

Solutions Framework

Proven Practices for Delivering Innovative Technology Solutions

A Demanding Environment

Today's business environment places increasing demands on information technology (IT) organizations—rapid change, financial constraints, global interconnectedness, and meeting the expanding needs of a wide variety of stakeholders.

Technology advances have enabled many new business opportunities. However, teams dealing with new technology can quickly lose track of its business intent. At the same time, technology projects continue to challenge IT—many projects are unsuccessful or squander precious resources through poor quality results.

IT organizations have a desire to provide business-driven technology solutions more effectively and successfully, and look to industry leaders for help.

Microsoft's Approach

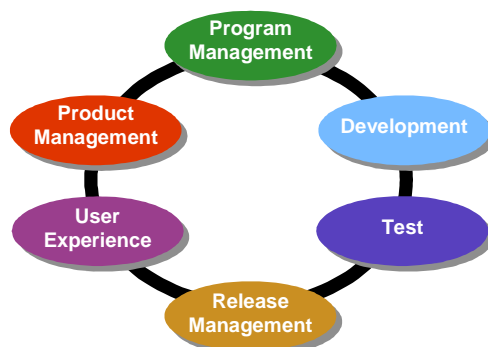
The Microsoft® Solutions Framework (MSF) is an adaptable approach for successfully delivering technology solutions faster, with fewer people and less risk, while enabling higher quality results.

MSF helps teams directly address the most common causes of technology project failure—improving success rates, solution quality, and business impact.

MSF describes, among other things:

- Aligning business and technology goals
- Establishing clear project goals, roles, and responsibilities
- Implementing an iterative, milestone-driven process
- Managing risk proactively
- Responding to change effectively

The MSF Team Model



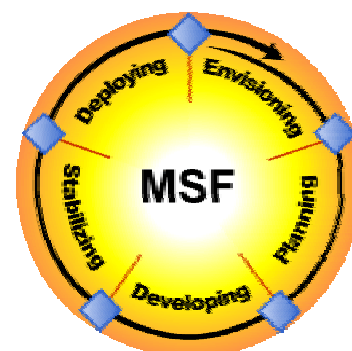
Proven Success with MSF

MSF is a deliberate and disciplined approach to technology projects based on Microsoft internal practices, the experiences of Microsoft Services working with customers and partners, and industry best practices.

MSF proven practices are collected within five primary topic areas:

- The *MSF Team Model* enables projects to scale, ensures teams meet a variety of stakeholder needs, and defines goal-driven roles and responsibilities.
- The *MSF Process Model* drives fast, high-quality results through a proven project life cycle that identifies key project activities.
- The *MSF Project Management Discipline* applies industry standard project management best practices to MSF principles.
- The *MSF Risk Management Discipline* is a comprehensive, proactive approach to minimizing the factors that could impact project success.
- The *MSF Readiness Management Discipline* helps project teams identify skill gaps and opportunities for learning.

The MSF Process Model



Learn More about MSF

MSF offers guidance through the following resources in how to organize people and projects to plan, build, and deploy a variety of technology solutions:

- Online MSF white papers.
- MSF Practitioner delivered MSF Essentials training, provided by Microsoft Certified Technical Education Centers and Microsoft Services.
- MSF Practitioner delivered consulting services, provided by Microsoft Services and Microsoft Certified Partners.

MSF-related tools, techniques, and templates for a wide range of specific technology scenarios (including software development, infrastructure deployment, and packaged application integration) are available through additional courses, Microsoft product documentation, Microsoft TechNet and MSDN articles, and Microsoft Service Offerings and Solution Enablers.

See <http://www.microsoft.com/msf> and the MSF Practitioner Program datasheet for more details.

Microsoft® Solutions Framework Practitioner Program

Integrating people, process, and technology.

Microsoft's Qualified Community of MSF Professionals

A Community of MSF Professionals

Microsoft® Solutions Framework (MSF) Practitioners are individuals who have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate as an effective team member on a project that uses MSF.

MSF Practitioners are typically consultants, managers, technology professionals, developers, and project managers that lead organizations in the adoption of proven practices for project success.

MSF Practitioners provide a variety of services, including MSF consulting and mentoring, training, and project leadership. MSF Practitioners share one primary goal: improve business success through the successful delivery of high-quality, customer-driven, technology solutions.

Improve Your Organization

Any company interested in improving how their technology solutions contribute to bottom-line results will be interested in MSF.

Since the initial availability of MSF in 1994, many companies have benefited from the adoption of MSF proven practices—even organizations using industry standards or following a specific methodology.

As companies have recognized the results MSF helps them achieve on key projects, their attention turns to how they can adopt MSF techniques broadly across the organization.

The MSF Practitioner Program is critical for MSF training and adoption; it is used to identify trainers and consultants with the necessary skills and for evaluating individual and organizational progress when adopting MSF.

Expand Your Skills

Microsoft certifications such as the Microsoft Certified Solution Developer (MCS D) and the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) help identify people with great technical skills.

The MSF Practitioner endorsement supplements Microsoft's technical certifications through the identification of people with MSF skills—ensuring they understand Microsoft's proven practices for delivering business-driven technology solutions successfully.

The MSF Practitioner endorsement focuses on the *people and process* aspects of technology projects, rather than the technology skills covered by Microsoft certifications.

Other Benefits

Individuals and organizations use the MSF Practitioner Program to achieve the following additional benefits:

- Microsoft Certified Professionals (MCPs) enhance their technical skills with business-focused competencies related to successful solution delivery, project management, and consulting.
- IT organizations improve and measure their skills related to delivering business-driven technology solutions.
- Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCTs) earn MCT credits for various MSF training activities.

Prepare for the MSF Practitioner Exam

Microsoft's recommended preparation for the MSF Practitioner exam includes:

- Attend the three-day MSF course 1846A: MSF Essentials. The course syllabus is located at: <http://www.microsoft.com/traincert/syllabi/1846AFinal.asp>.
- Read the online MSF white papers describing the principles, models, and disciplines of MSF located at: <http://www.microsoft.com/msf>.
- A minimum of six months or two projects of experience in a lead role regularly applying MSF to planning, building, and deploying one or more technology solutions into a production environment.

Take the MSF Practitioner Exam

Contact a Thomson Prometric testing center to register for the MSF Practitioner exam:

- Identify the Thomson Prometric Testing Center location where you want to take the exam. To find a Testing Center in your area, visit: <http://www.prometric.com/microsoft>.
- Register online or by phone, using the registration phone numbers by region on the Prometric website.
- Indicate the number of the MSF Practitioner exam: 74-100.

Candidates are given 90 minutes to complete 70 questions.

Achieving a 70% or higher on the MSF Practitioner exam results in achieving the MSF Practitioner endorsement.

See <http://www.microsoft.com/msf> for more information about MSF.