Microsoft Solutions Framework (MSF) is an integrated system of process guidance that embraces both agile and formal methodologies and provides a framework to implement a customized solution for a wide variety of projects.

MSF is a highly customizable, scalable, fully integrated set of software development processes, principles, and proven practices designed to deliver the type of guidance desired by the user when and where it is needed. MSF harvests proven guidance from inside and outside of Microsoft and provides a seamless experience with Visual Studio 2005 Team System for process automation and guidance within the software development life cycle (SDLC).

This tutorial will have two parts.

In the first part we will introduce MSF 4.0, provides a brief history, discusses the issues that surround the traditional approach to process guidance as part of the SDLC, and contrasts that with the approach being taken in MSF, and presents some extensibility possibilities.

In the second part of this tutorial, we will dive deep into Visual Studio Team System (VSTS) features and tools that allow managing the entire development process and, in particular, the implementation of MSF.

VSTS is an integrated application life-cycle management solution comprising tools, processes, and guidance to help every team member – from project managers to testers – work more effectively, improving software quality.

We will analyze how VSTS lays down the foundations for establishing a well-defined development process based on MSF (for Agile or for CMMI) adapted to the project in hand and how this process may be used to guide the most critical stages in software development:

- Requirements Gathering
Most of these solutions build on the experiences of MSF 4.0 and provide excellent means to control project development, achieve traceability between tasks and software artifacts, and, most important, improve team productivity.

Outline (Draft):

- Part I
  - MSF 4.0 Overview
  - Foundational Principles
  - Building an MSF Team
  - Managing Project Risks
  - Solution Delivery Lifecycle
- Part II
  - VS Team System Overview
  - Requirements Gathering
  - Project Management
  - Design
  - Development
  - Testing
  - Maintenance

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