Options Assessment for Agile People

ISS Programme objective: This ICT programme aims to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness by introducing a coherent and interoperable information service across the breadth of the business domain and supporting organisations.

The core component , a coherent and integrated data repository, will provide a rich data source to improve operational effectiveness through better understanding and application of resources.

Analysis context: Delivery of the new solution will follow the four components of the Governmental ICT Strategy and Government Digital Strategy (GDS):

- In-source design and design risk
- Move to a multi-tenanted supply chain
- Use Off-The-Shelf (**OTS**) products or services
- **Utilise Agile development methods**

Adhering to these principles should result in faster, more flexible, lower cost implementation of incremental capabilities; however, the GDS approach results in a fast-paced evolutionary development cycle with a significant number of potential options to be rapidly generated and assessed. We have developed a draft approach to allow fast, repeatable, auditable options definition and analysis, in line with an Agile approach.

Output: A flexible process for rapid generation and assessment of options for Agile programmes with a wide options space.

The government's shifting direction towards Agile ICT procurements means decisions must be made more quickly, while remaining evidence-based. The proposed approach presented here offers a tailorable process for future programmes in the ICT space that meet this change.

Stage 1

Relies upon 'slicing' the capability requirement into "**Themes**", and ordering Themes by priority

Stage 2

A nominated Theme (based on highest priority) is further divided into smaller chunks of capability requirements labelled here as "**Sub-Themes**".

All Sub-Themes are analysed against OTS products or services to generate a set of viable options to meet the Theme's requirement.

Stage 5

Once analysed, OTS products and/or bespoke elements (BE) will populate a matrix to illustrate the available solutions for each Sub-Theme.

Stage 6

Options can be generated by selecting different permutations of OTS products that address every Sub-Theme within a Theme.

A set of viable options will be generated based on cost, benefit, compatibility, and considering Other Contributing Factors (OCF).

Stage 0

Products created to support the iterative analysis process include User Requirements, Cost Model, Gap analysis, Benefits Map and Capability Component Model

Stage 3

First stage of analysis is to down-select OTS products against Key User Requirements for a Sub-Theme.

This stage acts as a 'coarse' filter to efficiently identify OTS products suitable for in-depth analysis in the next stage.

Stage 4

OTS Analysis will assess each remaining OTS product in 'finer' detail for cost and benefit.

Team will use an array of techniques, examples include: Alphas / prototyping, User testing, and Demonstrations.

In certain instances, this stage will identify capability requirements not met by OTS products, i.e. capability gaps. Depending on the appetite for trading, bespoke elements could be investigated to fill identified gaps.

Stage 7

The option set will be ranked by analysing each option for cost-benefit to identify the Most Economically Advantageous 'Tender' (MEAT).

Finally, a sensitivity analysis on the ranked options will ensure the it is robust before continuing to beta development.

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