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Leadership Through Systems Engineering

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Jason Sherey, Using Patterns to Manage Project Portfolios

Abstract: This presentation will show managers of project portfolios or product platforms how to improve the quality and effectiveness of an organization's portfolio or platform development plans. Most portfolios or platforms can be considered to be a set of projects or products that revolve around similar concepts or architectures. If these similar concepts or architectures are modeled explicitly in an abstract form called a pattern, then that pattern can be used to evaluate and plan each proposed development project within a given portfolio or platform in a structured, efficient, and insightful manner. These patterns enable feature sets, design architectures, development effort and risks, and even work breakdown structures and task lists to be quickly identified and analyzed for each proposed project. Despite requiring minimal data specific to each proposed project, the pattern can be used to fill in the concepts and relationships needed for insightful views that often highlight forgotten features, components, or risks. Most importantly, because each evaluation is based off of the same pattern, every feature set, design architecture, development risk list, and work breakdown structure within the same portfolio or platform can be compared and contrasted without having to translate between the styles and structures of different analysts.

Author:

