

Title of Paper

Measurable Quality... Lessons from the "Real World"

Presenter/Company

Jeff Findlay, Compuware (AU)

Instructional Skill Level

Introductory Intermediate Advanced

Target Group

CIOs, Project Managers, Application Managers, Quality Managers

Key Points

- Metrics, KPIs and Quality Gates
 - Requirements Management/Engineering: Preparing for Quality
 - Measuring software quality against business requirements with real and actual metrics
 - Using business focused quality gates determines... "Are we ready to go live"
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Abstract

The building industry has a long history of both successful and unsuccessful projects, and with the cost of construction increasing faster than the CPI, failed projects are not only undesirable but also unaffordable. Similarly, the cost of failure for software projects has far reaching consequences and can result in both corporate and individual injury. Unfortunately, bad buildings are very public and remain as blights on society for many years until they are rectified or demolished.

In his presentation "Measurable Quality... Lessons from the "real world"", Jeff Findlay will draw upon his experiences as an Architect in the two worlds of IT and Construction to explore how a metrics based quality environment ensures; fit-for-purpose, buildability, sustainability and longevity. Jeff will review current building industry techniques such as simulation, Building Information Modelling (BIM), elemental construction, dynamic and static monitoring and parallel these with software quality processes to highlight the importance of "real time" quality reports that are founded on trustworthy metrics.

The key contributing factor to building failure is uniqueness, the fact that a building is a prototype of itself. Many architects, engineers and builders have recognised this and have established processes / methods where measurable minimum guarantees are set, continuously monitored and reported on during design and construction. These metrics are fed from many sources which in-turn impacts multiple types of quality gates, for example; structural deflection measurements not only show built integrity but also tolerances between related elements. Any change in these predicted values will have extensive impacts on the construction cost and time.

In the application development lifecycle, quality gates tend to be measured at a point in time, before the next set of activities can be executed, and not as a constant view of the quality state of the application. During the presentation, Jeff will explore the use of continuously measured, Goal-based, Quality Gates that are underpinned by business requirements and leads to the most important question of all...

"Can we go live?"

Biography

Jeff Findlay

Senior Product Specialist , Compuware Corporation

Jeff Findlay has over 20 years' experience as an information technology professional. He specifically worked in the development of architectural software focusing on 3-D modelling in the UK and US. Returning to Australia and practicing as an architect on many successful commercial and sporting buildings in Melbourne. He joined Compuware nine years ago and has held a number of different positions in the areas of application development, software testing and development process improvement. During this time, Jeff has maintained his interest and involvement in Building Information Modelling techniques.

Recently, he was appointed regional champion for Compuware's Business Requirements Management solution - Optimal Trace covering Asia Pacific.

Relevant publication - "Communication: It's a requirement" International Developer (12/2006)

Contact information of Presenter

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