Custom Software Self-Assessment

If you're considering whether to fix, rewrite, or strategically overhaul custom software, our Custom Software Self-Assessment — based on our top 10 software and app development best practices — can help.

For each attribute below, score your results as follows:

0 Points	1 Points	2 Points	3 Points
No, and the developer has no answer when you ask.	No, but you understand the question and it is being worked on.	Yes, but you don't fully understand how.	Yes, you are comfortable that this is being done and understand how.

Software Attribute	Your Score
Requirements Does your developer provide requirements before starting a project?	
On-Time Delivery Does your developer deliver tasks on time?	
Software Tools Do you understand what tools your programmers are using? Are they satisfied with what they have?	
Testing Does your developer give you a test plan with a bug-tracking process?	
Team Management Do you have one point of contact that can represent all aspects of your system?	
Usability Tests Do you see wireframes or prototypes before key interfaces are programmed?	
Source Control Do you understand source control and how your programming team is managing versions?	
Regular Builds Do your programmers release features in an organized and predictable manner?	
Integration and Dependencies Does your software rely on other systems (or vice-versa)? What happens when those other systems have problems or need updates?	
Logging and Usage Reporting Do you know what your critical features are, who your core users are, and where extra care is required when making updates?	
Total Score:	

How to Understand the Results

- A perfect score = 30 points. Few organizations will score a perfect 30 but a score in the mid-20s indicates you're doing well.

- A score of less than 20 points indicates a problem, and a consultation with an external vendor is recommended. (It's wise to discuss options before you're in a critical situation, so you have time to decide on rescue vs. rewrite and to plan ahead.)

- If you score 0 on any attribute, address it immediately with your custom software development team.

We recommend taking this assessment at least once a year, so you're never in a position of making an urgent decision to either fix or rewrite your custom software. Instead, you can make incremental improvements to keep your software up to date and fine-tuned.

If you face the difficult decision of rescuing or rewriting your custom software, give a seasoned software developer — Northwoods, for example — a call for a discreet evaluation. The right team can give you the information you need to develop a solid roadmap for the future of your software.

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The right team can give you the information you need to develop a solid roadmap for the future of your software. To learn more or to request a consultation, visit www.nwsdigital.com.

At Northwoods, you'll find a true digital partner – a digital best friend – who's focused on your ultimate success and happiness.

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