

Essential Practices

What are Essential Practices

The Essential Practices can be used to build a new generation of software development processes that are agile, iterative, lightweight and suitable for use on most kinds of projects. It takes a fresh and innovative approach to presenting and delivering. It focuses on providing a minimal set of essential practices in a way that is attractive, easy-to-use and very flexible.

Built on Real Experience

The practices have all been built by practitioners and based on many years of actually applying these practices in software development projects. They have all been designed so that they can be adopted separately or in any combination that you desire. This makes them easy to adopt and enables you to just adopt the ones that you need.

Presented as a Set of Cards

Each practice is presented as a set of process cards that contain the elements you need to build your way-of-working including competency definitions, activity definitions, artifact definitions, and process patterns. In this way, we can ensure that users achieve the goals in an efficient manner.

The cards can be displayed electronically or presented as physical cards and are easily manipulated to build tasks, facilitate process adoption, help iteration planning, or provide handy reference guidance when working. The process will no longer be a static web-site that nobody reads.

Each of the cards has a linked guideline; this provides further guidance to the users of the process. The guidelines are short documents presenting the essential information needed to action the cards.



THE SMARTER WAY

Introducing the Essential Practices

There are five technical practices to ensure that you develop good software and five cross-cutting practices to promote effective team working and process improvement.

Technical Practices:

Architecture Essentials

Captures the essence of architecture-centric development allowing you to ensure that the architecture selected for your project is fit-for-purpose.

Iterative Essentials

Allow you to easily adopt an iterative, time-boxed approach to managing and monitoring the project, as well as addresses risks in your project.

Use-Case Essentials

Enable you to capture your requirements in an agile fashion and use them to drive the development and testing of the solution.

Component Essentials

Allow you to develop your software in a simple, scalable, test-driven fashion that exploits the properties inherent in object-oriented and other popular programming approaches.

Product Essentials

Captures the essence of product management to enable you to get closer to your customers and identify your major releases.

Business Use Case Essentials

Your team will strengthen its understanding of the needs of the business—and how to evolve that business to meet the underlying needs of the organization.



THE SMARTER WAY

Cross-Cutting Practices:

[Process Essentials](#)

Ensures continuous process improvement and helps you adopt and grow the new way-of-working.

[Team Essentials](#)

Captures the essence of collaborative team working enabling you to bring your team together and help them collaborate more effectively.

[Modeling Essentials](#)

Describes an agile approach to modeling that enables you to adopt an appropriate level of detail, enhance team communication and reduce project risk.

[Unified Process Lifecycle Essentials](#)

Provides a set of phases and milestones to help plan and track iterative projects.

The Essential Practices are hosted on the EssWork platform and available in Eclipse, Visual Studio and Web 2.0 versions.

Providing an agile approach to process

You can adopt all the practices, just the practices you need, an individual practice or even a partial practice. You can mix and match the practices to meet your needs, write your own practices to extend the set and mix in your own existing practices to build on your own unique way-of-working.

Using the Essential Unified Process Practices

Most of our customers already have a way-of-working in place and need to improve in some specific areas. In this case, introducing one or a few new practices is usually the way to start. In the case where a more complete and comprehensive way-of-working is of interest, you can look at deploying the Essential Unified Process (EssUP). The EssUP is a composition of some of the essential practices to provide an agile, scalable, and lightweight process suitable for use on many kinds of projects. More specifically, the EssUP is a use-case driven, iterative, component-based and architecture-centric process with a focus on productive teamwork. However, the EssUP is still just one sample of a purposeful reference process that quickly and easily have been created using EssWork. You are likely to start creating your own processes once you understand how easy it is to plug and play practices that suit the needs of your projects!

Get started today!

Contact your local representative for more information. The Essential Unified Process (EssUP) is available for download at www.ivarjacobson.com. For additional essential practices please contact your local representative.

