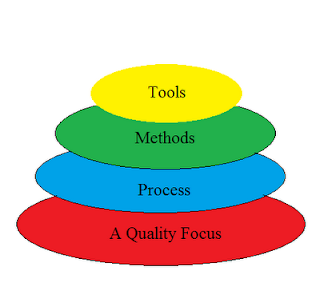
**A Layered Technology**

[](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-i3BPSpdHiks/TgrGeKAQcEI/AAAAAAAAAEw/LeisQ8JAQzs/s1600/SE+Layered+Technology.png)

Divided into **4** layers:-  
  
**A Quality Focus:**

Software engineering must rest on an organizational commitment to quality. Total quality management and similar philosophies foster a continuous process improvement culture, and this culture ultimately leads to the development of increasingly more mature approaches to software engineering. The bedrock that supports software engineering is a quality focus.

**Process:**

The foundation for software engineering is the process layer. Process defines a framework for a set of Key Process Areas (KPAs) that must be established for effective delivery of software engineering technology. This establishes the context in which technical methods are applied, work products such as models, documents, data, reports, forms, etc. are produced, milestones are established, quality is ensured, and change is properly managed.

**Methods:**

Software engineering methods provide the technical how-to's for building software. Methods will include requirements analysis, design, program construction, testing, and support. This relies on a set of basic principles that govern each area of the technology and include modeling activities and other descriptive techniques.

**Tools:**

Software engineering tools provide automated or semi-automated support for the process and the methods. When tools are integrated so that information created by one tool can be used by another, a system for the support of software development, called computer-aided software engineering, is established.