



TAKEAWAYS from previous month's speaker on QUALITY...

April 2012



Dave Howard

Release Management:

How to Drive It to a Fully Integrated & Business Aligned Reality

Written by Penny Vienna

Dave Howard stepped through a detail examination of Release Management. Strategy – Alignment – Sustainment. The objectives are to provide better governance with improved service while reducing development costs but maintaining operational consideration. The key is to establish a strategy by considering: Where do you want to be - Where are we today - How do we get there - How did we get it done. Plan/Do /Act/Check.

Dave described that the lines between Release Management and Project Management can be fuzzy. To clarify, he explained that it is a collaboration and understanding of the difference in how they view Quality, Operations, Benefits and Alignment. It is important that they be in synch throughout all of the stages of the project. Release Management defines the environments and develops the release lifecycle and spans from pre-approval to post implementation.

Some of key deliverables are to create support documentation, mapping test plans to requirements, developing mode and security, setting up a war room to control and support post go live needs.

He shared the key obtaining acceptance for Release Management is by applying the Bubble Up Methodology. Since middle management is the hardest to influence, gain acceptance with executives and the grass roots. Keeping in mind WIIFM. What is in it for me.

Dave provided a fact filled presentation and provided thought provoking consideration to incorporate Project Management with Release Management for your organization.

Written by Tracy Bolen

Dave Howard's presentation provided attendees the model used in Release Management, the process overview and benefits of its compatibility with traditional project management.

Release Management is based on providing holistic delivery of an entire service, within it will be many projects. It considers all components in planning and the end state is based on delivering a quality product that is operationally ready. Dave highlighted 3 key components – Strategy, Alignment and Sustainment; each critical in implementing a consistent and repeatable process that is easy to sustain.

The many benefits of Release Management include a structured process that provides guidance, facilitation and governance during the service delivery cycle. Ensuring clearly defined and documented requirements, well-mapped test plans, operational readiness with clearly communicated release plans and documentation. Release Management ensures all related components are considered as part of this holistic development.

Dave also highlighted the importance of identifying the critical success factor so following implementation, the organization will have the right measurements in place.