

Discussion 1: Configuration Management Tools

Configuration management (CM) in general is the detailed recording and updating of information which gives details and descriptions for an enterprise's hardware and software. These information usually includes the versions and updates which are applied to installed software packages, besides, the locations and network addresses of hardware devices. [1]

Configuration management Tool is used by program management. It is a partner tool used by document management, and it is a tool with important connections to requirements engineering activities and processes.[2]

Automated CM tools can help:

- Record, control, and correlate Configuration Items (CIs), Configuration Units (CUs), and Configuration Components (CCs) within a number of individual baselines across the life cycle.
- Identify and control baselines and software versions.
- Track, control, manage, and report change requests for the baseline CIs, CCs, and CUs, besides, tracking requirements from specification to testing and hardware parts.
- Enable rigorous compliance with a robust CM process.
- Conduct Physical Configuration Audits (PCAs).
- Facilitate conduct of Functional Configuration Audits.

References:

[1]: Rouse, M. (2014, June 1). What is configuration management (CM)? - Definition from WhatIs.com. Retrieved November 2, 2015.

[2]: Configuration Management Tools. (2013, September 1). Retrieved November 2, 2015.

Discussion 2: Software Audits

A software audit is the process of analyzing and observing a piece of software. Audits provide an independent evaluation of software products or processes to ascertain compliance to standards, specifications, and procedures based on objective criteria..

There are different kinds of software audits. For instance, software licensing audit is performed to determine whether an organization is in compliance with user license agreements, while a software quality audit is performed to examine the software program's quality and effectiveness. In general, a software audit involves ascertaining which software programs are loaded on company-owned computers or are residing within the network and comparing this information with existing software licenses, proofs of purchase documents, and contracts. The end result of the audit is to show that software has been legally and legitimately obtained and its use is of benefit to the organization.

Software audits may be performed internally by special teams such as developer teams, or externally by outside firms or consultants. Software audits usually rely on specific IT tools which will help with the kind of fact-finding required for the audit in question. That may mean using analysis tools for security or functionality audits.

References:

Silltow, J. (2007, November 1). Key Points to Keep in Mind When Conducting a Software Audit. Retrieved November 20, 2015, from <https://iaonline.theiia.org/key-points-to-keep-in-mind-when-conducting-a-software-audit>

Discussion 3:

Project Manager: how to avoid act foolishly:

Project manager is required to specify a target to achieve and to set the goals and objectives in order to develop a specific product to be delivered in specific time. Project manager needs to give a high priority for client requirements and market demand to present a product that serve the two sides with the regard to business criteria.

One of the most important point that project managers should take on their consideration is managing communication process. They must provide good communication between team members since any failure in this point leads to project failure. Also, a manager need to pay attention to team demands such as software or tools they need, skilled persons to get more experience, or even good plan that they can follow without any obstacles.

In addition, project manager should provide motivation for team members and divide the task and activities according to members' abilities and time without any pressure which may affect the decision making process.

References:

Summers, B. (2013). Effective methods for software and systems integration (pp. 106-107). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.
