QAIassist Integrated Methodology (IM)

Overview

CONTEXT

The QAIassist Integrated Methodology® is deliverable based and consists of three (Project Management, Software Development, Software Testing) methodologies. It is aligned with industry recognized standards and "best practices". It is used by organizations to increase their "IT efficiencies". Designed for development, maintenance, and support environments its versatility provides IT efficiency gains and is adaptable to a wide range delivery (waterfall, spiral, RAD, agile) approaches.

Project Management - Projects can suffer and stagnate due to a number of reasons - lack of official ownership, project scope, requirements creep, ineffective planning and status oversight, allocation of resources, issue and risk management to name a few. In the majority of cases "*efficiencies*" can be delivered by incorporating a higher degree of project management. The QAIassist Integrated Methodology provides project stakeholders, business managers, project managers, and project team members the tools and deliverables they require to plan, execute, deliver and complete any project on time and within budget.

Software Development - Far too often projects are delayed or re-worked due to deficiencies in defining the business requirements, designing of the application to satisfy those business needs, and building the application according to the design. In most cases "*efficiencies*" can be obtained by ensuring business requirements, architectural design, and specifications (functional and technical) are documented, communicated and shared amongst the project team members. The QAIassist Integrated Methodology provides business managers, business analysts, architects, systems analysts, and programmers the tools and deliverables they require to establish the business requirements, design the technical solution, and develop the code for the application - delays and rework are avoided.

Software Testing - Frequently projects fall behind schedule during development - this results in shortening the amount of time and effort available to test the user functionality. Applications are routinely "thrown over the fence" to the Quality Assurance and Testing resources with the expectation that the application is going into production on a specific date. Testing that was originally scheduled to take a month gets whittled down to one week and applications are migrated into the production environment without thorough testing. The results - an unstable application that puts stress on the business and all of the IT resources. In almost every case, "efficiencies" can be gained through applying rigor to the testing discipline to ensure applications released into the production environment meet the business needs and the specifications - applications are migrated into the production environment only upon receiving authorization from the appropriate stakeholders. The QAIassist Integrated Methodology provides quality managers, analysts, programmers and testers the tools and deliverables they required to ensure the application being delivered adheres to specifications and incorporates all of the business requirements.

BENEFITS

Scalability

Designed with a scalable architecture, the QAIassist Integrated Methodology can be implemented in whole or in part (per lifecycle, per deliverable) to meet the specific/unique "IT efficiency" needs of the client. One organization may require the whole integrated methodology, another organization may only require a specific methodology (ie Project Management or Software Testing) and another organization may only need a specific deliverable from one of the methodologies. In all these cases, the QAIassist Integrated Methodology can be scaled to meet the specific "IT efficiency" need.

Compatibility

Developed in accordance in industry recognized standards and "best practices" the QAIassist Integrated Methodology is compatible with the "IT efficiency" products (ie requirements management, configuration management, software testing) made available by reputed IT tool vendors.

Portability

The QAIassist Integrated Methodology has been design with portability. It can be incorporated into all of the industry leading Project Management tools (MS-Project, Project Insight, etc) enabling the users the flexibility to plan, control and execute their project using their existing methods or a more structured deliverable approach.

Usability

The QAIassist Integrated Methodology can be used as an organizational "process" or "benchmark" for developing and maintaining software applications/systems. It can be applied in both a development or support environment using a myriad of techniques including agile, waterfall, RAD, spiral, etc.

Knowledge Base

A real life use case has been incorporated into the QAIassist Integrated Methodology. Sample deliverables have been completed and made available for the end-users – this provides users access to a live example of how the methodology (and all its deliverables) were applied on a successful IT project. Having these sample deliverables available provides users the information and confidence to customize the methodology to meet their specific needs.

Customization

The QAIassist Integrated Methodology can be customized to meet the unique "IT efficiency" needs of an organization, a development team or a maintenance/support team. The deliverables and their informational requirements can be altered and/or omitted to fit the specific needs of any project team.

Repeatable/Re-usability

After customizing/optimizing the use of the QAIassist Integrated Methodology to best fit its "IT efficiency" needs, an organization can re-use this process over and over again –

the methodology becomes an organization "process" used to deliver and maintain IT applications.

Organizational IT Process Management – Metrics, Governance, Quality Assurance

Once implemented, the QAIassist Integrated Methodology can be used as an organizational IT process. Acting as a standard IT process, the methodology provides the foundation for establishing process metrics, performing IT governance and quality assurance, and being able to make continuous improvement.

USER AUDIENCES

Though corporate structure and hierarchy is unique for every organization, the following identifies a number of organizational roles that recognize, use and benefit from the QAIassist Integrated Methodology.

Senior Management

Being responsible for operational performance and the bottom line, Senior Management are accountable for increasing revenues while decreasing costs and expenses. They perceive IT (applications/systems) as a means to obtain greater operational effectiveness. Senior Management understands the concept of process management and recognizes that an organizational IT methodology is a tool that can be leveraged to increase organizational effectiveness.

Business Management

Business Managers are trying to increase their ability to deliver products and services to the client (internally/externally). They perceive IT efficiency as having all of the systems/applications they require to deliver products and services to their clients. Successful Business Managers perceive an IT methodology as a tool to ensure the business side of the house can guide and contribute to the design, develop and support systems/applications that provide them the mechanism to better deliver products and services.

Information Technology (IT) Management

IT Managers are trying to deliver all things to all people. They receive an annual budget and must ensure IT has the tools, technical architecture, and skill set to deliver and support the necessary business operations. IT Management are constantly being evaluated in their ability to deliver a positive ROI - they recognize greater IT efficiencies can be achieved by utilizing additional tools, hardware, software and training – including an IT methodology.

Operational Staff
Operational staff are responsible for delivering products and services to clients – they rely on the systems and applications delivered and maintained by the IT staff. Translation, they do the best you can with the applications that are available. They believe greater IT efficiency can be obtained by having the proper mechanisms (IT methodology) to ensure IT resources can understand the business requirements and ensure they are designed and built into the systems/applications.

IT Delivery & Support Staff
IT staff deliver and support business applications. They employ their expertise in the technical environment and are responsible for ensuring technology is leveraged to deliver operational efficiency. Translation, use technology (and IT methodology) to ensure business operations are able to deliver at peak capacity.

IT Quality Assurance & Governance
IT Quality Assurance and Governance resources are accountable for ensuring the functionality and reliability of products and applications/system delivered by the IT Delivery & Support Staff will attain a specific level of quality. These resources rely on an organizational process (IT methodology) to monitor and evaluate the products being delivered and the process (IT methodology) used to deliver them.

QAIassist is the industry recognized benchmark in information technology (IT) methodologies for small and mid-sized business (SMB's) – including the certification and support of practitioners delivering QAIassist IT Methodology solutions. Visit QAIassist's website—www.qaiassist.com