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Using Architecture-Centric Methods within Plan Driven and Agile Software Development Processes

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Verdon 1.0

page 1

Next

Exit Slide Show



Outline

The need for effectively integrating architecture-centric activities into the software system life cycle.

Architecture-centric methods: QAW, ADD, ATAM.

An integrated approach to software architecture design and analysis.

Plan driven approaches as exemplified by RUP.

Agile approaches as exemplified by XP.

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 8

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Addressing a Need

- Software architecture is the bridge between mission/business goals and a software-intensive system.
- Quality attribute requirements drive software architecture design.
- Software architecture drives software development throughout the life cycle.

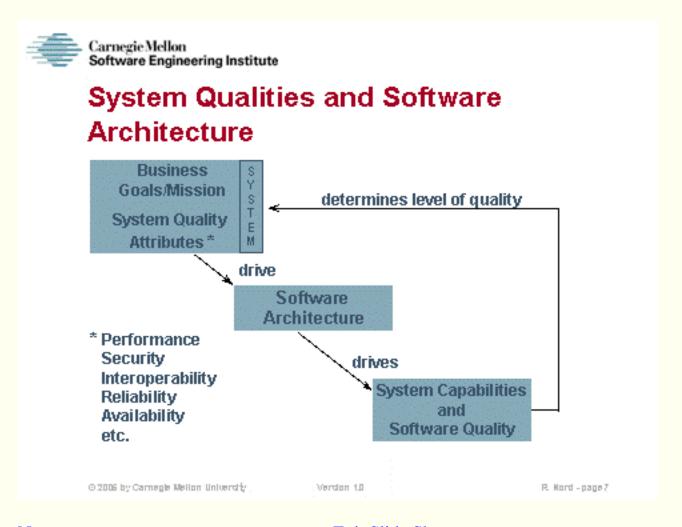
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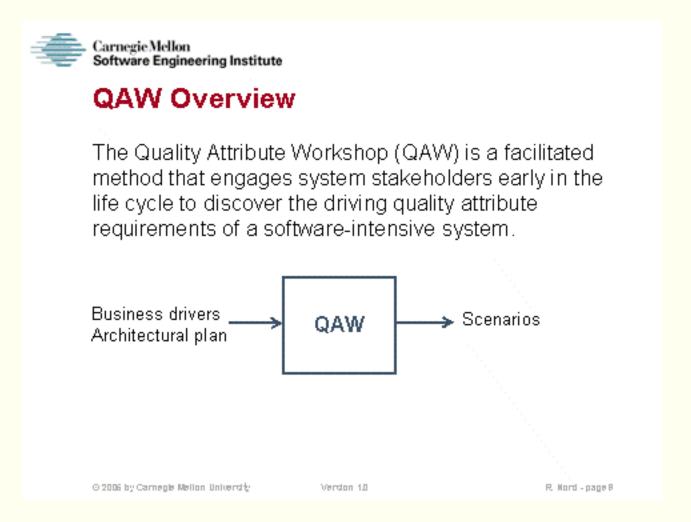
R. Word - page 6

Previous Next

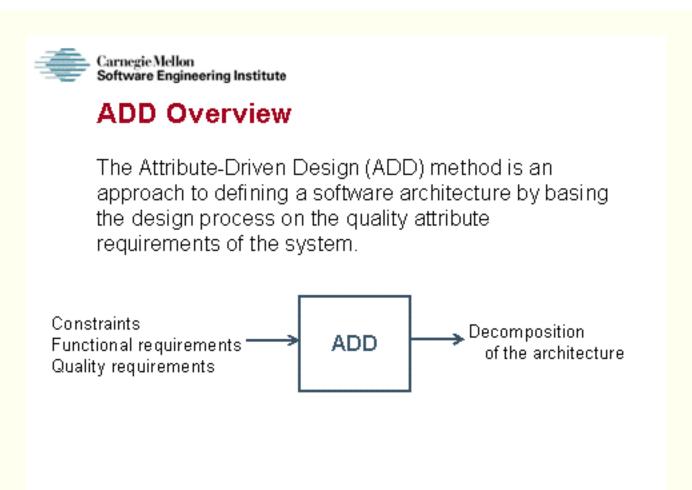
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Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show

R. Word - page 11

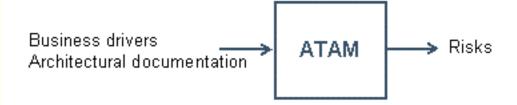
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ATAM Overview

The Architecture Tradeoff Analysis Method® (ATAM®) is a method that helps a system's stakeholder community understand the consequences of architectural decisions with respect to the system's quality attribute requirements.



 ATAM, and Architecture Tradeon Analysis Method are registered in the U.S. Patentand Trademark Office by Carnegie Mellon University.

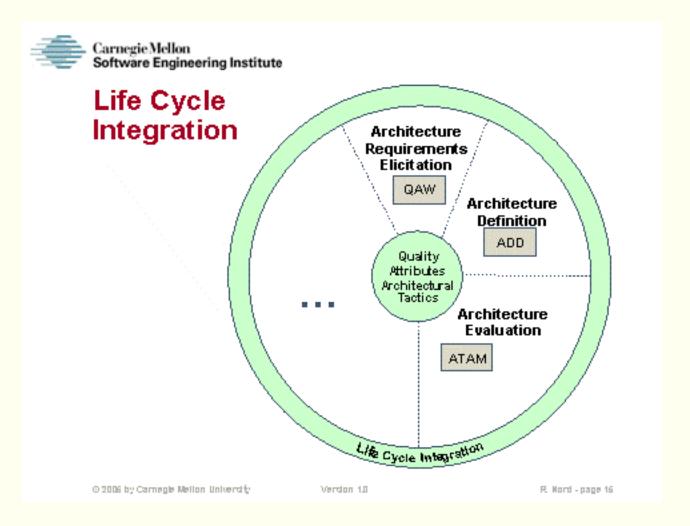
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Verdon 18

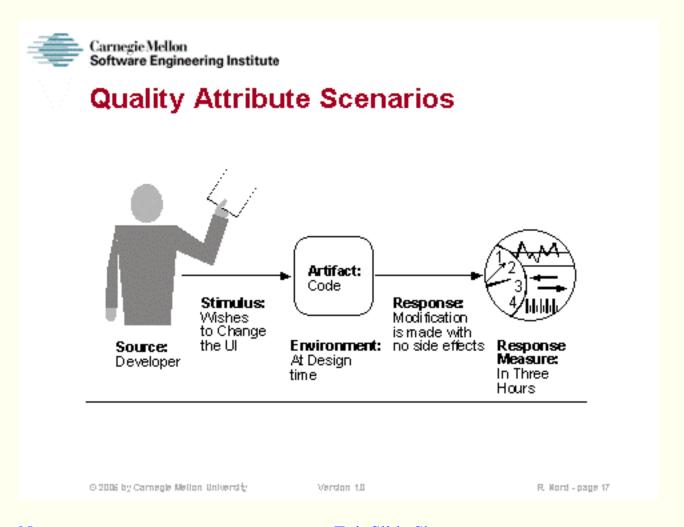
R. Nord - page 12

Previous Next

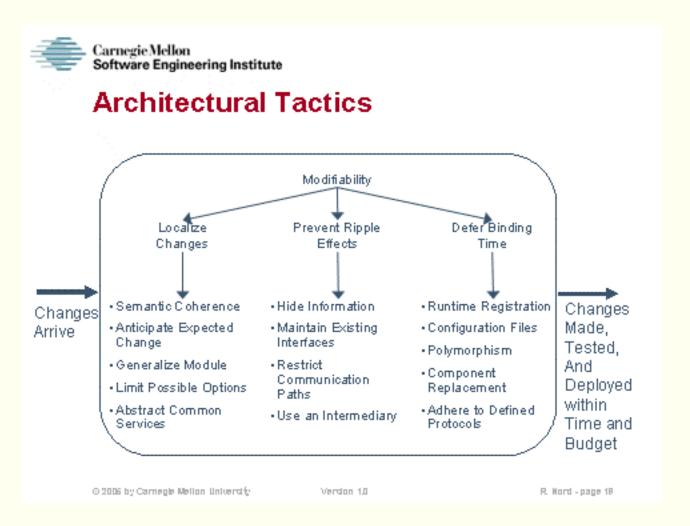
Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show



Methods and Quality Attributes

The architecture-centric methods:

- are explicitly focused on quality attributes
- directly link to business and mission goals
- · explicitly involve system stakeholders
- are grounded in state-of-the-art quality attribute models and reasoning frameworks
- are documented for practitioner consumption

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 21

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Methods and Life-Cycle Activities

Life-Cycle Activities	QAW	ADD	ATAM
Business needs	In	In	In
Requirements	In; Out	In	In; Out
Design and analysis		Out	In; Out

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 28

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show

<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>10</u> <u>11</u> <u>12</u> <u>13</u> <u>14</u> <u>15</u> <u>16</u> <u>17</u> <u>18</u> <u>19</u> <u>20</u> <u>21</u> <u>22</u> <u>23</u> <u>24</u> <u>25</u> <u>26</u> <u>27</u> <u>28</u> <u>29</u> <u>30</u> <u>31</u> <u>32</u>



Life-Cycle and Architecture-Centric Activities

Life-Cycle Activity	Architecture-Centric Activity
Business Needs and Constraints	Create a documented set of <i>business goals</i> using a business presentation template.
Requirements	Elicit and document six-part <i>scenarios</i> using general scenarios, utility trees, and scenario brainstorming.
Design and Analysis	Design the architecture using architectural tactics. Analyze the architecture with respect to architectural drivers.

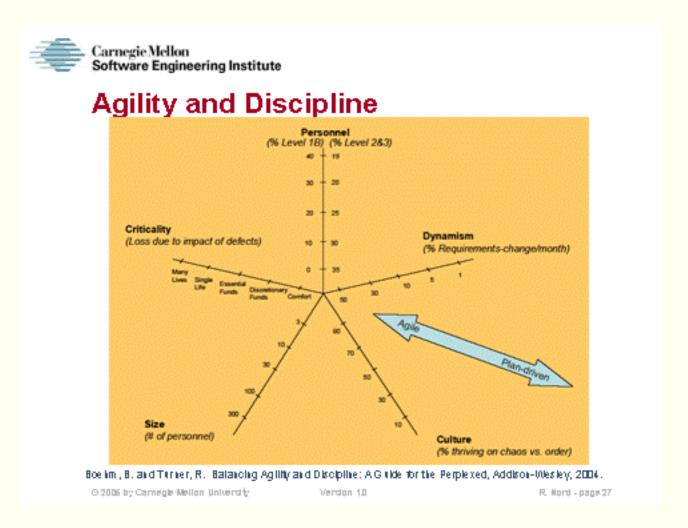
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Verdon 18

R. Nord - page 26

Previous Next

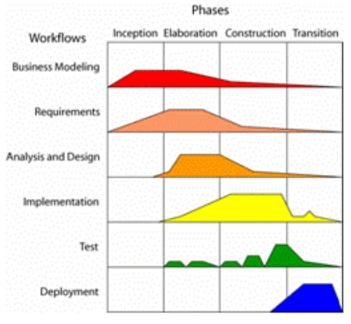
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Exit Slide Show



Rational Unified Process (RUP)¹



1. Knowle n. P. The Railfornal Unified Process: An Infraduction, 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Addison-Mesley, 2000.

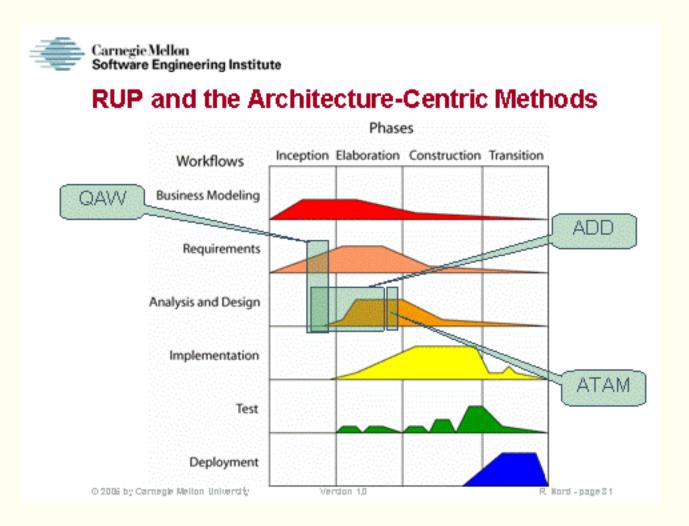
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Verdon 18

R. Word - page 28

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show



Architecture-Centric Methods as RUP Activities

Method	Role	Discipline	Workflow Detail	Artifacts Affected
QAW	Systems analyst	Reqts	Understand Stakeholder Needs	Business case Supplementary specifications
ADD	Software architect	Analysis & Design	Define a Candidate Architecture Perform Architectural Synthesis	Software architecture document (SAD)
ATAM	Technical reviewer	Analysis & Design	Refine the Architecture	Review record SAD

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 88

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



The QAW as a RUP Activity

Elicit Quality Attribute Scenarios Using the QAW

Purpose: Engage system stakeholders early in the life cycle to discover the driving quality attribute requirements of a software-intensive system.

Role: Systems analyst [Analysis team]

Frequency: As required, typically once per iteration in the Inception Phase and once in the Elaboration Phase.

Input Artifacts:

- business case [business drivers]
- vision document [architectural plan]

Resulting Artifacts:

- business case [business goals]
- supplementary specifications [scenarios]

Workflow Details:

- Requirements
 - Understand Stakeholder Needs

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Version 10

R. Word - page 26

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



The ADD Method as a RUP Activity

Design the Software Architecture using the ADD Method

Purpose: Define software architectures basing the design process on the quality attribute requirements.

Role: Software Architect

Frequency: Optionally in inception. First elaboration iteration. Later iterations if substantial changes to the architecture need to be explored.

Input Artifacts:

- Vision [constraints]
- Arch. Proof-of-Concept [constraints]
- Use-Case Model [functional reqts]
- Suppl. Specs [quality attribute reqts]

Resulting Artifacts:

 Software Architecture
 Document [decomposition module, concurrency, and deployment views]

Workflow Details:

- Analysis and Design
 - Define a Candidate Architecture
 - Perform Architectural Synthesis

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 87

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



The ATAM as a RUP Activity

Evaluate the Software Architecture Using the ATAM

Purpose: Assess the consequences of architectural decisions in light of quality attribute requirements and business goals.

Role: Technical reviewer [Evaluation team]

Frequency: Occurs at least once per iteration, especially during Elaboration.

Input Artifacts:

- business case, vision [business drivers]
- software architecture document [architectural documentation]
- supplementary specifications [scenarios]

Resulting Artifacts:

- review record [supplemented with risk themes and impact they have on achieving the business goals]
- software architecture document [annotated with sensitivity points and tradeoffs]

Workflow Details:

- Analysis and Design
 - Refine the Architecture

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Version 18

R. Word - page 88

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Agile Approaches (Agile Manifesto)

"We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:

- individuals and interactions over processes and tools
- working software over comprehensive documentation
- customer collaboration over contract negotiation
- responding to change over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more."

Kent Beck Mike Beedle Arie van Bennekum Alistair Cockbum Ward Cunningham Martin Fowler James Grenning Jim Highsmith Andrew Hunt Ron Jeffries Jon Kem Brian Marick Robert C. Martin Steve Mellor Ken Schwaber Jeff Sutherland Dave Thomas

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R. Word - page 41

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Agile Development

High-level life cycles for agile software development contain the following phases:

- Initial Requirements Up Front (IRUF)
- Initial Architecture Phase
- Construction Phase
 - iterates through small increments
- · Deployment Phase
- Production Phase

one iteration per release

The phases apply to software development during which a new product or a new release of an existing product is delivered.

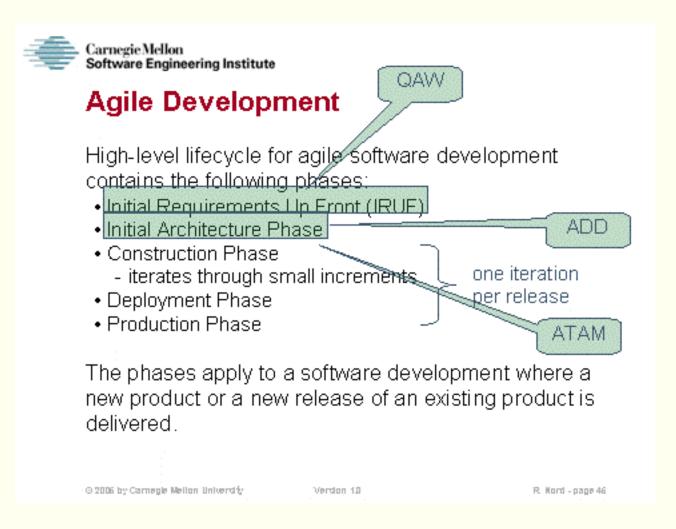
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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 48

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Exit Slide Show



Architecture-Centric Methods and XP Values

XP Values	Architecture-Centric Methods Added Value
Communication	Stakeholder concerns regarding quality attribute requirements are captured and communicated to developers so that they influence design.
Simplicity	Just enough architecting. Triage: utility trees and prioritization focus efforts.
Feedback	Early feedback for understanding technical tradeoffs, risks, and return on investment of architectural decisions.
Courage	Risks are exposed early in the life cycle and give developers justification for investing resources to mitigate them.

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 47

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Architecture-Centric Methods and XP Activities

Method	What Happens	XP Practices and Artifacts Affected
QAW	Understand stakeholder concerns	Planning game, on site customer, test driven development, user stories
ADD	Define a course- grain architecture	Planning game, metaphor, simple design, architectural spike, refactoring
ATAM	Evaluate the architecture	Planning game, on site customer, refactoring, release plan

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 48

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



QAW and XP Practices

XP Practices	Value Added Through the QAW
Planning Game	User stories supplemented with six-part quality attribute scenarios. Scenario prioritization and refinement guide selection of user stories for each iteration.
On-Site Customer	Additional stakeholders during a one-day workshop.
Test-Driven Development	Scenarios can be used later to evaluate the design and provide input for analysis during testing.

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Verdon 10

R. Word - page 61

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



ADD and XP Practices

XP Practices	Value Added Through ADD	
Planning Game	Building a utility tree to identify architectural drivers is useful in choosing user stories.	
Metaphor	Step-by-step approach to defining the architecture using module decomposition, concurrency, and deployment views.	
Simple Design	Course-grained architecture that ensures the design meets its quality attribute requirements and mitigates any associated risks.	
Refactoring	Refactoring, which is driven by quality attribute needs (make it faster, make it more secure, etc.), is aided by the application of architectural tactics.	

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Verdon 10

R. Nord - page 68

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



ATAM and XP Practices

XP Practices	Value Added Through the ATAM
Planning Game	User stories supplemented with six-part quality attribute scenarios. Scenario prioritization and refinement guide selection of user stories for each iteration.
On-Site Customer	Additional stakeholders during an evaluation workshop.
Refactoring	Artifacts (e.g., sensitivity points, tradeoffs) necessary for understanding the design before refactoring.

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Version 1.0

R. Word - page 66

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Conclusions

The benefit of including the SEI methods is to address quality attributes in an explicit, methodical, engineering-principled way.

We believe that quality attribute requirements drive the software architecture and that architecture-centric activities (with an explicit focus on quality attributes) drive the software system's life cycle.

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Verdon 18

R. Nord - page 67

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Source of material

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Verdon 18

R. Nord - page 69

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show

<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>10</u> <u>11</u> <u>12</u> <u>13</u> <u>14</u> <u>15</u> <u>16</u> <u>17</u> <u>18</u> <u>19</u> <u>20</u> <u>21</u> <u>22</u> <u>23</u> <u>24</u> <u>25</u> <u>26</u> <u>27</u> <u>28</u> <u>29</u> <u>30</u> <u>31</u> <u>32</u>



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Verdon 18

R. Word - page 61

Previous Next

Exit Slide Show



Acronyms

ADD Attribute-Driven Design

ATAM Architecture Tradeoff Analysis Method

QAW Quality Attribute Workshop RUP Rational Unified Process

SEI Software Engineering Institute

XP Extreme Programming

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Verdon 18

R. Nord - page 83

Previous

Exit Slide Show