THE OFFERING

WHAT IS YOUR TECH DEBT COSTING YOU?

The BASE Index is a structured, practitioner-led assessment that measures how your backlog, architecture, code, and delivery lifecycle hold up under change. It produces a composite score, a risk register, and a sequenced roadmap that shows where technical debt is slowing delivery and which gap to close first.

4	96	4	100
DIMENSIONS ASSESSED	EVALUATION CRITERIA	WEEK ENGAGEMENT	POINT SCALE

FOUR DIMENSIONS OF ASSESSMENT

Scored independently, weighted equally

01

Backlog & Project Planning

A full backlog is not the same as a plan. We assess backlog health and prioritization, requirements quality, flow and predictability, acceptance and UAT, estimation, and roadmap and capacity planning, scoring whether the team's commitments can be trusted.

02

Architecture & System Design

An architecture nobody chose still makes decisions for you. We assess architectural fit, modularity and coupling, API and integration design, the data model, scale fit, and how much of the design lives in one person's head.

03

Stack & Code Quality

Technical debt shows up as the cost of the next change. We assess automated testing, maintainability, code review standards, dependency and framework currency, documentation, and defect trends. We run the analysis against your repository ourselves rather than relying on a dashboard.

04

Project Lifecycle & Delivery

Shipping fast and shipping safely are separate measurements. We evaluate the delivery process, build and release pipeline, release safety and recovery, progress visibility, post-release support, and whether each release feeds lessons back into the next.

KNOW BEFORE YOU BUILD

Most teams already sense what's wrong. The backlog barely shrinks, new issues keep arriving, and no one gets the room to step back and reassess objectively. BASE gives you that outside view, built on evidence from your own repository, and turns an instinct into a prioritized list against a roadmap to achieve success.

TRUSTED BY LEADING ORGANIZATIONS

Ascend Learning Fragrance.com Jersey Mike's Roc360 ServiceTitan

DIMENSIONS & SUB-FACTORS

The full evaluation architecture behind every BASE Index engagement: four dimensions, six sub-factors each, scored against evidence rather than opinion.

BACKLOG & PROJECT PLANNING 01

Is work defined, sized, and planned well enough before it starts that the team's commitments can be trusted?

- Backlog health & prioritization
- Requirements & specification quality
- Flow & predictability
- Acceptance & UAT
- Estimation & forecasting
- Roadmap, capacity & dependency planning

ARCHITECTURE & SYSTEM DESIGN 02

Does the system's structure reflect deliberate decisions that fit the team and the product, and will it absorb the next stage of growth without a rewrite?

- Architectural fit & intent
- Modularity & coupling
- API & integration design
- Data model & persistence
- Evolvability & scale fit
- Architecture knowledge & key-person risk

STACK & CODE QUALITY 03

How expensive and risky will the next change be, and does the code carry the tests, standards, and currency to change it quickly without breaking it?

- Automated testing
- Static analysis & maintainability
- Code review & engineering standards
- Dependency & framework currency
- Documentation & onboarding
- Defect profile & production quality

PROJECT LIFECYCLE & DELIVERY 04

Once work starts, does it move through a defined lifecycle to a safe release and a supported product, with stakeholders able to see where it stands?

- Delivery process & governance
- Build & release pipeline
- Release safety & recovery
- Progress visibility & stakeholder reporting
- Post-release support & handover
- Feedback & continuous improvement

Built for balance, not bias.
Every dimension is assessed against six sub-factors, each scored on the same four-item basis. No dimension is left unscrutinized, and no dimension is weighted more heavily by default. The depth of review in Backlog & Project Planning matches the depth in Stack & Code Quality. That structural balance is what makes the composite score defensible: a high mark reflects even performance across planning, design, code, and delivery, not strength in the areas that happened to get the most attention.

SCORING TIERS



Emergent

0 – 39

Gaps in planning, code quality, or delivery are slowing work and raising defect risk across the product. Stabilization is required before any new feature investment is safe.

Transitional

40 – 74

The product ships and the foundations exist, but gaps in planning, code quality, or delivery add cost and risk to every change. Close the highest-cost gap first, without a disruptive rewrite.

Leveraged

75 - 100

Planning is predictable, the architecture is deliberate, the code is well tested, and releases are disciplined. The organization is ready to modernize and scale without first stabilizing.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

- Composite Score & Confidence Ratings
- Scorecard Across All Four Dimensions
- Roadmap - 4 Quarters
- Risk Register & Recommended Remediation
- Proposed Engagement Models & Cost Estimates
- Executive Reporting

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

01 Discovery

Stakeholder interviews, documentation review, repository and ticket access provisioning, and extraction of ticket, plan, and pipeline history.

02 Assessment

Static and hotspot analysis, manual code review, architecture review, and evidence logged against every scored item.

03 Analysis

Findings synthesis, severity classification, composite scoring, and internal review with First Factory senior leadership.

04 Readout

Executive presentation of full findings, technical deep-dive with engineering leads, and recommended next-phase proposal.

TIMELINE

4 weeks, end-to-end

DELIVERED BY PRACTICING ENGINEERS

Ready to size your technical debt?

Our certified practitioners score what the evidence shows, against a proven methodology. We deliver clarity, not just a score.

REQUEST AN ASSESSMENT