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Software Sustainment: Continuous Engineering to Deliver Warfighter Capability

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SW Sustainment Headlines!!!
Goal - Sustained Military Advantage
Software and DoD

- Warfighter capability embodied in software...a unique source of strategic, military advantage
- DoD’s ability to produce and evolve software at core of achieving and, sustaining mission superiority, agility, more timely and better decisions
- Software...essential to vast range of military system capabilities, operations...deepening and broadening role [NRC Critical Code, 2010]
- Many aspects of cyber security (defensive and offensive) closely linked with software capability
- Creates imperatives for leading and managing software-intensive systems
Software Challenges for Leadership

• Acquire & **sustain** software-driven systems operating interdependently with high assurance in a complex net-centric, cyber environment to continuously achieve mission success over the life cycle

• Affordably with velocity

• Spectrum of systems (Bus IT... C4ISR...Platforms...nodes in a larger scale SoS ecosystem

• All systems are SW or controlled by SW

• Create technical & program mgmt **infrastructure capabilities** to acquire and continually engineer systems for warfighter competitiveness

• Plan & execute in a dynamic **policy**, governance, advancing technology, & $$$ constrained environment for **life cycle program success**
Software Sustainment – Bottom Line

- Our paradigms about sustainment formed from decades of HW experience
- SW – now foundation building material in the engineering of systems; the defensive/offensive weaponry of cyber security – different nature than HW...
- Not a physics of failure domain...demand/$ do not scale by optempo, force structure size...
- About continuous software engineering; not mx
- Increasing, unrecognized bow wave of demands (composition, complexity, characteristics, * tech debt**
- Complex technical infrastructure*** needs constant refresh, $; opportunities to achieve > value
- Nest in unaffordable O&S trends
- Enterprise challenge; needs enterprise strategy

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* Software demographics (size, language, architecture, etc.
** Technical debt - a metaphor referring to the eventual consequences of inadequate architecture and software development
*** Workforce, knowledge, practice, tools, systems integration lab/test environment
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Software Maintenance / Sustainment: Supporting the Warfighter—A Matter of National Security

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Agenda

- Organization and Focus
- Context
- Software Maintenance / Sustainment & Title 10
- Recent Activities
- Path Forward
Organization and Focus: Maintenance Policy and Programs

Key Responsibilities
- Life Cycle Sustainment
- Materiel Readiness
- Requirements and Resources
- Technology Integration
- Enterprise Optimization

Enterprise Lens:
- Operationally Ready Systems Today …and Tomorrow
- Innovative, Diverse, and Agile Workforce
- Balanced Enterprise Capabilities & Capacity
- Evolve Capabilities for the Future Fight—Sustainment Technology Program

Flexible, Responsive, Integrated, Global
Equipment, Platform and Weapon System Inventory Valued Over $350B

Annual Funding: ~$5.6B (PB61) For Software Maintenance / Sustainment

Workforce: More than ~15,000 Government Personnel (DMDC) And Thousands In Private Sector Companies

Software is Big Business in DoD
Context: Major DoD Software Maintenance / Sustainment Activities by Location and Service
Context: Software in DoD

- Software integral to the operation and functionality of our equipment, platforms and weapon systems — approaching 100%

- Software maintenance / sustainment is a critical capability directly supporting Joint Force readiness

- Software maintenance / sustainment is a lot different from hardware maintenance, however…

It’s about more than money, it’s about National Security
Software Maintenance / Sustainment and Title 10

• Title 10 United States Code § 2460, Definition of depot-level maintenance and repair

  The term includes “all aspects of software maintenance classified by the Department of Defense as of July 1, 1995, as depot-level maintenance and repair”

• Title 10 United States Code § 2464, Core logistics capabilities

  “It is essential for the national defense that the Department of Defense maintain a core logistics capability that is Government-owned and Government-operated (including Government personnel and Government-owned and Government-operated equipment and facilities) to ensure a ready and controlled source of technical competence and resources necessary to ensure effective and timely response to a mobilization, national defense contingency situations, and other emergency requirements.”
Recent Activities

• Software Maintenance / Sustainment Panels at DoD Maintenance Symposium since 2012

• UAS Software Maintenance / Sustainment Working Group

• On-going MPP-sponsored study of the DoD software maintenance and sustainment enterprise being conducted by SEI

• DAU Software Sustainment Curriculum Working Group
Path Forward

• Maintain and strengthen software focus
  ➢ Strategic Communication and Stakeholder Buy-In
  ➢ Recruitment and Retention

• Address policy issues proactively
  ➢ Definition
  ➢ Core Calculation

• Identify opportunities for enterprise optimization
  ➢ Licenses and Technical Data Packages
  ➢ Training Resources
Sustainment and Technical Debt Discussion Topics

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In software-intensive systems, technical debt is the collection of *design or implementation constructs* that are *expedient in the short term*, but set up a technical context that can make future changes more costly or impossible.

Symptoms and Challenges

Common Symptoms

• Slowing velocity for business capability
• Inability to make changes in the codebase (paralysis)
• Increasing cost and effort to maintain systems

State of the practice

• Kitchen sink syndrome – All my problems are technical debt
• Tactical analysis – Fix easy stuff, arbitrary use of complexity metrics, one-off defect reduction sprints, etc.

A more Strategic Approach is needed to effectively manage Technical Debt
Refined Definition of Technical Debt

• A necessary step in forwarding the state of the practice is clarity around what is, and is not, technical debt
  • Analysis of examples yields refined definition below...

Technical debt examples*

• “There were two highly coupled modules that should have been designed separately from the beginning”
• “A simple API call turned into a nightmare…”

*From surveys, interviews, and issue tracker analysis

Refined Definition - Technical debt is a software design issue that:

• Exists in an executable system artifact (e.g., code)
• Is traced to several locations in the system
• Has a quantifiable effect on attributes of interest to developers
Technical Debt Detection and Measurement

- There is no simple measure for technical debt, however, several artifacts produce useful evidence

- **Vision**: Overlay architectural information from multiple sources to detect and measure high risk areas

*Multi-Artifact Analysis Example*

- **Source 1: Issue Tracker** - All these files have integer overflows that cause crashes
- **Source 2: Static Analysis** - One of the files participates in an architecture violation (cross-module cycles, improper hierarchy)
- **Source 3: Bug churn** - Developers create a patch every place they see the similar integer overflow issue.
Practical Suggestions for Sustainment

• Manage technical debt strategically by:
  • Involving sustainment groups early and continuously
  • Asking hard questions regularly
    - What are areas of pain? How to measure? When to pay down?
  • Collaborating on funding strategy for ongoing technical debt management (e.g., 10% of budget)

• Encourage development practices such as:
  • Create *technical debt issue* records and revisit regularly (manage as you would defects)
  • Focus static analysis on design-related violations
  • Monitor defects and change tracking logs for risk areas
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Software Sustainment - Definition

Software sustainment:

Orchestrating the processes, practices, technical resources, information, and workforce competencies for systems and software engineering,

to enable systems to continue mission operations and also to be enhanced to meet evolving threat and capability needs.
DoD’s SW to Sustain is Far-Reaching…
But There Is Limited Enterprise Visibility

SW to Sustain

- SW Engineering
  - SE Tools
  - Modeling & Simulation
  - System Mock-ups
- Controls & Displays
- Architecture
- Emulation
- Networks
- Maintenance Trainers
- Operator/Flight Simulators

- SW for Mx Diagnostic & Repair Systems
- Engineering Tools & Environments SW
- SIL, Test, & Integration SW & Networks
- SW for Weapon System Trainers & Simulators SW

- Test Ranges & Infrastructure SW
- C4ISR SW
- Weapon System SW
- Specialized Capabilities SW
- Bus & Enterprise IT SW

- Networks & Interoperability
- OS
- CMD & Control
- Instrumentation & Data Analysis
- Platform/OS
- Applications
- Platform, OFP, OS
- Sub-system
- EW
- Weapons
- OS
- Networks & Interoperability
Ecosystem Overview

- Four **infrastructure** elements: Basic, fundamental resources necessary for the sustainment activities
- Three **knowledge and expertise** elements: Skill sets, the government organic workforce, access to necessary technical information needed to deliver and deploy the capabilities for the warfighter
- Three ungrouped elements:
  - Facilities
  - Operational SW Deployment
  - Mgmt / Performance Measurement
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