

Microsoft VSTS/TFS ALM *QuickStart*



How should I improve my software development process this year?

What steps should I take to get there?

Which practice areas will provide the largest return?

I've heard that agile modeling is relatively easy to adopt, can these techniques help me?

How will I coordinate my development process with the Microsoft toolset?

Adopt New ALM Practice Areas With Experienced Instruction and Guidance

The term ***Application Lifecycle Management*** (ALM) is attracting significant attention from tool vendors, research groups, and industry thought leaders. Although proactively managing your application throughout the lifecycle seems to be a simple concept, in fact there are seemingly innumerable ways to accomplish the goals of ALM. Coordinated toolsets, the Capability Maturity Model, innovative modeling techniques, and commercially available processes all provide pieces of this frequently misunderstood and often complex puzzle.

Microsoft toolsets include tailorable process support to help their clients better manage activities throughout the complete software lifecycle. Microsoft promotes smart ALM adoption to help the users of their toolsets achieve greater success. To gain the benefits of these techniques, organizations need a plan to make improvements in reasonably sized steps, and in a carefully selected order. As projects become larger and more complex, the benefits of ALM significantly increase.

IconATG helps organizations plan and execute their ALM adoption strategy. We are experienced with the latest software development practices, as well as developing a plan to adopt better practices at a controlled and maintainable pace. Your adoption plan will include the necessary training in modeling skills and best practices, pilot projects to reinforce and successfully apply what you have learned, and suggested guidance and mentoring to reinforce and fine tune your new ALM practices.

ALM QuickStart Objectives

- Assess current processes
- Assess process maturity
- Determine current strengths & weaknesses
- Create a game plan for iterative process rollout
- Identify opportunities to enhance skillsets
- Customization and configuration of the Team Foundation Server process templates

Why improve your Application Lifecycle

- Desire to communicate better with the business
- Management desires more visibility into the software development lifecycle
- Want to approve, control, and manage requirements before development
- Complexity and size of projects is reducing cycle times and quality of the application
- Need to understand how to improve quality earlier in the lifecycle
- Desire a controlled framework to adopt iterative management practices

IconATG Offers Multiple Plans for Quick Adoption of ALM

IconATG has created three ALM adoption programs based on our experience with many organizations. Customized plans are also available to handle unique individual needs. Select a plan that fits your needs and budget, or speak with a technical representative to develop a customized plan to your specific needs. Contact an IconATG representative for questions and costs for our ALM adoption programs.

ALM Level 1 – ALM Readiness

- Assessment of current processes
- MSF process prioritization and customization

ALM Level 2 – Pilot Project

- All level 1 activities
- Coaching through pilot engagement (usually 1 to 3 months)
- Pilot project evaluation and recommendations
- Skills training (final training plan depends on earlier findings)
 - Requirements Modeling (with user stories or use cases)
 - Applying Scrum (with user stories or use cases)
 - Testing (with use case driven development or test driven development)

ALM Level 3 – Organizational Readiness

- All level 1 and 2 activities
- Organizational Change Management Assessment and Plan
- Team Engagement Coaching (usually 1 to 3 months per team)

Background of Microsoft's VSTS Team Foundation Server

Visual Studio Team System Team Foundation Server is an integrated collaboration server for Visual Studio Team System. It combines team portal, version control, work item tracking, build management, process guidance, and business intelligence into a unified server. It allows everyone on the team to collaborate more effectively and deliver better quality software.

The Team Foundation Server comes with process templates that can be tailored to your individual needs.



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About IconATG:

The IconATG mission is to improve your software development practices via training and consulting with key technologies and suggested practices that truly transform the abilities of your organization. IconATG services and people are your catalyst for organizational change and innovation.