To be used in conjunction with "The Process Audit" by Michael Hammer (HBR April 2007, Reprint R0704H).
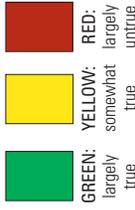
How Mature Are Your
PROCESSES?

You can evaluate the maturity of a business process and determine how to improve its performance by using this table. Decide how the statements defining the strength levels, from P-1 to P-4, for each enabler apply to the process that you are assessing. If a statement is largely true (at least 80% correct), color the cell green; if it is somewhat true (between 20% and 80% correct), shade the cell yellow; and if it is largely untrue (less than 20% correct), mark the cell red.

GREEN: largely true **YELLOW:** somewhat true **RED:** largely untrue

		P-1	P-2	P-3	P-4	P-1	P-2	P-3	P-4
Design	Purpose	The process has not been designed on an end-to-end basis. Functional managers use the legacy design primarily as a context for functional performance improvement.	The process has been redesigned from end to end in order to optimize its performance.	The process has been designed to fit with other enterprise processes and with the enterprise's IT systems in order to optimize the enterprise's performance.	The process has been designed to fit with customer and supplier processes in order to optimize interenterprise performance.				
	Context	The process's inputs, outputs, suppliers, and customers have been identified.	The needs of the process's customers are known and agreed upon.	The process owner and the owners of the other processes with which the process interfaces have established mutual performance expectations.	The process owner and the owners of customer and supplier processes with which the process interfaces have established mutual performance expectations.				
	Documentation	The documentation of the process is primarily functional, but it identifies the interconnections among the organizations involved in executing the process.	There is end-to-end documentation of the process design.	The process documentation describes the process's interfaces with, and expectations of, other processes and links the process to the enterprise's system and data architecture.	An electronic representation of the process design supports its performance and management and allows analysis of environmental changes and process reconfigurations.				
Performers	Knowledge	Performers can name the process they execute and identify the key metrics of its performance.	Performers can describe the process's overall flow; how their work affects customers, other employees in the process, and the process's performance; and the required and actual performance levels.	Performers are familiar both with fundamental business concepts and with the drivers of enterprise performance and can describe how their work affects other processes and the enterprise's performance.	Performers are familiar with the enterprise's industry and its trends and can describe how their work affects interenterprise performance.				
	Skills	Performers are skilled in problem solving and process improvement techniques.	Performers are skilled in teamwork and self-management.	Performers are skilled at business decision making.	Performers are skilled at change management and change implementation.				
	Behavior	Performers have some allegiance to the process, but owe primary allegiance to their function.	Performers try to follow the process design, perform it correctly, and work in ways that will enable other people who execute the process to do their work effectively.	Performers strive to ensure that the process delivers the results needed to achieve the enterprise's goals.	Performers look for signs that the process should change, and they propose improvements to the process.				
Owner	Identity	The process owner is an individual or a group informally charged with improving the process's performance.	Enterprise leadership has created an official process owner role and has filled the position with a senior manager who has clout and credibility.	The process comes first for the owner in terms of time allocation, mind share, and personal goals.	The process owner is a member of the enterprise's seniormost decision-making body.				
	Activities	The process owner identifies and documents the process, communicates it to all the performers, and sponsors small-scale change projects.	The process owner articulates the process's performance goals and a vision of its future; sponsors redesign and improvement efforts; plans their implementation; and ensures compliance with the process design.	The process owner works with other process owners to integrate processes to achieve the enterprise's goals.	The process owner develops a rolling strategic plan for the process, participates in enterprise-level strategic planning, and collaborates with his or her counterparts working for customers and suppliers to sponsor interenterprise process-redesign initiatives.				
	Authority	The process owner lobbies for the process but can only encourage functional managers to make changes.	The process owner can convene a process redesign team and implement the new design and has some control over the technology budget for the process.	The process owner controls the IT systems that support the process and any projects that change the process and has some influence over personnel assignments and evaluations as well as the process's budget.	The process owner controls the process's budget and exerts strong influence over personnel assignments and evaluations.				
Infrastructure	Information Systems	Fragmented legacy IT systems support the process.	An IT system constructed from functional components supports the process.	An integrated IT system, designed with the process in mind and adhering to enterprise standards, supports the process.	An IT system with a modular architecture that adheres to industry standards for interenterprise communication supports the process.				
	Human Resource Systems	Functional managers reward the attainment of functional excellence and the resolution of functional problems in a process context.	The process's design drives role definitions, job descriptions, and competency profiles. Job training is based on process documentation.	Hiring, development, reward, and recognition systems emphasize the process's needs and results and balance them against the enterprise's needs.	Hiring, development, reward, and recognition systems reinforce the importance of intra- and interenterprise collaboration, personal learning, and organizational change.				
Metrics	Definition	The process has some basic cost and quality metrics.	The process has end-to-end process metrics derived from customer requirements.	The process's metrics as well as cross-process metrics have been derived from the enterprise's strategic goals.	The process's metrics have been derived from interenterprise goals.				
	Uses	Managers use the process's metrics to track its performance, identify root causes of faulty performance, and drive functional improvements.	Managers use the process's metrics to compare its performance to benchmarks, best-in-class performance, and customer needs and to set performance targets.	Managers present the metrics to process performers for awareness and motivation. They use dashboards based on the metrics for day-to-day management of the process.	Managers regularly review and refresh the process's metrics and targets and use them in strategic planning.				

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How Mature Is Your ENTERPRISE?

To determine if your organization is ready to support a process-based transformation, evaluate the statements in this table. They show the strength levels, from E-1 to E-4, of the capabilities that enterprises need in order to develop their business processes. If a statement is at least 80% correct, color the cell green; if it is between 20% and 80% correct, shade it yellow; and if it is less than 20% correct, make it red.

Legend: GREEN: largely true | YELLOW: somewhat true | RED: largely untrue — E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4

Category	Sub	E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4
Leadership	Awareness	The enterprise's senior executive team recognizes the need to improve operational performance but has only a limited understanding of the power of business processes.	At least one senior executive deeply understands the business process concept, how the enterprise can use it to improve performance, and what is involved in implementing it.	The senior executive team views the enterprise in process terms and has developed a vision of the enterprise and its processes.	The senior executive team sees its own work in process terms and perceives process management not as a project but as a way of managing the business.
	Alignment	The leadership of the process program lies in the middle management ranks.	A senior executive has taken leadership of, and responsibility for, the process program.	There is strong alignment in the senior executive team regarding the process program. There is also a network of people throughout the enterprise helping to promote process efforts.	People throughout the enterprise exhibit enthusiasm for process management and play leadership roles in process efforts.
	Behavior	A senior executive endorses and invests in operational improvement.	A senior executive has publicly set stretch performance goals in customer terms and is prepared to commit resources, make deep changes, and remove roadblocks in order to achieve those goals.	Senior executives operate as a team, manage the enterprise through its processes, and are actively engaged in the process program.	The members of the senior executive team perform their own work as processes, center strategic planning on processes, and develop new business opportunities based on high-performance processes.
	Style	The senior executive team has started shifting from a top-down, hierarchical style to an open, collaborative style.	The senior executive team leading the process program is passionate about the need to change and about process as the key tool for change.	The senior executive team has delegated control and authority to process owners and process performers.	The senior executive team exercises leadership through vision and influence rather than command and control.
Culture	Teamwork	Teamwork is project focused, occasional, and atypical.	The enterprise commonly uses cross-functional project teams for improvement efforts.	Teamwork is the norm among process performers and is commonplace among managers.	Teamwork with customers and suppliers is commonplace.
	Customer Focus	There is a widespread belief that customer focus is important, but there is limited appreciation of what that means. There is also uncertainty and conflict about how to meet customers' needs.	Employees realize that the purpose of their work is to deliver extraordinary customer value.	Employees understand that customers demand uniform excellence and a seamless experience.	Employees focus on collaborating with trading partners to meet the needs of final customers.
	Responsibility	Accountability for results rests with managers.	Frontline personnel begin to take ownership of results.	Employees feel accountable for enterprise results.	Employees feel a sense of mission in serving customers and achieving ever-better performance.
	Attitude Toward Change	There is growing acceptance in the enterprise about the need to make modest change.	Employees are prepared for significant change in how work is performed.	Employees are ready for major multidimensional change.	Employees recognize change as inevitable and embrace it as a regular phenomenon.
Expertise	People	A small group of people has a deep appreciation for the power of processes.	A cadre of experts has skills in process redesign and implementation, project management, communications, and change management.	A cadre of experts has skills in large-scale change management and enterprise transformation.	Substantial numbers of people with skills in process redesign and implementation, project management, program management, and change management are present across the enterprise. A formal process for developing and maintaining that skill base is also in place.
	Methodology	The enterprise uses one or more methodologies for solving execution problems and making incremental process improvements.	Process redesign teams have access to a basic methodology for process redesign.	The enterprise has developed and standardized a formal process for process redesign and has integrated it with a standard process for process improvement.	Process management and redesign have become core competencies and are embedded in a formal system that includes environment scanning, change planning, implementation, and process-centered innovation.
Governance	Process Model	The enterprise has identified some business processes.	The enterprise has developed a complete enterprise process model, and the senior executive team has accepted it.	The enterprise process model has been communicated throughout the enterprise, is used to drive project prioritization, and is linked to enterprise-level technologies and data architectures.	The enterprise has extended its process model to connect with those of customers and suppliers. It also uses the model in strategy development.
	Accountability	Functional managers are responsible for performance, project managers for improvement projects.	Process owners have accountability for individual processes, and a steering committee is responsible for the enterprise's overall progress with processes.	Process owners share accountability for the enterprise's performance.	A process council operates as the seniormost management body; performers share accountability for enterprise performance; and the enterprise has established steering committees with customers and suppliers to drive interenterprise process change.
	Integration	One or more groups advocate and support possibly distinct operational improvement techniques.	An informal coordinating body provides needed program management with a steering committee allocates resources for process redesign projects.	A formal program management office, headed by a chief process officer, coordinates and integrates all process projects, and a process council manages interprocess integration issues. The enterprise manages and deploys all process improvement techniques and tools in an integrated manner.	Process owners work with their counterparts in customer and supplier enterprises to drive interenterprise process integration.