The Often Neglected ****Phase in Computer Software Lifecycle Process

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Abstract

Nowadays, novel software spiral models, prototyping, evolutionary acquisition and very structured software development processes are receiving so much attention. This paper is intended for those organizations that are using the software waterfall model, and do not have a validated hardware-software systems standards. This paper proposes a new phase (often neglected) in the traditional software lifecycle process; called the "zero" (Z) phase. This phase is critical, as it begins with the decision to investigate the feasibility of developing a computer-based system. It consists of the definition of the needs of the users of the system and the interpretation and analysis of the functional requirements as documented by the system engineering staff. The author believes that the establishment of this "Z" phase preceding the traditional phases of software lifecycle will increase the development of quality software, decrease the amount of rework and this decrease project costs time delays.

Keywords: Software Lifecycle, Waterfall Model, Spiral Model, Functional Design Document, Operability Design Document, Prototyping, Cost and Schedule.