

IS 628: Computer-based Information Systems
Reading Preparation Assignment
Chapter 9
Methodologies for Custom Software Development

Read Chapter 9 of the text, pp. 361 – 387.

Be prepared for class discussion based on the following questions:

1. Discuss why you think the SDLC methodology for developing application systems was widely adopted in U.S.-based organizations by the early 1990s.
2. Briefly describe the elements of a business case for a new information systems project under the SDLC methodology.
3. Why is an accurate and complete requirements definition especially critical when using the SDLC “waterfall” approach?
4. IS department managers often believe that they are responsible for making sure the requirements of the system are properly defined, but in this chapter the business manager’s responsibility for defining the requirements is emphasized. How can you reconcile these two points of view?
5. Discuss why an application might be built using prototyping as part of the SDLC methodology, rather than by a pure prototyping methodology alone.
6. Why does the use of contractors increase the complexity of an IT project?
7. Discuss how some modern tools (e.g., CASE), techniques (e.g., JAD), and new methodologies (e.g., eXtreme programming) help IS organizations overcome the disadvantages of the traditional SDLC methodology.
8. Discuss some factors that would encourage an organization to outsource some or all of its information systems development work.
9. From the perspective of an organization’s managers, discuss what you see as some of the primary trade-offs between the benefits and risks of user application development.