

Fundamentals of Project management: Planning the Project

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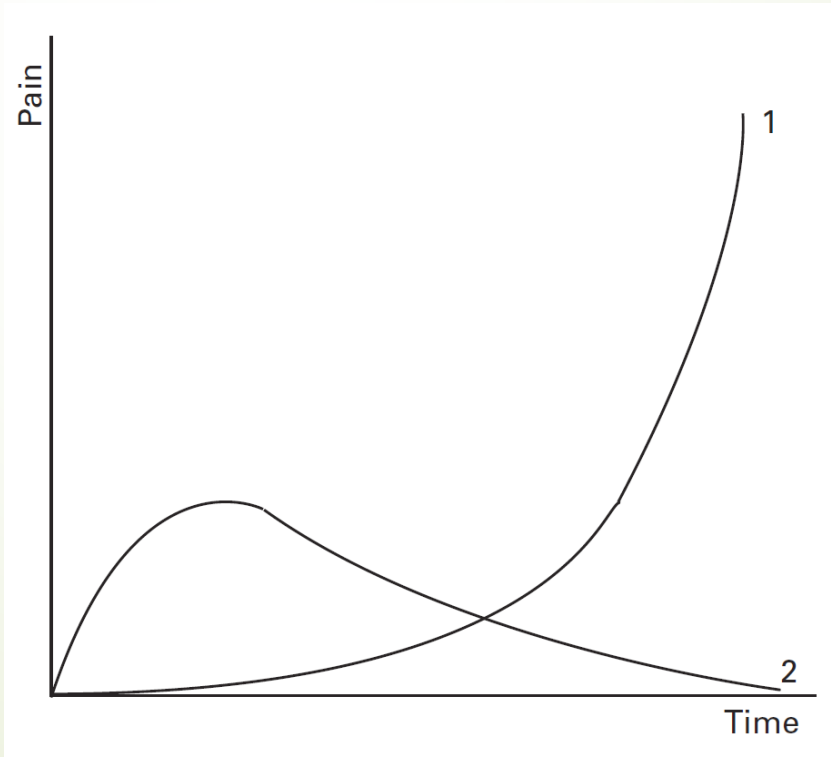
Introduction

- Project **failures** are caused primarily by poor project management, especially the failure to plan properly.
- There are two barriers to good planning. The first is **prevailing paradigms**, and the second is the **nature of human beings**.
 - A paradigm is a belief about what the world is like.
 - The second reason that people don't plan is that they find the activity **painful**.



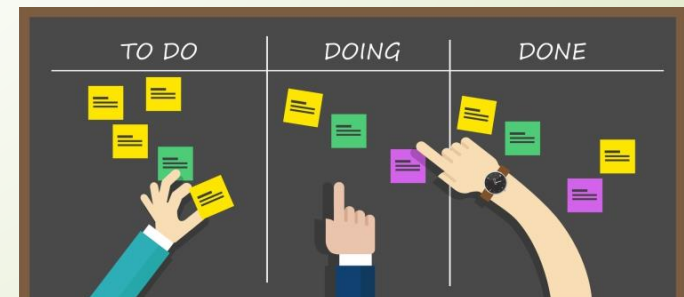
Planning Curve: Pain / Time

- 1: When people are required to plan a project, they find the activity painful, and they resist the pain it causes.
- 2: there is a lot of pain early on, but it diminishes over time.



The Absolute Imperative of Planning : Control

- The word **control** has two connotations, and we must be careful which one we intend.
 - **Control is “power and domination”**: In management, this is sometimes called the command-and-control approach, which in its worst form degenerates into the use of fear and intimidation to get things done.
 - Control is exercised by **comparing where you are to where you are supposed to be** so that corrective action can be taken when there is a deviation.



No plan, no control!

- First, you must have a plan that tells where you are supposed to be in the first place. **If you have no plan, then, you cannot possibly have control.**
- In any event, the major point to remember is that you cannot have control unless you have a plan, **so planning is not optional.**

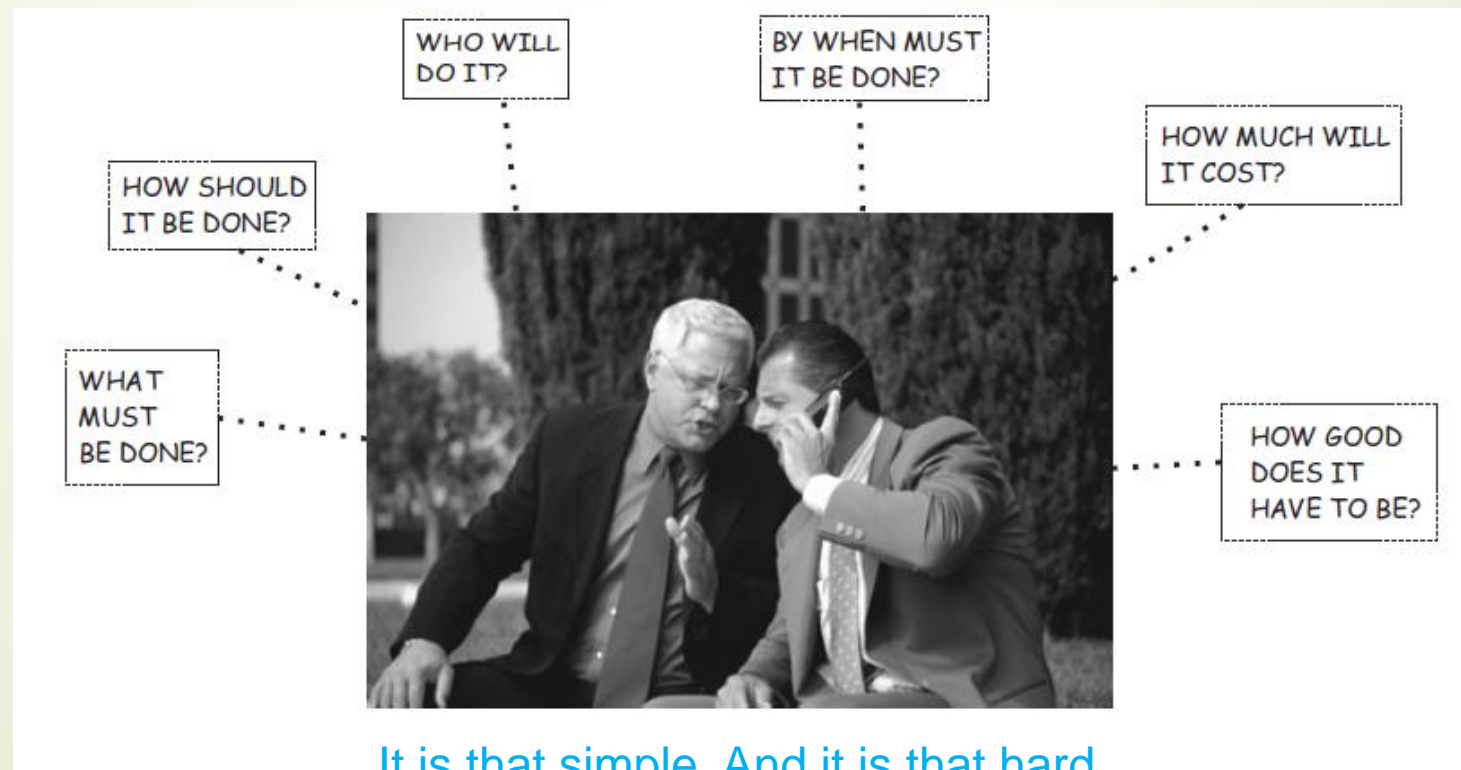


Why don't you plan ?!

- Another trap that causes people not to plan is to believe that **they have no time to plan**; they need to get the job done really fast!
- if you have **forever** to get something done, then you don't need a plan. It's when the deadline is **tight** that the plan becomes really important.

Planning Defined

- Planning is quite simply answering the questions ***“who, what, when, why, how much, how long?”***



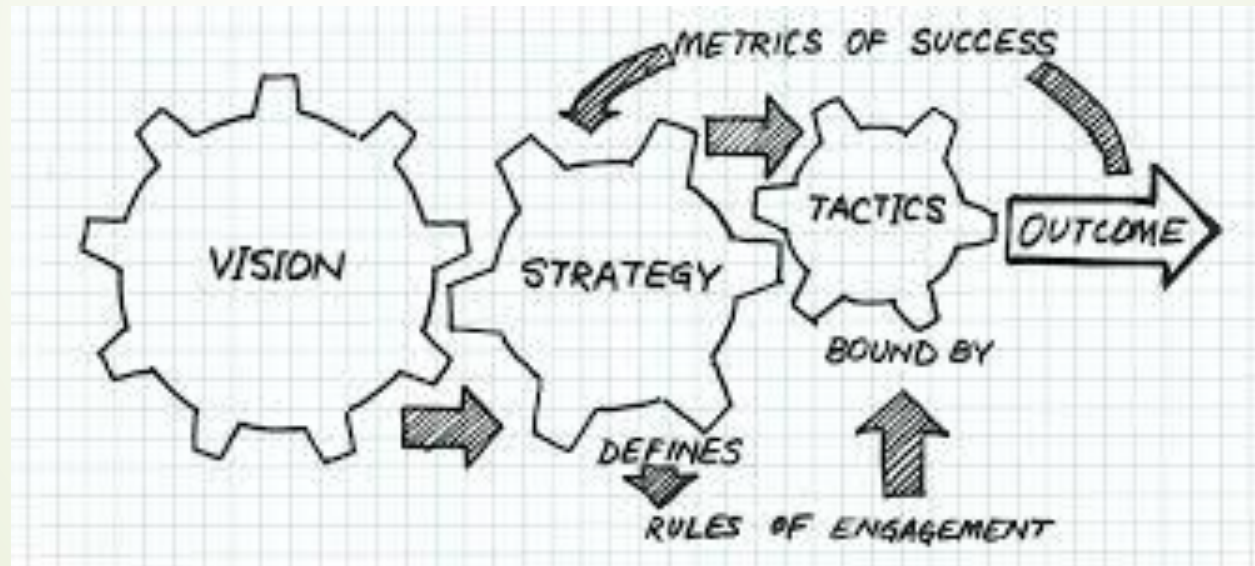
Strategy, Tactics, and Logistics

- To plan a project properly, you must attend to **three kinds of activities** that may have to be performed during the life of the job.
- These are **strategy, tactics, and logistics**.



Strategy

- Strategy refers to the **overall** method you will employ to do the job, sometimes referred to as a “**game plan**”.



Implementation Planning: Tactics

- This is where you answer those “**who, what, when, and where**” questions.
- In fact, it is implementation planning that many people think of when they talk about planning.
- However, a well-developed implementation plan for the **wrong project strategy** can only help you fail more efficiently.



Logistics

- **Military people** can quickly tell you the benefit of attention to logistics. You can't fight a battle if people have no ammunition, food, clothing, or transportation.
- It is logistics that attends to these things.



Be careful !

