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# On SCM and Tools

ARTICLE

By Steve Berczuk | October 9, 2011

**SUMMARY**

Steve Berczuk was recently was interviewed for an article on SCM and Tools. Updating tools and processes key to overcoming SCM challenges is brief and makes some good points about the relative value of tools compared to understanding what you are trying to accomplish with your process.

I recently was interviewed for an article on SCM and Tools that **Crystal Bedell** wrote for Search Software Quality. **Updating tools and processes key to overcoming SCM challenges** is brief, and makes some good points about the relative value of tools compared to understanding what you are trying to accomplish with your process.

The best SCM tool, from a day-to-day perspective is the one that is the most invisible to developers, and the best tool really can't help you much if you have a process that just makes it hard to collaborate. This article was also validation that trying to be too agnostic when Brad Appleton and I wrote the SCM Patterns book was a good idea. While some tools make some practices easier, a tool can't replace having an understanding of the reasons to use (or more important, not use) techniques.

Read the article, and if you want to learn some basic SCM practices read the book. For those who want a very comprehensive discussion of branching (which seems to be, for better or worse, the topic that people most struggle with when using SCM tools), **Streamed Lines** is a good place to start.

**Topics:** configuration management,

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Steve Berczuk**

Steve Berczuk is a Principal Software Engineer with experience as a manager, Scrum Master and technical lead in Boston, MA. The author of *Software Configuration Management Patterns: Effective Teamwork, Practical Integration*, he is a recognized expert in software configuration management and agile software development. Steve is passionate about helping teams work effectively to produce quality software. He has an M.S. in operations research from Stanford University and an S.B. in Electrical Engineering from MIT, and is a Certified ScrumMaster. Contact Steve at steve@berczuk.com or visit berczuk.com and follow his blog at blog.berczuk.com.

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