

PROCESS REVIEW

The Systems Analysis and Design Process

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The Systems Analysis and Design (SAD) process is typically used to ensure that data format and nomenclature are consistent across the enterprise's process Information Management Systems (IMS). Systems Analysis and Design is the "systematic assessment of how businesses function, by examining the inputting and processing of data and the output of information with the intent of improving organizational processes". For IMS, the principle goal of SAD is to create an information management system that is standardized and synchronized for all stakeholders. The systems development cycle has two major phases, with 7 total steps (Figure 1).

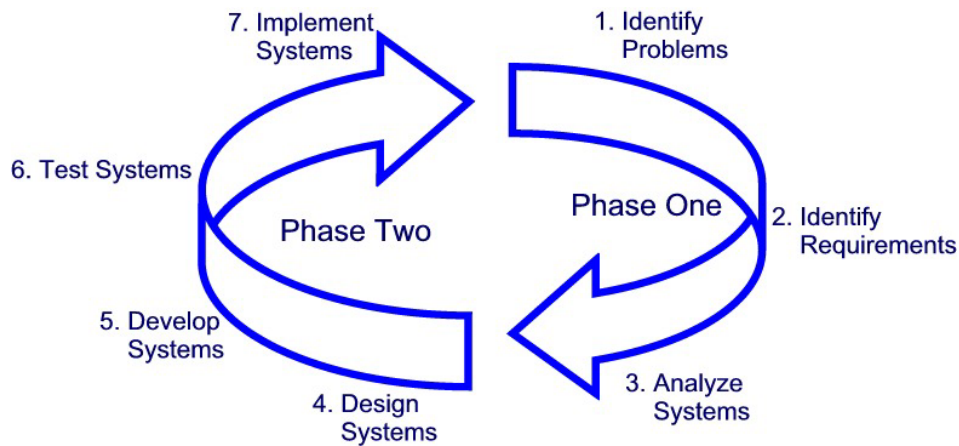


Figure 1 – The phases and steps of the Systems Analysis and Design cycle.

The first 3 steps of SAD involve Problem Identification, Requirements Analysis, and Systems Analysis. During these steps, systems analysts seek to evaluate and map the existing, legacy systems. The first step is to determine the organization's perception of the current system, called a Current Logical Design (CLD). This is accomplished by interviewing the system's higher managers; those who know the system, but are not directly involved with using it. The next step is to determine the structure of the actual, functional system, called the Current Physical Design (CPD). This is accomplished by interviewing the functional staff, those who actually run the system. To develop the CPD, analysts use a combination of interviews, questionnaires, observations, and sampling. Through this process, they are able to map the existing system components: Process, Interface, Network, and Database.

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Full version includes:

- A detailed analysis of the 7 steps of Systems Analysis and Design.
- Discussion of Systems Analysis and Design project management and integration with ERP and BPI.
- Fully referenced text, including a consolidated list of SAD-related references.