



Essence Training

**Thinking, Communicating
and Collaborating Using Essence**

Creating **winning** teams.

Development Team at Global Internet Services Company Learns and Applies Essence

Essence is a new standard adopted by OMG but essentially developed by SEMAT, an industry community committed to refounding software engineering. The standard helps organizations embed agile professional practices and governance for sustainable, scalable and responsive solution delivery.

The Essence Kernel, the practical heart of the standard, is presented as a set of techniques, represented as a set of light-weight cards that create highly flexible and collaborative ways of working for software development teams.

Ivar Jacobson International (IJI) is providing interactive Essence training for teams and organizations to show the power of the Essence kernel. IJI applies Essence to real project situations using a simple set of cards with checklists. A series of “serious games” that use the cards and checklists is applied to drive status analysis, continuous improvement, high-level planning and progress, and health monitoring.

A Learning Culture

Upon hearing about the Essence standard, a development team within a large multinational corporation specializing in Internet services was extremely interested in learning more. They wanted to know how to apply it? How is it used day-to-day? How could it help their team?

Essence Provides a New and Practical Learning Style

Ivar Jacobson International provided a three-day workshop on the Essence standard to the development team.

In the workshop, the team was introduced to the cards that come with the Essence Kernel through practical exercises, and then quickly turned their attention to doing real work by applying the same cards to their own project. Prioritized change actions were driven out and shaped ready for the team to carry forward to ensure immediate benefit from the training.

The team could immediately see the benefit of using the cards that were put into action during the Essence training, even for an already high-performing agile team. *“As soon as the training became hands-on and interactive, I could clearly see the benefits of Essence,”* explained the development team lead.

The Essence standard helps teams navigate through many of the complex challenges common in software development delivery - from helping teams identify and engage with the right stakeholders at the right time in the right way, to making health and progress visible to all in a language that everyone can understand. By ensuring that nothing is overlooked that could cause the blocking or

derailing of progress, Essence helps prepare and de-risk the path forward and helps to secure a successful outcome.

"I think it's a very useful tool," said the team lead. "I can see how it helps teams engage with all stakeholders and provides a good barometer or health-check on the project and team. Even if you have a very strong engineering team, it can help highlight discrepancies and potential misconceptions between team members and help ensure everyone is working toward the same goal."

Now that the training is complete, the team will be testing out the Essence standard further and is looking to share their new knowledge with fellow developers. *"We're going to use it more within our team. The Essence kernel helps stimulate conversations and acts as a trigger to help reach a consensus during discussions and planning."*



About Ivar Jacobson International

IJI is a global services company providing high quality consulting, coaching and training solutions for customers seeking the benefits of enterprise-scale agile software development.

We are passionate about improving the performance of software development teams, and maximizing the delivery of business value through technology.

Whether you are looking to transform a single project or program or your entire organization with lean and agile practices, we have solutions to suit your needs.

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