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COEN 287
Assignment One

Key Lessons: Day One

On the first day in Software Development Process Management we talked about the overview of software management. More specifically, we discussed the goals of software managers and how these goals are achieved.

There are eight important project oriented attributes. They are product definition, schedule, resources, process, risk management, status, change control, and past mortems. These eight attributes allow for a project to be successful. If one of the attributes is missing it is vital for a manager to find a solution.

A manager should also make sure his or her project management practices are in sync with the organizational goals. This will provide the manager with a solid foundation and consistency with the manager's organization.

Organizational problems can easily occur in the process of a project. The four attributes that need to be balanced are functionality, cost, quality, and schedule. These can be acronym SPQR for schedule, product, quality, and resources. If one of these attributes shifts it will cause one of the other three to change as well. If there is a failure to account for a change of one attribute, it may cause the project to fail. Therefore, the manager must provide info for SPQR so that is available and will be used. The goal is to provide the right product on time and with the right balance of SPQR. Along with SPQR, the manager should create a paper trail and get in changes in writing ensuring that everything is understood and accounted for.

When a new product in introduced it follows a cycle through the customer, marketing department, engineering department, and senior management. The customer will express his or her wants to the marketing department who in turn will decipher these wants into needs as well as send the engineering department an MRD. The engineering department will use to MRD to create estimates while the marketing department is creating return estimates. Both estimates will be transferred to senior management. Lastly, senior management will provide resources to the engineering department. It is important to be as precise as possible with estimates in both departments. It is also important for engineering managers to befriend marketing both for familiarity with estimates (and in case the marketing employee discovers an amazing opportunity).