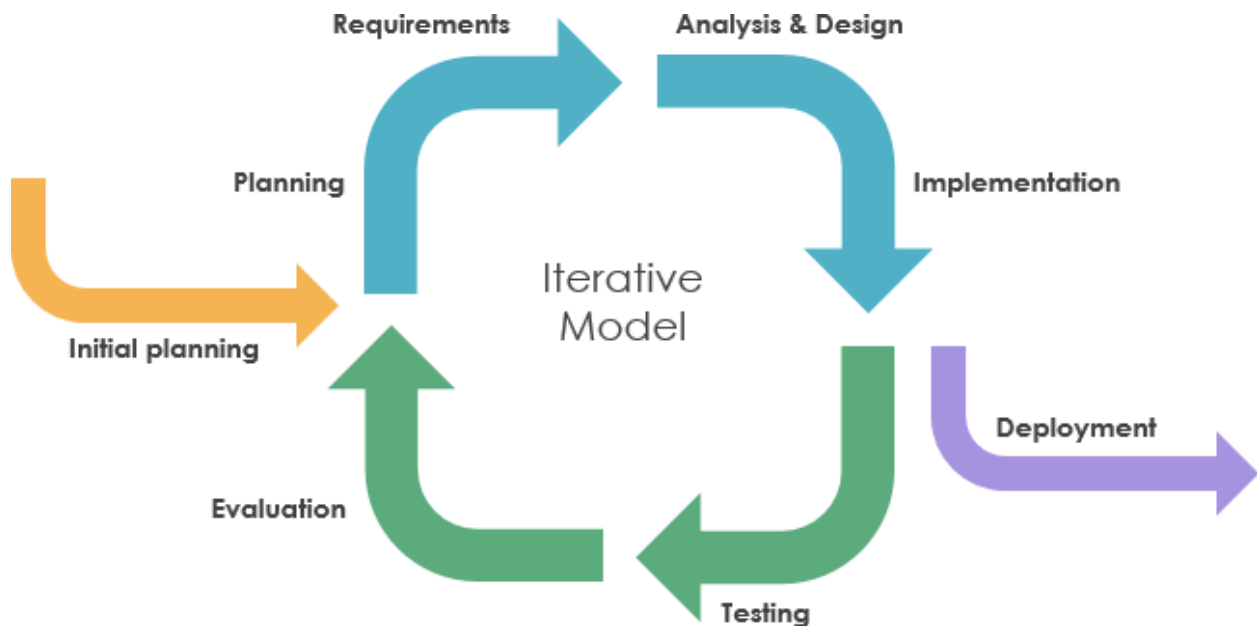


Incremental Model

Iterative Model

An iterative life cycle model does not attempt to start with a full specification of requirements by first focusing on an initial, simplified set user features, which then progressively gains more complexity and a broader set of features until the targeted system is complete. When adopting the iterative approach, the philosophy of incremental development will also often be used liberally and interchangeably.

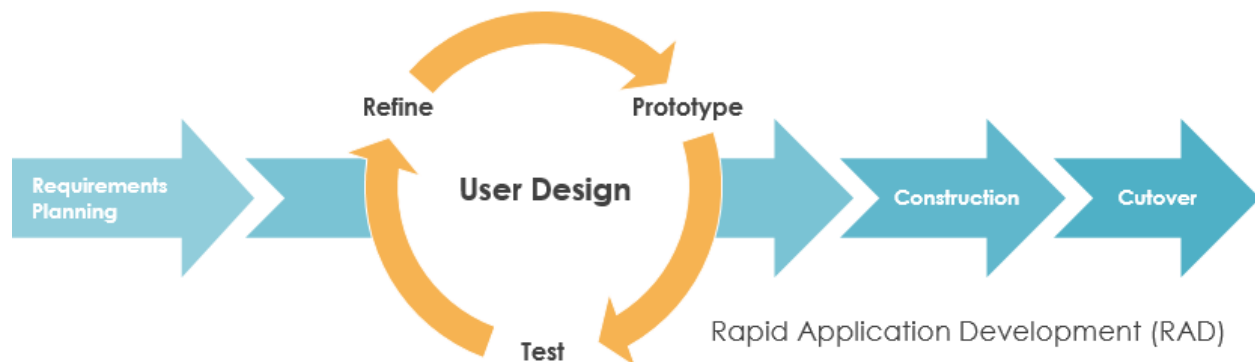
In other words, the iterative approach begins by specifying and implementing just part of the software, which can then be reviewed and prioritized in order to identify further requirements. This iterative process is then repeated by delivering a new version of the software for each iteration. In a light-weight iterative project the code may represent the major source of documentation of the system; however, in a critical iterative project a formal software specification may also be required.



RAD model

Rapid application development was a response to plan-driven waterfall processes, developed in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the Structured Systems Analysis and Design Method (SSADM). Rapid application development (RAD) is often referred as the adaptive software development. RAD is an incremental prototyping approach to software development that end users can produce better feedback when examining a live system, as opposed to working strictly with documentation. It puts less emphasis on planning and more emphasis on an adaptive process.

RAD may result in a lower level of rejection when the application is placed into production, but this success most often comes at the expense of a dramatic overrun in project costs and schedule. RAD approach is especially well suited for developing software that is driven by user interface requirements. Thus, some GUI builders are often called rapid application development tools.

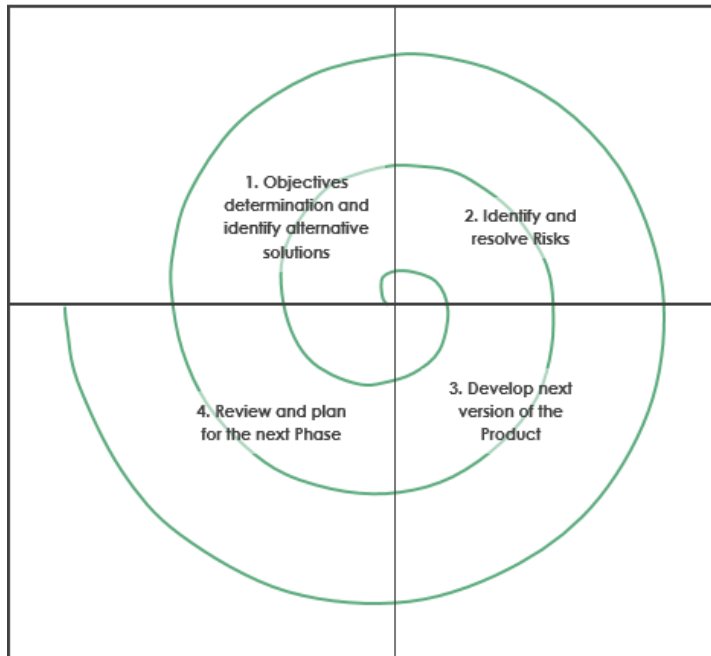


Spiral model

The spiral model, first described by Barry Boehm in 1986, is a risk-driven software development process model which was introduced for dealing with the shortcomings in the traditional waterfall model. A spiral model looks like a spiral with many loops. The exact number of loops of the spiral is unknown and can vary from project to project. This model supports risk handling, and the project is delivered in loops. Each loop of the spiral is called a Phase of the software development process.

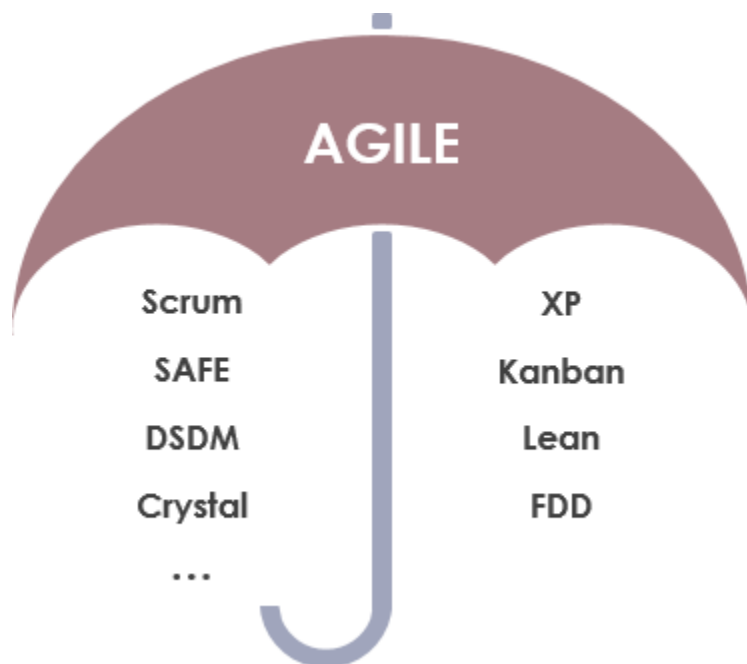
The initial phase of the spiral model in the early stages of Waterfall Life Cycle that is needed to develop a software product. The exact number of phases needed to develop the product can be varied by the project manager depending upon the project risks. As the project manager dynamically determines the number of phases, so the project manager has an important role to develop a product using a spiral model.

Spiral Model



Agile model

Agile is an umbrella term for a set of methods and practices based on the values and principles expressed in the Agile Manifesto that is a way of thinking that enables teams and businesses to innovate, quickly respond to changing demand, while mitigating risk. Organizations can be agile using many of the available frameworks available such as Scrum, Kanban, Lean, Extreme Programming (XP) and etc.



The Agile movement proposes alternatives to traditional project management. Agile approaches are typically used in software development to help businesses respond to unpredictability which refer to a group of software development methodologies based on iterative development, where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams.

The primary goal of being Agile is empowered the development team the ability to create and respond to change in order to succeed in an uncertain and turbulent environment. Agile software development approach is typically operated in rapid and small cycles. This results in more frequent incremental releases with each release building on previous functionality. Thorough testing is done to ensure that software quality is maintained.

