

3 types of Maintenance:

Perfective

Corrective

Adaptive

Maintenance

Once the software has been signed off and released for use, it may be necessary to perform maintenance at a later date.

Maintenance can involve revisiting the design stage and will always involve revisiting the implementation and testing stages of the process. Maintenance generally takes one of three forms.

Corrective maintenance

If the software is found to contain any errors that it should not have contained, it is necessary to perform corrective maintenance. The client does not pay for corrective maintenance as the error should not have been present in the first place.

The software development company will carry out the maintenance free of charge and will often release a software update or patch that contains code that will fix the known issues that resulted in corrective maintenance.

Adaptive maintenance

Adaptive maintenance is necessary when the client needs the software to run on an environment other than the one that it was originally designed for. This could be because the software is to be used on a different operating system or because the software will now have to be designed for use on a different set of hardware.

A common example in recent times was the need to perform adaptive maintenance in light of the surge in touch screen devices. Sometimes the visual layout of software would need to be altered to best utilise the touch screen feature of hardware devices. The client needs to pay for adaptive maintenance.

Perfective maintenance

Perfective maintenance is concerned with altering the software to add new features or enhancements not originally requested in the software specification. The client pays for the implementation of perfective maintenance.