

# Reverse Engineering (glossary)

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reverse engineering

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*(1) A process of documenting the functions and behaviors of a device or system by analysis and test. (Created for SEBoK)*

*(2) The reverse engineering process applied to a product, service or enterprise consists of performing a bottom up approach from physical aspects and properties to functional ones then to identify its characteristics as requirements. (Created for SEBoK)*

*(3) Reverse engineering is the process of discovering the technological principles of a device, object, or system through analysis of its structure, function, and operation. It often involves taking something (e.g., a mechanical device, electronic component, software program, or biological, chemical, or organic matter) apart and analyzing its workings in detail to be used in maintenance, or to try to make a new device or program that does the same thing without using or simply duplicating (without understanding) the original.' (Wikipedia Contributors 2012)'*

## Source

(1) and (2) These definitions were developed for the SEBoK.

(3) Wikipedia contributors, "Reverse engineering,"

*Wikipedia*, The Free Encyclopedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Reverse\\_engineering&oldid=509727946](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Reverse_engineering&oldid=509727946) (accessed September 13, 2012).

## **Discussion**

None.

**SEBoK v. 2.10, released 06 May 2024**

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