Iterations Methodology

- **A proven methodology providing a framework for information integration projects, based on more than 500 customer initiatives led by IBM information integration consultants.**

- **Shortening the time to realize return on investment.**

- **Minimizing the risk of project failure by getting it right the first time.**

- **Gaining executive sponsorship and endorsement early in the project.**

Unlock the value of enterprise data

Organizations face an information challenge. Where is it? How do I get it when I need it in the form I need? What does it mean? What insight can I gain from it? Can I trust it? How do I control it? The list goes on, and the challenges grow unceasingly if organizations cannot ensure they have access to authoritative, consistent, timely and complete information.

Services from IBM Information Integration Solutions complement the IBM WebSphere® Information Integration platform, which integrates and transforms any data and content to deliver information you can trust for your critical business initiatives. Designed to ensure customer success with IBM solutions, IBM information integration services range from technical support to education to professional services.

A carefully planned set of enterprise information integration best practices can deliver powerful benefits: the ability to increase business insight and competitiveness, reduce business risk and improve productivity and operational efficiencies. The omnipresent influence of the Internet makes the benefits even more immediate: dynamic business intelligence, transactional risk and compliance measurement, master data management and corporate portals, which can be integrated and analyzed to help you reach your customers faster and more effectively.

All too often, companies fail to derive the power of integrated information, becoming lost in the complexity of infrastructure initiatives, losing sight of the keys to success. Many organizations' initial attempts at building enterprise information integration best practices result in projects where deadlines are ignored, budgets are exceeded, and management expectations are unmet. The design and implementation challenges unique to the creation of data warehouses, datamarts and Web marts leave companies with plentiful data, but little useful information. What's needed for success is a structured, proven, repeatable information integration methodology.

Iterations Methodology:
Share the keys to success

Iterations® Methodology is a proven framework for enterprise information integration projects, based on more than 500 customer initiatives led by IBM consultants. It's a comprehensive, step-by-step approach that takes your team from initial planning and strategy, all the way through to tactical implementation. The methodology imparts an iterative model, hence its name, allowing organizations to build a solid infrastructure foundation that is completely scalable and extensible. The methodology is not based on any particular set of enterprise information integration tools, but is vendor-independent. It enables you to rapidly design, develop, and deploy enterprise information integration infrastructure, whether your architecture is a departmental datamart, enterprise-scale data warehouse, operational data store, or Web analytics mart.

Integrate all your information

The IBM WebSphere Information Integration platform reduces risks and costs and supports key business initiatives by integrating and transforming all types of corporate data and content to deliver authoritative, consistent, timely and complete information, and governing its quality throughout its life cycle.

Automatically analyzing data, enhancing its quality, and delivering it in an understand-able format, at the right time, to the systems and people who need it, this unique solution addresses a broad data spectrum. The IBM WebSphere Information Integration platform integrates complex business transactions coming from customers and partners as well as operational information moving within the enterprise and the analytical data that supports critical business decisions.

With the IBM WebSphere Information Integration platform, you can streamline your operations, improve customer support, expedite business transactions, and make your tactical and strategic decisions on the basis of the best available information.

Comprehensive graphic at your fingertips

The Iterations Methodology Framework is depicted in a full-color graphic (Figure 1) that allows project participants to visualize the stages and dependencies in each project. The graphic provides point-and-click capability to drill down into project narratives, activities, tasks, deliverables and templates for every stage of the project.
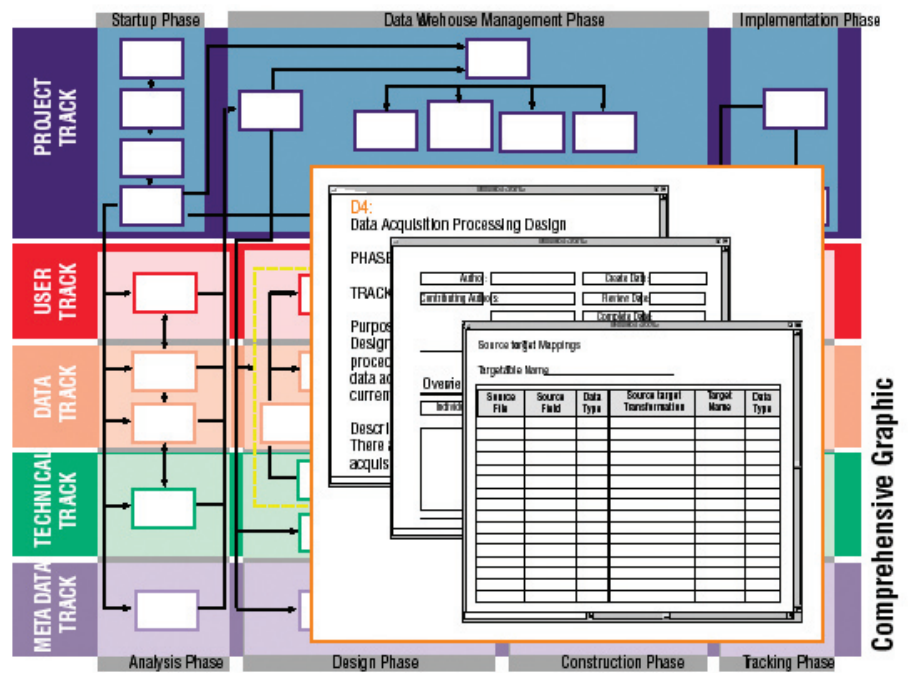

Figure 1. Comprehensive graphic drill down to narratives, tasks, and templates

Benefits of Iterations Methodology

The Iterations Methodology has helped hundreds of companies optimize their enterprise information integration implementations by:

- *shortening the time to realize return-on-investment*
- *minimizing the risk of project failure by getting it right the first time*
- *gaining executive sponsorship and endorsement early in the project*
- *setting realistic end-user expectations*
- *identifying critical resources*
- *providing a roadmap to simplify project management*
- *allowing the organization to focus on managing processes; not inventing them*
- *mitigating the impact of team attrition by providing clear and comprehensive documentation*
- *providing efficient management reporting*

TRACK	DESCRIPTION
Project	Modules focused on project strategy, orientation, commitment, management, administration, training and marketing
User	Modules focused on business requirements, departmental and individual designs, end-user access and end-user acceptance
Data	Modules focused on data model analysis and design, atomic level design, source system analysis, design, data warehouse processing design, construction and data warehouse population
Technical	Modules focused on technical component assessment, selection, integration, technical environment sizing, environment preparation and environment testing
Metadata	Modules focused on business and technical metadata integration and metadata access design development
Start-up	Ensures the organization is prepared for a business intelligence (BI) infrastructure project in terms of awareness and commitment and establishes that a solid infrastructure is in place

Tasks and deliverables for every phase of implementation

Unique to Iterations Methodology is the highly-structured framework for enterprise information integration best practices. The framework establishes a common vernacular across the enterprise project team, promoting ease of understanding. The framework's modular design allows for complete customization and integration with other project methodologies.

The methodology is organized into Modules that themselves are divided into Activities and Tasks, described with their corresponding Deliverables. Each Deliverable contains an easy-to-

use template for completion. Iterations also defines and describes the project team roles and responsibilities, denoting each activity and deliverable associated with the role.

Tracks

Five parallel tracks of project efforts help to coordinate various activities, optimize resource utilization, and maximize project efficiencies, resulting in more timely, cost-effective implementations.

Phases

The Phases of Iterations represent groups of modules that often have dependencies among modules within the Phase and from previous Phases. The conclusion of a Phase results in a checkpoint that verifies successful

completion of expected deliverables and ongoing progress of the enterprise information integration initiative.

Ease of use

- *Iterations Methodology is delivered on CD ROM in HTML format, so your entire project team can move quickly through the methodology, customizing as needed and drilling down from Phases and Modules to associated Activities, Tasks, and Deliverables*
- *It can be shared by all members of the project team to allow for efficient communication and speed of implementation*
- *The project plan, forms and templates are delivered in Microsoft® Office formats, including PowerPoint presentations; Excel spreadsheets,*

PHASE	DESCRIPTION
Management	Ensures and plans for training, support, project management, change management, internal marketing and ongoing administration of the data warehouse or datamart
Analysis	Assesses, scopes and models potential target database solutions, source system solutions, data availability, cleanliness and completeness, providing high-level technical recommendations
Design	Designs the data environment, data access environment, data extraction environment, maintenance processing environment and the detailed technical environment
Construction	Builds and unit tests the data extraction solutions, data access solutions, maintenance processing solutions, the technical environment and develops end-user training
Testing	Performs various levels of integrated data warehouse testing and user acceptance
Implementation	Makes the BI infrastructure accessible to end-users and monitors for optimization efforts

and Microsoft Project files, so project documentation becomes effortless

• *It includes a three-day, on-site education course to get your project team up-to-speed in the application, customization, and optimization of the methodology*

IBM WebSphere Information Integration Professional Services
To help you achieve success in meeting your business objectives through information integration solutions, and to accelerate your solution design and implementation, the IBM WebSphere Information Integration Professional Services team offers a broad range of planning, education, design and engineering and implementation services. Whatever industry your company serves, our Professional Services team can help you implement the right IBM WebSphere information integration solution.

For more information
For more information about this or any other Professional Services offerings, please contact your IBM marketing representative or visit http://www-306.ibm.com/software/data/integration