Project Management Summary of Best Practices

Overview

Project management processes and techniques are used to coordinate resources to achieve predictable results. All projects need some level of project management. The question is whether the project will be managed reactively or proactively? Will it be managed ad-hoc or in a structured, disciplines manner. Think about these scenarios.

- Your project encounters unexpected problems (issues). Do you resolve the problems proactively using a predefined process or do you hesitate when the problems arise - not knowing exactly who to seek or how to resolve them?

- There is always some cloud of uncertainty, or risk, that events will not occur as they are planned. Do you proactively manage the risks to resolve them before they happen, or wait until the problems arise and deal with the consequences?

- There can be many stakeholders in a project, each of whom may have benefits they would like to see fulfilled. Are you going to manage scope aggressively and proactively, or wait until you are hopelessly overbudget and over your deadline before you realize that you are doing work that was not in your original project scope?

Studies have shown over the years that most projects, especially large ones, do not end successfully. Given the odds, you might think that companies would be happy to just have their project finish with some degree of success. However, in spite of the odds, organizations also expect projects to be completed faster, cheaper and with higher quality. The only way that these objectives can be met is through the use of effective project management processes and techniques. Consider the size, complexity and other characteristics of your particular project, and build the right project management processes to effectively manage and control your project.

The full copy of this document is available for licensed users of TenStep. This seven-page white paper contains the following sections.

Planning

Project Definition
Project Workplan
Project Management Procedures

Manage and Control

Manage the Workplan
Manage Scope
Manage Risk
Manage Issues

Summary