Supporting Product Management Lifecycle with Common Best Practices[*]

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Abstract. Product Lifecycle Management is a process that helps projects to pass through various phases of software development and maintenance. Since phases are usually associated with entry- and exit-criteria that could be considered onerous or excessively effort-prone, implementation of PLM poses various risks. In this paper we show how Common Best Practices could support the software teams in meeting PLM requirements and facilitate smoother transition between phases.

Keywords: best practices · software process improvement · product life-cycle management

1 Introduction

Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) is a process that comprises all phases of a software product, from incepction, through conceptualisation and development, up to maintenance and retirement. A defined PLM facilitates a streamlined development and delivery of software products, with predictable quality, within the assumed cost and budget. It also introduces entry criteria which allow for smooth, but also verifiable progress of a project in line with the process. For that reason, PLM is frequently adopted by organisations with a diverse portfolio of products, with the objective to manage them in an efficient, predictable and repeatable way.

However, the PLM adoption may not be easy and comes at a price. As any other process, it requires investing time and effort to define, adjust, tune and monitor all its activities. In addition, processes are usually not very flexible and cannot be easily adapted by addressing specific requirements or contextual factors. For that reason, teams that manage their projects may find it an overly