Standards in Avionics System Development
(Overview on DO-178B)

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Abstract

- DO-178B (and DO-278) are used to assure safety of avionics software. These documents provide guidance in the areas of SW development, configuration management, verification and the interface to approval authorities (e.g., FAA, EASA)
Agenda

- Introduction to DO-178B
- System Aspects
- Software Lifecycle Management
- Certification Artifacts and Techniques
- Future: DO-178C
Overview

- **DO-178B - Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification**
- Standard of RTCA Incorporation (in Europe it is ED-12B and standard of EUROCAE)
- Represents the avionics industry consensus to ensure software safety
- Acceptable by FAA and EASA certification authorities
- "The FAA and the civil aviation community recognize RTCA’S DO-178B as an acceptable means of compliance to the FAA regulations for SW aspects of certification."
History of avionics SW complexity

Exponential Growth

Both A380 and B 787 have 100’s of millions LOC

Ref: Subra de Salafa and Paquier
History

- **DO-178 in 1982**
  - Basic concepts of SW design assurance
  - Three levels of SW safety
- **DO-178A in 1985**
  - Concentrates on testing and configuration management
- **DO-178B in 1992**
  - Five levels of SW safety
  - From Testing focus → requirement-based
- **DO-278 in 2002**
  - Interprets DO-178B to ground and space based-systems
- **DO-178C in 2012**
  - Incorporates modern SW development and analysis techniques
Software Levels in DO-178B

- Different failure conditions require different software conditions → 5 levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Failure Condition</th>
<th>Software Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catastrophic</td>
<td>Level A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous/Severe - Major</td>
<td>Level B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Level C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Level D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Effect</td>
<td>Level E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples DO-178B Safety Levels

- **Safety-Critical Levels C&D**
  - Anti-missile defense
  - Data mining
  - Health monitoring
  - Mission planning and implementation
  - Mission simulation and training
  - Network-centric operation
  - Real-time data recording and analysis
  - Self-healing communication networks
  - Telemetry
  - Weapons targeting

- **Safety-Critical Levels A&B**
  - Fly-by-wire controls
  - Auto-pilot
  - Air-traffic Separation Control
  - Glass Cockpit Information Display
  - Radar
  - Jet Engine Control
  - IFF (friend or foe)
  - Missile guidance
  - Missile launch
  - Missile self-destruct
Objectives for Safety Levels

- Different levels of safety requires different objectives to be fulfilled
  - e.g., Level A 66, Level B 65
- Defined by 10 tables in ANNEX A
- Example: Table A-6 Objective 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Applicability by SW Level</th>
<th>Output Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executable Object Code compiles with low-level requirements</td>
<td>A ●● C ○</td>
<td>Software Verification Cases and Procedures Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ref. 11.13 1 1 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ref. 11.14 2 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives for Safety Levels

- Different levels of safety require different objectives to be fulfilled
  - e.g., Level A 66, Level B 65
- Defined by 10 tables in ANNEX A
- Example: Table A-6 Objective 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Executable Object Code compiles with low-level</td>
<td>6.4.2.1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Software Verification Cases and Procedures</td>
<td>11.13</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
<td>6.4.3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Software Verification Results</td>
<td>11.14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independence is required (full means yes)
Objectives Distribution in DO-178B

- **Level A (66)**
- **Level B (65)**
- **Level C (57)**
- **Level D (28)**

![Chart showing distribution of objectives across different phases: Planning, Dev., Verif., CM, QA, Cert.](chart_image)
Objectives Distribution in DO-178B

Statement Coverage is required (the only obj. difference)

Not just testing → assuring the correctness (reviews, testing and analysis)
Agenda

- Introduction to DO-178B
- System Aspects
- Software Lifecycle Management
- Certification Artifacts and Techniques
- Future: DO-178C
Typical Development road plan

- Idea
- Initial Contact with Approval Authorities
- Requirements Definition
- Preliminary Design
- Detailed Design
- Implementation
- Integration, installation, test
- Operational Tests, Flight Tests
- System Approval issued
- SW Approval Issued
- Certification Continuation
- Plans to Certification Authority
System Development Process

- System Development Process
  - ARP-4754/ED-79

- Safety Assessment
  - ARP-4761

- DO-254/ED-80
  - Inputs and Outputs

- DO-178B/ED-12B
  - Inputs and Outputs

- Hardware Development Process
  - DO-254/ED-80

- Safety Assessment
  - ARP-4761

- Software Development Process
  - DO-178B/ED-12B
  - (DO-278)

- Design Tradeoffs

- Safety Assessment
  - ARP-4761
System Aspects and System Safety

- System requirements "have to be trusted" → start all over if changed
- Failure Condition Categories (Catastrophic, major, etc.)
- System Safety Assessment based on SAE ARP 4761
  - Fault Tree Analysis, Dependence Diagram, Markov Analysis, Failure mode and Effect analysis, Common Cause and mode Analysis, etc.

- SW requirements derived from System requirements → however, certain SW requirements can have impact on System requirements!
SW Safety

- SW Safety level based on potential failure conditions
  - Level A → „failure in the SW would result in catastrophic failure condition the aircraft”

- DO-178B defines the interface with the systems

- DO-178B software classes
  - User-modifiable software
    - Entertainment software
  - Option-selectable software
    - Cartography software
  - Commercial Off-The-Shelf software
    - RTOS
  - Field-Loadable software
    - Maintenance software
Agenda

- Introduction to DO-178B
- System Aspects
- Software Lifecycle Management
  - Planning
  - Development
- Certification Artifacts and Techniques
- Future: DO-178C
Software Life Cycle

- Planning should proceed all development activity

- Four building blocks:
  - Define Requirements (R)
  - Design the program (D)
  - Code the program (C)
  - Integrate the program (I)

- Allows various development sequences

Example processes:
- R-D-C-I → Waterfall
- R-C-I-C-I-C-I-R-D-C-I → Rapid prototyping
- R-I → Previous designed SW
The plans

- Five different plans
  - SW Development Plan
  - SW Verification Plan
  - SW Quality Assurance Plan
  - SW Configuration Plan
  - SW Aspects of Certification

- Verification, management, quality assurance and certification are overlaid on the defined development process
Software Planning

- **Transition criteria**
  - “the minimum conditions, as defined by the software planning process, to be satisfied to enter a process”
  - Tells when you are done and can proceed
  - Good characteristics: quantifiable, documented 😊

- **Additional considerations**
  - COTS
  - Previously developed components

- **Environments**
  - Methods and notations
  - Language with any constraints
  - Development and verification tools
Software Planning

- **SW development standards**
  - **SW requirements standard**
    - Language to be used (e.g., plain 500 English)
  - **SW design standards**
    - Complexity limits, exclusion of recursion, dynamic memory allocation
  - **SW Code standards**
    - Syntax, semantics and constraints
SW Development

- **High-Level requirements**
  - Based on system analysis and safety assessment
  - Black-box view of the software component
  - System level considerations
  - Functional requirements by mode of operation
  - Performance criteria
  - Timing requirements
  - Memory size constraints
  - HW and SW interfaces

![Diagram showing the flow from System Requirements to High-Level Requirements, then to Low-Level Requirements, followed by Source Code, Executable Object Code, and finally Integrated to target computer.]
Low-Level requirements and Software Architecture

- SW requirements
- Derived from High-Level requirements
- Design constraints
  - Task allocation
  - Algorithms
  - Data Structures
- Input/output definitions
- Data and Control flows
- Resource management and scheduling (e.g., partition scheduling in ARINC 653)
- Design Methods
SW Development

- **Source Code**
  - Usually collection of „high-level“ language and assembly
  - Includes linker files, compile commands etc.

- **Executable**
  - Completely target computer specific
  - „machine readable”

- **Final output is the integrated system on the target platform**
Agenda

- Introduction to DO-178B
- System Aspects
- Software Lifecycle Management
- Certification Artifacts and Techniques
  - Verification
  - Configuration Management
  - Quality Assurance
  - Certification/Approval Liaison
- Future: DO-178C
Integral Process - Verification

- **Two purposes**
  - Demonstrate intended function
  - Demonstrate (to the extent possible) the absence of unintended function

- **Consists of**
  - Reviews
  - Analysis
  - Testing

- **Important:** The FAA or EASA representative needs to accept all part of the verification process. (e.g., test cases)
Integral Process - Verification

- Reviews
  - Qualitative assessment of the process or product
  - Typical implementation: checklist
  - Applied on all SW Development process step (HLR, LLR, SA, SC, Test cases, etc.)

- Analysis
  - Provide repeatable evidence of correctness
  - Typical implementation: timing, stack analysis, data flow and call-tree
Traceability DO-178B

- Through the complete product life-cycle (30+ years)
- From requirements to byte code (Level A)
- Essential for maintainability
- Back-annotation of errors
- Typical implementation:
  - Excel 😞
  - Rational RequisitePro
  - Rational Doors
- Code generators usually gives extensive support
- Hard in case of multiple development tools

```
int eps_line(double sx, double sy, double vx, double vy)
{
    int s1, s2;
    s1 = sign(sx*vx + sy*vy, -0x1.90641p-4);
    return s1;
}
```

```
IDX[3] UAR POS [ADDR: 0x12fde0]
IDX[2] CALL [Arg:2][ADDR: 0x42e40a]
IDX[2] CALL [Arg:1][ADDR: 0x42e1e9]
```

- `REQ_HLR_SAFE_4_3_2_12`: The take-off angle cannot be more than 55°
- `REQ_LLR_TOM_3_67`: in the eps_line method the calculated $s_1$ variable represents the angle of attack
Integral Process – Verification Software Testing

- SW Requirement-Based Test Generation
- Low-Level Tests
- Software Integration Test
- HW/SW Integration Tests
- SW Requirements Coverage Analysis
- Additional Verification
- SW Structural Coverage Analysis
- End of Testing

Direct Path
Conditional Path
Categories of Tests

- Normal range
- Robustness (abnormal range)

Typical approaches

- Equivalence Classes and Boundary Values
- Multiple Iteration testing for time related functions
- Testing State Transitions
- Initialization with abnormal conditions
- Failure modes of input data
- Boundary values in loops, protection mechanisms
Integral Process – Verification Software Testing

- Structural Coverage
  - Determine what software structure were not exercised
- Levels:
  - Decision Coverage
  - Statement Coverage
  - Modified Decision Condition Coverage (MCDC)
    - Each decision tries every possible outcome
    - Each condition in a decision takes on every possible outcome
    - Each entry and exit point is invoked
    - Each condition in a decision is shown to independently affect the outcome of the decision
- Gaps
  - Compiler induced code (e.g., array bound checks)
  - Deactivated code
  - Dead code
- Performed on source code,
  - except Level A
    - Correspondence must be shown
    - Compiler optimization can introduce new code
- In addition, coverage of data and control coupling is required
IF(C AND (A OR B)) THEN Foo();

- **Statement Coverage (SC)**
  - Each *statement* is executed at least once

### Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Foo Executed</th>
<th>Minimum # of Test Cases</th>
<th>Possible Combinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>4 or 6 or 8</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>4 or 6 or 8</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integral Process – Verification Software Testing

IF(C AND (A OR B))
THEN Foo();

- Decision Condition Coverage (DC) Level B
  - Each **decision** tries every possible outcome
  - Each entry and exit point is invoke

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<th>Coverage Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 or 6 or 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 or 6 or 8 + Any NO</td>
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IF(C AND( A OR B))
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### Modified Decision Condition Coverage (MCDC) Level A
- Each **decision** tries every possible outcome
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCDC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,3,4, and 6 OR 2,4,5 and 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integral Process – Certification/Approval Liaison

- Communication between application developer and certification authority
- Proposes compliance and obtain agreement on the plan
- Software Accomplishment Summary
  - Covers all areas
  - Legal issues also (if something goes wrong the developer is responsible!)
Software Development Tools

- Can introduce errors into the final system
- Same objectives as the development process → verified on the same level as the developed application!
- E.g., Scade Suite, Matlab Stateflow, Wind River Diab compiler
V&V tools (DO-178B)

- Software Verification Tools
  - Can only fail to detect errors
  - Tool operation req. Must be satisfied under normal operating conditions
  - e.g., static source code analyzer ASTRÉE, CAVEAT
Agenda

- Introduction to DO-178B
- System Aspects
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- Future: DO-178C
DO-178C

- **DO-178C - Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification**
- Awaited in 2011
- New certification for avionics software development
- Incorporates “novel” development and verification techniques
- Core is almost the same as DO-178B but
- Dedicated subgroups
  - SG3: Tool Qualification
  - SG4: Model Based Design and Verification
  - SG5: Object-Oriented Technology
  - SG6: Formal Methods
DO-178C

- **Object Oriented Technology**
  - C++ and Ada
  - Safety Critical Java
  - Restricted use (deterministic behavior)

- **Tool Qualification**
  - Special rules for tools
  - More than two categories

- **Model Based Design and Verification**
  - Use of models for source code synthesis and verification
  - Early model based validation
  - Matlab Simulink (already used), AADL
  - Largest and most cumbersome subgroup 😊
Formal methods

- Already used in many projects
- Mature technologies available
- Defines how certification credits can be earned by its use
- Can be part of the Development process

Typical tools

- Model checker
- Static code analyzers
- Theorem provers (only in limited scenarios)