Exercise: Evaluating a Software Process
The Digital Home Case Study

Process Evaluation Exercise

Scenario

In August of 2010, HomeOwner Inc. (the largest national retail chain serving the needs of home owners) established a new DigitalHomeOwner division that was set up to explore the opportunities for equipping and serving "smart houses" (dwellings that integrate smart technology into every aspect of home living). In August and September of 2010, the Marketing Division of HomeOwner conducted a needs assessment for a DigitalHome (DH) product that would provide the computer and communication infrastructure for managing and controlling the "smart" devices into a home to best meet the needs and desires of homeowners. The Marketing Division produced two documents: the DH Customer Need Statement and the DH High Level Requirements Definition (HLRD).

Using the documents developed by marketing, DigitalHomeOwner has launched a pilot project (called the DH project) to examine and assess the technical and developmental issues of the smart house concept. A five person team was assembled for the project in early September 2010. During the DH project launch in September, Jorge Ortiz, the DigitalHomeOwner Director prepared a "DigitalHome Development Process Script" to guide the DH project work. He has requested that the DH project team review the process script and provide him with and evaluation of its viability, with comments and recommendations.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this exercise students will have increased ability to:
*   Understand and analyze the purpose and implementation of software processes.
*   Evaluate the fundamental elements of the content and structure of a software process for a given project.

Reading Assignment

Read the below Case Study Artifacts:
*   DH Background Scenario
*   DH Team Biographical Sketches
*   DH Development Process
*   DH Customer Need Statement
*   DH High Level Requirements Definition (HLRD)
*   DH Development Process Script

Exercise Description

1. As preparation for the exercise, read the Case Study Artifacts listed above.

2. You will be assigned to a small development team (like the DH team).

3. Each team evaluates the DH Development Process Script. The following questions should be considered in the evaluation:

> Is this an agile or a plan-driven process?
> What are the strengths and weaknesses in the process?
> Is the process appropriate for the domain area, development context, and delivery schedule?
> Is the process clear and easy to understand? Does it have sufficient detail? Or is it too detailed?
> Is the process complete? Are there any missing phases or activities?
> Are there ways that the process could be improved with changes or additions or deletions?
> What roles would you assign to the DH team members to carry out the project?

4. Each team summarizes its discussion and conclusions in a team evaluation. Choose one member of their group to report to the class on the team's evaluation.