



Progress Measurement



“Quality must be defined and measured in order to improve.” -Stephen H. Kan

Whether you are planning an annual family gathering, a friend’s wedding or building a brand new home, it is important to keep track of the overall project’s progress, in order to make sure that your objectives are being met successfully. The same principle can be applied toward software development. In fact, regardless of the development process being used, having the right tools and qualified people, whose mindsets are focused toward software quality and customer satisfaction, is a necessity to carefully track your project’s progress. Remember that **you can not manage, nor improve what you can not measure.**

A software progress measurement program tailored to your needs and values can help you to be in better control of your project, instead of being a victim of circumstances. However, it is important to have the required expertise to properly adopt your project’s metrics and indicators. A judicious choice of metrics will show you constant progress and assurance of your project’s status. Our consultants recommend four categories of metrics that should be considered for a successful software project:

- **Development progress**
- **Test phases progress**
- **Intrinsic product quality**
- **User satisfaction**

It is possible for software project managers to use statistical models as a foundation to manage their process development quality. These kinds of models are better known as **the seven basic tools of Ishikawa**. They are diagrams that allow you to measure software development quality, regardless of its complexity. These seven tools consist of:

- **Control Chart**
- **Cause and Effect Diagram**
- **Flowchart**
- **Scatter Diagram**
- **Histogram**
- **Pareto Chart**
- **Check Sheet**

“All this is great, but why should I manage and measure my development process?” Simply because a software process development which doesn’t address some quality attributes is geared to produce poorer and weaker software. *“And what about the benefits I’d reap with all this?”*

- **You can mitigate risks with more assurance and control**
- **You can evaluate your organization’s ability and performance to deliver higher quality software**
- **You have a better confidence in your project schedule because you know if your milestones will be completed on time**
- **You have more control when deciding to adopt a standard**
- **You have total assurance on the quality and conformity of your products and services**

Our consultants can help you to put in place a software progress measurement adapted to your organization’s needs, experience and values. This will help you to execute proper corrective actions at each iteration or phase in your software lifecycle. Furthermore, you are in better position to predict a product’s size, which in turn will help you to better plan related costs and schedules. Our expertise in the field is matched with industry proven principles and models that are tailored to your needs, resources and business goals.