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Software development in the product lifecycle

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Abstracts

Software is changing the nature of engineered products. The level of software content in engineered products has grown to the point that software is defining the product, its performance characteristics, and its product issues. Embedded software is also increasing the complexity of engineered products as formerly straightforward mechanical systems are transformed into networked systems containing numerous interdependencies. The application lifecycle for embedded software has morphed from isolated to intrinsic activity, which has become a first-class citizen alongside the mechanical and electrical disciplines that comprise product engineering. As embedded software-based control has grown ubiquitous and interdependent, software designers have had to adopt the same “system of systems” design disciplines that their mechanical and electrical engineering counterparts have long practiced. In turn, product companies are facing the need to improve their management of application lifecycles.

As the product lifecycle has become the intersection for software development, engineering, marketing, and manufacturing, it has created a new battleground between ALM, PLM, and ERP vendors for the prize of managing the product lifecycle. There is no single formula for how people, processes, and technologies will interact in the new product lifecycle; the solutions will vary by industry sector.

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SOFTWARE CONTENT IN PRODUCTS IS BECOMING PIVOTAL

Embedded software is becoming ubiquitous
Growth of embedded software content is transforming software engineering
Case study: global automaker – powertrain controls

PRODUCT LIFECYCLE REQUIREMENTS VARY

Every industry is different
Product parameters drive the product lifecycle
Physical size
Design complexity
Safety criticality
Supply chain
Overall product lead time
Product lifespan

THE EMBEDDED SOFTWARE LIFECYCLE

The cast of characters is wider than for enterprise software
The definition of customer is different
Product engineering roles are changing
Case study: software engineering group takes initiative for smart handset provider
The process
Collaboration and relationship management become essential
Software product line engineering discipline
SPL case study: computer printer manufacturer

TOOL SUPPORT

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There is plenty of competition for managing software in the product lifecycle
Before: all (product) roads led to BOM
Product lifecycle management changes how products are defined
The future of product lifecycle integration is RESTful services
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IBM Rational
MKS
Point tool vendors
PLM vendors
Enterprise application vendors
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