



SLIM-Suite Overview

How SLIM Applications Work Together to Support Lifecycle Management Processes

Welcome.

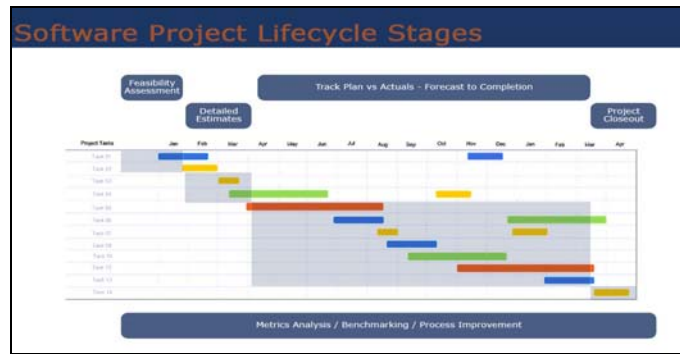
In this video you will learn the purpose of each SLIM-Suite application and how they work together to support software lifecycle management processes.



Software Lifecycle Management (SLIM)

SLIM stands for Software Lifecycle Management.

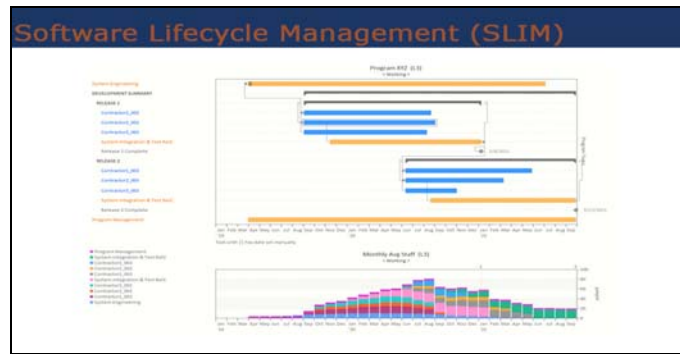
For over 40 years SLIM applications have helped organizations implement best practice software project management processes, including Estimation, Project Control, Program Management, Metrics Analysis, and more recently, Enterprise Collaboration



Software Project Lifecycle Stages

SLIM-Suite helps you manage every stage of your product development lifecycle:

- Create quick Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimates to determine project feasibility and expose unrealistic expectations
- Create robust, defensible estimate once detailed data is available
- Track progress based on actuals for cost, schedule, resources used, and value completed then forecast estimates to complete and re-baseline plans
- Collect completed project data to validate estimate assumptions,
- Perform metrics analysis to benchmark performance and guide process improvement efforts.

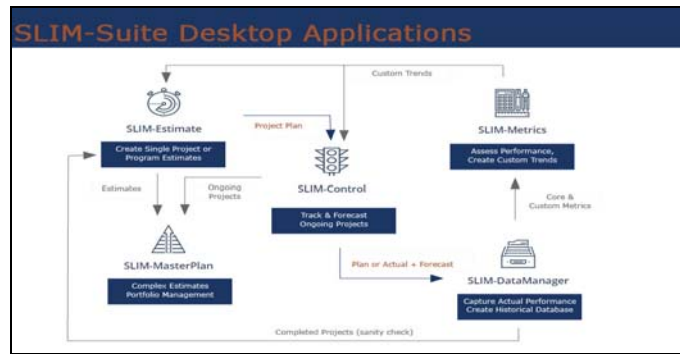


Software Lifecycle Management (SLIM)

Complex Programs and Portfolio Management

Get visibility at multiple levels

- Aggregate estimates and inflight projects at the program and portfolio level to show dependencies, combined costs and resource needs
- Identify potentially risky projects and take corrective action



SLIM-Suite Desktop Applications

SLIM-Estimate - Feasibility Assessments, Detailed Estimates, High-level Planning:

Every project starts as an idea or proposal. SLIM-Estimate provides credible resource, budget, and schedule estimates and viable work plans based on demonstrated capabilities and available resources, not sales targets or marketing goals.

SLIM-Control - In Flight Project Status, Forecast to Complete:

Once the project is underway, SLIM-Control monitors actual staff/effort/cost, construction, and defect data. Configurable control bounds provide early warning if the project starts to slip, and curve fit forecasting evaluates planning alternatives and predict most likely completion date.

SLIM-DataManager - Project Closeout:

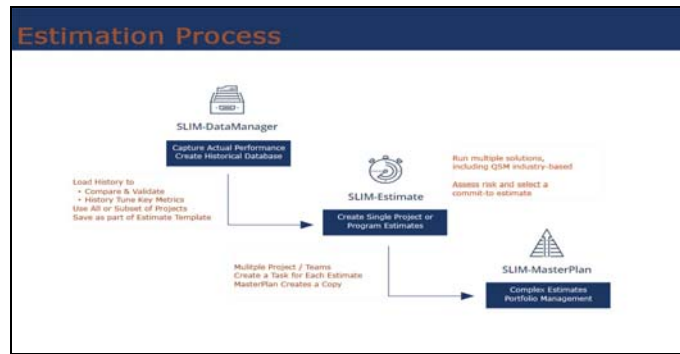
As projects complete, import them into SLIM-DataManager to capture final performance data and calibrate future estimates to past performance and development methods.

SLIM-MasterPlan - Complex Program and Portfolio Estimates and Status:

Roll up your entire portfolio in SLIM-MasterPlan for aggregated "master" view of estimates and in progress projects. Also useful for complex estimates with multiple releases and non-software components.

SLIM-Metrics - Benchmarking/Process Improvement:

Analyze/benchmark completed project data in SLIM-Metrics. Group projects into related data sets using queries/data set definitions. Create custom reference trends that can be imported into Estimate, Control, or Collaborate to support both estimates and post-release benchmarking.

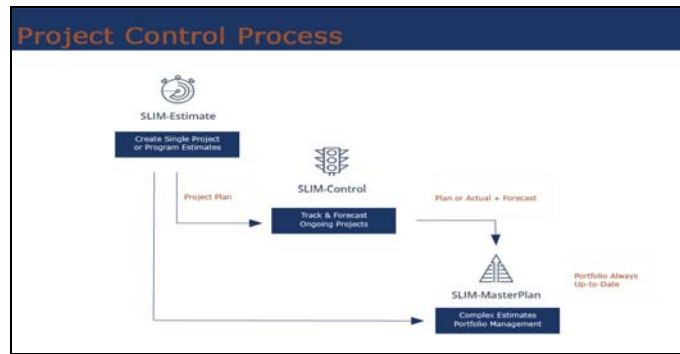


Estimation Process

Use SLIM-Estimate to estimate a project or release or determine the feasibility of large initiatives early in the lifecycle. Run multiple solutions, and assess the relative risks, then commit to the estimate that meets your targets and constraints.

Defensible estimates are based on known capabilities. Import similar historical projects from SLIM-DataManager to sanity check estimates against known capabilities and tune the model to your development environment.

Use SLIM-MasterPlan to estimate complex projects that involve multiple areas, such as software, hardware and infrastructure and included other costs.

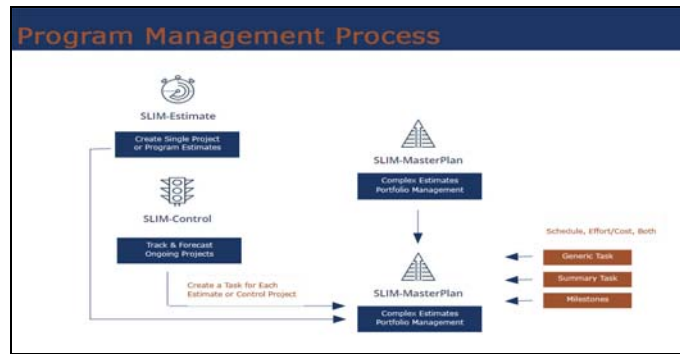


Project Control Process

SLIM-Control is the star of the Project Control process. Typically, new Control plans are created from SLIM-Estimate projects, but you can create a custom plan.

Track actuals versus plan, forecast project end dates based on performance to-date, and make a forecast the new plan.

Update portfolio estimates by changing an Estimate task to a Control task and bring either the Plan or Actuals + Forecast into MasterPlan to instantly assess the impact of project status to keep the program estimate up-to-date and make necessary adjustments.

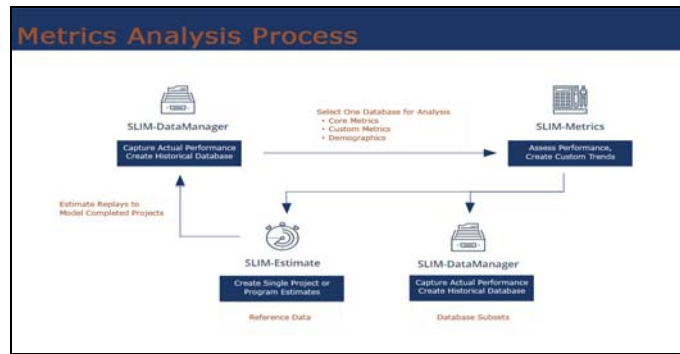


Program Management Process

As mentioned earlier, SLIM-MasterPlan lets you aggregate project estimates and in-flight projects to maintain a view of program cost and resource requirements and anticipated delivery dates.

You can also include other elements. Generic tasks are any task that has a schedule and/or cost that you would not estimate using SLIM-Estimate, such as training, setting up a production environment, or independent validation testing. Use Summary tasks to establish a program hierarchy, and aggregate core metrics at each level. Add milestones and tasks dependencies as well.

Perhaps you have small to medium programs or complex projects modeled in MasterPlan that you want to aggregate at a high organizational level. SLIM-MasterPlan workbooks can also be imported into your portfolio.



Metrics Analysis Process

Reasonable, defensible estimates are based upon history – completed projects from industry or your organization.

Capturing just five core metrics provides supports SLIM best practices. You can define any number of custom metrics, calculated metrics and collect demographic information.

SLIM-Metrics links to DataManager files to query, view, and analyze your data. You can define and store queries to group like projects by one or more characteristics, such as application type, industry, development method, and more.

You can create database subsets to distribute to different parts of the organization for collection and use with other SLIM tools.

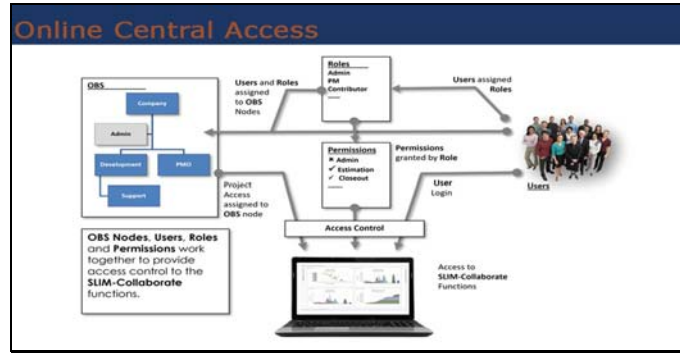
Use SLIM-Metrics to create custom trends from your history and import them into Estimate, Control, and Collaborate.

Sometimes gathering actual data for completed projects by phase can be difficult. SLIM-Estimate can be used to reply or reverse engineer using total Effort, Staff, and Duration, along with a few assumptions about the lifecycle. The completed project replay can be imported into SLIM-DataManager, where demographic data, keywords, and other metrics can be added.



Enterprise Collaboration

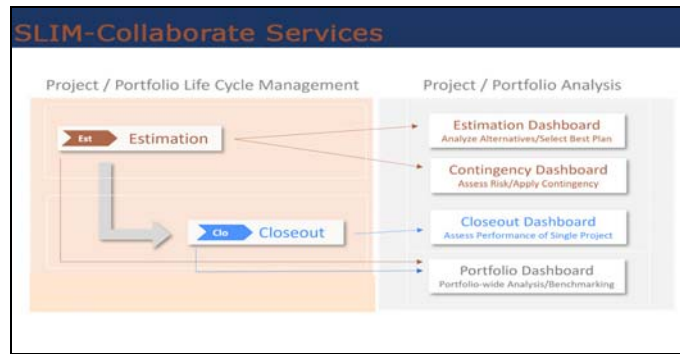
Estimation is a team sport. Many stakeholders across the enterprise need access to up-to-date Project Intelligence. Some stakeholders participate in the estimation process by contributing data, reviewing and approving schedules, or analyzing the financial impact.



Online Central Access

SLIM-Collaborate is a web-based component of SLIM-Suite that provides online, anywhere access to your central database.

Collaborate stores and organizes all of your projects, letting you configure who has access to which projects, and at what permission level.



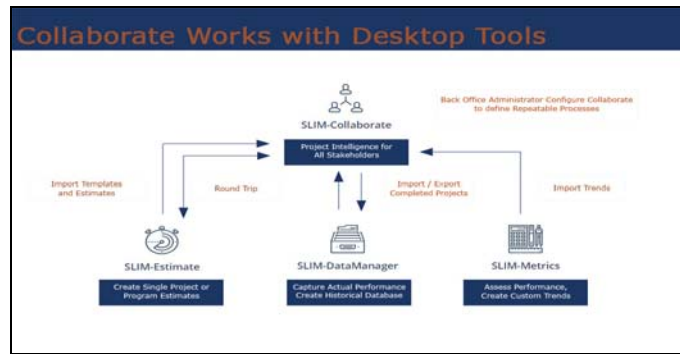
SLIM-Collaborate Services

There are two Project Lifecycle Management services in SLIM-Collaborate that correspond to SLIM Desktop tool capabilities:

- Estimation – Determine the reasonableness of project ideas and the resources required, including time, cost, and staffing. Explore the range of potential outcomes once more information is available and create baseline execution plans.
- Closeout – Enter completed project actuals to assess performance, sanity check estimates, and expand your basis of estimation for future projects.

Project dashboards present detailed data about estimate assumptions, alternative solutions, contingency and relative risks, and performance benchmarking.

With all your projects in one database, Collaborate Portfolio dashboards display a wide range of performance metrics and project characteristics by lifecycle stage, organization and other demographic data using custom project list filters.



Collaborate Works with Desktop Tools

SLIM-Collaborate can be used alone or in concert with SLIM-Suite desktop tools. Back Office administrators, whether they are QSM professionals or experts within your organization, can use the power of the desktop applications to configure Collaborate and leverage advanced features as needed.

Import industry and custom trends using SLIM-Metrics or SLIM-Estimate.

Templates created in SLIM-Estimate promote consistent, repeatable estimates.

Import existing Estimate and DataManager projects to begin creating your enterprise portfolio right away.

Through what is called “Round Trip,” SLIM-Desktop users can checkout a Collaborate project and leverage the power of the desktop tools to conduct advance analysis on an as-needed basis.

The seamless integration between SLIM-Suite tools allows you to work with the combination of applications and features that best fits your needs.



SLIM-Suite

Estimate, Track, and Benchmark Your Projects

Make better business decisions at every stage of the software project. Each of QSM's SLIM products is designed to deliver powerful results, either as a standalone application or as part of QSM's integrated suite.

Contact QSM to learn more.