

Team Work

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You have all worked in a group to complete a project in Computer Science and other subjects.

There are always different skills and personalities in a team which can lead to people taking on different roles. Or maybe you were assigned roles by your teacher or decided amongst the group what roles each of you would take on.

These roles might have been Coder, Hardware, Reporting, Presenter, Tester
Software Development Teams also work in teams with more defined roles.

Forming a Team

A Project Manager is usually the person that puts together a project team.

They must have an understanding of the requirements so that they can identify the skills required to design and program the project.

A team will be selected from their organisation or by recruiting for the specific purpose of the project.

Roles

The following slides show the most typical roles on a software development team.

Business Analyst

- Involved from the beginning (Investigate stage)
- Identifies users and other stakeholders and establishes requirements
- Investigates and reports on the problem
- Works with project manager on a ***feasibility study**
- Works with systems analyst to produce specification requirements

A Feasibility Study is a report that is produced for the client after the Investigate stage giving an opinion as to whether a possible and practical (feasible) solution to the problem exists. It includes options for solution, timescale, benefits and drawbacks, training required and a final recommendation on how to proceed.

Project Manager

- Produces Specification Requirements
- Forms Project Team
- Supervises the project team
- Allocates work
- Monitors progress and ensures project stays on track
- Handles request changes from user
- Maintains communication so that problems that are reported are addressed
- Motivates and supports team
- Reports to clients/stakeholders regularly
- Ensures each stage of the development process are carried out effectively

System Analyst

- Involved from the beginning (Investigate Stage)
- Establishes the hardware and software requirements
- Investigates and documents the technical aspects of the problem
- May be involved in the feasibility study
- Works with business analyst to produce specification requirements

Designer

- Designs software to meet the specification
- Produces design documentation and updates it as necessary

Developer

- Writes programs to implement the design
- Carries out unit testing
- Produces software documentation

Tester

- Produces test plans
- Produces test data
- Carries out tests
- Documents and reports on results of tests

User Liaison

- Communicates between users and project team during all stages
- Ensures users are prepared to carry out testing
- Prepares and organises training for users on the system if required.
- Ensures user support is in place after the system is in place.

Administration

- Organises meetings
- Organises documentation
- Keeps track of correspondence

Factors that Influence Teamwork

From your own experience of group work, you have probably had some really enjoyable and successful experiences and also others that were hard work.

Some factors that affect teamwork are:

- Communication
- Clarity of understanding of roles
- Support from team and project manager when things go wrong
- Working environment
- Recognition for work done
- Opportunity to learn
- Constructive feedback from project manager on both team and individual performance.

Benefits of Team Work

- Learning new skills from other team members
- Collaborating on problem solving and ideas
- Developing leadership qualities
- Developing communication skills
- Gaining experience of conflict resolution
- Development working relationships
- Support and guidance from team members when difficulties arise
- Confidence and job satisfaction that comes from being part of a team