Evolutionary Acquisition and Spiral Development

To clear up confusion about evolutionary acquisition strategies and the spiral development process, the under secretary of defense issued a memorandum in April 2002 defining these processes. That information is repeated in this article.

In the second approach, the ultimate functionality cannot be defined at the beginning of the program, and each increment of capability is defined by the maturation of the technologies matched with the evolving needs of the user.

Spiral Development

The spiral development method is an iterative process for developing a defined set of capabilities within one increment. This process provides the opportunity for interaction between the user, tester, and developer. In this process, the requirements are refined through experimentation and risk management, there is continuous feedback, and the user is provided the best possible capability within the increment. Each increment may include a number of spirals. Spiral development implements evolutionary acquisition.

Increment or Block

An increment or block is a militarily useful and supportable operational capability that can be effectively developed, produced or acquired, deployed, and sustained. Each increment of capability will have its own set of thresholds and objectives set by the user.

Pre-Planned Product Improvement

Pre-planned product improvement (P3I) is a traditional acquisition strategy that provides for adding improved capability to a mature system.

Additional Information

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