

## Case Study: Wedding Planning

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report on the planning and project management of a wedding case study.

Tony and Peggy Sue are blissfully tying the knot and have set their illustrious wedding date on June 30. As it is now New Year's Day, a detailed and realistic wedding plan to be completed within 180 days, must be drawn up and put into action.

As recommended in the textbook Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World (Satzinger, Jackson & Burd 2015), the following project management techniques were undertaken to produce detailed preparation plans for Tony and Peggy Sue's wedding.

Beginning with the requirements discovery stage, assumptions were made to help define several of the tasks and resources needed for the planning of the wedding.

A Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) was then created to decompose the work to be carried out. The wedding plan was divided into manageable tasks that were organised in order of importance, to accomplish the project objectives.

Each specific task drawn from the WBS was given an estimated duration, and the responsibility for accomplishing each task was delegated amongst the available resources of the bride, groom, family, and friends.

A Network Diagram illustrating the sequence of dependent relationships for all the different activities was additionally developed from the WBS.

From there, a Gantt chart was created to forecast the project schedule and determine if the timeline of the project plan was realistic and achievable. Some revisions had to be made for one of the activity's estimated duration in order for the project to be completed within the 180-day timeline.

Finally, the critical path was determined by identifying the longest sequence of dependent activities on the Gantt chart. It established the activities that must be closely managed for the project to finish on schedule, thus ensuring a successful wedding day.

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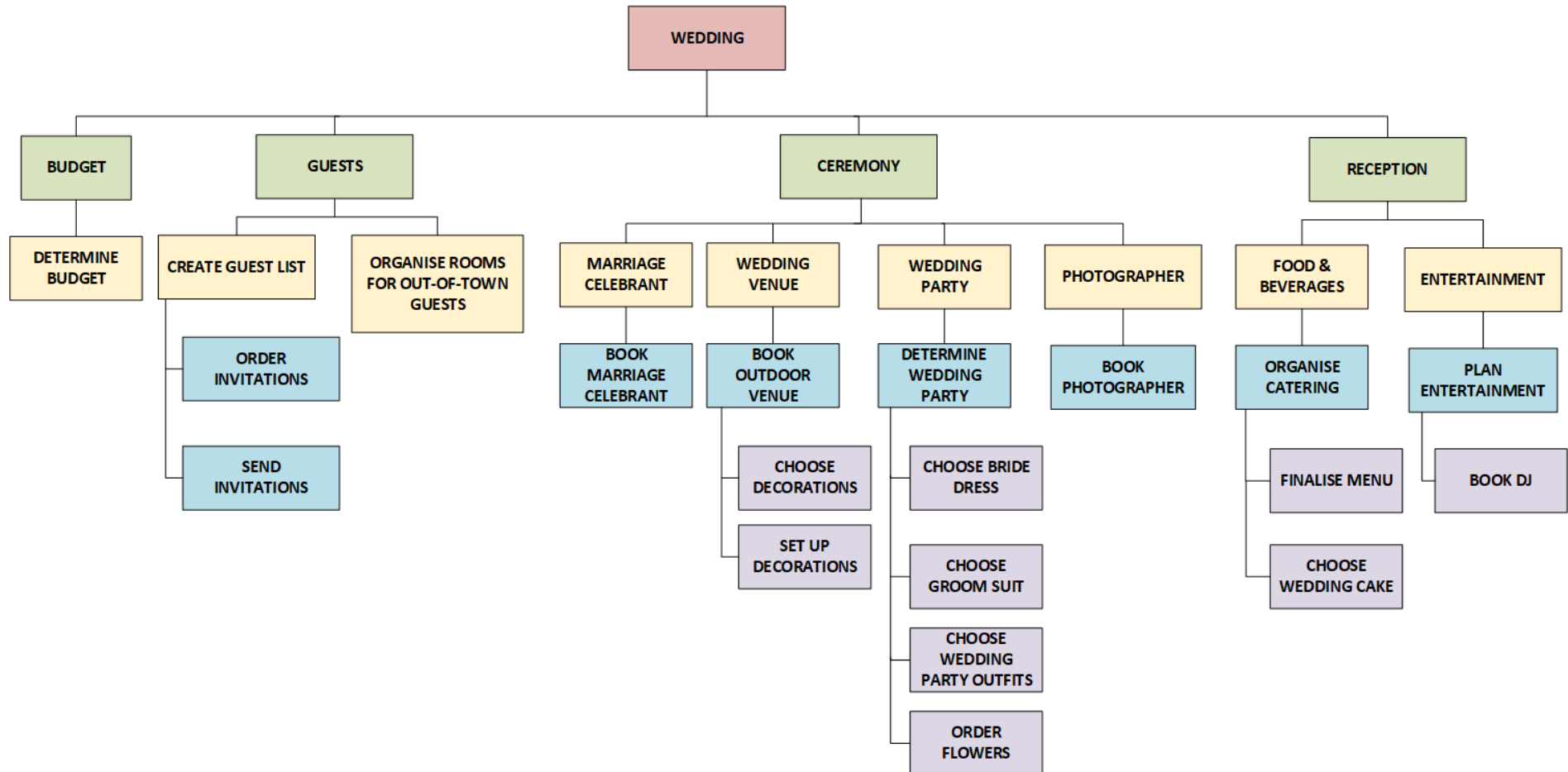
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## Question 1 – Assumptions

The objective of this project is to create a detailed preparation plan for Tony and Peggy Sue's wedding. The following assumptions can be made:

- The wedding event will be planned on a small budget as Tony and Peggy Sue have to pay for the wedding themselves and still have college loans to repay. They don't need to worry about budgeting for their honeymoon as Tony's mother, Carmella, has offered to pay for it.
- The wedding guest list will be large as they have decided on a big wedding that includes extended family and friends. Tony might be the one in charge of the guest list as he seems to have the largest number of relatives and family friends to invite.
- The wedding date is set for June 30 which is perfect weather-wise as Tony and Peggy Sue want both the ceremony and reception to be held outside. An outdoor wedding venue is ideal to accommodate a large number of people and is more cost-effective than having an indoor wedding.
- Tony and Peggy Sue will most likely have the wedding in New York as Tony has a large extended family and family friends who live there.
- Big Tony owns a restaurant in New York City so he will most certainly organise the catering for the wedding, which is a great way for Tony and Peggy Sue to reduce expenses.
- There will be plenty of entertainment during the reception as Tony and Peggy Sue want lots of music and dancing. A DJ and party decorations for a large number of guests need to be arranged.
- Both the mother of the bride and the mother of the groom want to be involved in the wedding preparations. Mildred has experience with wedding ceremonies and could help make sure that everything goes smoothly on the big day. As for Carmella, she wants the wedding to be a big party, so she could help plan the entertainment and find a local wedding photographer. Carmella could also ask cousin Vinnie, the best man, to help book a DJ, or he could see if a relative or family friend is willing to be the DJ to cut costs.
- Peggy Sue's sister Holley will be the matron of honour as it is her turn, to keep with the family tradition. She can help choose the outfits for the wedding party, as she has done it previously for her own wedding.
- Peggy Sue's relatives as well as Tony and Peggy Sue's college friends will have to travel interstate for the wedding. Carmella mentioned having a friend, Francine, who is a travel agent. Francine could help organise sleeping arrangements for out-of-town guests, and she might be able to book special deals for the accommodation and flights to minimise expenses.

## Question 2 – Work Breakdown Structure



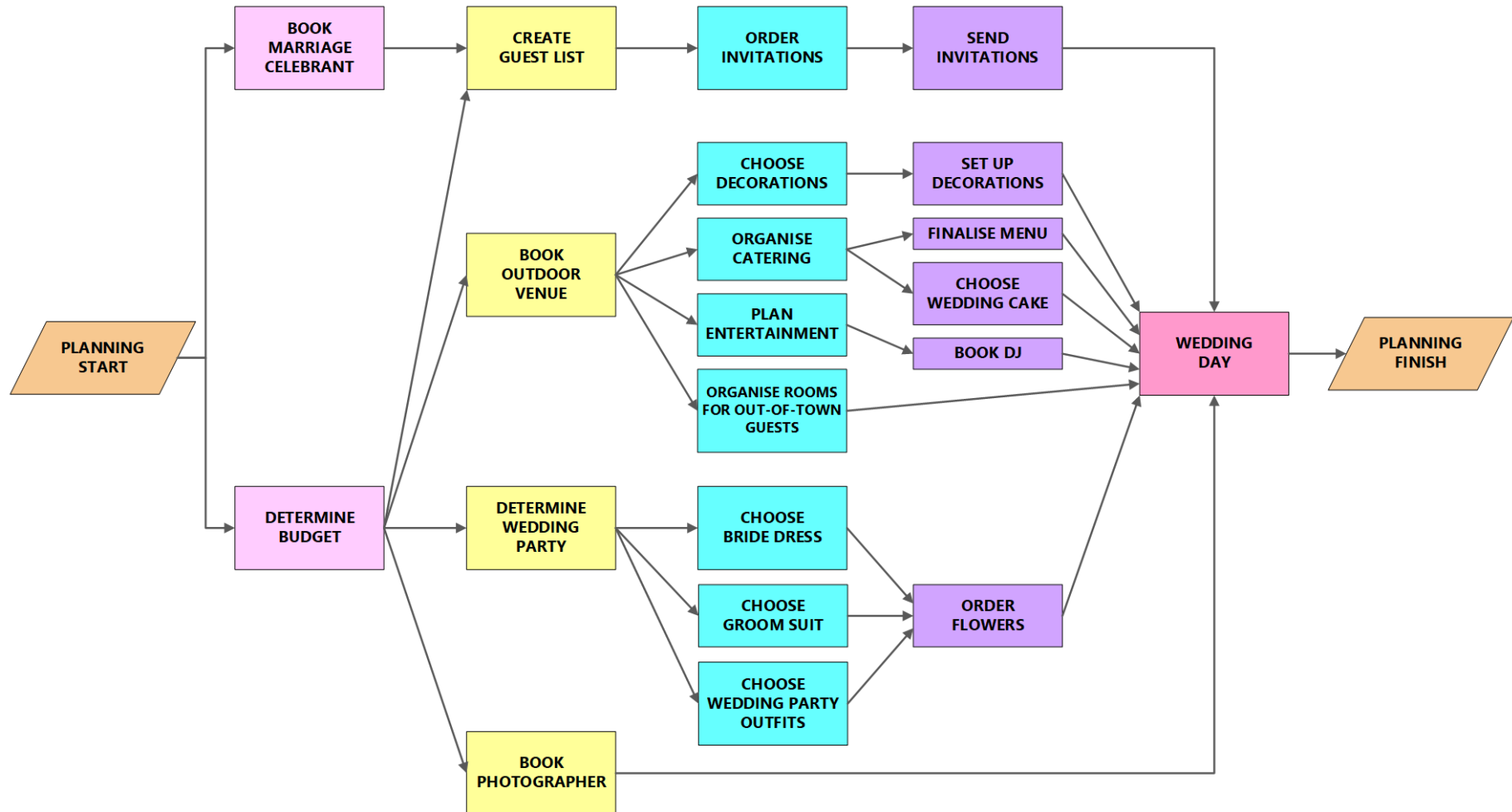
**Figure 1.** Work Breakdown Structure of activities.

### Question 3 – Activities List

Activity	Responsibility	Estimated Duration (days)
Book marriage celebrant	Peggy Sue	25
Determine budget	Tony	30
Create guest list	Tony	20
Order invitations	Peggy Sue	15
Send invitations	Tony	15
Book outdoor venue	Peggy Sue	60
Choose decorations	Peggy Sue	60
Set up decorations	Peggy Sue, Tony, Carmella	1
Organise catering	Big Tony	60
Finalise menu	Tony, Big Tony	40
Choose wedding cake	Peggy Sue	20
Plan entertainment	Carmella	45
Book DJ	Vinnie	30
Organise rooms for out-of-town guests	Francine	45
Determine wedding party	Peggy Sue, Tony	45
Choose bride dress	Peggy Sue	50
Choose groom suit	Tony	45
Choose wedding party outfits	Holley	45
Order flowers	Peggy Sue	40
Book photographer	Carmella	30
Wedding day	Mildred	1

**Table 1.** List of specific activities, their estimated durations, and the person(s) responsible for them.

## Question 4 – Network Diagram



**Figure 2.** Network Diagram illustrating the sequence and dependencies of activities.

## Question 5 – Schedule

Activity	Earliest Start	Earliest Finish	Latest Start	Latest Finish	Total Slack
Book marriage celebrant	Sat 1/01/22	Tue 25/01/22	Sun 16/01/22	Wed 9/02/22	15 days
Determine budget	Sat 1/01/22	Sun 30/01/22	Sat 1/01/22	Sun 30/01/22	0 days
Create guest list	Mon 31/01/22	Sat 19/02/22	Thu 10/02/22	Tue 1/03/22	10 days
Book outdoor venue	Mon 31/01/22	Thu 31/03/22	Mon 31/01/22	Thu 31/03/22	0 days
Determine wedding party	Mon 31/01/22	Wed 16/03/22	Mon 31/01/22	Wed 16/03/22	0 days
Book photographer	Mon 31/01/22	Tue 1/03/22	Tue 15/02/22	Wed 16/03/22	15 days
Order invitations	Sun 20/02/22	Sun 6/03/22	Wed 2/03/22	Wed 16/03/22	10 days
Choose decorations	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	0 days
Organise catering	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	0 days
Plan entertainment	Fri 1/04/22	Sun 15/05/22	Wed 6/04/22	Fri 20/05/22	5 days
Organise rooms for out-of-town guests	Fri 1/04/22	Sun 15/05/22	Sat 16/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	15 days
Choose bride dress	Thu 17/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	Thu 17/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	0 days
Choose groom suit	Thu 17/03/22	Sat 30/04/22	Tue 22/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	5 days
Choose wedding party outfits	Thu 17/03/22	Sat 30/04/22	Tue 22/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	5 days
Send invitations	Mon 7/03/22	Mon 21/03/22	Thu 17/03/22	Thu 31/03/22	10 days
Finalise menu	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	0 days
Choose wedding cake	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	0 days
Book DJ	Mon 16/05/22	Tue 14/06/22	Sat 21/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	5 days
Order flowers	Fri 6/05/22	Tue 14/06/22	Fri 6/05/22	Tue 14/06/22	0 days
Set up decorations	Wed 29/06/22	Wed 29/06/22	Wed 29/06/22	Wed 29/06/22	0 days
Wedding Day	Thu 30/06/22	Thu 30/06/22	Thu 30/06/22	Thu 30/06/22	0 days

**Table 2.** Schedule Table showing ES, EF, LS and LF dates.

This project has to be completed within 180 days, on time for the wedding on June 30. The first project schedule that was established based on the original estimated durations ended up going over schedule and taking 190 days, resulting in negative slack.

To be able to complete the project on time, the estimated duration for the activity “finalise menu” was revised from 40 days to 20 days, which remains a realistic amount of time to accomplish this task. Furthermore, the menu is now being finalised at the latest 10 days before the wedding day, thus giving ample time for the catering team to start the menu and cake preparations.



## Question 6 – Critical Path

The critical path consists of the following activities highlighted in orange on the Schedule Table below:

Activity	Earliest Start	Earliest Finish	Latest Start	Latest Finish	Total Slack
Book marriage celebrant	Sat 1/01/22	Tue 25/01/22	Sun 16/01/22	Wed 9/02/22	15 days
Determine budget	Sat 1/01/22	Sun 30/01/22	Sat 1/01/22	Sun 30/01/22	0 days
Create guest list	Mon 31/01/22	Sat 19/02/22	Thu 10/02/22	Tue 1/03/22	10 days
Book outdoor venue	Mon 31/01/22	Thu 31/03/22	Mon 31/01/22	Thu 31/03/22	0 days
Determine wedding party	Mon 31/01/22	Wed 16/03/22	Mon 31/01/22	Wed 16/03/22	0 days
Book photographer	Mon 31/01/22	Tue 1/03/22	Tue 15/02/22	Wed 16/03/22	15 days
Order invitations	Sun 20/02/22	Sun 6/03/22	Wed 2/03/22	Wed 16/03/22	10 days
Choose decorations	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	0 days
Organise catering	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	Fri 1/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	0 days
Plan entertainment	Fri 1/04/22	Sun 15/05/22	Wed 6/04/22	Fri 20/05/22	5 days
Organise rooms for out-of-town guests	Fri 1/04/22	Sun 15/05/22	Sat 16/04/22	Mon 30/05/22	15 days
Choose bride dress	Thu 17/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	Thu 17/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	0 days
Choose groom suit	Thu 17/03/22	Sat 30/04/22	Tue 22/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	5 days
Choose wedding party outfits	Thu 17/03/22	Sat 30/04/22	Tue 22/03/22	Thu 5/05/22	5 days
Send invitations	Mon 7/03/22	Mon 21/03/22	Thu 17/03/22	Thu 31/03/22	10 days
Finalise menu	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	0 days
Choose wedding cake	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	Tue 31/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	0 days
Book DJ	Mon 16/05/22	Tue 14/06/22	Sat 21/05/22	Sun 19/06/22	5 days
Order flowers	Fri 6/05/22	Tue 14/06/22	Fri 6/05/22	Tue 14/06/22	0 days
Set up decorations	Wed 29/06/22	Wed 29/06/22	Wed 29/06/22	Wed 29/06/22	0 days
Wedding Day	Thu 30/06/22	Thu 30/06/22	Thu 30/06/22	Thu 30/06/22	0 days

**Table 3.** Activities on the Critical Path.

## REFERENCES

Satzinger, JW, Jackson, RB & Burd, SD 2015, *Systems analysis and design in a changing world*, 7th edn, Cengage Learning, Boston.