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Six Sigma as it is today came into existence in the 1980. It was tested with wild success in many industries. Between then and the 21st century, but with the revolution of computers and Internet communications, its popularity saw new heights.

But, what exactly is Six Sigma, and why is it sought after by professionals in so many varied industries?

Well, in order to understand why Six Sigma is so popular and so many industries, the nature of the system itself must first be examined.

At its core, Six Sigma follows a series of discrete steps, called the DMAIC procedure. Basically, this stands for define, measure, analyze, improve and control. Essentially, it is a series of steps to define a problem, measure how severe the problem is as a unit, discover a solution for said problem and implement the solution so that the problem no longer exists in future uses of a process.

Each step of this process utilizes a series of mathematical steps, often assisted in modern times with software in order to effectively solve the problem. The revolutionary aspect of this concept is in the fact that it can be used by just about any industry for any process they use.

Before Six Sigma was introduced widely to the business world, quality control and problem solving were very specific to a process, industry or individual company. This meant that the individuals implementing quality assurance and problem solving had to have an intimate knowledge of the process

and industry above and beyond the norm, and also know the procedures put in place by the company or department head. This meant a lot of training, and a lot of retraining as new leadership came and went for my company, each changing these proprietary methods.

Six Sigma is a standardized series of procedures to solve a problem, and is therefore not exclusive to any industry or process, or corporate culture. This means that someone who is trained in Six Sigma is capable of implementing it in any industry, with only minimal input from experts in a process or

industry, along the way. This saves a lot of training time, and allows companies of a similar industry to share problem-solving techniques based around Six Sigma with their colleagues.

Six Sigma is also often branded as 6sigma. So, when researching Six Sigma, it is important to also remember that 6sigma is also the same process, and not something else. It's important to point this out, because it's easy to mistake them for separate solutions with similar names, which can make researching confusing otherwise.

Ultimately, Six Sigma does for quality assurance and problem solving in business what standardized platforms did for computers, when the personal computer became popular. It allows professionals to easily solve problems from one instance when other across company or industrywide barriers.

While Six Sigma isn't the only such to gain popularity in recent years, it is by far the oldest and most

tried and true of its competitors. It's important to remember that anything is only as good as the professional applying it.

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