

An introduction to project management with IBM's™ Rational Unified Process

The latest statistics on the success of IT projects offer a devastating picture: Only about 25% of all projects are implemented on-time and in-budget. Most projects suffer from poor communication between the technically unskilled customers and the developers that don't understand the business processes of their clients.

To avoid these mistakes, researchers have developed practices and new approaches to software development. These new ideas, however, have only sporadically been implemented in company. While software technology took a quantum leap in the last decades, the development processes in many companies have stayed the same for the last thirty years.

The Rational Unified Process tries to unify progressive approaches and Best Practices from successful companies with rather conservative down-to-earth methods to create a set of philosophies for creating software and a framework for software development projects. RUP™ not only allows, it requires the project manager to adopt the RUP™ to suit the individual needs of the company and the project.

This paper gives a short introduction to software development and describes established process models before presenting the underlying philosophies, phases and activities of IBM RUP™, with a special focus on small to middle-sized projects. The last chapter deals with the adoption of RUP™ to a specific project with five team members and about 1000 man hours.