Software FMEA Toolkit Tutorial

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Help

Every worksheet has at least one online help file link to guide you through the toolkit.

Additional resources

- Your toolkit has online help for every worksheet
- Each worksheet has "call outs" to guide you
- The toolkit has been designed to work with the separately sold book

"Effective Application of Software Failure Modes Effects Analysis"

Installation

• The toolkit installation is illustrated in the below video

http://www.softrel.com/images/installation.mp4

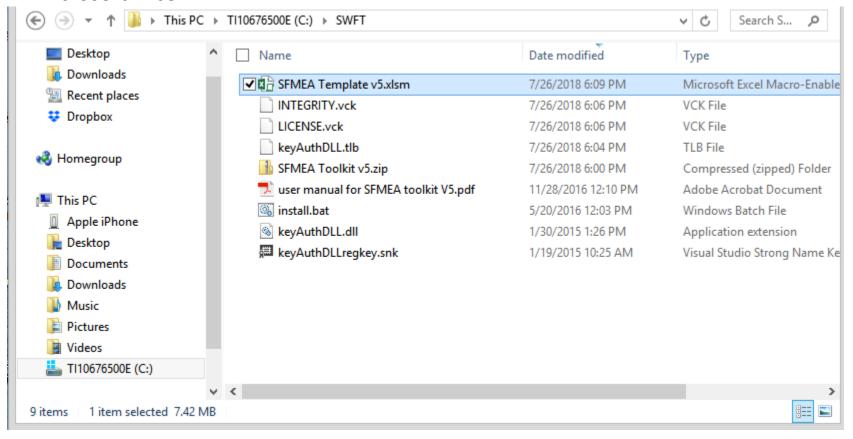
Step 1. Get started

The toolkit is a macro enabled spreadsheet

You must have macros enabled in Microsoft Excel® to use the toolkit

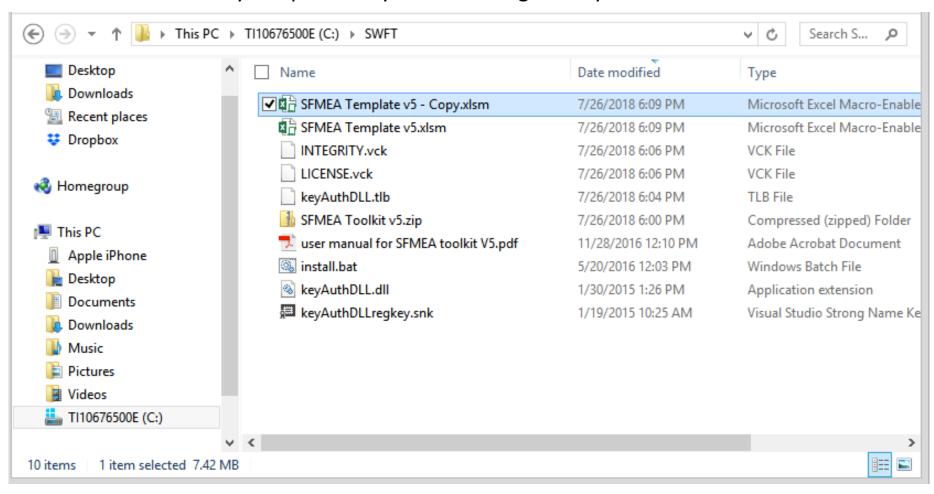
Opening the toolkit

- Prior to launching the software reliability toolkit you must
 - Have a recent version of Microsoft Excel
 - Make sure that the zip file is unzipped to c:/SWFT folder (note the files that should be extracted in the below figure)
 - Enable macros in Microsoft Excel
 - Activate the license
- Then launch the toolkit by simply selecting the macro enabled file and opening it with Microsoft Excel

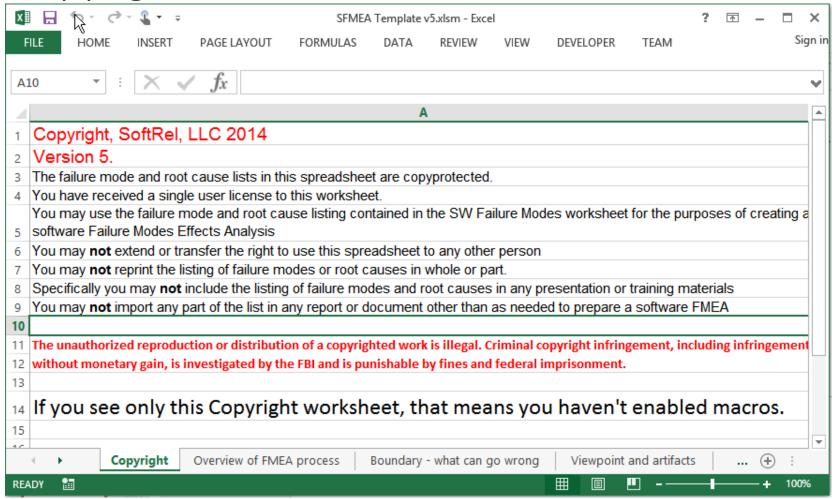


Copying the toolkit

- The "Save As" is not an allowed feature for the toolkit so to create multiple SFMEAs from template use the File Manager to copy and paste.
- You can make as many templates as you like as long as they remain in the SWFT folder.

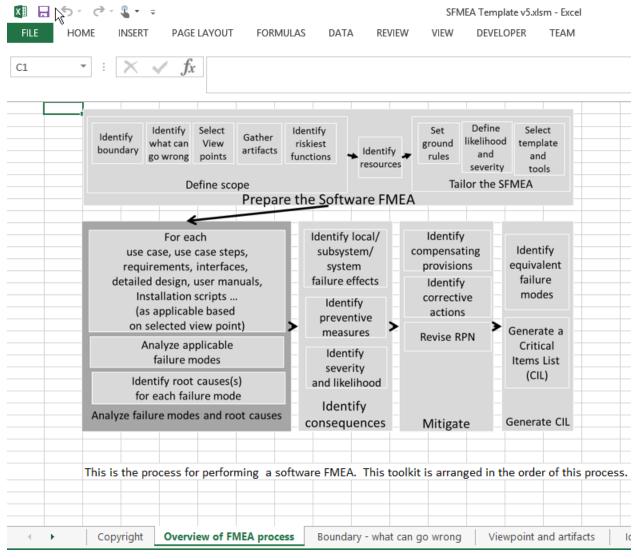


Copyright



- The toolkit is a single user/computer license.
- Read the Copyright notice
- If you see only the Copyright worksheet when you open the toolkit then you haven't enabled the macros.

Overview of the SFMEA



- The Overview page summarizes the rest of the toolkit
- Each step of the SFMEA is presented in order from left to right in each of the toolkit worksheets

Step 2. Prepare the SFMEA

Define the scope and resources and tailor the SFMEA template

These videos illustrate the SFMEA preparation worksheets

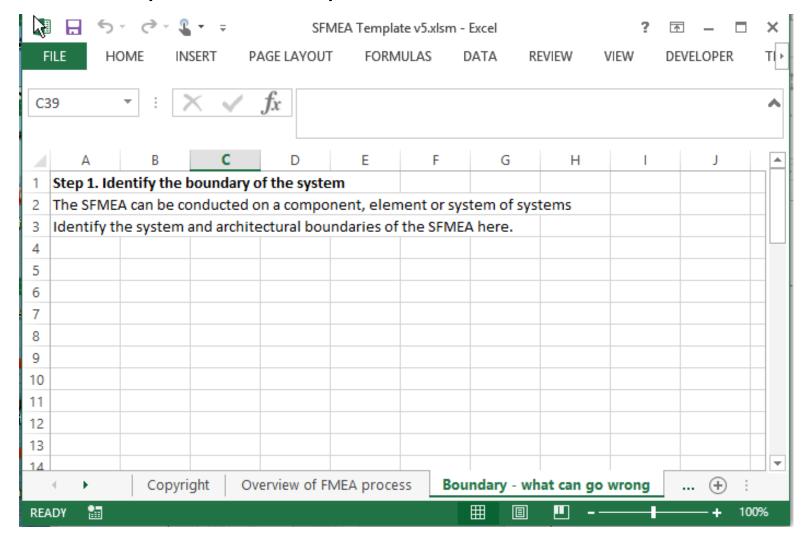
http://www.softrel.com/images/preparesfmea1.mp4

http://www.softrel.com/images/preparesfmea2.mp4

Prepare the SFMEA

- 2.1 Identify boundary
- 2.2 Identify what can go wrong
- 2.3 Select viewpoints
- 2.4 Gather artifacts
- 2.5 Identify riskiest functions
- 2.6 Identify resources
- 2.7 Set ground rules
- 2.8 Define likelihood and severity
- 2.9 Select template and tools

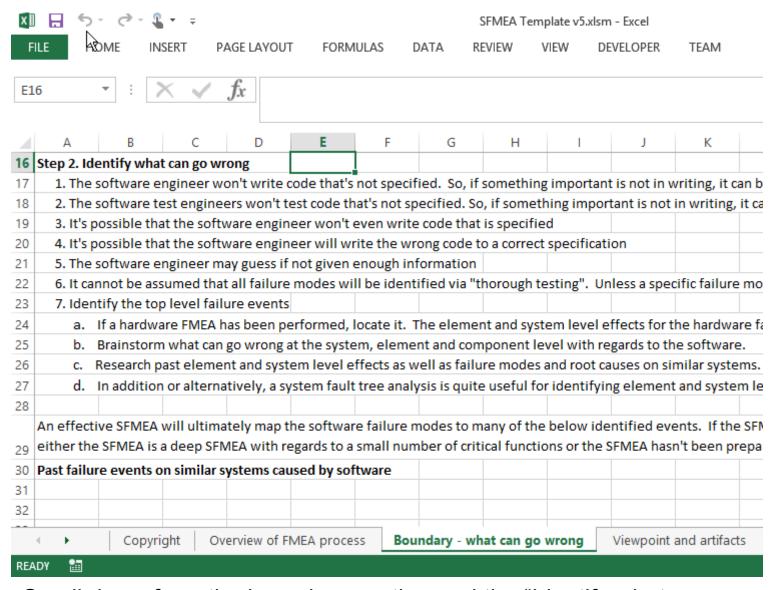
Identify boundary



The first step is to decide the boundary of the system under analysis.

Will the boundary be a component of a system, element of a system, system of systems? Whatever is outside of the boundary identified here will not be analyzed.

Identify what can go wrong



Scroll down from the boundary section and the "Identify what can go wrong" section is shown

Some things that can go wrong...

The SFMEA analyst should remember the below when analyzing the failure modes and effects

- 1. The software engineer won't write code that's not specified. So, if something important is not in writing, it can be assumed the code won't be written to address it.
- 2. The software test engineers won't test code that's not specified. So, if something important is not in writing, it can be assumed the test plan won't test it.
- 3. It's possible that the software engineer won't even write code that is specified
- 4. It's possible that the software engineer will write the wrong code to a correct specification
- 5. The software engineer may guess if not given enough information
- 6. It cannot be assumed that all failure modes will be identified via "thorough testing". Unless a specific failure mode in a specific use case or function is explicitly in the test plan, it should be assumed it won't get tested.

Identify specifically what can go wrong with the system under analysis

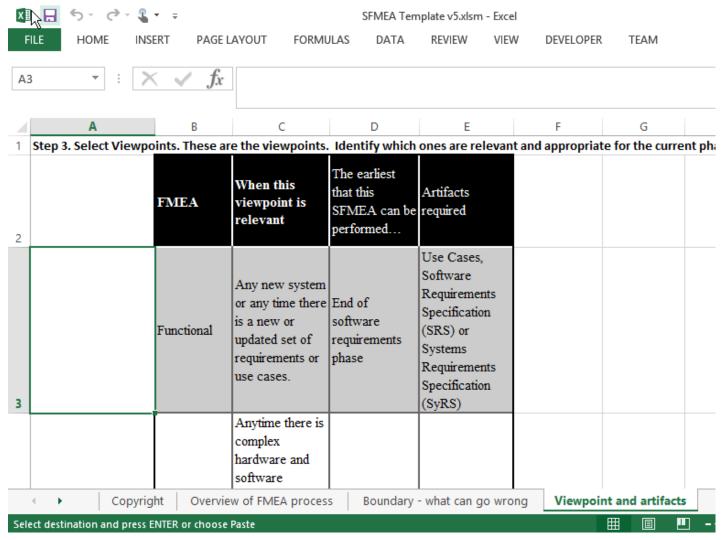
Identify the top level failure events

- a. If a hardware FMEA has been performed, locate it. The element and system level effects for the hardware failures are often system level effects for software failures as well.
- b. Brainstorm what can go wrong at the system, element and component level with regards to the software.
- c. Research past element and system level effects as well as failure modes and root causes on similar systems.
- d. In addition or alternatively, a system fault tree analysis is quite useful for identifying element and system level effects and failure modes and root causes

An effective SFMEA will ultimately map the software failure modes to many of the below identified events. If the SFMEA only maps to a few of these events then either the SFMEA is a deep SFMEA with regards to a small number of critical functions or the SFMEA hasn't been prepared as effectively as it can be.

Use the template to define all of the failure events from a through d

Select viewpoints



Select the "Viewpoint and artifacts" tab. Review each of the viewpoints, when it is relevant, the earliest that that viewpoint can be analyzed and the artifacts required for that viewpoint. Select the viewpoint(s) that are most relevant, applicable to the current phase of development and for which you have the artifacts to support. Generally 1 or 2 viewpoints are selected.

Gather artifacts

- Selecting the viewpoint and gathering the artifacts are performed iteratively until it is decided which viewpoint is most relevant and applicable.
- Tab down and review the recommended and required artifacts for each viewpoint. Select "Y" or "N" for each artifact. The toolkit will advise you which viewpoint you have sufficient information to analyze.

_		-	-	_	_	•	_	+
11	Step 4. Gather artifacts - verify selected viewpoint is possible given artifacts							
12	1. Identify which artifacts will be available for the SFMEA. Select Y for Yes or N for N in the second column.							
13	2. The viewpoints whi	ich are feasibl	e given the availa	ble artifacts are	shown in row 6.			
14	3. For each viewpoint	the artifacts t	hat are required,	at are required, highly recommended and optional artifacts are listed.				
			H - Highly					
15	Key	Y - Required	recommended	O - Optional				
16				Funct	ional			Т
	Artifacts/Viewpoints	Available?	System of	Use cases	Use Case	SRS	Interface	
			system	within an				
17				element				
						Yes, the		
	These viewpoints		Not enough	Not enough	Not enough	artifacts are	Not enough	No
18	are applicable		information	information	information	sufficient.	information	int
	Software		Н	Н	Н	Y	Y	Т
19	Requirements Spec	Υ						L
	System requirements		Υ	Н	Н	Н	Н	
20	spec	N						ot
	System Architecture		Υ	Н	Н	Н	Н	
21	Design	N				_		\perp
	Interface Control Spec		Υ	Н	Н	O	Y	_
	Copyright Overview of FMEA process Boundary - what can go wrong Viewpoint and artifacts							

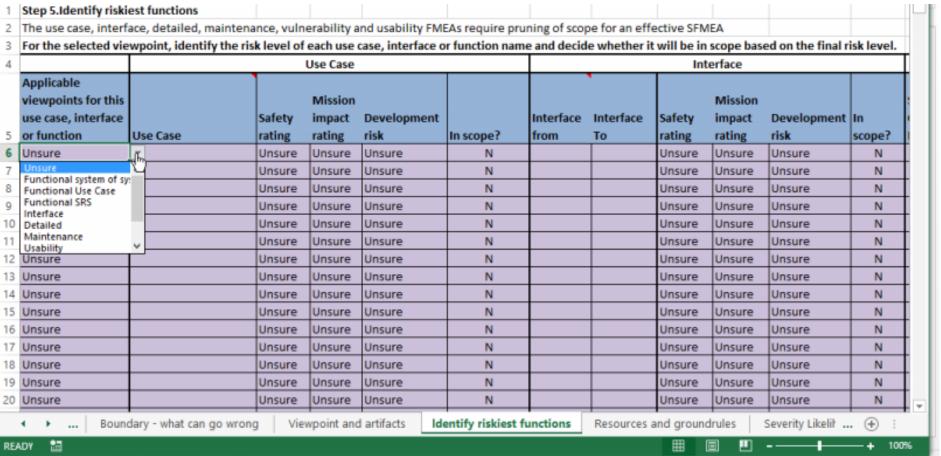








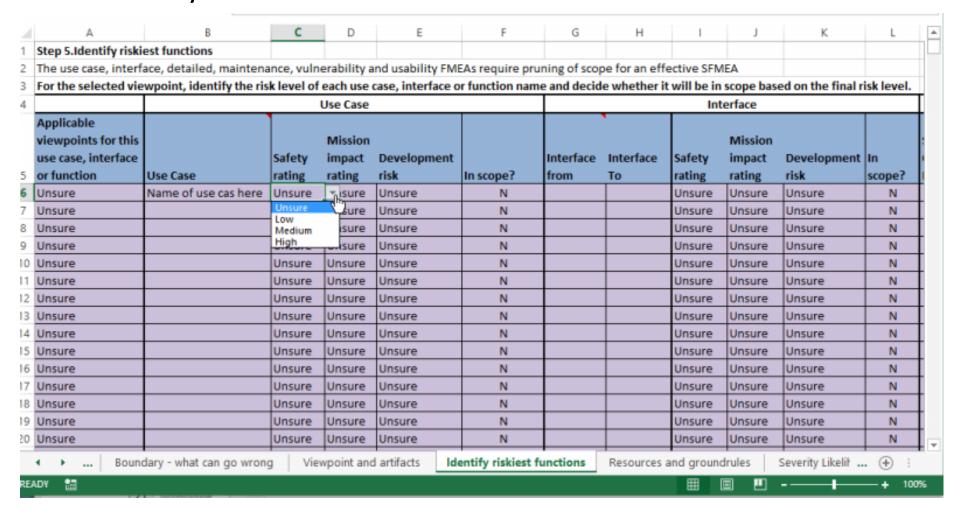
Identify riskiest functions



Select the "Identify riskiest functions" tab. Go to the first column and select which viewpoint you plan to analyze. You may have more than one viewpoint so each row can be used to identify the riskiest function by viewpoint.

If the use case is selected, for example, type the names of each use case in the second column.

Identify riskiest functions



For each use case select the appropriate safety and mission risk. The preliminary hazards analysis may be used for this assessment. The development risk is an indication of how stable/complex the particular use case is.

Identify riskiest functions

1	Step 5.Identify riski	est functions					
2	The use case, interface, detailed, maintenance, vulnerability and usability FMEAs require pruning of						
3	For the selected viewpoint, identify the risk level of each use case, interface or function name and d						
4			Use Case				
	Applicable						
	viewpoints for this			Mission			
	use case, interface		Safety	impact	Development		Interfa
5	or function	Use Case	rating	rating	risk	In scope?	from
6	Unsure	Name of use cas here	High	Unsure	Unsure	N	- dh
7	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	Y N	4)
8	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
9	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
10	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
11	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
12	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
13	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
14	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
15	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
16	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
17	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
18	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
19	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	
20	Unsure		Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	N	

Once all use cases are assessed for risk, select which ones will be in scope for the analysis. This decision is a group effort based on time and resources available.

The other viewpoints work similarly to the use case viewpoint. In the case of the interface viewpoint, for example, the most risky interfaces are assessed.

Identify resources

				Estimated time t
1	Step 6. Identify resources	Name	Contact i	nfo person
2	SFMEA Facilitator			
	Software or Firmware			
3	Engineer			
4	Software Architect			
	Software Requirements			
5	Engineer			
6	Software Manager			
7	Software Testing			
8	Domain Experts			
9	Safety Engineers			
10	Systems Engineers			
	→ Viewpoint a	nd artifacts Identify	riskiest functions	Resources and groundrules

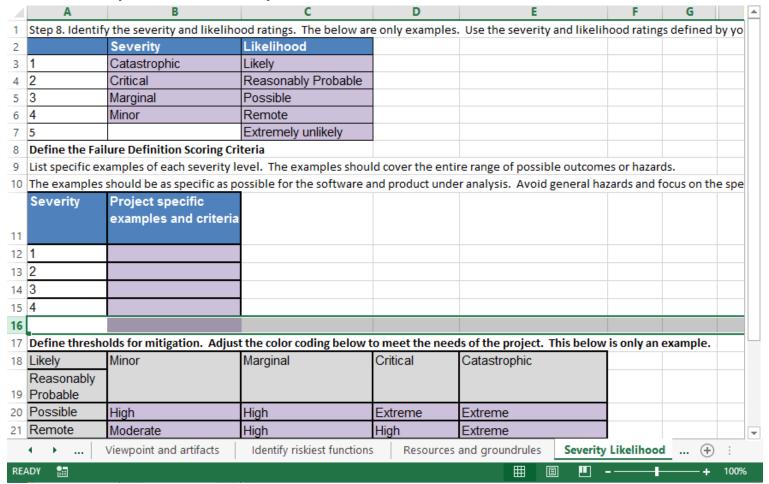
- Select the "Resources and groundrules" tab
- Identify who will be performing the SFMEA.
- The SFMEA is not a "one person" analysis.
- Ensure that there are appropriate subject matter experts for the selected viewpoints.
 - All viewpoints require an analyst who understand software and software failure modes.
 - The detailed, maintenance and vulnerability viewpoints require someone who is intimately familiar with the software under analysis.

Identify the ground rules

	Α	В	С	D
11	Step 7. Identify groundrul	es		
			Extent the failure mode is	
12		Issue	propagated	Our decision
		Human error	Decide whether or not to	
			include human errors in the	
			Functional SFMEAs. The	
			Usability SFMEA focuses on	
			the human error. However,	
			it's possible to include the	
			human aspect in the	
13			Functional SFMEA also.	
		Chain of interfaces	If an interface FMEA is	
			selected, how many interface	
	→ Viewpoint a	nd artifacts Identify	riskiest functions Resources	and groundrules
REA	ADY 🔠			

- Scroll down to the "Identify groundrules" area
- Review the ground rules and make decisions for this SFMEA with regards to consideration of
 - human error (with human error be included?)
 - interface chains (applicable only for interface viewpoint)
 - Seasonality (particular times of day, week, month, year in which the software is stressed differently than others)
 - Network availability (maximum, typical?)
 - Speed/throughput (maximum, normal?)
- These groundrules will be adhered to in the forthcoming analysis

Identify severity and likelihood



- Identifying the severity and likelihood ratings (as military or other standards) is the easy part
- Identifying concrete and specific definitions of each is the difficult part
- The FDSC (Failure Definition Scoring Criteria) is a great way to assign program specific events to the severity levels. Identifying these up front can minimize time spent later in the analysis.

Step 3. Analyze failure modes and root causes

The toolkit comes with hundreds of software failure modes and root causes

These videos illustrate the failure modes analysis worksheets

http://www.softrel.com/images/worksheets3.mp4

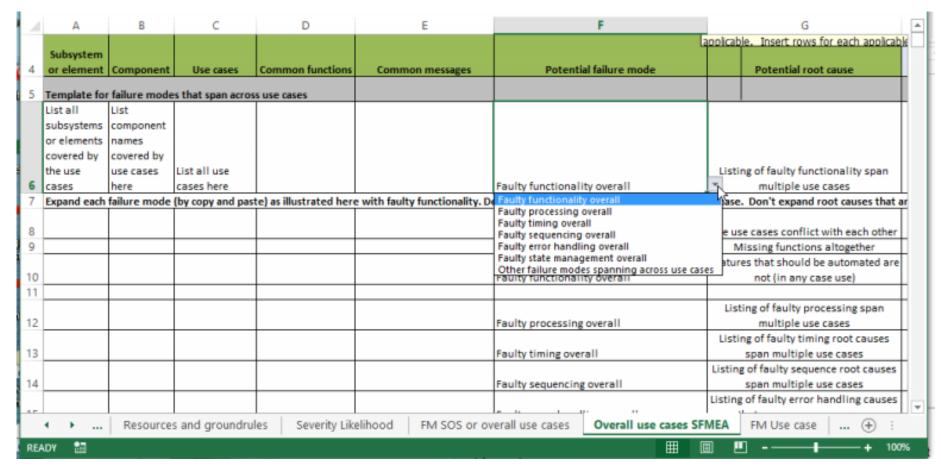
http://www.softrel.com/images/failuremodes4.mp4

http://www.softrel.com/images/failuremodes5.mp4

Analyze failure modes and root causes

- These are the viewpoints which each have unique failure modes and root causes as well as unique templates to support the viewpoint under analysis
 - Functional
 - System of system
 - Use case
 - Use case steps
 - Functional SRS
 - Interface
 - Detailed/Vulnerability
 - Maintenance
 - Usability
 - Serviceability
 - Vulnerability
 - Production
- For each viewpoint the toolkit provides
 - A worksheet to add in project specific root causes in addition to the pre-populated root causes
 - A SFMFA worksheet
- Use only the worksheets for the viewpoints selected in the preparation phase

Functional SOS or overall use case viewpoint

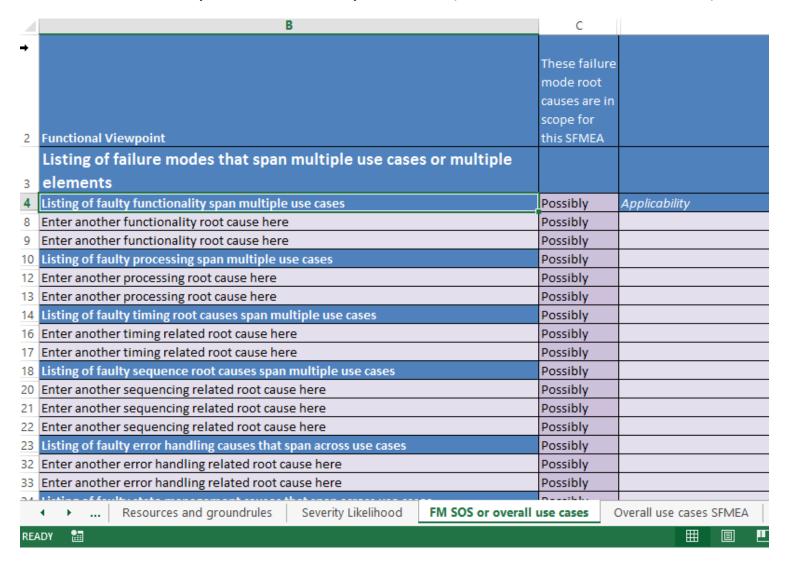


Go to the "Overall use cases SFMEA" worksheet. The templates are prepopulated for failure modes that span across use cases or SOS. You can copy and paste the failure mode rows as well as delete them.

There is a pulldown menu for the failure modes and the root causes. You can also not use the template at all and insert a free form row.

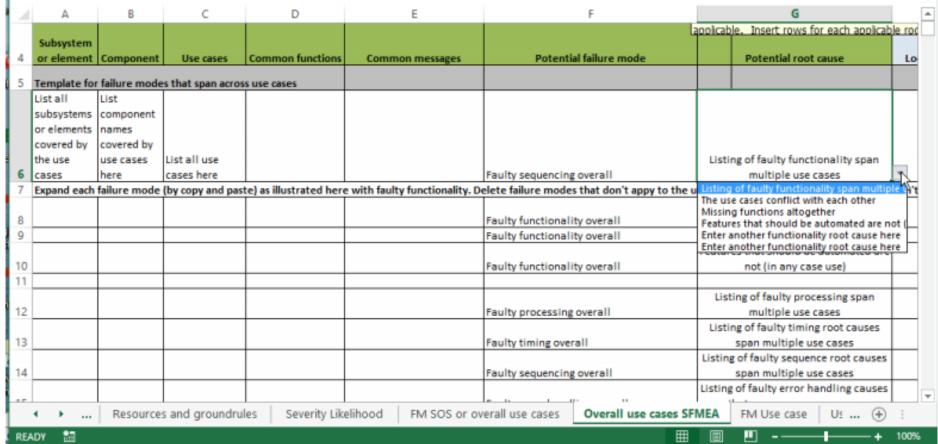
The "overall use cases SFMEA" has 4 templates for 1) failure modes that span all use cases 2) common functions 3) common messages and 4) user related failure modes

Functional System of System (overall use cases)



Go to the "FM SOS or overall use cases" worksheet. Add any known project specific root causes that apply to the entire system of system or all use cases. They will be added to the pre-populated pull down menus for this viewpoint.

Functional SOS or overall use case viewpoint



The root causes for that failure mode are selected from a pull down menu. Any specific root causes that you entered will be displayed.

The root causes are synchronized with a particular failure mode.

So, copy and paste the rows for each failure mode to keep the failure modes and root causes in sync.

Worksheet capabilities

- Modify the text in the template headings
- Add or delete columns
- Add rows that don't have pull-down menus for free form analysis
- Tailor the list of root causes in the pull down menus (by modifying the FM (failure modes) worksheet associated with the viewpoint
- If you decide to create a company specific template, you can use that to copy and paste new worksheets.
- You can create as many worksheets as you want as long as they are saved in the c:/SWFT folder
- The worksheet templates can be emailed to other users who have a SFMEA license
- For users who do not have a license, you can print your worksheets and email.
- The "save as" feature is disabled. However, you can copy and paste the templates using the file explorer copy and paste commands.

Other viewpoint worksheets

- The other viewpoints work similarly to the Functional Overall Use Case SFMEA
- The failure mode worksheets and corresponding SFMEA worksheets are shown below for each viewpoint

Viewpoint	Failure mode worksheet	SFMEA worksheet	
Functional - System of System Overall Use Cases	FM SOS or Overall Use Cases	Overall Use Cases	
Functional – Use Case	FM Use Case	Use Case SFMEA	
Functional – Use Case Steps	FM Use Case Steps	Use Case Steps SFMEA	
Functional SRS – Software Requirements Specification	FM SRS	SRS SFMEA	
Interface Design	FM Interface	Interface SFMEA	
Detailed Design	FM DetVuln	Detailed SFMEA	
Vulnerability			
Maintenance		Maintenance SFMEA	
Usability	FM Usability	Usability SFMEA	
Serviceability (installation scripts, update)	FM Serviceability	Serviceability SFMEA	
Production (Process)	FM Production	Production	

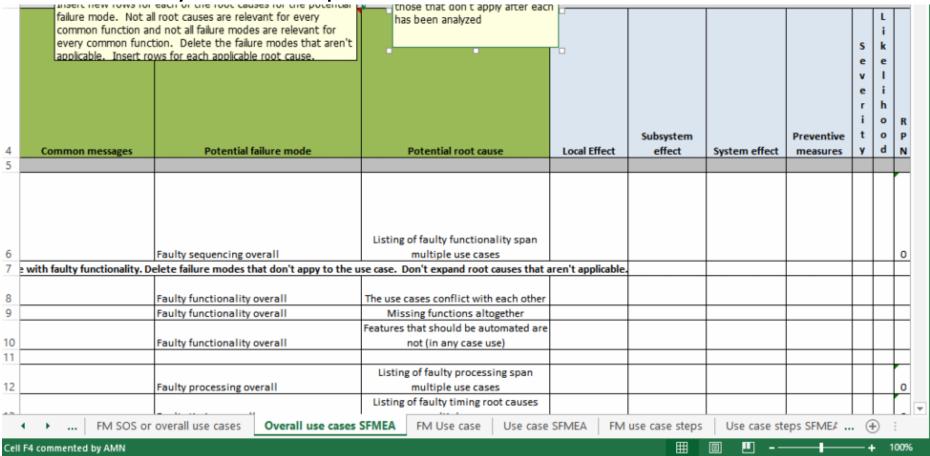
Step 4. Identify Consequences

Identify the effects on the software and the system and any preventive measures

This video illustrates the consequences and mitigations

http://www.softrel.com/images/consequencesmitigation7.mp4

Identify Consequences



Once the failure modes and root causes are analyzed, scroll to the right to analyze the effects on the software (local) and system. If there are any measures to prevent the failure mode, identify.

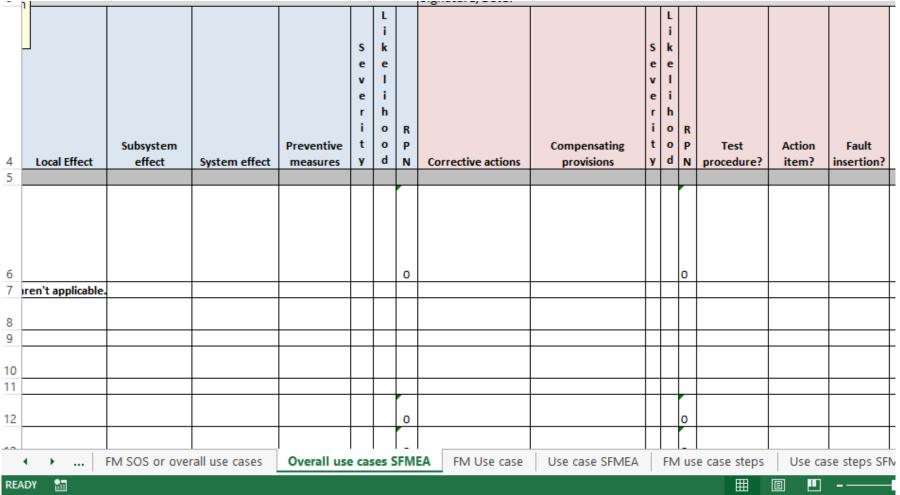
Tip: It's usually best to analyze all of the effects and preventive measures first and then analyze the severity and likelihood in one last pass.

The Risk Probability Number (RPN) is automatically calculated.

Step 5. Identify Mitigations

Identify corrective actions, compensating provisions and revised RPN
This video illustrates the consequences and mitigations
http://www.softrel.com/images/consequencesmitigation7.mp4

Identify Mitigations



Once the consequences are identified, scroll to the right to analyze the corrective actions. If there are compensating provisions then identify those. Re-assess the severity and likelihood once the corrective actions are approved.

Corrective actions include but aren't limited to changing the requirements, design, code, test plan, user manual, installation guide, use case, etc.