



*Management Overview  
of DataDrill EXPRESS*

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## **Overview**

The software project manager lives under the constant scrutiny of executives, customers and project team members. Software managers need access to accurate and up-to-date information to deliver the quality products that their customers demand. On top of this, software project managers must comply with an array of company policy, organizational standards and process improvement initiatives.

DataDrill Express brings software project management and organizational objectives together, easily allowing project managers to:

- Launch an Out-of-the-Box Measurement Process
- Deploy Software Management Best Practices
- Manage By Exception
- Demonstrate Compliance with Standards and Models
- Quickly Initiate a New Software Development Project
- Integrate and Collect Key Software Project Metrics

DataDrill Express provides front-line management information needed to address the challenges of software management. DataDrill Express provides a consolidated view of the project in an easy to use web-based interface.

## 1. Launch an Out-of-the-Box Measurement Process

**Problem:** Many organizations have no functioning metric or measurement process available forcing managers to manage without data. Because there is no periodic performance data, there is no support for building and maintaining an accurate plan. These two problems lead to large variations in project execution: the project will eventually finish, but may do so with changes in expected content, lasting longer than planned schedules or consuming greater resources. In extreme cases, projects are cancelled or shipped with major quality problems.

**“If you don’t know where you’re going,  
any road will do.” – Watts Humphrey**

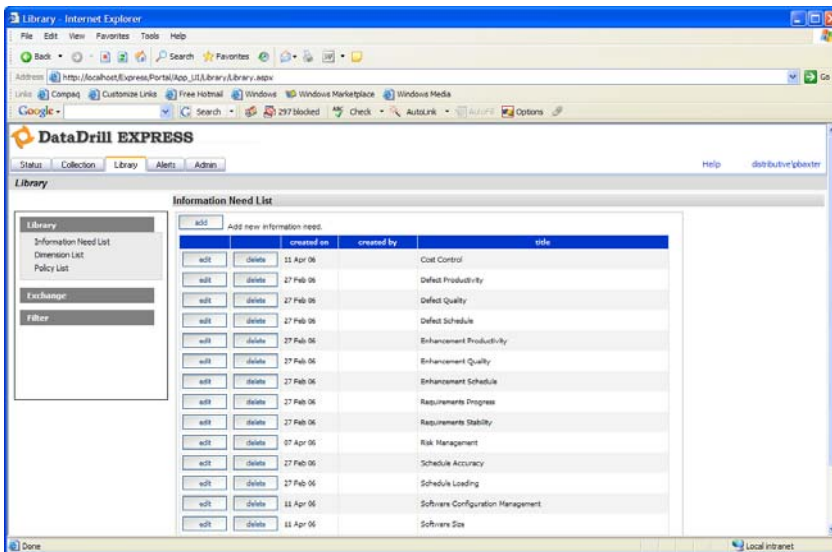
**Solution:** With Express, a manager now has access to an integrated picture of ongoing project performance. By simply using a web browser, a manager reviews the status of all software, documentation and work products under development, and assesses project progress. All aspects of the software life cycle, from requirements to testing, are quantitatively managed.

Using Express, managers receive extensive color-coded status and performance information on projects being managed. Through easy to establish business rules, managers set thresholds and triggers, which are automatically evaluated against collected data. Managers are able to drill from organizational and project summaries to detailed graphical information in only a few clicks.

Data collection is an essential part of successful management – by providing intelligent integration, Express keeps managers focused on managing. With automated gathering and verification of the data required to track performance, there is no need for managers to wait for reports from engineers or support staff. Express provides a complete data integration capability, which ensures that the most up-to-date and accurate information is available whenever it is needed.

## 2. Deploy Software Management Best Practices

**Problem:** The vast majority of software management best practices are captured in electronic and paper documents. To actually deploy a best practice, a manager or process engineer must read and decipher the document, accommodate their specific business environment, and then implement it within their organization. The barriers are immense, leading many to hire expensive process improvement consultants, or, worse, to do nothing at all. The promise of software management best practices goes unrealized – potential competitive advantages unimplemented.

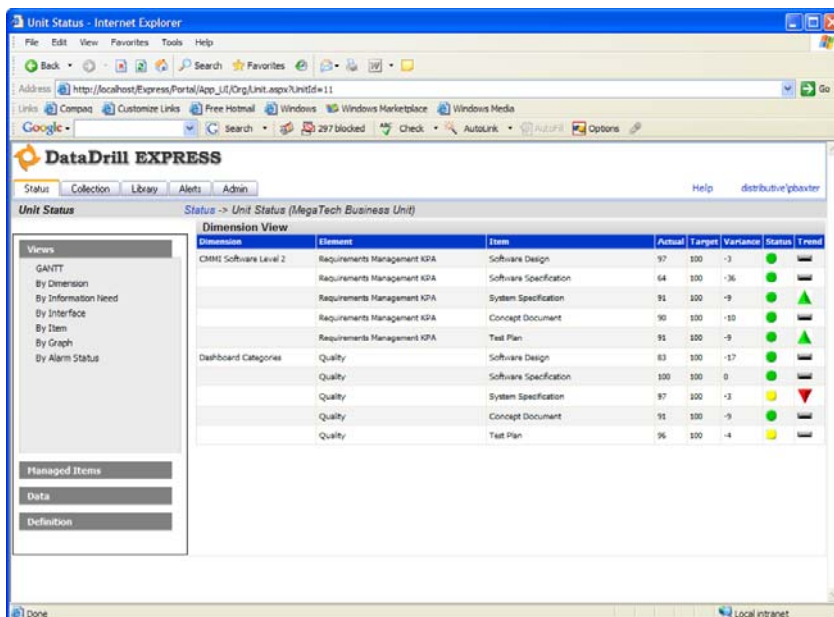


**Solution:** With DataDrill Express, the time between needing a best practice and applying it is short. By simply selecting from a library of best practices, gathered from leading software organizations, managers can deploy proven measurements/metrics in their project. Extensive automation in DataDrill Express allows managers to decide for themselves which techniques to use, without needing process improvement experts or consultants.

As an organization matures, DataDrill Express can capture best practices and share them across an organization quickly and effectively. Management techniques that save time, money or resources become competitive advantages. Methods for reducing requirements creep or raising product quality can be captured so that the organization can address other critical strategic needs, and not re-learn the lessons of past performance.

### 3. Manage By Exception

**Problem:** Managers are busy people, with demands on their time coming from all sources: executive management, team members, customers, quality groups and others. Managers must deal with an increasing amount of data and information to review, as well as satisfy the other demands on their time. Managers do not have time to sort through tens or even hundreds of graphs and reports in search of areas not meeting expectations on which to spend their effort.



**Solution:** Management by exception has never been easier using the tools provided by Express. Using an integrated picture of the organization, managers can quickly drill through multiple management levels, finding projects that require attention. Managers can filter projects by status to list just the ones under-performing. Integrated security and access control ensures that only managers who are authorized will receive access to a project's data.

To simplify reviewing the performance of a single project, Express provides an array of status views, each with color-coded status linked to specific project performance. Managers can also enter their own business rules for color-coding. Express automatically evaluates collected/analyzed data against all rules and targets. With color-coded status and alert emails available for requirements, software size, quality, configuration management and scheduling, managers quickly spot troubled areas, assess and correct issues during the project lifecycle.

#### 4. Demonstrate Compliance with Standards and Models

**Problem:** Organizations face an ongoing challenge to stay up-to-date with current software management and oversight standards, recommendations and laws. From Sarbanes-Oxley to the SEI's Capability Maturity Model Integration and organizations like IEEE and ISO, there is a seemingly endless set of standards to use. Software managers, already faced with the challenge of delivering products with fewer resources and more complexity, have little time to analyze and report on how their management practices address compliance.

**Solution:** Express addresses compliance by integrating project management and compliance. In Express managers describe a policy and regulation or pick a standard with which to comply, and then assess a projects performance against it. With Express, software projects are easily assessed against corporate policy, standards or maturity models such as the SEI's CMMI. Express allows tailoring of key process areas, sub-processes and other sub-compliance aspects to suit a variety of compliance uses.

Using Express, managers stay informed about the compliance of their projects by receiving status email alerts or periodically checking a set of compliance indicators

available within each project. Project managers review and verify their project compliance along with other project performance data -- never being the last to see project compliance. Express makes compliance a benefit of effective project management, not a burden.

## 5. Quickly Initiate a New Software Development Project

**Problem:** Software project startup can cripple project managers. In the first weeks or months of a project, managers must get authorizations, establish management plans and policy, and setup a myriad of new tools and environments. When time runs short, measurement and metrics are often left undone, leaving managers to deliver critical technology without the tools they need to monitor and control their project to success.

**“In God We Trust, All Others Must Measure.” - Deming**

**Solution:** Express saves managers’ valuable time during project startup, automating the time-consuming and repetitive tasks of establishing an effective metrics capability. Managers can select desired management techniques from a library of best practices, and see those techniques in use within minutes.

Managers are no longer reliant on IT or process specialists to apply best practice measurement, metric and analysis techniques. Express provides the technology needed to take the ideas of world-class measurement and implement them without the need for supporting personnel to become involved. From integration to analysis and from graphing to management by exception, Express quickly establishes the metrics that a project manager needs to start planning and controlling their project.

## 6. Integrate and Collect Key Software Project Metrics

**Problem:** Defining a measurement process and its metrics can be expensive. Hiring consultants or pulling managers together for endless hours of strategy and consensus meetings will eventually yield a process. When complete, you have a document, a list of measures, maybe even an excel spreadsheet but no practical way to deploy. Software development projects have a lot of data in any number of tools: requirements, testing, schedule, cost, configuration management and software sizing tools all have data that managers need. By the time an organization gets to integrate the new measurement plan with the data, they often give up – sighting measurement as too expensive, too slow, and too hard.

### Does everyone have to define Requirements Volatility and Earned Value? – Peter Baxter

**Solution:** Express delivers the software metrics recommended by the SEI, as "core" software metrics. For requirements creep and managing scope, Express provides a set of proven requirements metrics, collected from leading requirements management tools. To address software size, Express provides its own code counters, analysis and graphing to provide software size, growth and re-use metrics. Express also delivers quality, schedule and cost metrics to ensure that quality software is ready to be shipped on time and on budget.

Using a web-based interface and intelligent integrations to software life cycle tools, Express hands you industry standards ready to be applied. Connect to your data with reliable, pre-built and easy-to-use interfaces to popular commercial applications, as well as, file formats and databases. Collectors ensure that information required to satisfy a best practice is verified, collected and analyzed in near real-time and with no scripting, no development and little effort.

## ***Summary***

DataDrill Express brings software management best practices, measurement processes and compliance within reach of every organization and every manager. Eliminate reliance on IT and measurement analysts, select desired measurement techniques, add planning data and go live in minutes. By aligning information needs with data you already have, Express becomes a one-stop-shop for project status. No more waiting for monthly reports or questioning data, Express collects, validates and analyzes, allowing managers to focus their attention on areas that need improvement before they become problems.

## **Contact**

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