

This presentation will provide you an overview of IBM Rational Method Composer, a process management tool for method authoring and configuration. Rational Method Composer also includes method libraries for software and systems development and for the enterprise, including the IBM Rational Unified Process.

We will now give you an overview

One of the key factors in project success is to define and use a repeatable way to develop software and/or systems. A repeatable process means more efficiency, less rework and confusion, and better quality. The IBM Rational Unified Process, or RUP, provides the framework for such a process. It supplies the important components that should comprise any process: Who does what – or roles; what they do – or activities; how they do it – or tool mentors; and what they produce – work products or artifacts.

Not all organizations are the same. In fact, not all projects within the organization are the same either. We know that organizations that have a process in place may want to use the best from RUP but also include their own information. So we made the IBM Rational methods configurable. It is possible to modify RUP to meet your needs – from small changes to large ones. And we provide the authoring and configuration tools with Rational Method Composer to help you make these customizations.

There are many pains around software and systems development from executives to project manager and to practitioners. For executives, the best practices encapsulated in the process along with its ability to be modified mean that an organization can have consistent results across all projects. For project managers, Rational Method Composer and the method libraries mean it is possible to configure RUP or the method to meet the needs of each project. And for practitioners, the ones who are on the "front line", the role-specific content and tool mentors mean they get the guidance they need to do their job well.

Rational Method Composer along with RUP is proven and practical. RUP has been used on thousands of projects world wide. It would only be possible if it was flexible.

So what is Rational Method Composer?

Rational Method Composer is a new commercial process management product, first introduced in December 2005, that aligns IT with business objectives.

- It contains process content and guidance that allow you to link IT processes to project and portfolio management initiatives.

Rational Method Composer contains out-of-the-box process libraries that support various project types across the enterprise

- **From** Small, Medium, or Large Projects that require more process formality
- **To** IT initiatives and technologies such as Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA), COTS (Commercial Off-The-Shelf) or Packaged Application Development, Maintenance projects, J2EE and .NET

- **As well as** enterprise process guidance such as Portfolio Management, Governance, Compliance, Program Management, Project Management, Asset-Based Development, Business engineering, Process engineering, IT Service Management, and Systems Engineering

Rational Method Composer contains the process guidance organizations need to not only ensure that development runs smoother, but also be able to start up projects quicker and have project team members become quickly productive through the process guidance and tool mentors.

Rational Method Composer contains easy-to-use form-based tools for authoring, configuring, and viewing the process

- There is no need for Unified Modeling Language (UML) skills to define content and relationships as was the case in our previous authoring tools.

Rational Method Composer also bridges the gap between process and project mgmt

- ...through its integration with Rational Portfolio Manager or Microsoft Project. You can define a project plan or Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) for the process in Rational Method Composer, import this WBS into the project management tools and then execute the process.

Rational Method Composer also is integrated with IBM Rational Software Development Platform Tools such as Rational Software Architect

- Context sensitive guidance is provided in the development tools which allows you to easily consult the method library for “how-to” instructions. For example, how to define and develop use cases.

Over the last 20 years, the Rational organization has analyzed successful software delivery efforts and “best practices” to elicit and to evolve a set of basic principles for processes and practices which are effective, and deliver good results. Further, we have applied these principles with their underlying processes and practices successfully on behalf of thousands of our clients.

Working from these principles, processes and practice, we have identified a number of disciplines and reusable components, and, published them as the Rational Unified Process (RUP). This has become IBM’s software and systems development methodology. RUP promotes iterative development and organizes the development into four phases – inception, elaboration, construction, and transition -- each consisting of one or more executable iterations of the software or system at that stage of development. The methodology is then published to a website so that team members can easily access the process for guidance via the Web or through the context-sensitive Process Advisor in the development tools itself such as RSA and RAD.

So RUP is a method framework that has guided some 500,000 developers around the world in a broad range of software and systems development projects.

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Let’s look at some of the problems organizations are facing today.

In the current world, organizations have available for their use a lot of tools, technologies, and new best practices for doing software and systems development. They have new technologies such Service-Oriented Architecture, J2EE, .NET, Wikis, Agile Programming, and iterative programming that are described in a lot of books, articles, and on the Web. In addition, they have to worry about internal guidance. There are corporate standards for compliance, internal standards for development, and lessons learned from past project experience.

Put them all together and you have a lot of information to digest in many different forms and format.

Furthermore, how do development teams take this information and customize them? No two projects are really exactly alike.

And how do organizations communicate this information consistently?

So what if you take all this information, represent them in a standardized way, and put them into a library? Content could be organized by roles, tasks, work products, templates, activities, and tool mentors. Relationships between each could be identified, such as roles perform certain tasks, tasks are performed in certain activities, and task have work product input and output. Then add guidance, templates, and descriptions, and you have a method library that now contains reusable content.

Each project is slightly different, so each project will want take elements in the library and configure them for their project. For example, Project A might be a Service Oriented

Architecture project, and Project B might be a maintenance project. Both projects will have some similar activities and dissimilar activities. For example, managing the project will be pretty similar, but building a service versus maintaining code is a little different. Tools used on the project may be different, too.

Rational Method Composer provides you with this reusable method library. Rational Method Composer will allow project manager or process engineers to build a process framework that is specific to their project from the reusable method content. And if they have guidance that's not in the library, Rational Method Composer allows them to easily extend the library with their own content.

Furthermore, Rational Method Composer will allow you to take the tasks and activities and build a project plan template or Work Breakdown Structure, or WBS. This project plan WBS can then be instantiated and executed using Rational Portfolio Manager or Microsoft Project.

Again, Rational Method Composer is a commercial process product that aligns business and IT, contains out-of-the-box process libraries supporting various project types across the enterprise, and has new easy-to-use form-based tools for authoring, configuring, and viewing the process.

The Rational vision is all about flexibility – or a combination of choice, usability and services, which we call consume-ability. It give customers the confidence to start with open source offerings, and migrate seamlessly to higher-value offerings as their needs dictate in an incremental fashion, with the knowledge that they have the support resources of IBM to fall back on should the need arise. This vision is realized in the process space with our work in the Eclipse Process Framework project, which is the open source process solution, and with Rational Method Composer – our higher value offering.

Our experience, which we have captured in the various method libraries, is the biggest value that we can provide when you compare our solution with other solutions in the market. We believe that no other process management solution can even come close to providing the guidance for software and systems development, IT service management, enterprise, program and portfolio management.

As you can see, there is guidance for numerous project types for software and systems development including service-oriented architecture, maintenance, systems engineering, COTS, modeling, compliance, measurement, J2EE, and .NET.

And Rational Method Composer has guidance for enterprise needs including governance and compliance, portfolio and program management, and IT service management. In addition to method content and process guidance, Rational Method Composer provides a framework and Eclipse-based tools to author new content, customize and extend

existing content, and configure and publish the method for website access. This give organization the following benefits:

- You can jump-start projects and apply proven practices almost immediately
- You can tailor these proven processes to fit your individual project and organizational needs
- And you can provide your team member with easy access to the process – resulting in more people actually following the process.

In terms of product packaging, IBM Rational Method Composer is available as a standalone product. This standalone product includes the authoring platform, integrations, and the method libraries, including the Rational Unified Process, or RUP, the IBM Rational enterprise methods, and the IBM Tivoli Unified Process, or ITUP.

IBM Rational Method Composer is also bundled with IBM Rational Portfolio Manager and the Rational Team Unifying Platform and Suites bundles.

The authoring platform is bundled with ITUP Composer, but this package does not include RUP.

For more resources please visit IBM.com at these URL links.

IBM Rational Method Composer Product Page

Overview, Datasheet, Trial Download

<http://www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/rmc/index.html>

IBM Rational Method Composer and RUP resource library

Analyst reports, books, case studies, webcasts, white papers

<http://www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/resources/rmc.html>

IBM Rational Method Composer and RUP on developerWorks

Plug-in information, additional technical info, discussion forum, course info

<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/rational/products/rup>

IBM Rational Method Composer and RUP articles in the Rational Edge e-zine

<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/rational/rationaledge/archives.html>