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Australian Standard®

Software configuration management

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Software Engineering. It is identical with and has been reproduced from IEEE Std 1042, *IEEE Guide to Standard for Software Configuration Management*.

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References The references to ANSI/IEEE Standards should be replaced by references to Australian Standards as follows:

Reference to ANSI/IEEE Standard		Australian Standard	
IEEE		AS	
729	IEEE Standard Glossary of Software Engineering Terminology	—	
828	Software Configuration Management Plans	4042	Software configuration management plans

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Standards Australia
Software configuration management

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope. This guide describes the application of configuration management (CM) disciplines to the management of software engineering projects. Software configuration management (SCM) consists of two major aspects: planning and implementation. For those planning SCM activities, this guide provides insight into the various factors that must be considered.

Users implementing SCM disciplines will find suggestions and detailed examples of plans in this guide. This guide also presents an interpretation of how ANSI/IEEE Std 828-1983 [2][1] can be used for planning the management of different kinds of computer program development and maintenance activities.

The guide is presented in two parts. The first part, the main body of the guide, presents issues to consider when planning software configuration management for a project or organization. The second part of the guide presents, for those preparing SCM Plans, a series of sample Plans illustrating different concepts discussed in the body of the guide.

The text of the guide introduces the essential concepts of SCM, particularly those of special significance (for example, libraries and tools) to software engineering. It then presents the planning for SCM in terms of documenting a Plan following the outline of ANSI/IEEE Std 828-1983 [2] so that a user who is unfamiliar with the disciplines of software configuration management can gain some insight into the issues. For those preparing SCM Plans, the second part of the guide provides sample plans for consideration.

The sample SCM Plans include a variety of software configuration management applications for different types of projects and organizations. Appendix A illustrates a software configuration management plan (SCMP) for a project developing a complex, critical computer system. It describes a Plan for managing a typical software development cycle where the development is contracted to an organization that does not have responsibility for its maintenance or use. Appendix B illustrates a SCMP for a small software development project. It describes a Plan for supporting a prototype development activity where the goal of the project is to demonstrate the feasibility of a concept. Appendix C illustrates a SCMP used by an organization where the emphasis is on maintaining programs developed by other activities or organizations. Appendix D illustrates a SCMP for an organization developing and maintaining computer programs embedded in a hardware product line. It describes a Plan for managing both software development and maintenance of a commercial product line. Some of the different characteristics illustrated are shown in Table 1.

[1]The numbers in brackets correspond with those of the references in 1.2.

Table 1

Characteristics of Appendixes*

Appendix Number	Emphasis of Control (Life Cycle Phase)	Type of Project	Relative Size (Dollar/Manhour)	SCM Tools Available	Life Span of Plan	Writing for Plan
1	Development	Critical	Medium	Advanced	Short	Highly structured
2	Concept	Prototype	Small	Basic	Short	Informal
3	Operations	Support sw	Large	On-line	Full life cycle	Structured
4	All	Commercial	Small	Integrated	Full life cycle	Organizational Informal

*NOTE: The purpose of the Appendixes is not to provide an illustration for every possible combination of project characteristics but rather to show that the ANSI/IEEE Std 828-1983 [2] can be applied to a wide variety of projects.