

Wild Bill Smith

CEO | CMMI Instructor & Raconteur

This memo is based on the best information available to me as of the most recent CMMI Institute Partner Webinar (June 13, 2023), augmented by discussions with CMMI Institute staff. Please realize that although CMMI V3.0 was released in April 2023, CMMI Institute guidance on the associated certification pathway (including training) is *not absolutely final*, and guidance to Partners (like me) has shifted over the past several months. I try hard to be factual, but *I will not be responsible if any of the information below is (or becomes) inaccurate.*

### SUMMARY

#### The Model:

- Two versions of the CMMI are currently available and in active use: V2.2 (sometimes simply referred to as V2.0) and V3.0 (released on April 6, 2023).
- The key difference between the versions is additional, “optional” content added by V3.0. ***To most current CMMI users (targeting CMMI-DEV or -SVC) this change is not significant.***
- All CMMI licenses (including those bundled with CMMI classes) provide full access to V3.0 via an online Model Viewer, but only a downloadable pdf of V2.2.

#### Appraisals:

- For most organizations pursuing a V2.2 appraisal, ***V3.0 may not be different enough to warrant a change in direction.*** (The highlight of V3.0 is the addition of several domains that won’t impact an organization focusing strictly upon Development or Services.)
- CMMI V2.2 appraisals may still be conducted through the end of June 2024. CMMI V3.0 appraisals may begin in January 2024.

#### Training:

- Students who take (or have taken) the CMMI V2.x Foundations of Capability and Building Excellence class(es) ***will not need to upgrade to be on a CMMI V3.0 appraisal team.***
- ISACA is updating the standard Foundations of Capability and Building Development/ Services Excellence classes for V3.0 this summer. Starting in October, my classes will be focused on V3.0 (***but they will still help satisfy training requirements for V2.x appraisals.***)
- Eventually, two distinct V3.0 training pathways will be available:
  - Foundations of Capability (typically two days, covering the core) plus domain-specific Building Excellence classes (similar to what’s been offered for V2.2, but updated to reflect the changes in V3.0). The Building Excellence classes will include one single-day course each for Development and Services.
  - Building Organizational Capability (four days). Will cover the core, plus all eight V3.0 domains: Development, Services, Supplier Management, Virtual, Security, Safety, Data, and People. (This class may be overkill for an organization focused strictly on Development and/or Services, as most CMMI users currently are.)

## THE MODEL

### Versions:

- CMMI V3.0 was released on April 6, 2023, and it's the version that's now reflected in the online Model Viewer. So, you can use it for guidance, but it's not yet officially supported with training classes, and you can't get appraised against it yet.
- CMMI V2.2 is now only available as a downloadable pdf file. That file is included in all current subscriptions to the CMMI online Model Viewer. (The Model Viewer functionality only works with V3.0.)
- CMMI V2.2 will continue to be supported through the end of June 2024 — the final date for V2.2 appraisals.

### Key model changes for V3.0 (vs. V2.2):

- Three new Practice Areas (PAs) have been added (along with a new Capability Area (CA)):
  - Data Management (DM) and Data Quality (DQ), largely derived from the (retired) Data Management Maturity (DMM) model. (A new CA, Managing Data, was created to contain these new PAs.)
  - Workforce Empowerment (WE), largely taken from the (retired) People CMM. (It's been added to the Managing the Workforce CA.)
- There are now eight domains:
  - Development (DEV), Services (SVC), Suppliers (SPM). (The SPM abbreviation for Suppliers is an artifact of the domain's previous name, Supplier Management.)
  - Safety (SAF) and Security (SEC), added with V2.2 in 2021
  - Virtual (VRT), People (PPL), and Data (DATA), all added with V3.0.
- The Supplier Source Selection (SSS) PA has been removed, with key concepts moved into Supplier Agreement Management (SAM). The Enabling Virtual Solution Delivery (EVSD) PA has been renamed to Enabling Virtual Work (EVW), to better reflect its scope. (It's also been moved from the core into the new Virtual domain.)
- New contexts have been added, including DevSecOps. The Agile with Scrum Guidance context has been renamed Agile Development.
- Maturity Levels (MLs) have been simplified; a single chart replaces the 15 used in V2.2. (As a side effect of the ML simplification, though, it's now *much* more difficult to attain ML2. All PAs that were previously only required at ML3 are now required at ML2. This includes

Wild Bill Smith

CEO | CMMI Instructor & Raconteur

several core PAs (CAR, DAR, OT, PR, PAD, PCM, RSK, and VV), the two DEV-specific PAs (TS and PI), and three of the four SVC-specific PAs (STSM, IRP, and CONT).)

- Several minor changes have been made to the wording of practice statements and other model elements. (See the Release Notes, available in the online Model Viewer, for a comprehensive list.)

### APPRAISALS

CMMI V3.0 appraisals may start on January 1, 2024.

CMMI V2.2 appraisals may still be conducted through June 2024.

### TRAINING

There are (or *will* be) two different CMMI training pathways:

(1) Take a two-day foundational course and add one or two targeted one-day classes to specialize in the Development and/or Services domain(s) (i.e., CMMI-DEV and/or CMMI-SVC). Current CMMI users may regard this as the “stay the course” option:

- Courses: Foundations of Capability (usually 2 days) + one or both of the following as needed: Building Development Excellence (1 day), Building Service Excellence (1 day).
- Timeframe: These classes are currently available in their V2.2 form, which is “good enough” for serving on a CMMI V3.0 appraisal. ISACA is currently updating the classes to reflect V3.0, and all of my classes will CMMI V3.0-centric starting in October 2023.
- Advantage: For organizations that are only committed to CMMI-DEV or CMMI-SVC, the total training days will be less than it would be for the planned four-day Building Organizational Capability class (described on the next page).
- Note: A Certified CMMI Associate who has undergone V2.2 training can serve on a V3.0 appraisal team without the need for a training or certification “upgrade.” In this case, the Lead Appraiser will discuss the differences with the Appraisal Team Member (ATM) prior to the appraisal. Similarly, somebody who undergoes V3.0 training can serve as a V2.2 ATM; the Lead Appraiser will discuss the differences before the appraisal. (Additional Building Excellence classes may be developed in the future, which may be combined with Foundations of Capability to meet ATM requirements extending beyond DEV and SVC.)

(2) Take one comprehensive course and be exposed to all eight CMMI domains:

- Course: Building Organizational Capability (4 days). A new class covering all CMMI domains (Development, Services, Suppliers, Security, Safety, Virtual, People, and Data).
- Timeframe: ISACA is targeting it for launch in the summer of 2023. But I have no current plans to teach this course, choosing to focus instead on the Foundations and Building Excellence courses (where I believe the market demand will be stronger). I could reconsider this for 2024 and beyond.
- Advantage: Exposes students to the six “minor” domains (beyond Development and Services) to which they otherwise won’t gain exposure. Currently required for ATMs for V3.0 appraisals including any of these six domains, although that could change. (Additional Building Excellence classes may be developed in the future, which may be combined with Foundations of Capability to meet ATM requirements.)

## CERTIFICATIONS AND EXAMS

Under CMMI V3.0, there will be two different entry-level exams/certifications:

- Certified CMMI Associate. A currently existing certification, testing knowledge of a limited portion of the CMMI model, i.e., the core. To qualify, take the two-day Foundations of Capability course. Then take and pass the exam. (The exam fee is included in the tuition for Foundations of Capability.) Instead of separate, concurrently available exams for V2.2 and V3.0, it seems that the V3.0 exam (when available) will replace the V2.2 exam. (This will most likely happen around September or October.)
- Certified CMMI Practitioner. A new certification, that tests knowledge of the full CMMI model, i.e., the core plus all eight domains. To earn this credential, you must take the Building Organizational Capability course and then pass the Certified CMMI Practitioner exam. (The exam fee will presumably be included in the course tuition.) Special opportunity through December 31, 2023: Existing Certified CMMI Associates may use self-study, rather than take the Building Organizational Capability class, to prepare for the Certified CMMI Practitioner exam. Starting in 2024, though, the BOC course will be a strict requirement.

## TO BE AN APPRAISAL TEAM MEMBER

Here are your primary training and exam options for serving as a CMMI appraisal team member (ATM):.

(1) For CMMI-DEV and/or CMMI-SVC appraisals (either V2.x or V3.0):

- Take the Foundations of Capability course. (Remember, version numbers don't matter as much here as you might think; as described above, V2.2 training will still help qualify you for a V3.0 appraisal, and vice versa.)
- Also take one or both of the one-day Building Excellence courses (DEV and/or SVC) that apply to the domain(s) selected for the appraisal.
- Pass the Certified CMMI Associate exam that comes bundled with the Foundations class.
- You'll then meet the training and certification requirements to be on a CMMI V2.2 or V3.0 appraisal team covering Development or Services. (The additional domains — Suppliers, Safety, Security, Virtual, People, and Data Management — cannot be included in the scope of the appraisal. However, it's possible the future Building Excellence classes may be developed to cover these other domains.)

(2) For appraisals covering domains other than simply CMMI-DEV and/or CMMI-SVC (i.e., Suppliers, Security, Safety, Virtual, People, Data):

- Take the yet-to-be-released four-day V3.0 Building Organizational Capability course. (Don't lean on *me* for this; as I described above, I won't be teaching this class for the foreseeable future, certainly not in 2023.)
- Pass the yet-to-be-released Certified CMMI Practitioner exam that (presumably) comes bundled with the course.
- You'll then meet the training and certification requirements to be on a CMMI appraisal team covering any or all of the eight domains: Development, Services, Suppliers, Safety, Security, Virtual, People, and Data Management.
- Note: V2.2 ATMS will likely be able to upgrade in another fashion so their appraisals can cover areas like SEC, DATA, etc. without taking Building Organizational Capability. This will be announced as V3,0 appraisals draw near.