Traceability needs to be planned for and managed if it is to be effective and remain effective in any particular project context. Stakeholders need to be identified and requirements determined. A suitable traceability process needs to be designed and potential support from tooling explored. However, all this initial effort is mute if there is no clear understanding of the anticipated return on investment from implementing traceability within an organisation. Traceability strategy comprises all those activities associated with traceability planning and traceability management.

In this first part of the book, the chapter “Traceability Fundamentals” defines a number of traceability-related terms and concepts, as they will be used throughout the remainder of the book. A simple process for analysing the cost-benefit of traceability and selecting a strategy accordingly is described in the chapter “Cost-Benefits of Traceability”. A cautionary seven-step guide for making informed decisions about tool acquisition is presented in the chapter “Acquiring Tool Support for Traceability”. In combination, the chapters “Cost-Benefits of Traceability” and “Acquiring Tool Support for Traceability” highlight important considerations to help plan and manage traceability in practice.