

TOP 10 RISK LIST

One of the most potent risk-monitoring tools is the use of a “Top 10 Risks” list. The Top 10 list contains each risk’s current rank, its previous rank, the number of times it has been on the list, and a summary of steps taken to resolve the risk since the previous review. *CxPattern_RiskList* can be used to create a 10 Top Risk List.

Main Benefits	A Top 10 list forces you to look at and think about risks regularly and to be alert to changes in importance.
Keys to Success	Actively maintaining the risk list.
When to Use	A 10 Top Risk List can be used on virtually any type of project.
Main Risks	Top 10 risk lists have no inherent risks.

Overview

Risk management supports identifying, addressing, and eliminating the sources of risk before they become threats to successful completion of a software project. Active risk management enables a project to regularly review the open risks and identify new risks.

The Top-10 risks list is a simple tool that helps to monitor a software project’s risks. The list consists of the 10 most serious risks to a project ranked from 1 to 10, each risk’s status, and the plan for addressing each risk. The act of updating and reviewing the top-10 list each week raises awareness of risks and contributes to timely resolution of them.

CxOne Support

CxOne provides direct implementation support for a top 10 risk list with the *risk list pattern* materials. A risk list pattern and risk checklist support ongoing risk management during projects.

Interactions with other Best Practices

A top 10 risk list can be combined freely with other best practices.

Further Reading

McConnell, Steve. *Rapid Development*. Microsoft Press. 1996

Boehm, Barry W., ed. *Software Risk Management*. Washington, DC: IEEE Computer Society Press, 1989.

Boehm, Barry W. Software Risk Management: Principles and Practices,” *IEEE Software*, January 1991.

Jones, Capers. *Assessment and Control of Software Risks*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Yourdon Press, 1994.