ITIL

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About the Tutorial

ITIL is a framework providing best practice guidelines on all aspects of end to end service management. It covers complete spectrum of people, processes, products and use of partners. Now a day's ITIL is being practiced by almost every company providing IT services to the customers.

Audience

This tutorial has been prepared for the students as well as professionals to ramp up quickly. This tutorial is a stepping stone to ITIL certification.

Prerequisites

Before proceeding with this tutorial you should know the basic terms such as Information Technology, Infrastructure, Services, and Service Level Agreements etc. Hence it is strongly recommended to go through ITIL Terminologies chapter before proceeding further.

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1. ITIL – Overview

ITIL is a framework providing best practice guidelines on all aspects of end to end service management. It covers a complete spectrum of people, processes, products and use of partners.

Now a days, ITIL is being practiced by almost every company providing IT services to its customers.
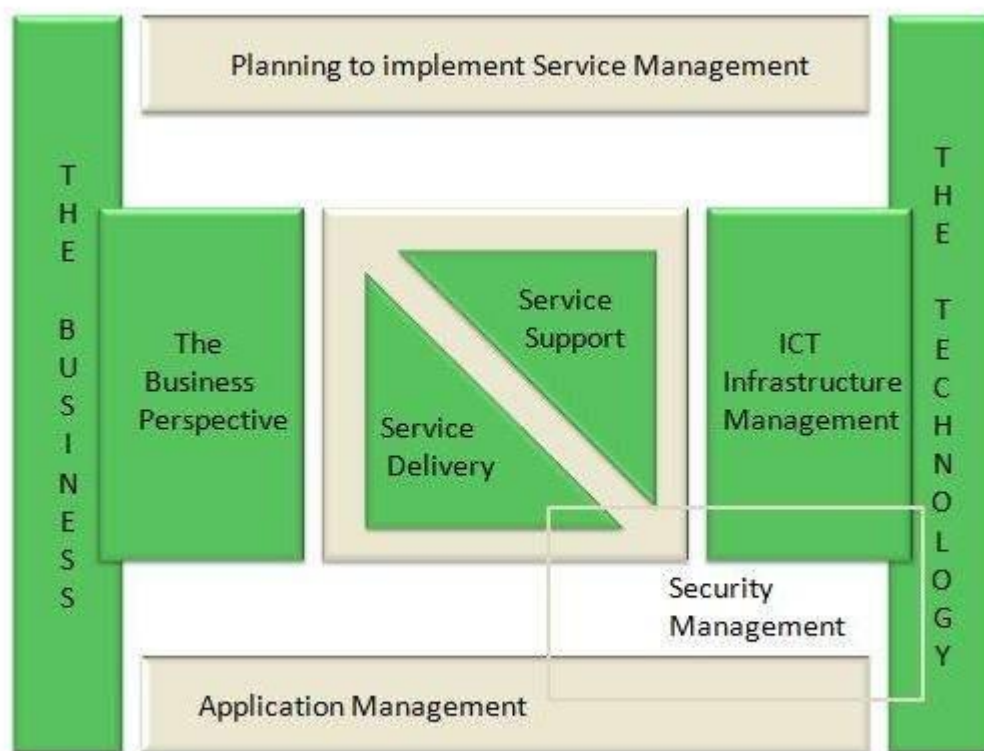
ITIL Framework

The processes, tasks and checklists described in ITIL are not organization-specific, but can be implemented by any organization. It gives organization a framework to plan, implement and measure IT services.

ITIL was published in 1989 by **Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO)** in **UK** on behalf of the **Central Communications and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA)**, now subsumed within the Office of Government Commerce (OGC).

Why ITIL is required?

ITIL helps business managers and IT managers to deliver services to the customers in an effective manner and hence gaining the customer's confidence and satisfaction. The areas where ITIL plays an effective role are as given below:

- IT and business strategic planning

- Integrating and aligning IT and business goals

- Implementing continuous improvement

- Acquiring and retaining the right resources and skill sets

- Reducing costs and the Total Cost of Ownership

- Demonstrating the business value to IT

- Achieving and demonstrating Value for Money and Return on Investment.

- Measuring IT organization effectiveness and efficiency

- Developing business and IT partnerships and relationships

- Improving project delivery success

- Managing constant business and IT change

ITIL Versions

In its first form, ITIL was a collection of books which covered all aspects of IT service management. Since then, ITIL underwent many changes and thus many versions of ITIL exist as given below:

ITIL V1

This is the first version of ITIL and comprised 31 books initially.

ITIL V2 (2000 to 2004)

The V1 was replaced with 7 books and gained much prominence during 2000 to 2004. Many companies across several countries currently are adopting this version and this has become an accepted version too.

ITILV2 (2007)

This is yet another modified and consolidated version of the previous ITILV2 and this is called with 3rd version of ITIL, consisting of five core books covering the service lifecycle. ITIL V3 included **26 processes** and **4 functions.**

In 2011, the 2011 edition of V3 was published. It was an updated version released in 2007.

ITIL Publications

ITIL core publications include a set of five manuals – Service Strategy, Service Design, Service Transition, Service Operation and Continual Service Management.
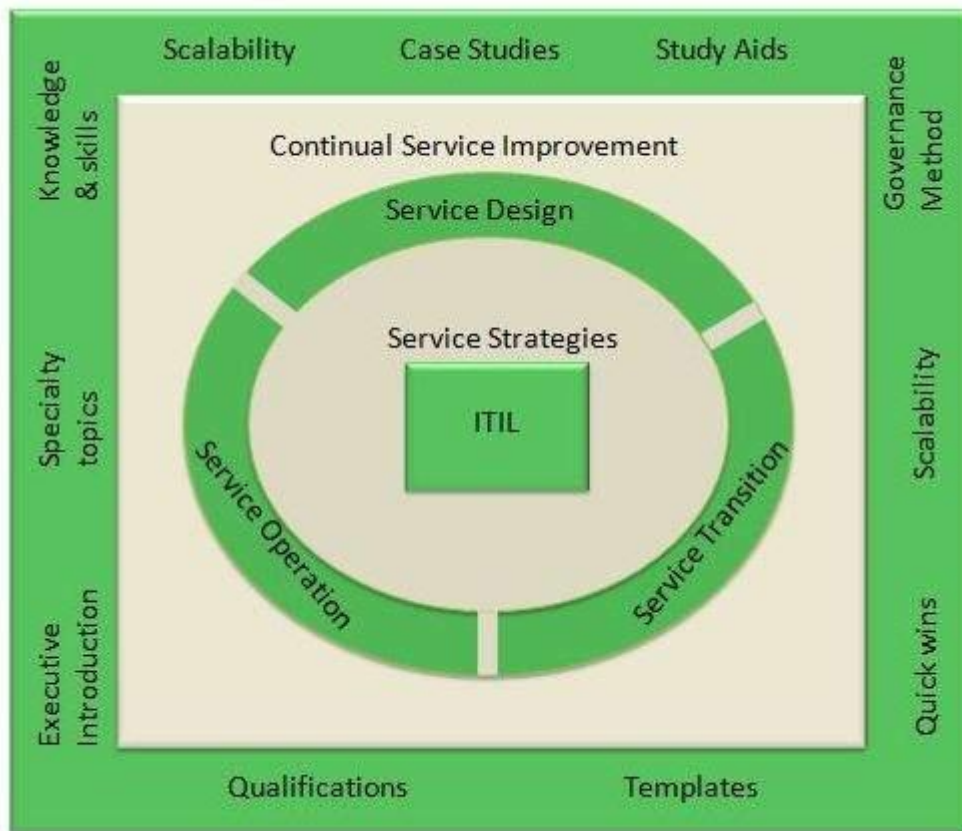
Benefits of ITIL

The following diagram shows the benefits that ITIL offers:
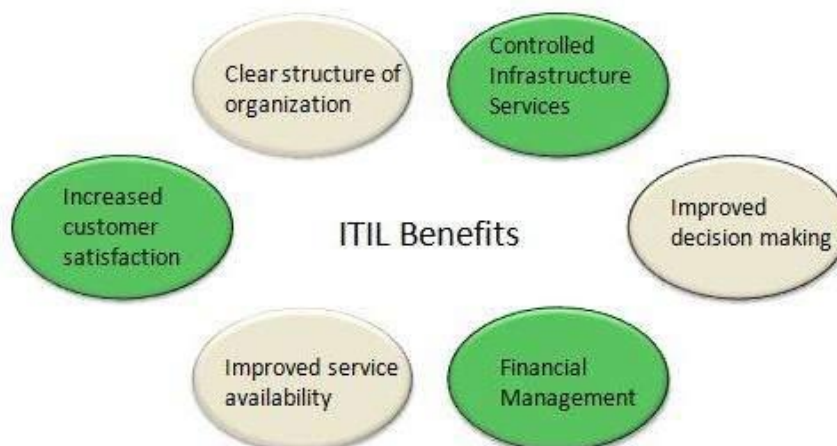
ITIL V2 vs ITIL V3

A comparison of ITIL V2 and ITIL V3 is shown in the following table:

ITIL V2	ITIL V3
Focused on product, process and people.	Focused on product, process, people and partner.
Process oriented approach	Lifecycle based approach.
Security management is part of evaluation	Security management is a separate process
Emphasizes on service design and service strategy	Equal attention to all processes
Comprises 10 processes and 2 functions	Comprises 26 processes and 4 functions.

2. ITIL – Terminologies

In this chapter, we will discuss some basic terminologies of ITIL that will help to understand the tutorial easily and quickly. The following table comprises all basic terminologies required to learn ITIL.

Sr.No.	ITIL Terminologies
1	**ITIL** **Information Technology Infrastructure Library** is a set of best practices practiced by most infrastructure service providers to deliver services to the customers to meet their business needs within desired cost and quality.
2	**Service** **Service** is a means of delivering value to customers by achieving customer's desired results while working within given constraints.
3	**Service Level** It is a measured and reported achievement against one or more Service Level Targets.
4	**Service Level Agreement** It is an agreement between service provider and customer. The SLA describes the IT Service, documents Service Level Targets and specifies the responsibilities of provider and customer.
5	**Service Strategy** **Service Strategy** helps to design, develop and implement service management as organizational capabilities and strategic assets as well. It enables a service provider to consistently outperform competitive

	alternatives over time, across business cycles, industry disruptions and changes in leadership.
6	**Service Model** **Service Model** is the high level description of the service and components required to deliver that service.
7	**Service Portfolio** **Service Portfolio** is the set of services provided by the service provider.
8	**Service Catalogue** **Service Catalogue** is the set of specific services being provided by service provider to a specific customer.
9	**Customer Portfolio** **Customer Portfolio** is used to record all customers of IT service provider.
10	**Demand Management** **Demand Management** is very important and critical process in service strategy. It helps to understand customer demand for services so that appropriate capacity can be provisioned to meet those demands.
11	**Pattern of Business Activity** **PBA** is an extremely important activity achieved by knowing customer how they operate and future requirement they might need.
12	**Service Design** **Service Design** provides a blueprint for the services. It not only includes designing of new service but also devises changes and improvements to existing ones.
13	**Operational Level Agreement (OLA)**

	OLA is an agreement between IT service provider and another part of same organization.
14	**Service Level Report** It gives an insight into a service provider's ability to deliver the agreed service quality.
15	**Service Level Requirements** It is a document containing the requirements for a service from the client viewpoint, defining detailed service level targets.
16	**Service Asset** **Service Assets** are the resources and capabilities owned by the service provider enabling it to deliver service to the customer.
17	**Configuration Item (CI)** **Configuration Item** is subset of service assets and have direct impact on delivering services. All servers, networks, applications that have an impact on production are known as configuration item.
18	**SACM** **Service Assets and Configuration Management (SACM)** deals with maintaining up-to-date and verified database of all assets and CIs which are also made available to other service management processes.
20	**Change** Change refers to modifying the existing services.
21	**Event** **Event** is defined as detectable occurrence that has significance for the delivery of IT service. Events are created by Configuration Item (CI) or monitoring tools.

22	**Incident**
	Incident is defined as any disruption in IT service. Incident can be reported either through the Service Desk or through an interface from event management to incident management tools.
23	**Service Request**
	Service Request refers to demand by the users. These requests can be regarding small changes, changing the password, installing additional software application, requesting information etc.
24	**Problem**
	In ITIL, a Problem is defined as unknown cause of one or more incident.
25	**Known Error**
	Known Error is well identified problem with its cause and resolution. It is stored in **Known Error Database (KEDB).**

3. ITIL – Service Basics

This chapter discusses the Service basics of ITIL in detail.

Service

Service is a means of delivering value to customers by achieving customer's desired results while working within given constraints.

Services vs. Products

The following table shows the comparison for services and products:

Services	Products
Services are not tangible.	Products are tangible.
Services are produced and consumed at same time.	Products are not produced and consumed at same time.
Services are inconsistent.	Products are consistent.
The user participates in the production of services.	The user doesn't participate in the production of products.

Service Management

Service Management refers to all aspects of the management of IT service provision. According to ITIL, Service management contains all organizational capabilities for the generation of added value to the customers as service.

Goals of Service Management

The main goals of Service management are:

- Make IT services adaptable towards the present and future requirements of an organization and its customers.

- Develop and maintain good and responsive relationship with the business.

- Make effective and efficient use of all IT resources.

- Optimizing the quality of delivered services.

- Reduction of long term cost of service delivery.

Achieving Service Management

The key activities needed to be performed in order to achieve business and customer's satisfaction are given hereunder:

- Documenting, negotiating and agreeing to customer and business quality targets and responsibilities in Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

- Regular assessment of customer opinion in customer feedback and customer satisfaction surveys.

- IT personnel taking the customer and business perspective and always trying to keep customer interactions as simple as possible.

- Understanding the ICT infrastructure.

- IT personnel regularly taking the customer journey and sampling the customer experience.

4. ITIL – Service Lifecycle

The complete framework of ITIL is based on service lifecycle. Each lifecycle defines certain processes for effective service management.
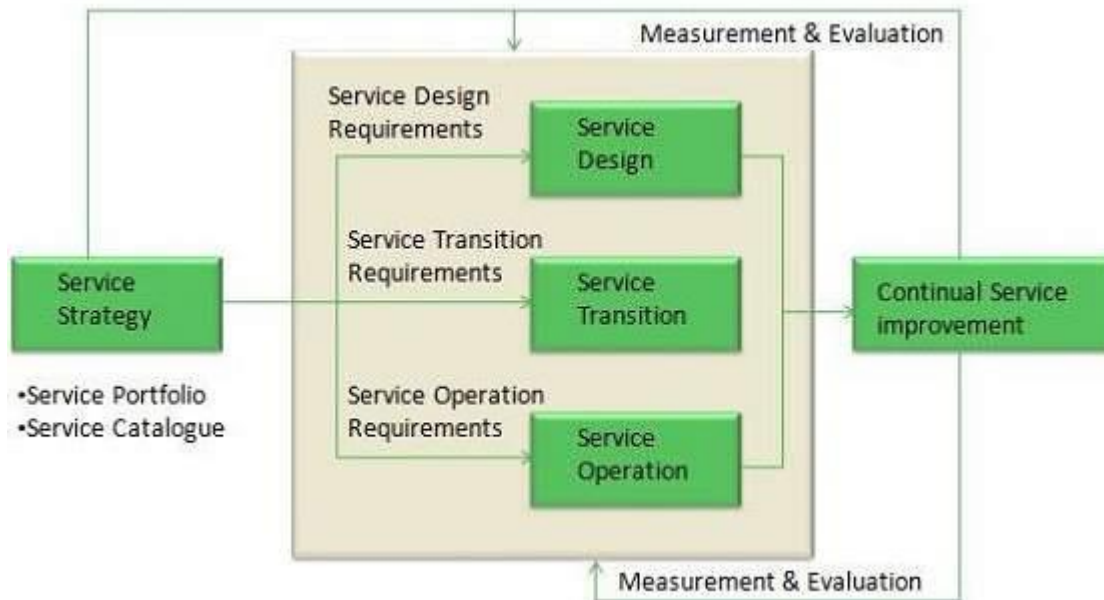
Service lifecycle helps to amplify the service management approach and to achieve a better understanding of its structure. In the coming chapters, we will be discussing all such lifecycles individually with their processes and functions.

Processes and Functions

There are 26 processes and 4 functions in ITIL V3. These processes and functions are discussed in detail with each service lifecycle in further chapters.
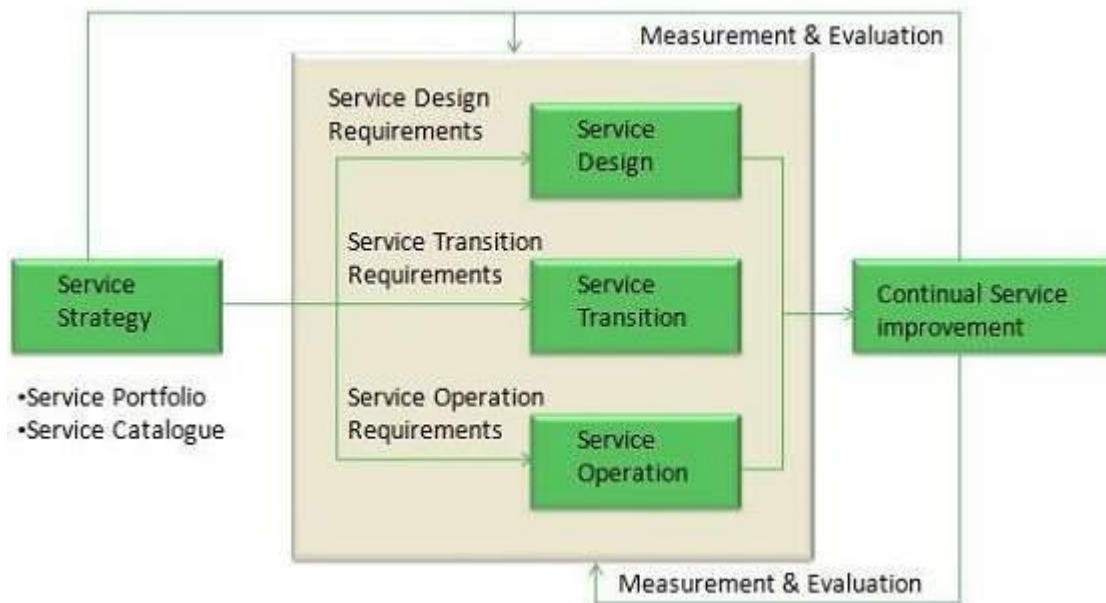
Process

A process defines policies, standards, guidelines, activities, and work instructions. It takes some defined inputs to produce desired results.

Functions

A function is defined as group of people or tools required to carry out one or more processes and activities.

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End of ebook preview

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