



MANAGING SOFTWARE QUALITY AND BUSINESS RISK

Planning software development projects reliably

*An intensive three-day workshop on **Strada**
from Venice Consulting*

• SOFTWARE PROJECT SUCCESS •

The secret of a successful project is to manage quality up and risk down. Fine words, but the project manager needs a well-founded and practical way of doing this, and in particular a way of planning their project that is focussed on risk and quality.

This method provides that planning approach.

Too many project planning approaches concentrate on just the estimating and network aspects of planning. This is of little value if the project is given the wrong shape or the wrong activities are chosen in the first place. The approach taught in this workshop builds the project first from an analysis of the specific risks to be faced. Into the resulting framework, it then uses an analysis of the specific quality requirements to fill out the detail. These two perspectives – risk and quality – prove sufficient to give the basis for a reliable and robust plan.

This three day workshop has been developed alongside the method itself for the past fifteen years and has been refined to give planners wanting sound techniques the opportunity to acquire them and gain some practice with them.

This workshop challenges attendees to take a radically different approach to planning software development projects.

• WHO WILL BENEFIT? •

This course will benefit you if

- you are responsible for planning software development projects
- you are setting standards for project management in your organisation
- you want to put the software development planning in your organisation onto a more sound footing
- you audit projects for risk or quality.

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REFERENCE *stradaworkshop.doc*

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The workshop is three days long and can accommodate up to 16 people. It is also available in a five-day form that allows work on a major case study. It takes attendees step-by-step through the planning process, introducing concepts and theories en route and illustrating them with real-life examples. The programme is as follows:

Introduction. We start by examining what we expect from a reliable plan for a software development project, and the resulting demands on a planning approach. We sketch out the overall route map for the approach.

Planning for the management of risks and opportunities. We take apart the concept of *risk* and build a straightforward process for identifying, analysing and planning the management of risks during the lifetime of the project. We extend the idea to the management of *opportunities*.

Process models. We examine how to get the right shape for your project: one that reduces your exposure to major risks to an acceptable level

Quality in software. We examine the notion of *quality* in software, defining the terms *quality achievement*, *quality control*, *quality preservation* and *quality assurance*, and describes how a Quality Management System can provide the organisational framework in which all this can happen.

Quality achievement. We develop a procedure for analysing the system we are building and choosing methods that will give us the best leverage.

Quality control. We look in detail at the question of how to set the right quality levels for each product our project is to produce, and how to define quality control – verification and validation – activities to check that they have been achieved.

Quality preservation. We examine the idea of preserving the quality of our work, in particular through sound *change management* both during and after the development of the system.

Building the Resource Plan. This session brings together the outputs of the analyses of risk and quality and shows how they can be used to draw up a full and realistic Resource Plan.

Run-time monitoring. We look at straightforward and reliable ways of regularly checking progress and reforecasting outcome based on our planning so far, and deal with the knotty problem of measurement.

Summary. We stand back from the detail and extract a simple step-by-step action list for planning a project.

Case study. The workshop uses a number of case studies that run through it. In this final session we carry out a fuller exercise in planning. This can be focussed on a past or forthcoming project from the attendees' own areas of interest.

Changes in emphasis can be accommodated at no extra charge. Please contact us to discuss customisation to satisfy your particular requirements.

Attendees receive a copy of all workshop materials and a copy of the recent book *Managing Software Quality and Business Risk*.

• THE PRESENTER •

Martyn Ould has spent over thirty years in the software engineering business, mostly working for two of the UK's most prestigious software houses, Praxis and Logica. He has been a software engineer, a project manager, a line manager, an auditor and project reviewer. At Logica he co-founded a company-wide software engineering initiative, and at Praxis he was Quality & Technical Director responsible for the company's software engineering strategy and quality management system. He now works as an independent consultant.

He has written five books and many papers, and has a long track record of lecturing and training to business and academic audiences. His latest book, *Managing Software Quality and Business Risk*, forms the basis of the workshop.

• FURTHER INFORMATION FROM •

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