

Title

SCRAM: Identifying the cause and risk of schedule slippage

Speaker(s)

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To whom is the presentation addressed?

Test managers, test automaters, test environment managers

Keywords

Schedule Risk

Abstract

Schedule slippage is an unfortunate reality for many large development software intensive systems engineering programs particularly when the project enters the critical systems integration and testing phase.

The Schedule Compliance Risk Assessment Method (SCRAM) was developed as a collaborative effort between the Australian Defence Materiel Organisation, Software Metrics Inc and the Systems and Software Quality Institute. It utilises a framework for organizing the information gathered during an assessment, to identify the root causes of slippage, to communicate the reasons behind the schedule slippage, and for structuring recommendations to address the root causes.

This framework, referred to as the Root Cause Analysis of Schedule Slippage model (or RCASS) depicts the major areas impacting schedule and the relationships between these areas. SCRAM also includes schedule health checks to evaluate the construction and logic of the program schedule as well as Monte Carlo analyses to show the probability distribution of completion dates.

To date, SCRAM has been applied to a number of defence programs in Australia and the US. These assessments have typically been applied when schedule problems occur during the Integration and Testing phase. However prior to this critical phase, SCRAM can be used at the commencement of a program to identify and mitigate potential risks or during program execution to monitor schedule.

In 2010, the SCRAM Process Reference / Assessment Models were developed as ISO/IEC 15504 Information technology – Process assessment conformant models in an effort to maximize consistency and provide an objective framework for assessment. This effort, funded by the Australian Defence Materiel Organisation, was undertaken to support SCRAM as it is rolled out to a wider audience of users.

This presentation will describe the SCRAM Methodology and the RCASS Model that underpins the root causes of schedule slippage, including real-world examples of successful assessments using SCRAM to identify schedule risks both prior and during the systems integration and testing phase.

Biography

Ms Tuffley is the Director of the Systems and Software Quality Institute. She has over 35 years of industry experience, both in Australia and overseas, providing expert professional services in training, assessment and advice for the acquisition, engineering and support of software intensive systems. Her focus is on the adoption of the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI); Schedule Compliance Risk Assessment (SCRAM) and ISO/IEC 15504 Information Technology Process Assessment (SPICE). She is an SEI Certified CMMI Instructor and SEI Visiting Scientist. She has a Bachelor of Science and a Graduate Diploma in Software Quality from Griffith University.
