

Software Engineering for LabVIEW Applications



TOOLS

Requirements Gateway

Design Patterns

Object Orientation

Multicore

Dataflow

MathScript

Statechart

Simulation

Express

VI Analyzer

Real Time Execution Trace

Desktop Execution Trace

Unit Test Framework

Application Builder

Real Time

FPGA

Embedded

Automated Software Testing

Goals

1. Deliver a working product
2. Prove it works right
3. Mitigate risk of failure
4. Avoid last-minute changes

Why?

1. More complex software
2. Mission-critical applications
3. Team size is growing
4. Increased scrutiny
5. Decreased time

You Need to Prove:

- ✓ Satisfies customer expectations
- ✓ Meets safety requirements
- ✓ The application is reliable
- ✓ Errors are handled gracefully

Software Quality Standards

Company wide certification standard

ISO 9000

Voluntary certification standard for consistent processes

CMMI

Process improvement model sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association

Product specific certification for quality

DO-178B

FAA standard for avionics software

FDA 21 CFR Part 820

Medical device standard

National Instruments is ISO 9001 Certified (HW&SW)



NI's QSM/NPI/SEP



Quality Management System (QMS)

Covers all of NI

New Product Introduction (NPI) process

Engineering/Marketing/Manufacturing/Sales

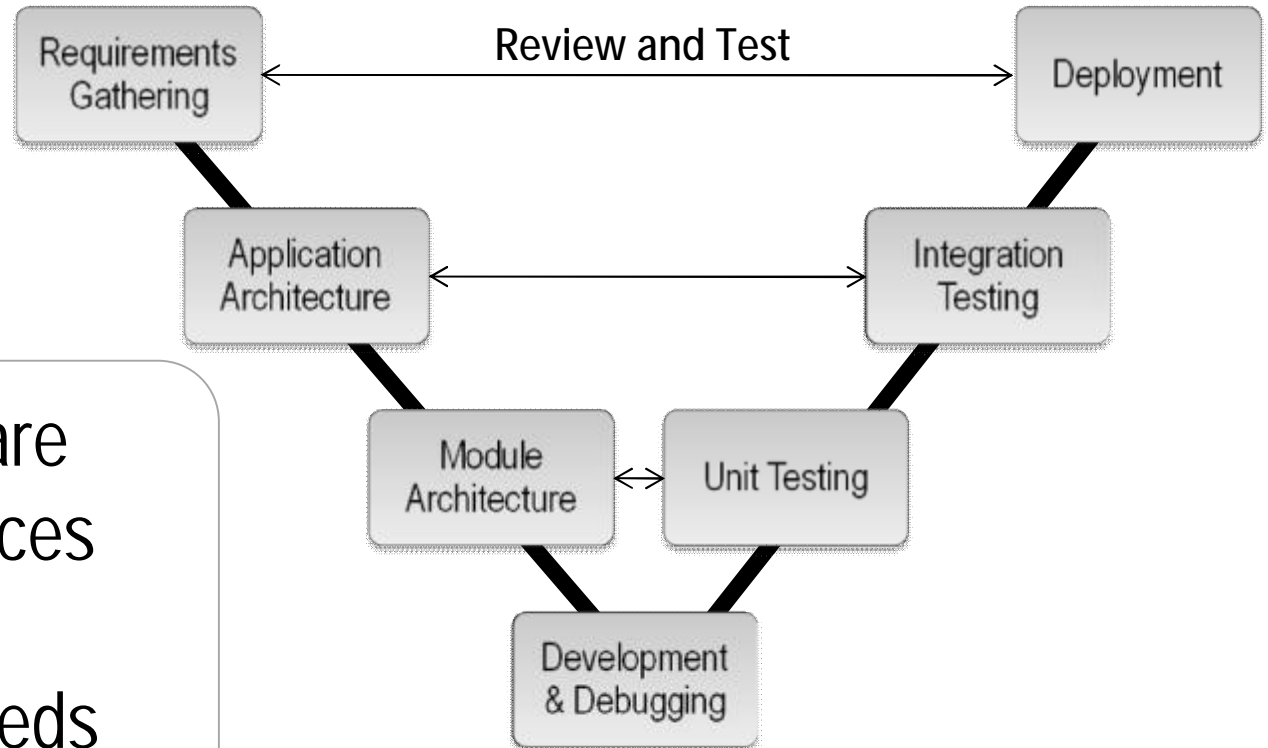
Software Engineering Process (SEP)

Engineering only

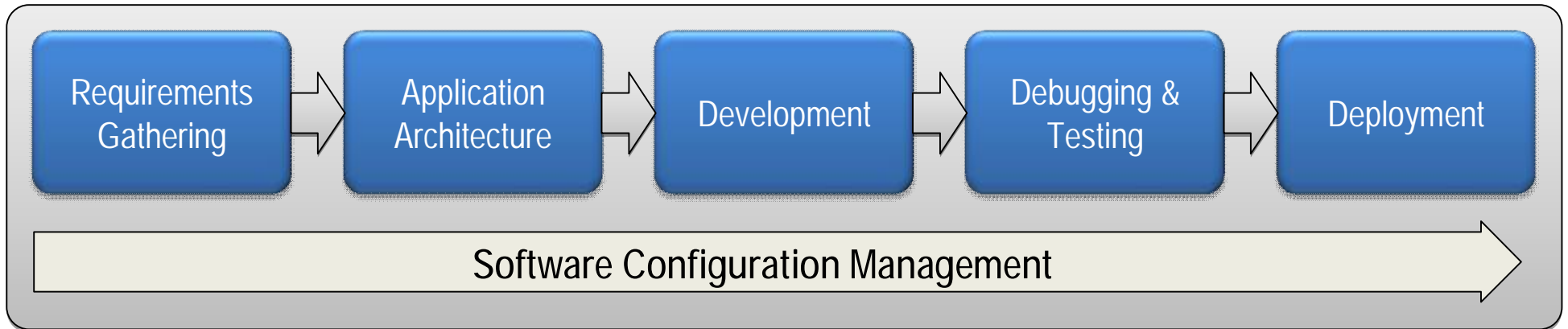
How SW Engineers and Project Managers execute NPI for SW products

Software Engineering Process Models

A model for software development practices
Prescribes what needs to be done before moving on

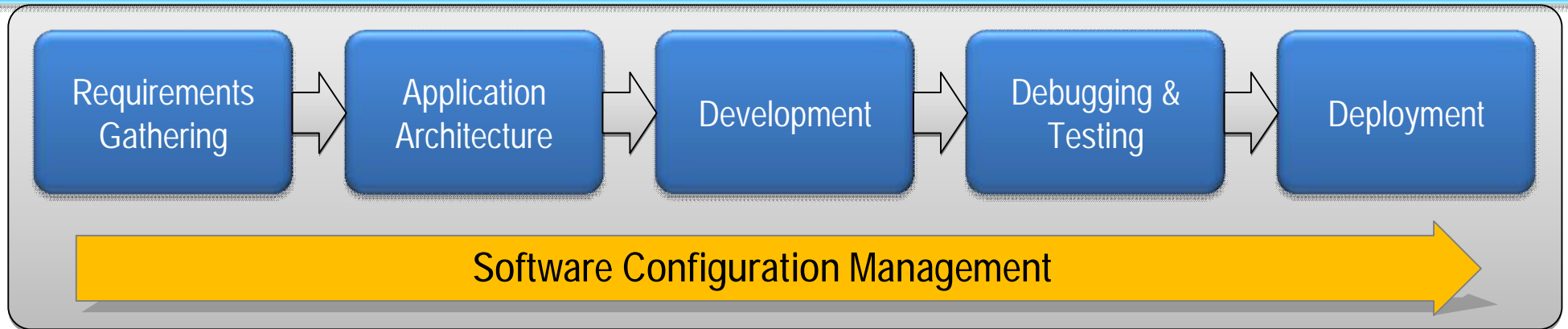


Software Engineering Process



- Process is independent of programming language
- Demonstrate a particular process for certification
- Automate this process for **LabVIEW** with toolkits and add-ons
- SCM is applied throughout process

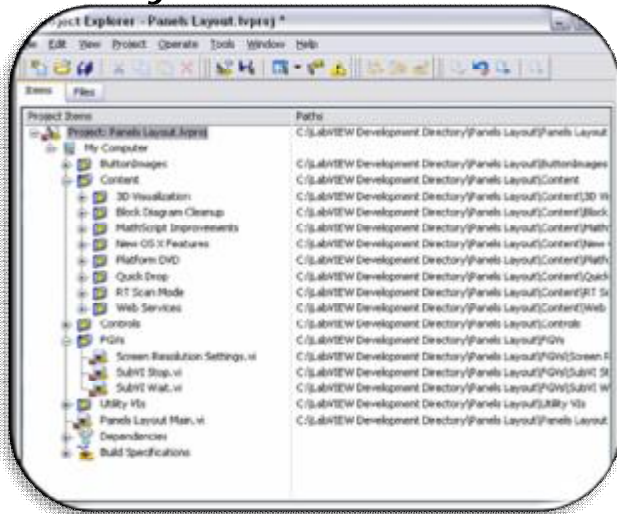
Configuration Management Challenges



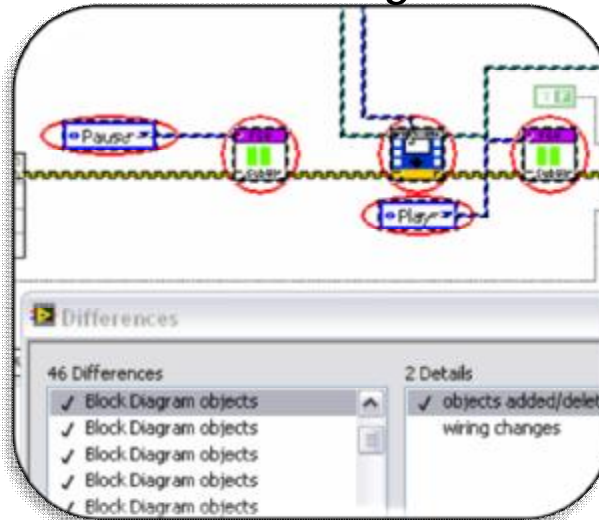
- Defining a central repository of code
- Management of multiple developers
- Detection and resolution of code collisions
- Tracking behavioral changes
- Identification of changes are who made them
- Ensuring everyone has latest copy of code
- Backing up old code versions
- Managing all files, not just source code

Software Configuration Manager for LabVIEW

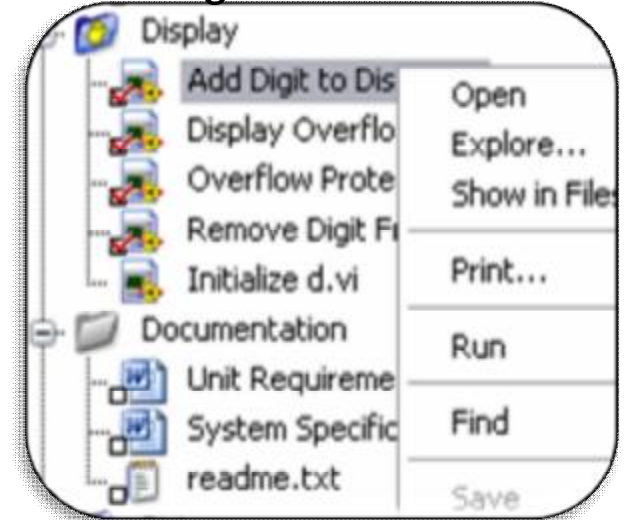
System Level View



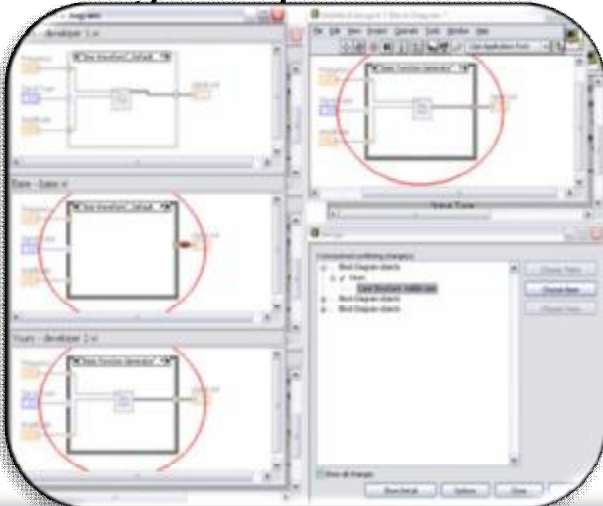
Track Changes



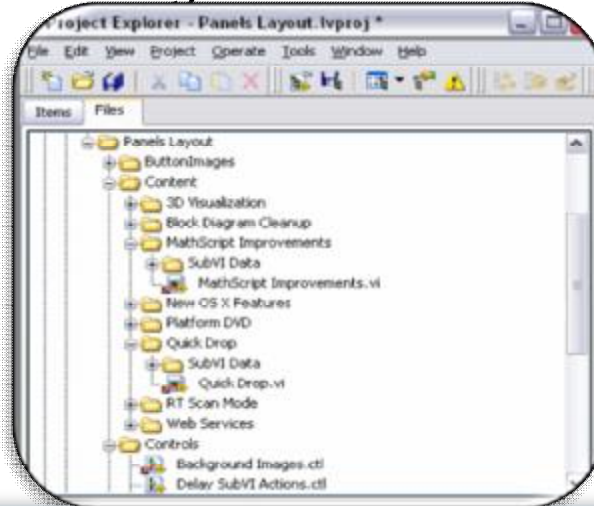
Integrate with SCC



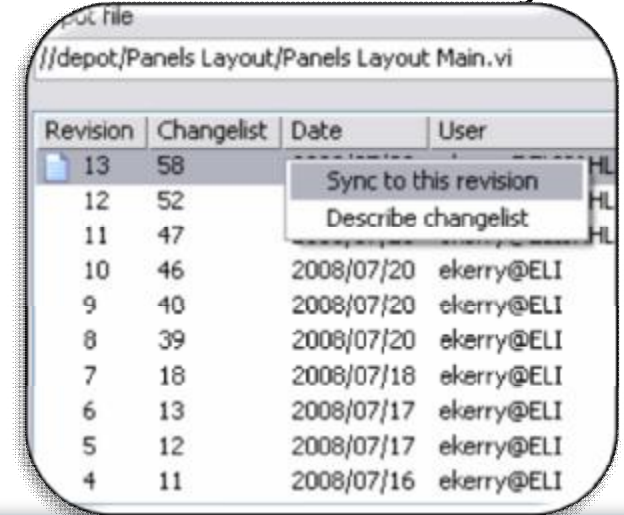
Merge Graphical Code



Manage Files and Links



View Revision History



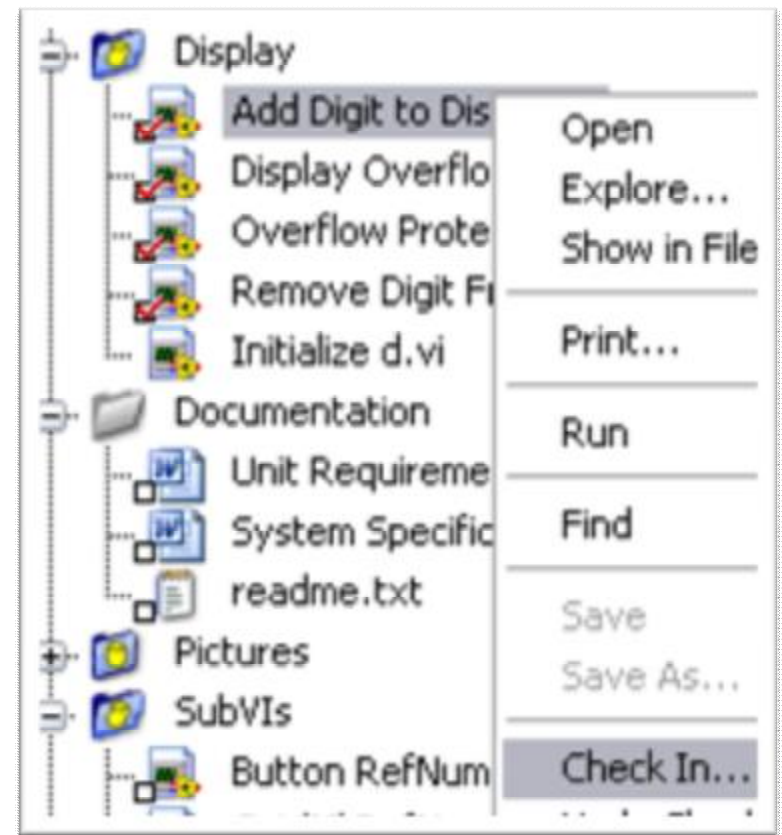
Source Code Control Integration with LabVIEW

- Third-party source control integration with:

- § Microsoft Visual SourceSafe
- § Microsoft Team System
- § Perforce
- § Rational ClearCase
- § PCVS (Serena) Version Manager
- § MKS Source Integrity
- § Seapine Surround SCM
- § Borland StarTeam
- § Telelogic Synergy
- § ionForge Evolution
- § subVersion**

- Access SCC tools via LabVIEW Project

- Project specific settings*



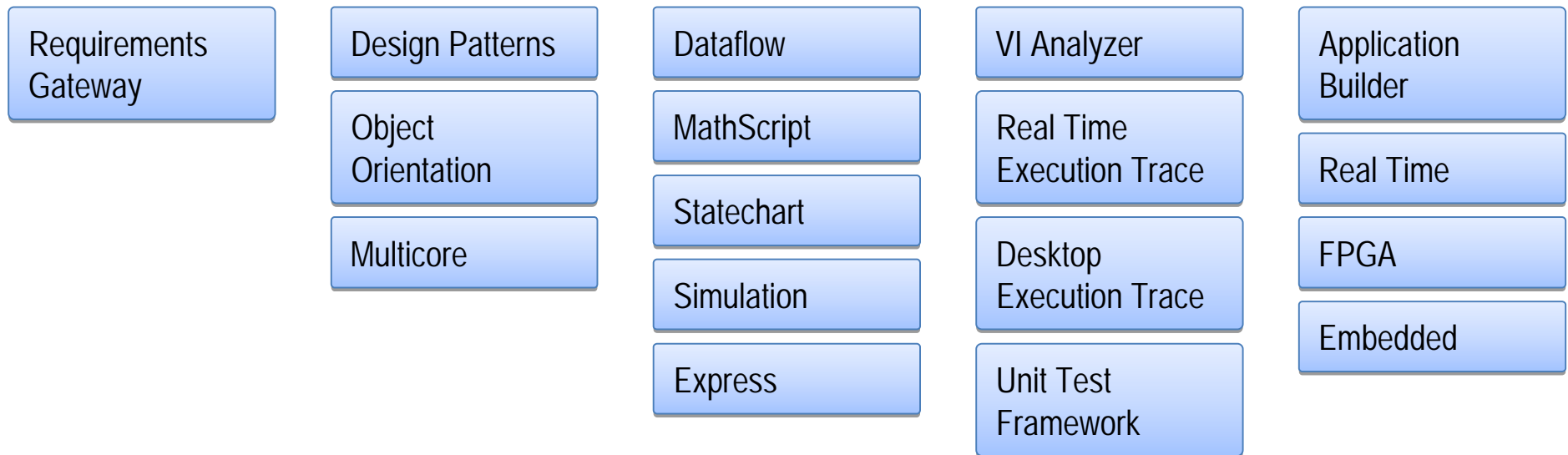
**New in LabVIEW 8.5*

**subVersion is open source and requires plug-in

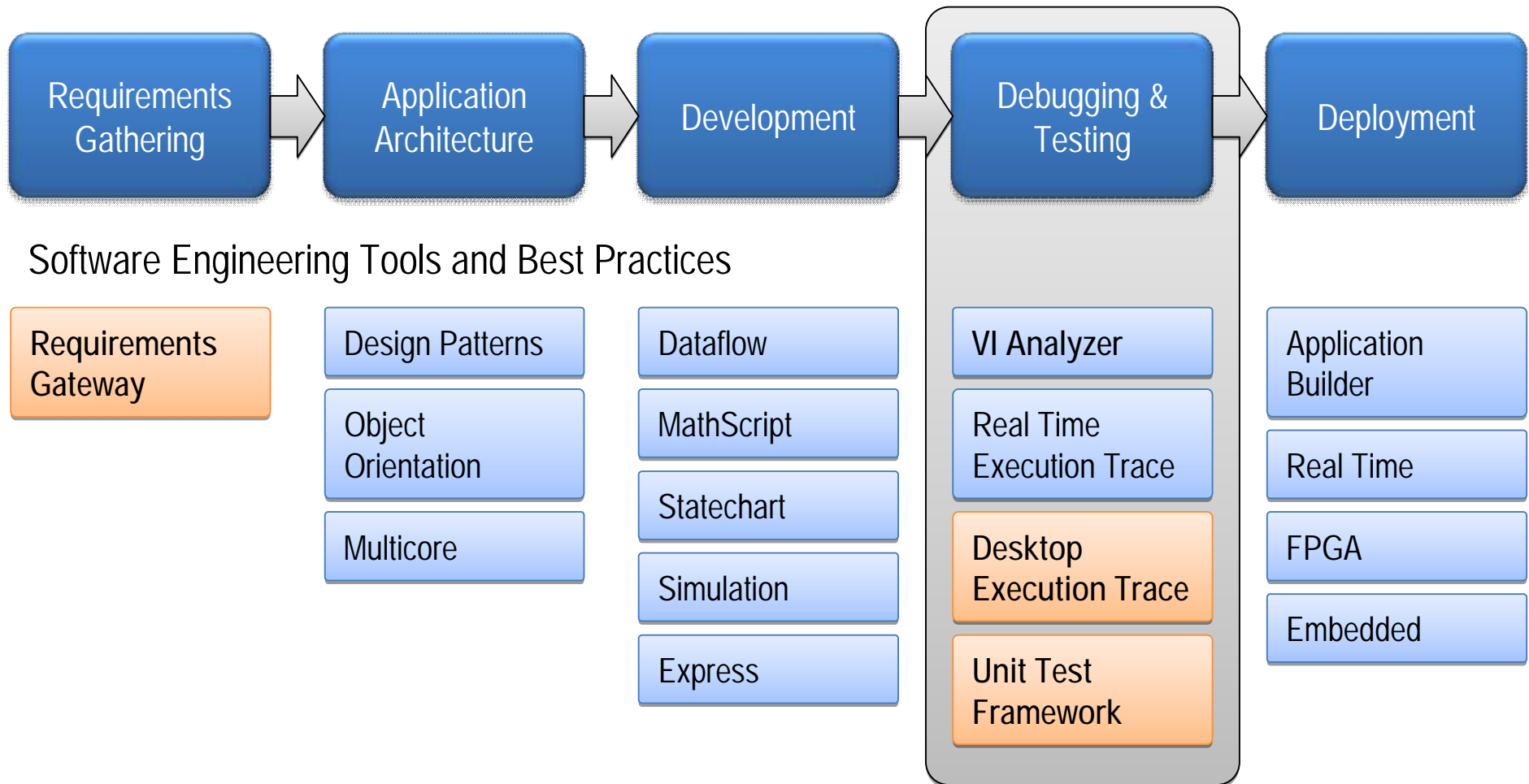
The Software Engineering Process TOOLS



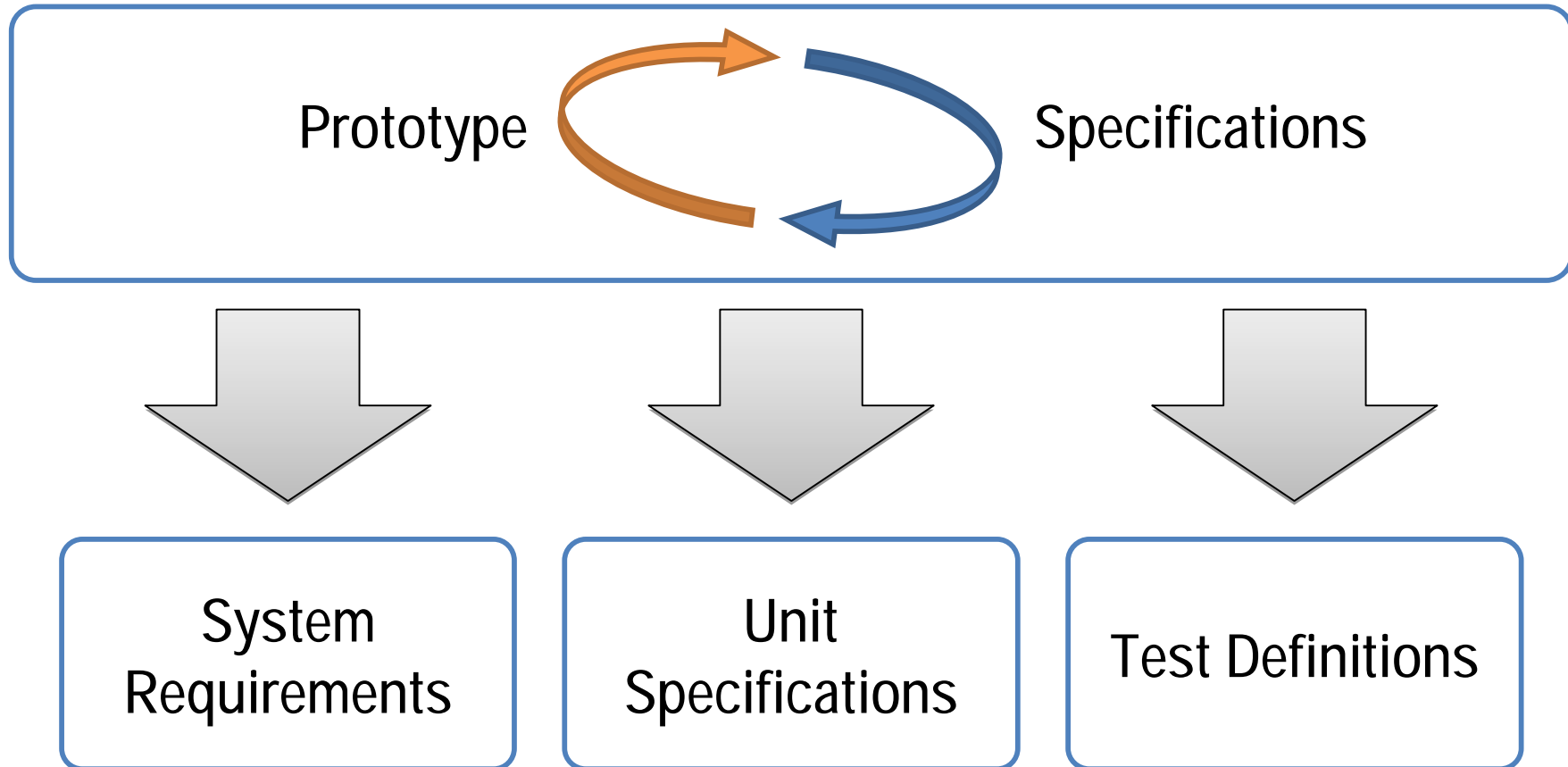
Software Engineering Tools and Best Practices



Source Code Control Integration with LabVIEW



Software Design Phase



Requirements Gathering Challenges

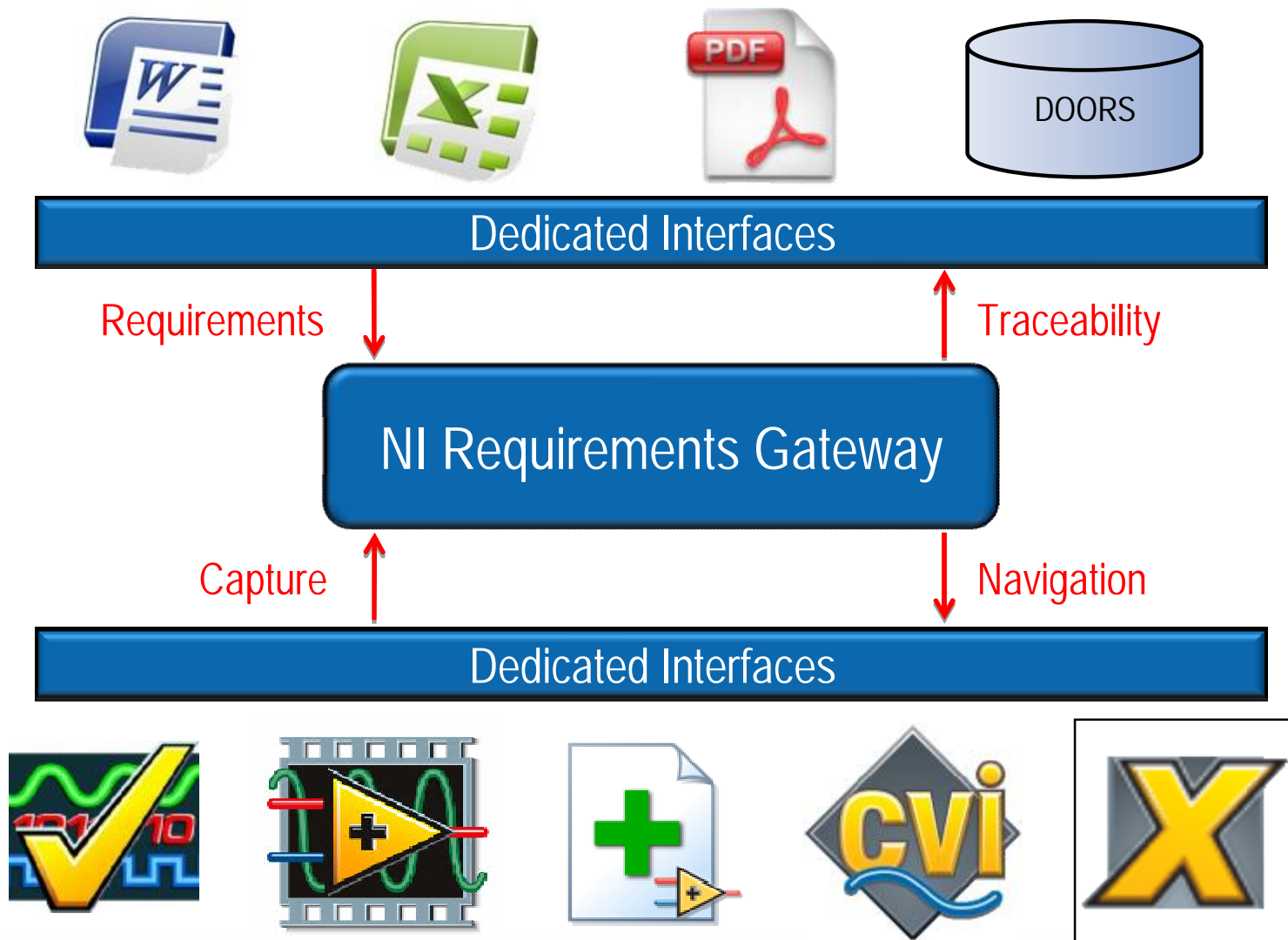


- Agreeing upon what the application will do
- Defining acceptable and safe behaviors
- Defining tests for individual components
- Traceability from code to documents



Upstream	Text	Downstream
REQ_ControlLevel	The application must maintain a separate control algorithm for controlling tank levels.	Level.vi
REQ_ControlTemperature	The application must maintain a separate control algorithm for controlling temperature.	Temperature.vi
REQ_DisplayGraphInflow	The display must display a graph indicating the inflow rate.	Inflow History Rate History
REQ_DisplayGraphLevel	The display must contains a graph indicating the tank level.	Tank History Level History
REQ_DisplayGraphTemperature	The display must contains a graph indicating the tank temperature.	Tank Temperature History
REQ_DisplayHeatIndicator	The display must show whether furnace is on or off.	Heat Indicator
REQ_DisplayMinMaxLevels	The display must allow the operator to control the minimum and maximum levels for the tank.	Low Level Limit (lbm)
REQ_DisplayMinMaxLevels	The display must allow the operator to control the minimum and maximum levels for the tank.	High Level Limit (lbm)
REQ_DisplayMinMaxTemp	The display must allow the operator to control the minimum and maximum levels for the tank temperature.	Low Temp Limit (deg F)

Requirements Traceability Solution from NI



Requirements Coverage with LabVIEW

1. Requirements defined in Word, Excel, PDF, DOORS, RequisitePro, ...

2. LabVIEW references requirements

1.2 GUI Components

1.2.1 Indicators

REQ_DisplayTankLevel

The display must show the actual level in feet and must contain a visual the current level.

REQ_DisplayTotalTime

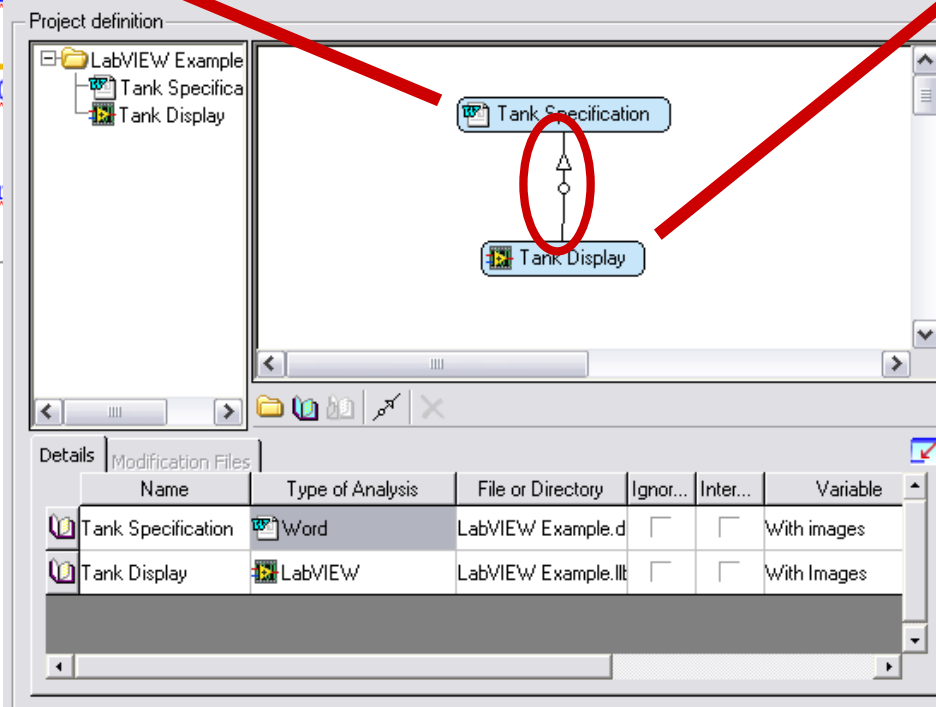
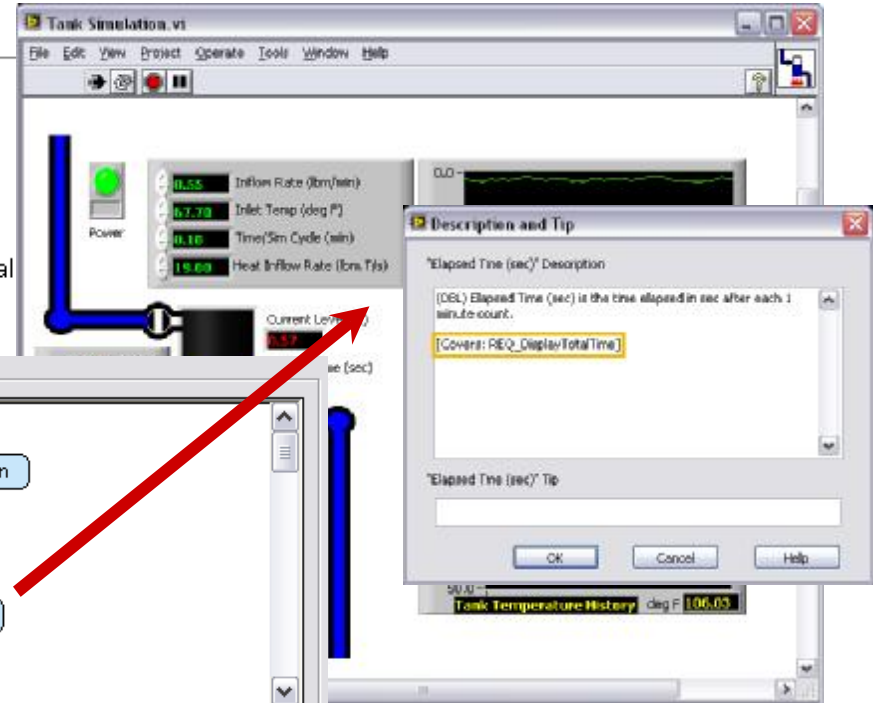
The display must

REQ_DisplayValveC

The display must

REQ_DisplayHeatFl

The display must



3. Define a project to indicate what files are involved

Application Architecture Goals

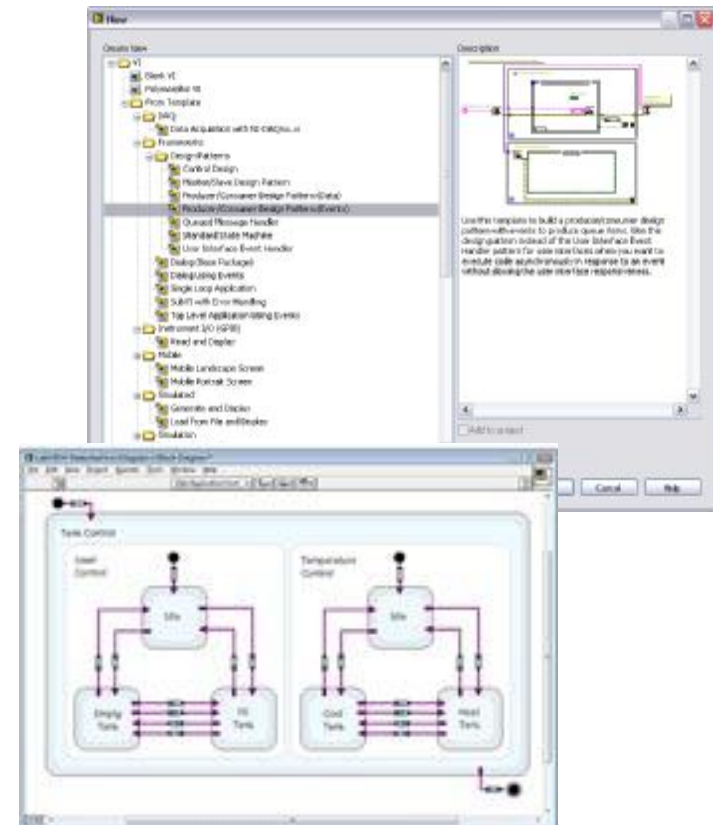


- Determine how code will be divided based upon functionality
- Develop standard interfaces and APIs for code modules
- Ensure code scales and is readable and maintainable

Application Architecture TOOLS



- LabVIEW Design Patterns
- LabVIEW Statechart Module
- UML Tools
- Object-Oriented Design



Development Goals



- Implement the application
- Fulfill requirements documentation
- Detect and resolve incorrect code behavior
- Functionality passes test parameters
- Abide by style guidelines
- Optimize performance and execution

Develop Using Multiple Models of Computation



The collage illustrates various models of computation used in development:

- Control Loop Diagram:** Shows a signal generator feeding into a controller model, which then feeds into a plant model, with a feedback loop and a command/response block.
- DAQ Flowchart:** A process starting with 'ACQUIRE' (DAQ Assist), moving to 'ANALYZE' (Spectral Measurements, Power Spectrum, Waveform Graph), and ending with 'PRESENT' (Write To Measurement File, Power Spectrum).
- Control/Monitor State Machine:** A diagram showing 'Control' (Filling, Draining) and 'Monitor' (Acquire, Log) states with transitions between them.
- Code Editor:** A snippet of MATLAB code for data acquisition and processing.
- Script Window:** A MATLAB script defining a complex number $c = 0.285 + 0.013i$ and calculating a meshgrid $[X, Y]$ and a variable z using a loop.
- Simulink Diagram:** A Simulink block diagram for a 'Deterministic Control Loop' with various signal processing blocks.

Debugging & Testing Practices



- Iterative testing during development
- Manual peer code review
- Static and dynamic code analysis
- Validation against requirements

Test Plan Development

RISK

Minor

- Black box
- Static analysis

Moderate

- Black box
- Static analysis
- Code reviews

Major

- White box
- Black box
- Static analysis
- Code reviews

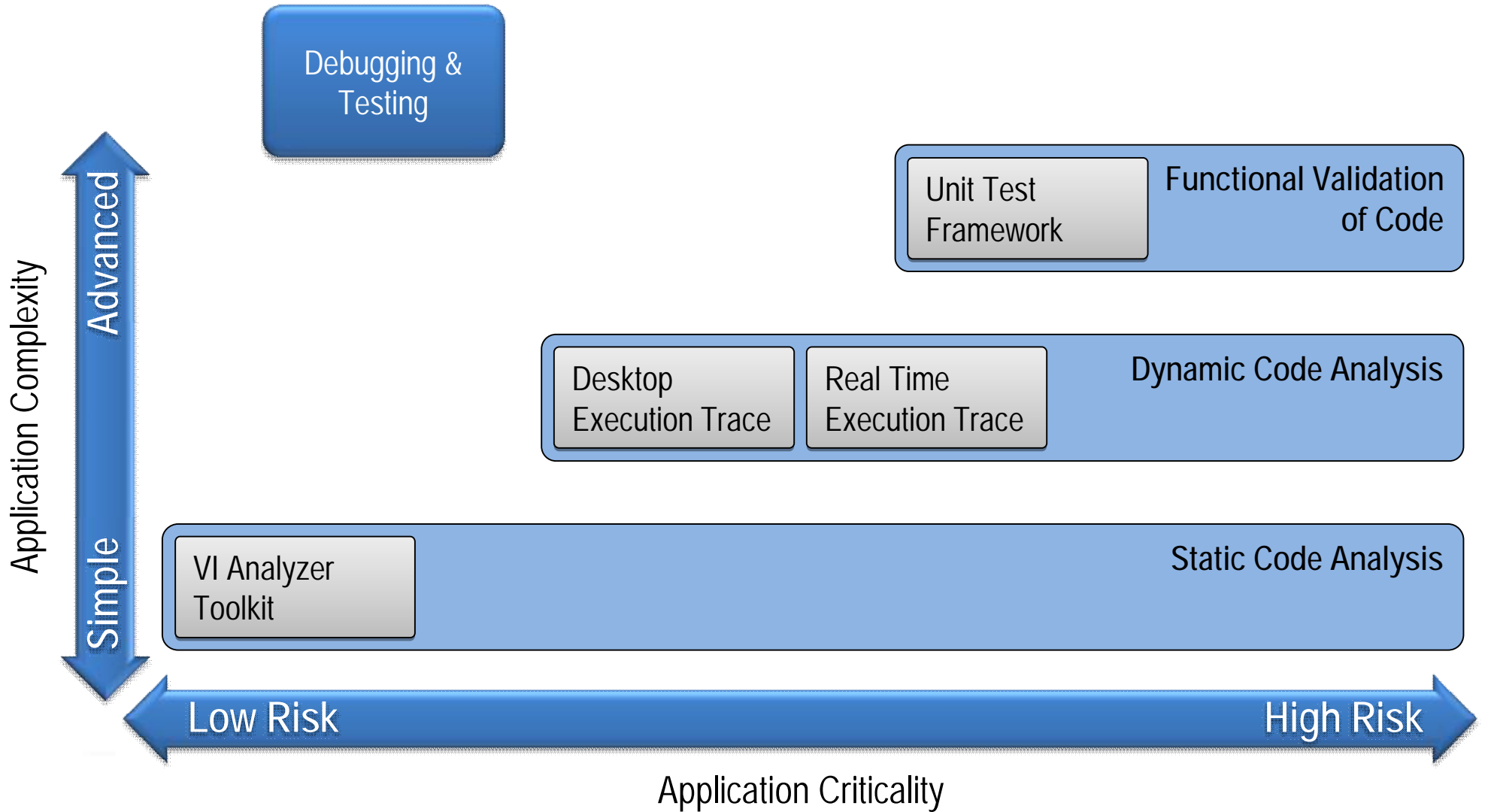
Debugging & Testing TOOLS



- Constantly compiling
- Highlight execution
- Breakpoint manager
- Diagram cleanup
- National Instruments Style Guideline
- VI Profiler
- Coercion (Memory) Dots
- Conditional disable structures
- VI Analyzer Toolkit
- RT Execution Trace Toolkit
- Desktop Execution Trace



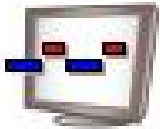
Debugging & Testing TOOLS



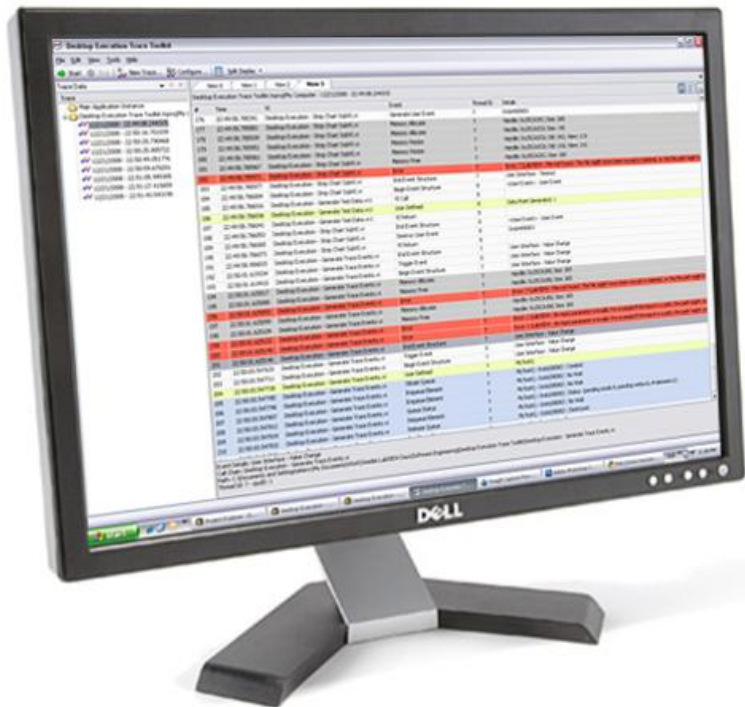
Goals of Dynamic Code Analysis

- What is consuming system memory?
- Am I capturing all the errors in my application?
- What was the last event to occur before...?
- What was the call-chain that led us to...?
- What thread is it executing in?
- Am I actually entering a specific event-case?
- What happened inside a structure?
- What order to these events occur in?
- Is a daemon process running in the background?
- Does the code behave different in an executable?

Desktop Execution Trace Toolkit



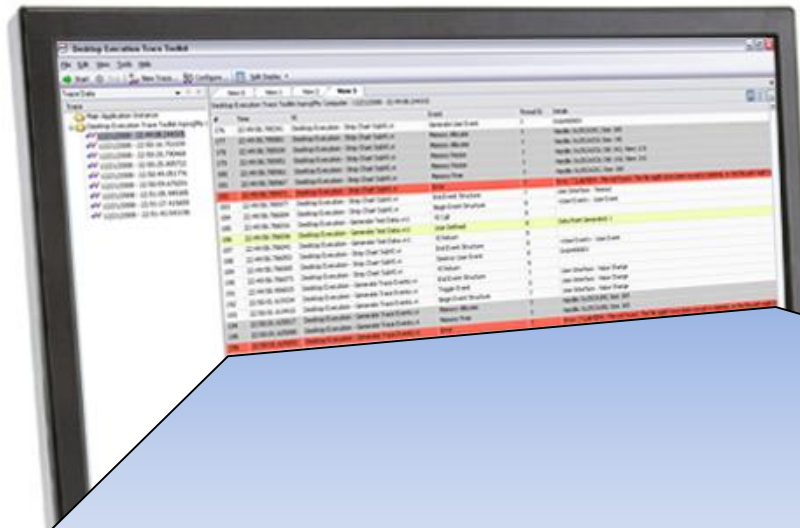
Monitor the execution of LabVIEW code at run-time in order to debug common problems in large applications such as memory leaks and un-handled errors.



Trace During Run-Time:

- Event Structures
- Memory Allocation
- Queues / Notifiers
- Reference Leaks
- Thread ID
- Unhandled Errors
- Dynamic / Static SubVIs
- Custom User Strings

Desktop Execution Trace Toolkit



Trace During Run-Time:

- Event Structures
- Memory Allocation
- Queues / Notifiers

Reference Leaks

Strip Chart SubVI.vi	Memory Resize	7	Handle: 0x25CA3C8; Old: 142; New: 118
Strip Chart SubVI.vi	Memory Allocate	7	Handle: 0x25CA3C8; Size: 142
Strip Chart SubVI.vi	Memory Resize	7	Handle: 0x25CA3C8; Old: 142; New: 118
Strip Chart SubVI.vi	Error	7	Error: 7 (LabVIEW: File not found. The file might have
Generate Trace Events.vi	User Defined	7	MyTestQ
Generate Trace Events.vi	Obtain Queue	7	MyTestQ - 0x66200002 : Created
Generate Trace Events.vi	Enqueue Element	7	MyTestQ - 0x66200002 : No Wait

Trace Production Systems Remotely

LabVIEW Desktop Execution Trace Toolkit



Run-Time Execution Information

Network



Vis and Debuggable Executables

LabVIEW Real-Time Execution Trace Toolkit



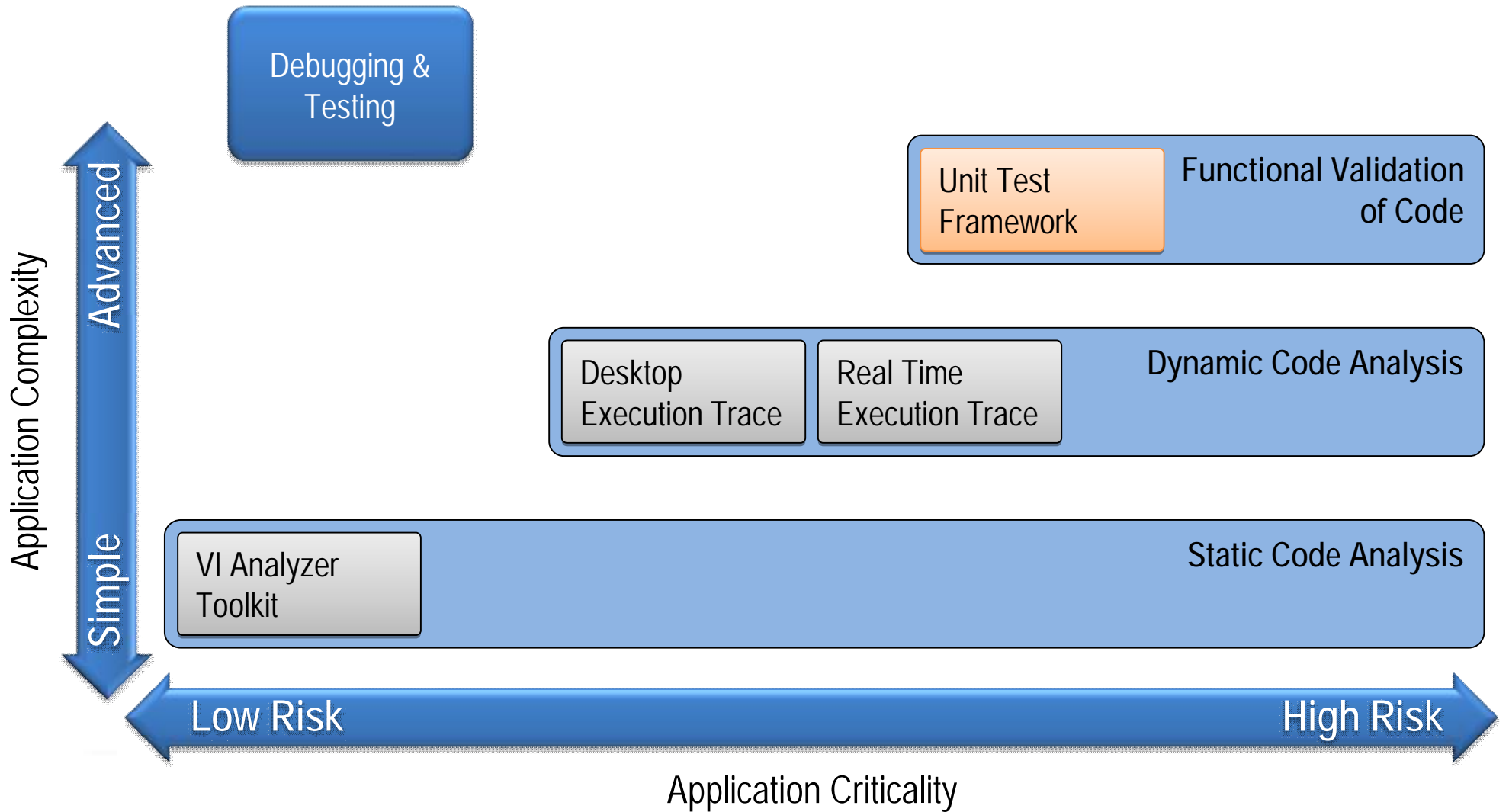
Run-Time Execution Information

Network



Deployed Real-Time Applications

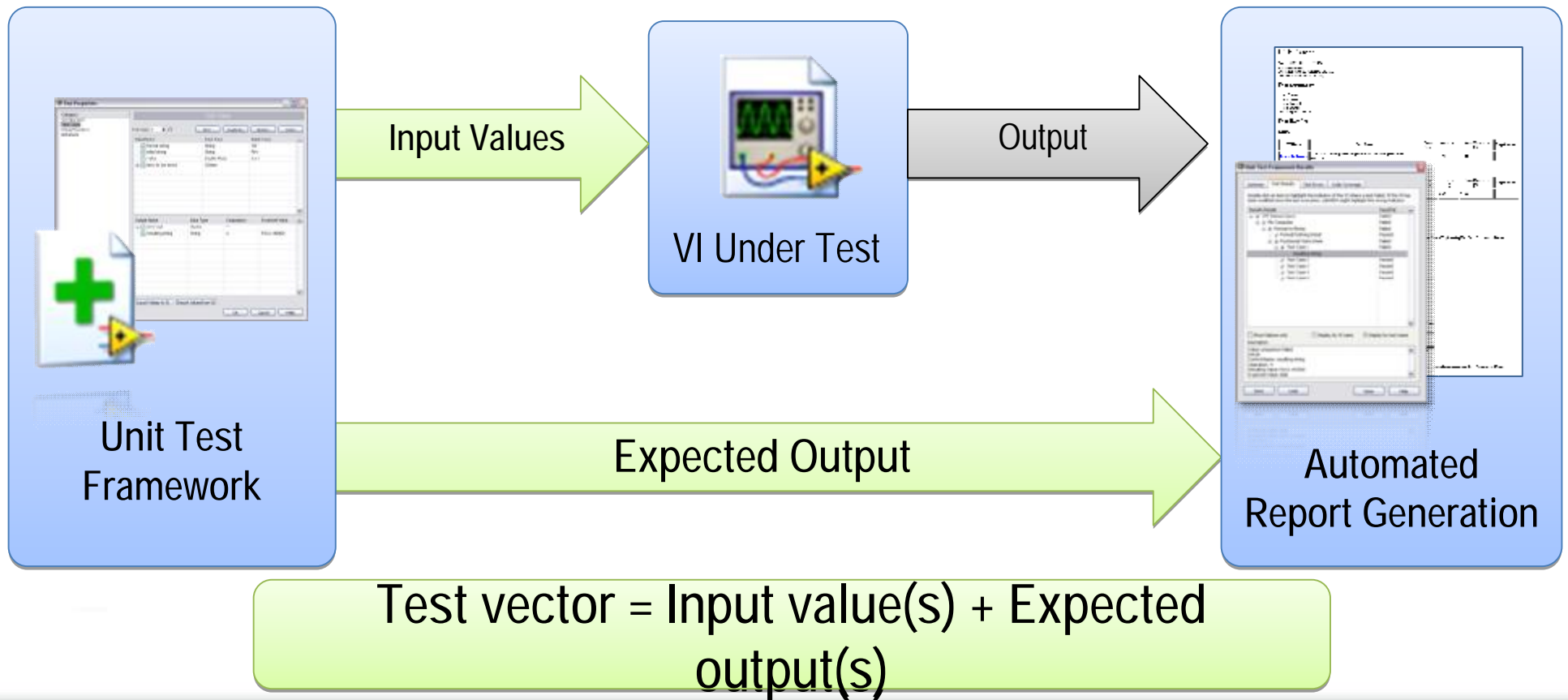
Tools for Debugging and Testing



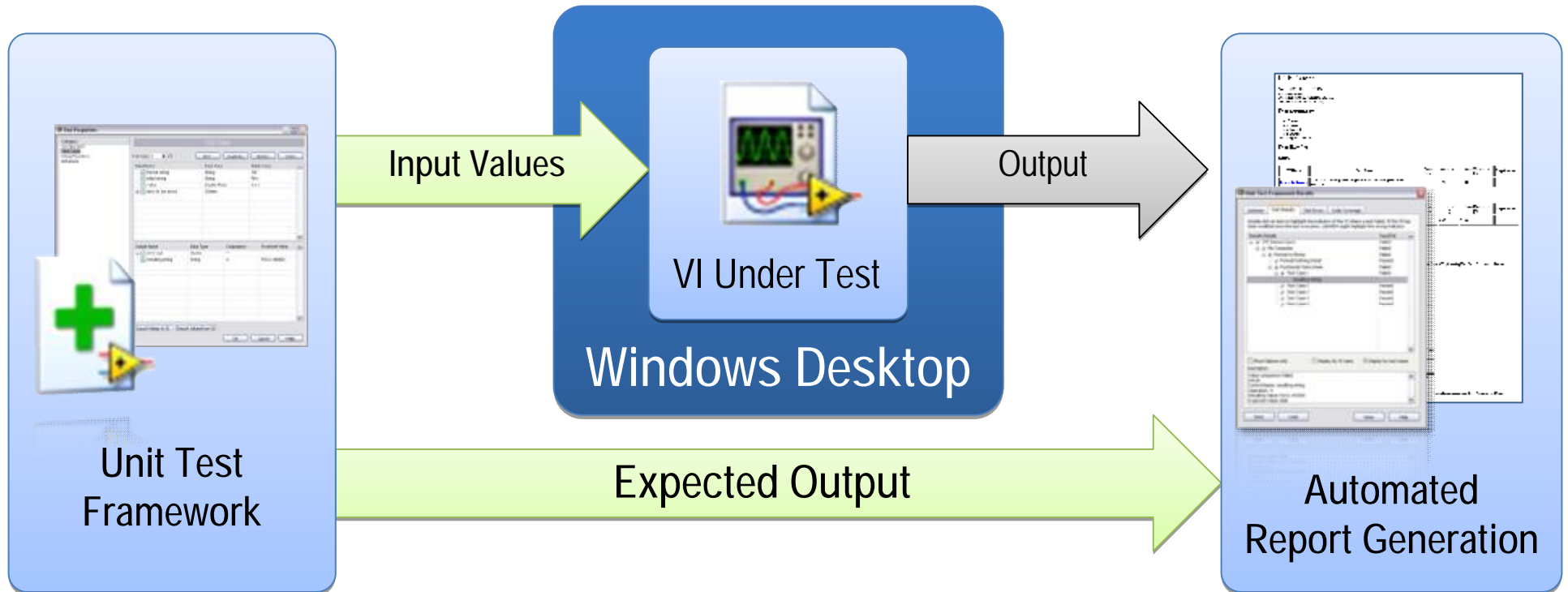
LabVIEW Unit Test Framework



Automatically test and validate VIs against requirements in order to demonstrate that it is working correctly according to design documents.

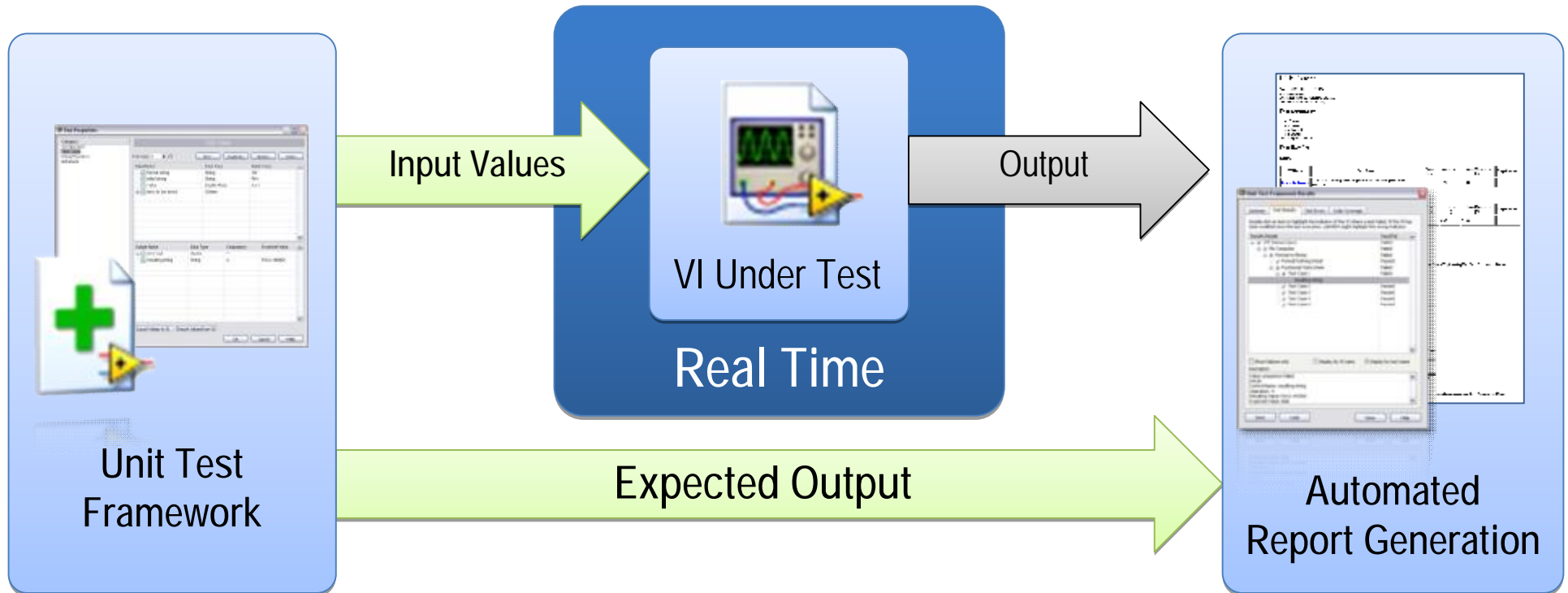


LabVIEW Unit Test Framework



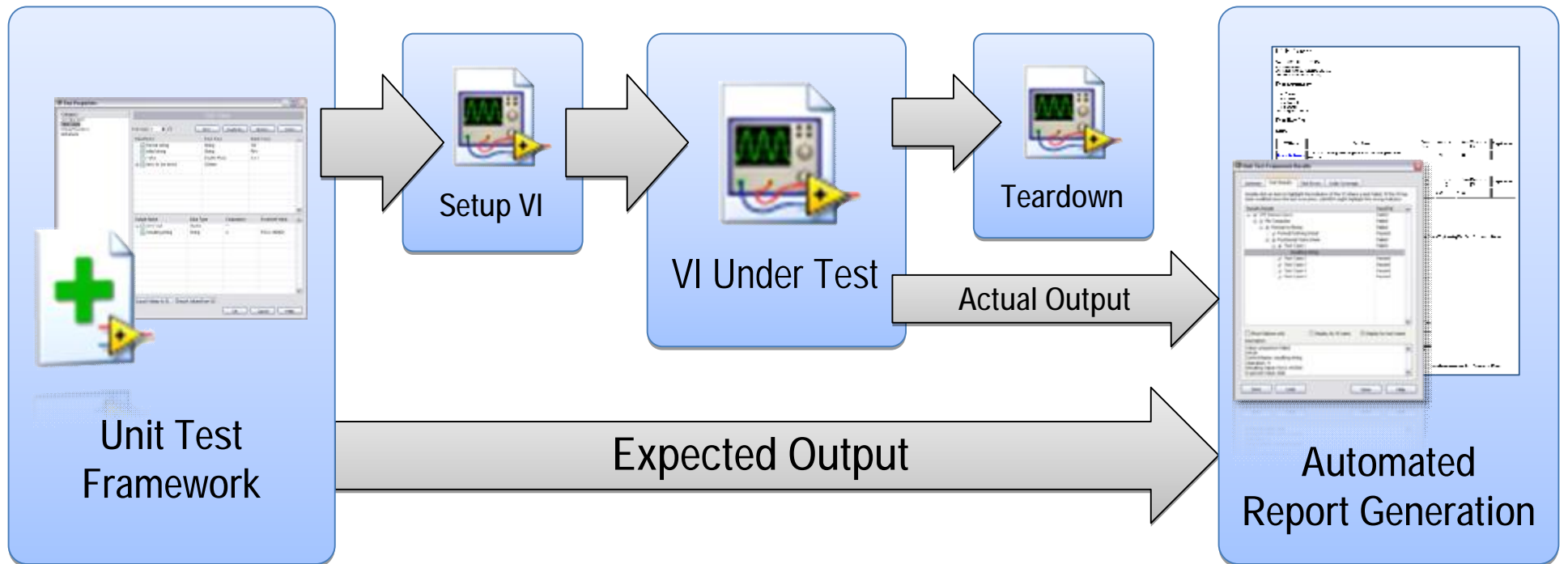
Test vector = Input value(s) + Expected output(s)

LabVIEW Unit Test Framework

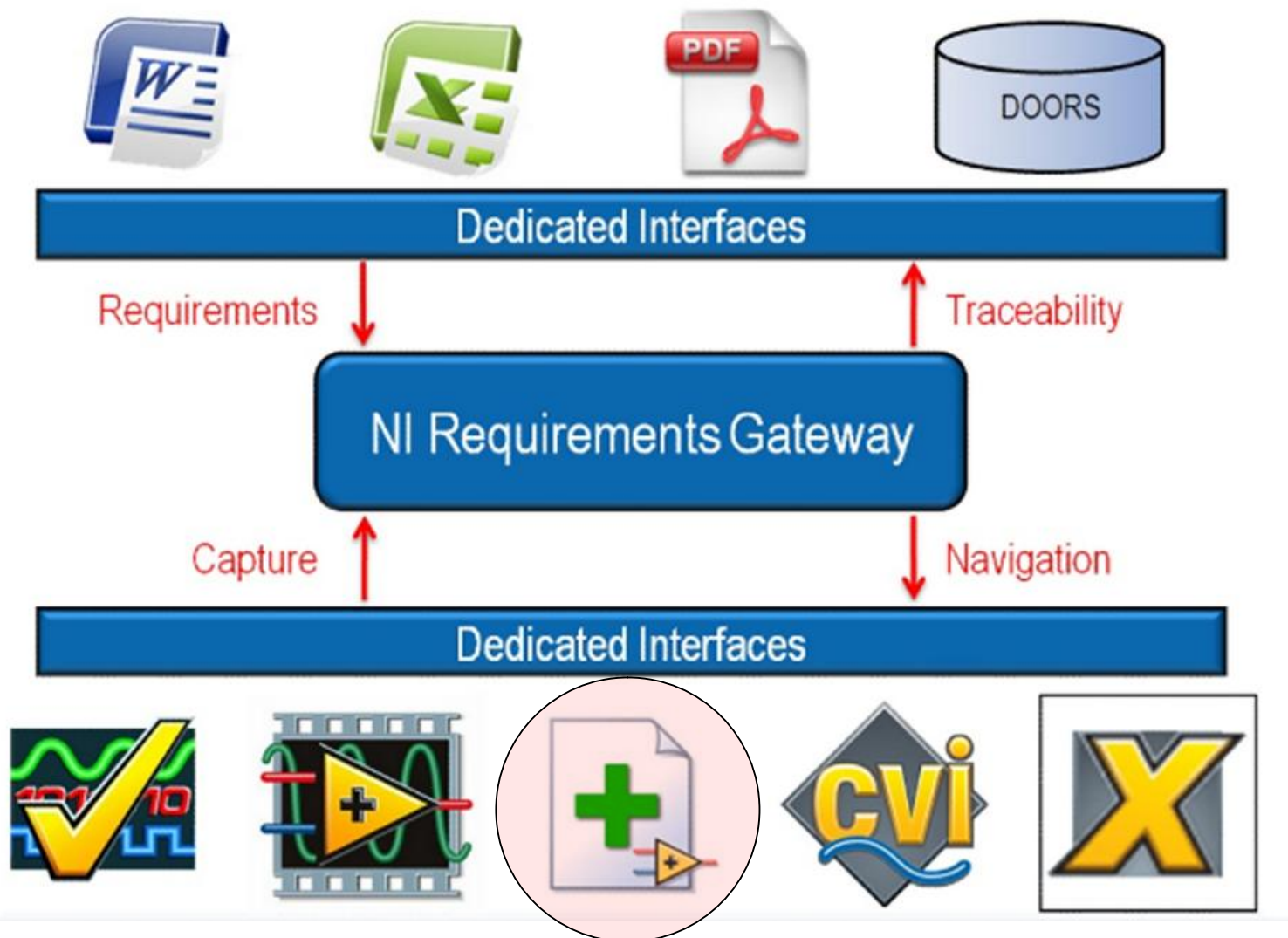


Test vector = Input value(s) + Expected output(s)

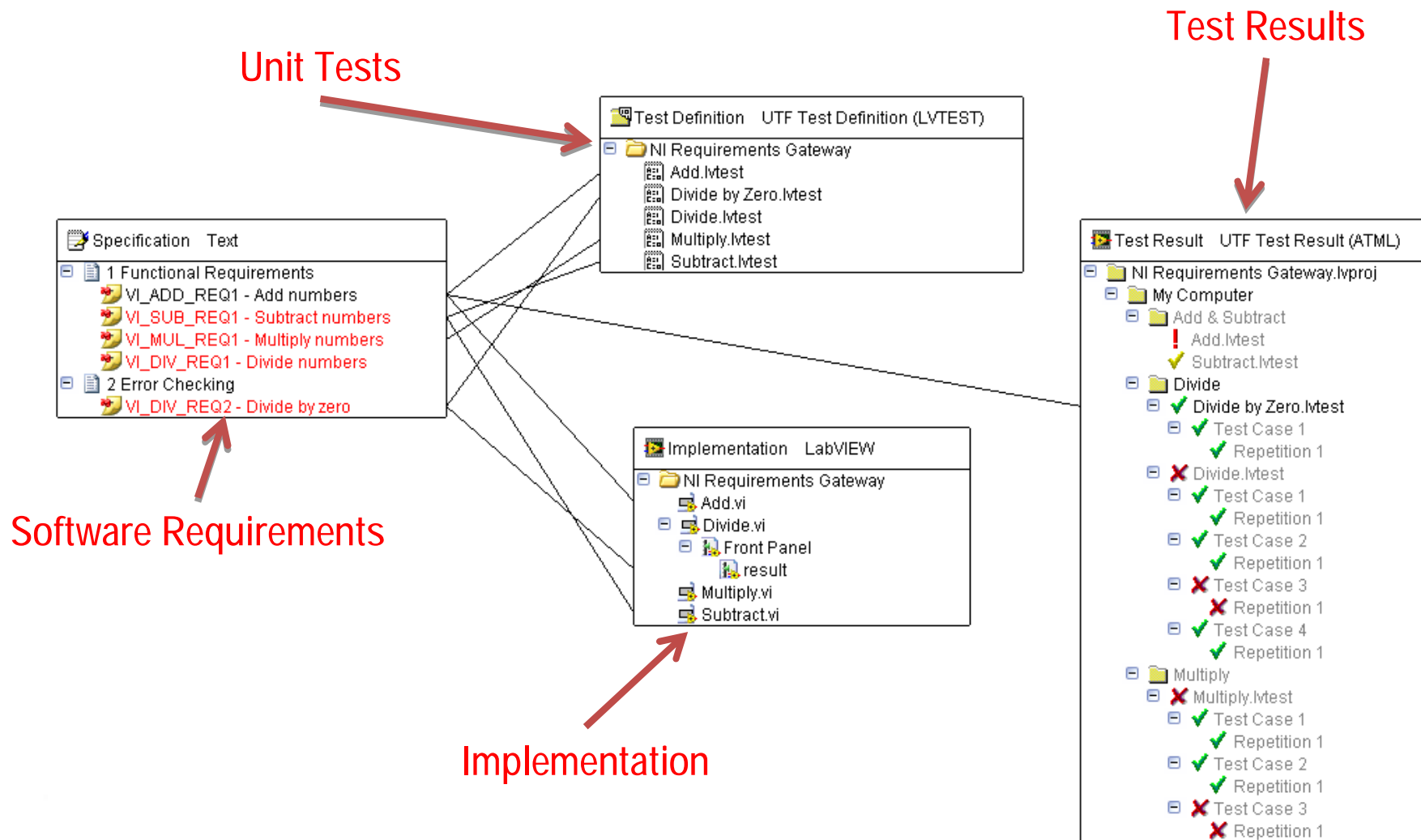
LabVIEW Unit Test Framework



Requirements Traceability Solutions



Integration with Requirements Gateway



Deployment Goals



- Determine repeatable process
- Deploy to determine behavior on other targets
- Deliver a product to customer or end-user
- Make every installer and driver required for operation easily portable
- Remove information about sensitive code

Deployment Tools



- LabVIEW Applications Builder
- LabVIEW Project
 - § Many deployment documents on www.ni.com
- Replication tool for LabVIEW Real-Time
 - § Norton Ghost, etc for Windows

Deploy Software to Embedded Hardware Targets





NI LabVIEW Application Builder



ni.com/labview/power



Learn more about:

Software Engineering
Configuration Management
Development Practices
Tools for Validation and Testing