# Did I Ever Tell You about the Whale?: or Measuring Technology Maturity

William L. Nolte

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Did I Ever Tell You about the Whale?: or Measuring Technology Maturity William L. Nolte Foreword by: **James W. Bilbro** Technology maturity: What is it, and why is it important? For more than ten years, the Government Accountability Office (Gao) has criticized federal agencies for a history of cost and schedule overruns on a significant portion of their procurement programs. Gao has repeatedly reported that the use of immature technologies in programs is a primary cause for these overruns. In spite of these repeated reports, the problems in government procurement have not improved. In fact, recent reports indicate that the problems are getting worse. One cause of this worsening situation might be that, while Gao identified lack of technology maturity as a problem, they did not tell how to measure technology maturity, or conversely, its lack. This groundbreaking work attempts to fill this gap by examining the current state of technology maturity measurement, pointing out strengths and weaknesses of available measures, and proposing a complete technology maturity assessment as a potential solution. The book also includes a discussion of risk during technology development.

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