PLM Interest Group

PLM Maturity Manual

A comprehensive manual that explains the intricacies of PLM Maturity and how to assess it, in a way that presents clear and useable findings.

This is a hands-on instruction manual for evaluating PLM Maturity and using it to generate accurate roadmaps.

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Foreword

The concept of PLM Maturity has been around for more than a decade, and has formed into a general idea that if you choose 5 Levels of maturity progression, and write down how you perform against them, you will find a 'Maturity Score' for your company.

In fact this does not work. The subject of 'Maturity' in general breaks down into much more detail than this; and when it is applied to PLM it becomes even more complex. You must decide whether to measure absolute or relative maturity; choose levels that match the way that PLM develops; and break down each score into subdivisions that apply to the way that PLM is enacted.

The only way to treat the subject is thoroughly, and that is what this Manual sets out to do.

Accurate measurement of PLM Maturity is important for three reasons:-

1. Many companies have been working on PLM for more than a decade, with no clear indication of progress. The ability to quantify PLM Maturity will enable them to demonstrate their progress in graphical and numerical terms, and hence will show how much more of the journey is still to be travelled.

2. The industry as a whole has no central idea of what “completed PLM” entails, apart from the fact that it will be digitally connected. The concept of **Full PLM Maturity** (as defined in this Manual) provides this vision in a way that is straightforward and easy to understand.

3. The most effective method for long-term roadmapping is to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current maturity situation and to plan towards Full Maturity.

The first step towards understanding PLM Maturity is to evaluate your own, as it is now, and the *PLM Maturity Manual* enables you to do this.

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0 Executive Summary

This *PLM Maturity Manual* enables PLM practitioners to understand and measure the maturity of any PLM implementation.

PLM does not lend itself to Maturity assessment by generic methods. Conventional, widely-used scales of maturity level from 1-5 do not apply properly to PLM; and conventional metrics fail to provide adequate granularity in terms of the analysis. For a PLM environment, most methodologies are insufficiently precise about the scope and perimeter of interest, and fail even to define the type of maturity that is being measured.

This *Manual* contains a comprehensive Maturity assessment methodology that is designed specifically for PLM, together with wider explanations of the subject material and how to use it for analysis and roadmapping.

The Manual begins by explaining the main issues of PLM Maturity to establish the context; and describes two alternative scales, or metric criteria, against which Maturity can be scored.

The original *PLM Maturity Manual* set out two possible methods of carrying out the assessment:- Activity-Based, or Structure-Based. This Version focuses on the Activity-Based method, which leads seamlessly into roadmapping and planning; and provides more detailed text to guide the user through the process. The Structure-Based method, (plus some other frameworks that have been proposed in the past) are covered in appendices for those who would like to use them.

Every organisation will apply the Maturity Assessment in its own context, recording its own scores, and generating its own Roadmap and follow-on projects from the results.

It is important to understand and adhere to this, because:-

(a) there are no general external standards of PLM Maturity that you could compare yourself to; and,

(b) the main benefit of understanding your PLM Maturity is to be able to put in place a set of follow-on improvement actions, and these will be specific to your own implementation.

This *PLM Maturity Manual* contains a self-contained set of instructions that any PLM Team can apply to define their current situation and create Roadmaps for future project approval.

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Table of Contents

Foreword 4

0 Executive Summary 5

About This Toolkit 10

1 Introduction 11
- 1.1 Background 11
- 1.2 Use Cases 12
- 1.3 Manual Premise 12
- 1.4 Structure of the Manual 13
- 1.5 PLMIG Q&A 13
- 1.6 Printing the Manual 13

2 Definitions 14
- 2.1 Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) 14
  - 2.1.1 Descriptive Definition 14
  - 2.1.2 Functional Definition 14
- 2.2 Perimeter of Interest 15
- 2.3 PLM Permeation 15
- 2.4 PLM Traction 15

3 How to Use this Manual 16

Part 1: Maturity Fundamentals 18

4 What is PLM Maturity? 19
- 4.1 Overview 19
- 4.2 Maturity, not Capability 19
- 4.3 Possible Maturity Parameters 20
  - 4.3.1 Full PLM 20
  - 4.3.2 Evolving Scale 20
  - 4.3.3 Industry Factors 20
  - 4.3.4 Organisation Factors 20
  - 4.3.5 Product Development Position 20
  - 4.3.6 Lifecycle Position 21
- 4.4 Full PLM Maturity - Definition 21

5 PLM Maturity Levels 22
- 5.1 Overview 22
- 5.2 “Standard” Scale 23
- 5.3 PLM Scale 24
  - 5.3.1 Scale Boundaries 24
  - 5.3.2 Low-End Maturity Levels 25
  - 5.3.3 Working Maturity Levels 26
  - 5.3.4 Future Maturity Levels 27
- 5.4 Scale Subdivisions 28

6 Maturity Permeation 29
- 6.1 Maturity Development 29
- 6.2 Lights Out / Lights On 29

Part 2: Maturity Methodology 30

7 Maturity Assessment Methodologies ... 31
7.1 Overview ... 31
7.2 Activity-Based Method ... 31
7.3 Structure-Based Method ... 32
7.4 Choosing the Method ... 32

8 Maturity Methodology: Activity-Based ... 33
8.1 Overview ... 33
8.2 Basic Principles ... 33
8.3 Aim ... 34
8.4 Iteration ... 34
8.5 What You Need to Know ... 34
8.6 Positioning ... 35
8.7 Setting the Parameters ... 36
8.7.1 Choosing the Perimeter of Interest ... 36
8.7.1.1 CAE Example ... 36
8.7.1.2 Supply Chain Example ... 37
8.7.2 Choosing the Metric Axes ... 37
8.8 Compiling the Maturity Score ... 39
8.8.1 Position ... 39
8.8.2 Focal Points ... 39
8.8.3 Perimeter of Interest ... 39
8.8.4 Maturity Levels ... 40
8.8.5 Axes ... 40
8.8.6 Assessment ... 40
8.8.7 Scoring ... 40
8.9 Review / Action ... 41
8.9.1 Documentation ... 41
8.9.2 Presentation ... 41
8.9.3 Next Steps ... 41

Part 3: Presentation of Results 42

9 Presentation of Results ... 43
9.1 Core Documentation ... 43
9.2 Maturity Assessment Report ... 44
9.2.1 Document Structure ... 44
9.2.2 Level of Detail ... 45
9.2.3 Presentation of Results ... 45
9.2.4 Discussion of Results ... 46

Part 4: Roadmapping 48

10 Roadmapping Methodology ... 49
10.1 Quick Wins ... 49
10.2 Roadmapping Overview ... 49
10.3 Fundamentals ... 50
10.4 Common Questions ... 51
10.5 Principle ... 52
10.6 PLM Roadmap Document ... 53
10.7 Maintaining the Roadmap ... 54

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Class A PLM **56**

11 Integration with Class A PLM 57

Appendix 1: Structure-Based Maturity Methodology **58**

12 Maturity Model: Structure-Based 59
12.1 Overview 59
12.2 Structure-Based Matrix 60
12.2.1 Basic Matrix 60
12.2.2 Extending the Matrix [1] 61
12.2.3 Extending the Matrix [2] 62
12.2.4 Displaying the Initial Results 63
12.2.5 Spreadsheet Structure 64
12.2.6 Analysing the Detailed Results 64
12.2.7 Analysis by Function 65
12.2.8 Analysis by PLM Element 66
12.3 Compiling the Maturity Score 66
12.4 Detailing the Maturity Score 67
12.5 CAE Example 68

Appendix 2: Other Roadmapping Techniques **70**

13 Three Alternative Options 71
13.1 Option 1 71
13.2 Option 2 72
13.3 Option 3 73

Terms and Conditions **74**

14 Terms and Conditions 75
14.1 PLM Maturity Manual Ownership and Use 75
14.2 Disclaimer 75

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