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# Abstract

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We’ve all heard that it’s better to “build in quality” than to test in quality. Have you ever wondered how exactly *is* quality built in?

Most books about quality assurance say that following good practices will ensure that quality is built in. However, the quality assurance books describe only the “quality” practices – configuration management, testing, auditing – and not the practices which actually create the software. Software engineering books do describe the practices which create the software, but often without explaining how those practices build in quality, or under what circumstances they work best.

If you understand the fundamental principles that make some software engineering practices work in some circumstances and not in others, you’ll be able to put together a set of practices which will build in quality for any situation. Once you understand the principles, you can choose practices, testing methodologies, and so forth to fit whatever your environment may be.

This paper explains the fundamental principles and demonstrates how to apply them. We’ll take a look at identifying what type of mistakes most frequently are made in your organization, and at choosing from a toolkit of prevention and detection practices to address these mistakes. We also consider how to choose practices which will best fit your organization’s software development process.

# Biography

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# Introduction

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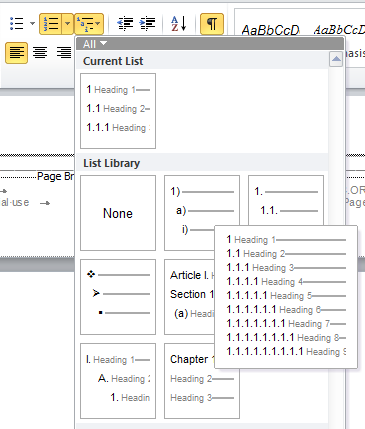
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Book:

Bird, Kai, and Martin J. Sherwin. 2005. *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Appleby, Joyce, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob. 1994. *Telling the Truth about History*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Journal Articles:

Green, Nancy L. 2005. “The Politics of Exit: reversing the Immigration Paradigm.” *Journal of Modern History* 77 (June): 263-89.

Magazine Articles:

*New Yorker*. 2000. Talk of the Town. April 10.

Faris, Stephan. 2005. “’Freedom”: No Documents Found. Saolon.com, December 16. http://www.salon.com/tech/feature/2005/12/16/censorship/index1.html (accessed December 19, 2005).

Web Sites:

Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees. “Evanston Public Library Strategic Plan, 2000-2010: A Decade of Outreach.” Evanston Public Library. http://www.epi.org/library/strategic-plan-00.html (accessed June 1, 2005).

Becker, Gary. 2006. “The New American Dilemma: Illegal Immigration,” The Becker-Posner Blog, entry posted March 6, http://www.becker-psner-blog.com/archives/2006/03/the\_new\_america.html (accessed March 28, 2006).

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