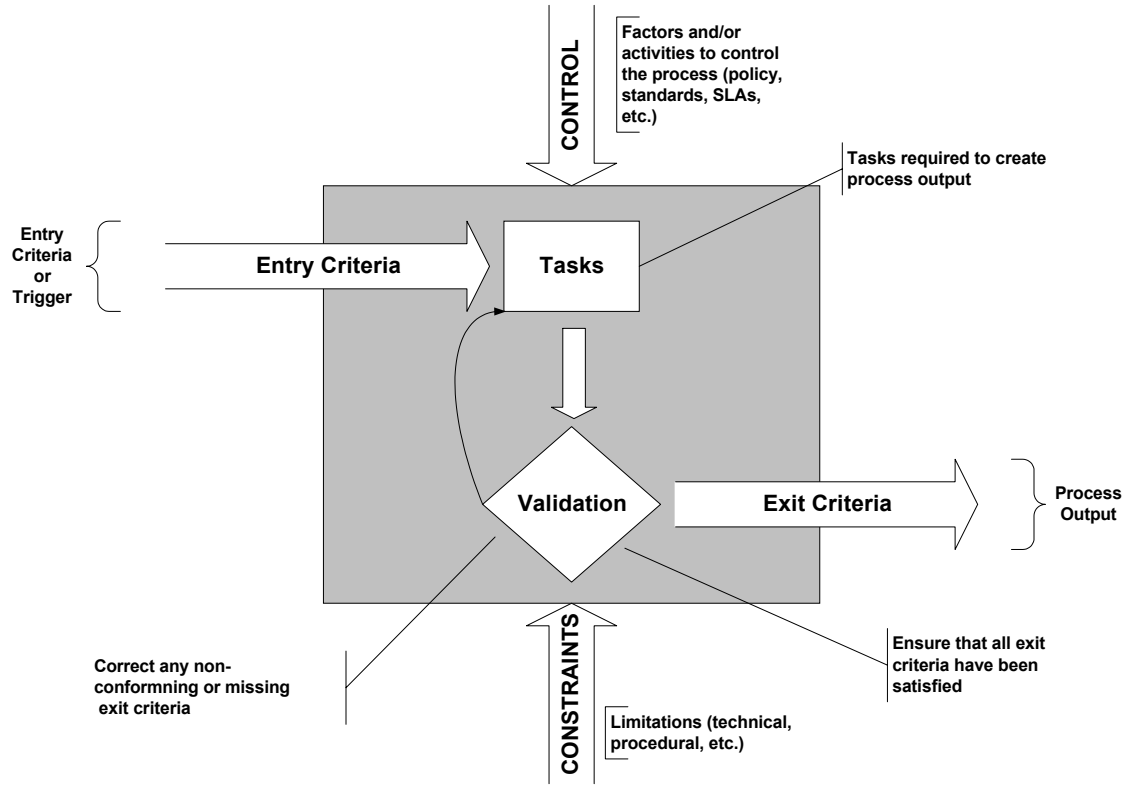
Process Model: ETVX

The Entry-Task-Validation-Exit (ETVX) model views processes within the context of:

1. Inputs or triggers
2. Tasks (also called *procedures*)
3. Controls
4. Constraints
5. Output

The following illustration depicts process components.



Entry Criteria: Inputs and Triggers

Processes are initiated by either an input or a trigger. An input is usually an output from a preceding process; a trigger is an event that invokes the process. In either case, input or trigger, an associated list of entry criteria must be satisfied in order for the process to commence.

Tasks

Tasks (also called procedures) are the action components of a process. In the ETVX model tasks follow a sequence that has a validation step. This step ensures that the process does not pass its output to another process or terminate until all exit criteria have been satisfactorily met.

Validation

This is a process checkpoint that occurs after the task(s) associated with the process have been completed. This checkpoint is also known as a quality gate - its purpose is to ensure that the task(s) have produced an output that meets specifications and/or requirements of the process. A failure at the validation checkpoint generally requires re-performing the process tasks.

Exit Criteria

All conditions that must be present and/or satisfied before a process can successfully terminate. Closely coupled to exit criteria is the output of the process itself; i.e., what the process was designed to produce. All processes produce an output.

Controls

Process controls are limits that have been purposely placed on the process to prevent undesirable outcomes. Examples include:

1. Policies.
2. Checkpoints.
3. Audits and integrity checking (i.e., cyclic redundancy checks, etc.)
4. Error detection and correction processes.

Constraints

Limitations imposed on a process are called constraints. Examples include technical capabilities, available time frames, resources, transmission speeds, etc.

The key difference between a control and a constraint is that a control is *designed into* the process to produce or effect a desirable outcome, while a constraint is a limitation to the process (or environment) that *may* impact on the effectiveness and/or efficiency of the process.