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### SWEBOK KA-9: Software Development Tools

Since SWEBOK is concerned with software *engineering*, it is only fitting that it should cover tools. "Tools allow repetitive, well-defined actions to be automated" (SWEBOK ch. 10), and thereby allow the process (whatever it may be) to be completed by the computer or a machine ensuring the process will be carried out the same every time. This supposedly frees up the engineer to perform the creative portions of the task.

My group relied heavily on tools to work on the early portion of the project, much to our surprise. The Acclaro DFSS tool was critical in implementing the axiomatic design process in our project—there literally was no alternative. We also used project management systems online allowing us to collaborate across large distances without hassle—the Cmap tools were helpful for organization, and the BaseCamp system was nice to keep track of a group calendar and mailing collaboration.

