

DMSMS Evaluation Spreadsheet Instructions

Spreadsheet Operation:

The spreadsheet application is for use with Excel (developed using Microsoft Office Excel 2003). The spreadsheet uses Macros that must be enabled. You can enable the Macros by opening Excel and selecting Tools->Options..., Security tab, Macro Security..., choose Medium (or Low); restart the spreadsheet (select "Enable Macros" in the Security Warning if asked).

Filling out the Spreadsheet:

- 1) Please fill in the name of the tool, your name and affiliation, and select whether you are a "User" or "Developer" of the tool on the top of the first form that appears (on the sheet named "Forms"). You must select User or Developer before you start the evaluation, your selection influences the allowed answers to the questions. Do not change your User/Developer selection during your evaluation.
- 2) There are five categories of questions (five columns of buttons on the "Forms" sheet). The definitions of these categories appear on the next page. You only need to visit the categories of questions (and the particular forms) that you feel are applicable to the particular tool you are evaluating. The forms in the "General" category should be assessed for every tool.
- 3) The button corresponding to a form turns green after "Submit Answers" is pressed on the associated form. Buttons turn back to pink if "Clear Form" is pressed on the associated form.
- 4) All questions can be answered, but not all will be included in assessment results.
- 5) **SAVE** your spreadsheet! All of your inputs are only saved if you save your copy of the spreadsheet. Use File->Save As... to save each spreadsheet with a unique name.
- 6) You must fill out a separate spreadsheet for each tool you evaluate.
- 7) Don't worry about how the forms are scored or what questions are included or excluded (answer everything you can). In the evaluation version of the spreadsheet, the scores will always appear as "NA" or as an error. All forms will be consistently scored later.
- 8) For simplicity we refer to the objects being evaluated as "tools," however, we understand that these criteria may be applied to other types of activities that are not tools, e.g., databases or services provided by a vendor.
- 9) If multiple responses are true in a pull down menu, pick the applicable answer that is closest to the top of the menu.

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Evaluation Category Definitions

The evaluation questions are divided into general questions that could be asked of every tool, and questions that are specific to the various categories of tools. Many tools are applicable to more than one category.

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General

The following criteria are general and in many cases not DMSMS specific (outside of the specific taxonomy categories). These criteria could be applied to every tool in the space.

Aggregation/Collaboration Environments

The “environment” (or infrastructure) within which the tools and databases that comprise the DMSMS management solutions reside. The environment provides a range of “services” that enable the use of a suite of tools and databases for performing application-specific analyses. The specific tools and databases that the environment enables the use of are included within the other portions of the taxonomy.

Part Data Management

The tools that collect and manage data that supports the analysis of DMSMS issues. This category is dominated by (but not limited to) electronic part databases that can be used during part selection and management for original part selection, alternative part identification, part procurement and individual part management.

Part List Monitoring Part status tracking and inventory tracking for lists of parts or individual bills of materials treated independently from the application context.

Platform/System Analysis and Management

The use of DMSMS data combined with platform/system descriptive and lifecycle information to enable platform/system lifecycle management across multiple enterprises. These tools provide tactical planning/optimization at the platform/system level (“this is my situation right now, what is the optimum decision to make?”). This category includes application-specific management of multiple BOMs.

Strategic Planning

The use of DMSMS data, logistics management inputs, and technology/business forecasting/trending to enable strategic planning, lifecycle optimization, and long-term business case development and support. These tools provide the opportunity to plan/optimize the big picture, i.e., they could be used during system design to plan the lifecycle management of a system or group of systems (“I’m architecting my system, forming business plans, and defining long-term budgets, what should I do?”).