



UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD

MENG GROUP PROJECT

Cryptic Crossword Solver

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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Chapter 1

Project Management

The management of projects has evolved to become more complex and diverse as technology grows. One common characteristic shared by all projects is the projection of activities and ideas. The management of a project allows the explicit control of resources and budget as well as a coordinated path for a successful project (Lock, 1986).

This chapter consists of the management resources that were deployed within the project. The chapter includes the initial plans developed for the project as well as the accurate and concise plans of the project which were changed on a constant basis to apprehend the need of the clients, the users, and the development team of the project. Further more the psychology of the development is briefly discussed to illustrate the change in the life cycle of the project.

1.1 Project Overview

The project began on Monday, 30th September 2013 and ended on Friday, 9th May 2014 allowing the team 32 weeks in order to plan, develop and deploy the project as well as allowing sufficient time to produce the academic and technical reports to accompany the product.

The planning of the project has been produced to incorporate all the academic and technical deliverables. The major academic deliverables are:

- Project Proposal
- Presentation of mid-point progress
- Submission of reports
- Final product demonstration

and the project milestone deliverables are:

- Scope
- Software Requirements
- Design
- Development
- Unit Testing
- Integration Testing
- Documentation
- Deployment

The following sections within this chapter show the progress of the project where each of the deliverables were met accompanied by their predicted completion dates to the actual dates when they were completed. There have been a number of factors that have impacted the plans and these will be discussed in within the following sections.

1.2 Planning

This section contains the project plans which have been developed in Microsoft Project 2010. There are three sub sections which define the initial, interim and end progress of the project. Jalote (2005) refers to software engineering as two domains.

1. Student Systems - Programs that people build to illustrate something or for hobby.
2. Industrial Strength Software - Software that can lead to significant direct or indirect loss.

A software project that is planned throughly is a more successful project than a project that is developed through extreme programming. The Cryptic Crossword project initially started through the Waterfall life cycle model and gradually grew to become an Iterative model. Therefore the project plans had to be updated constantly to reflect the change in which the project was being undertaken. Although the overall project is developed in the Waterfall model due to the time constraints applied by University deadlines the project consists of an iterative development outside of the deliverables which are to be produced for academic purposes.

1.2.1 Timeline



Figure 1.1: Project Timeline on the 21st October 2013

Figure 1.1 shows the initial timescale that was drawn up while planning the project. This was produced to show the major deliverables and their dates. In the next section the Gantt Chart that was produced with all the initial tasks to be completed are shown.

1.2.2 Initial Gantt Chart

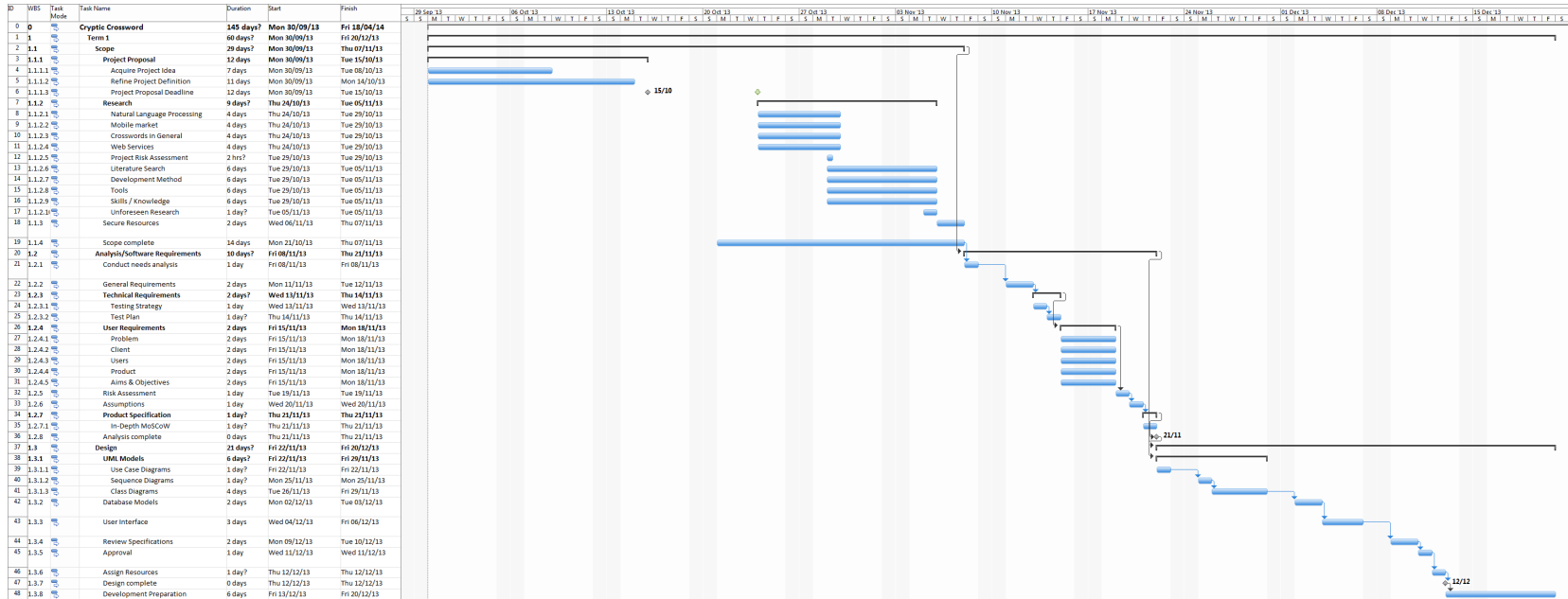


Figure 1.2: Gantt Chart for Term one produced on the 21st October 2013

1.2.4 Interim Gantt Chart

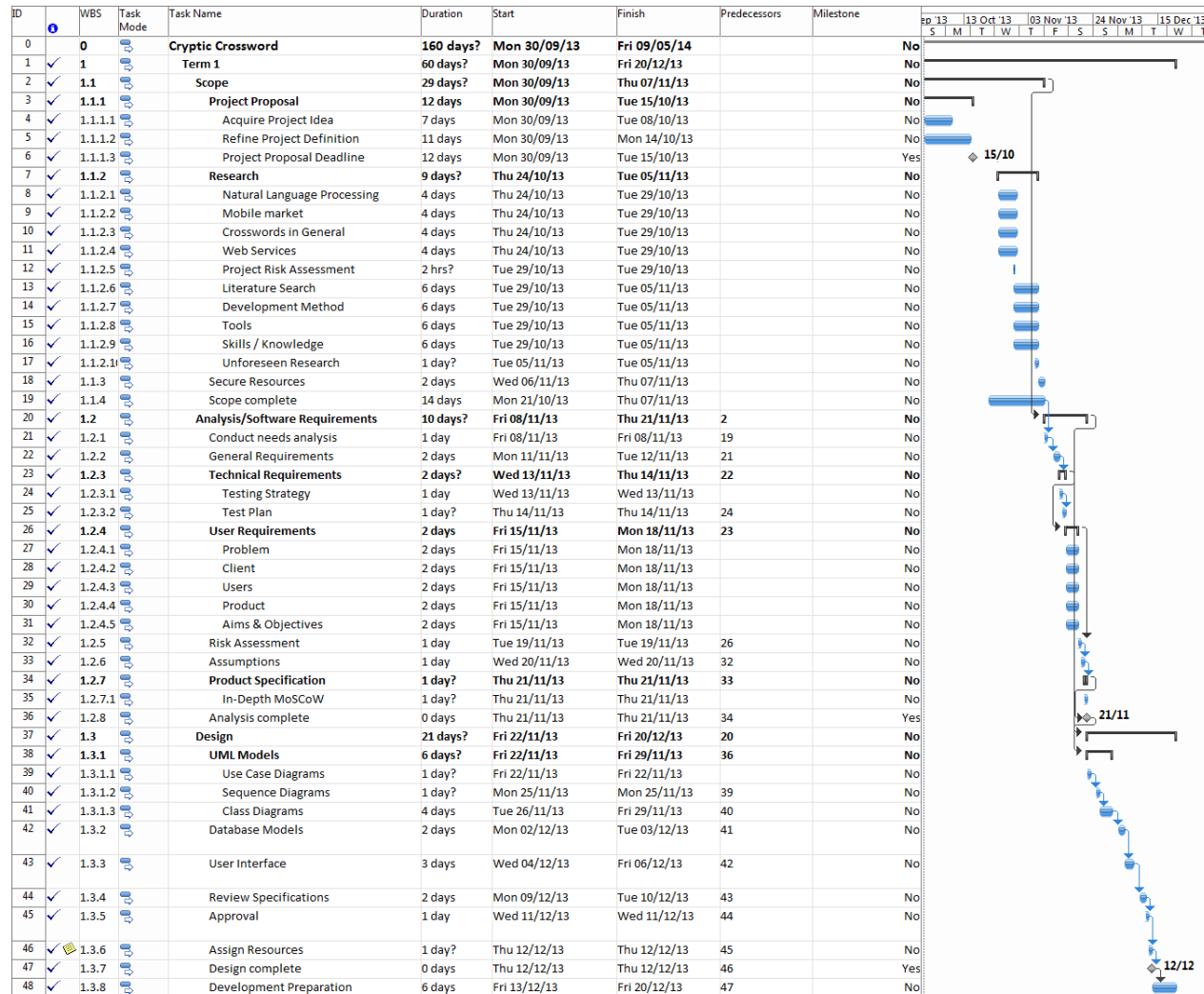


Figure 1.5: Gantt Chart for Term one produced on the 30th January 2014

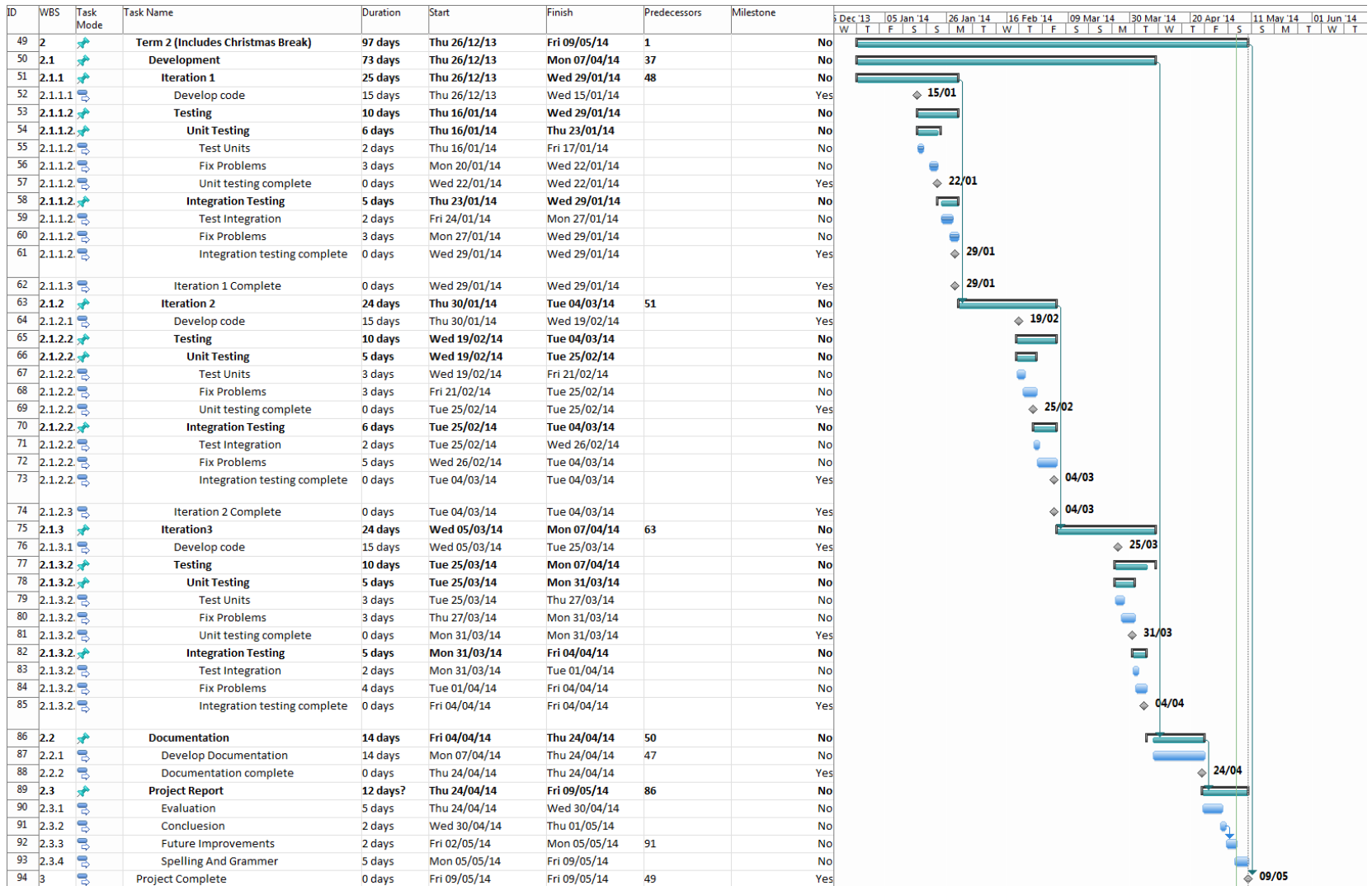


Figure 1.6: Gantt Chart for Term two produced on the 30th January 2014

1.2.5 Final Gantt Chart

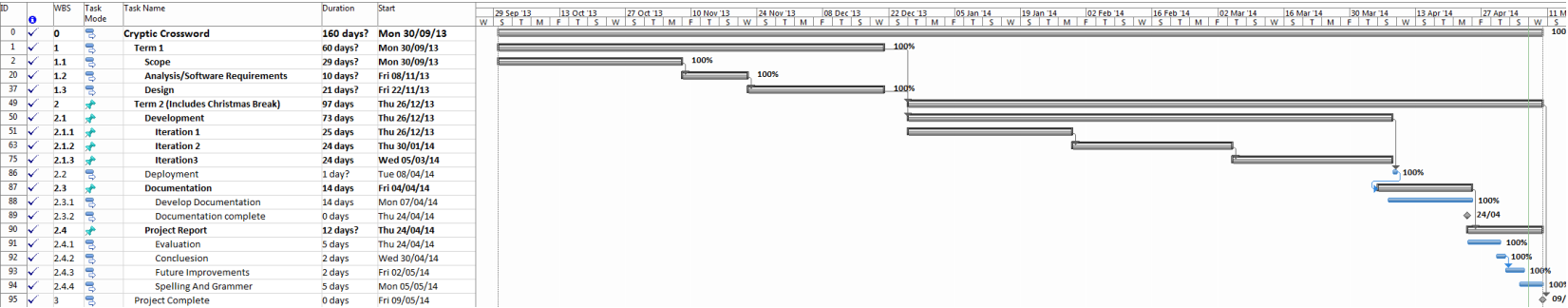


Figure 1.7: Final Gantt Chart of Project Summary produced on the 7th May 2014

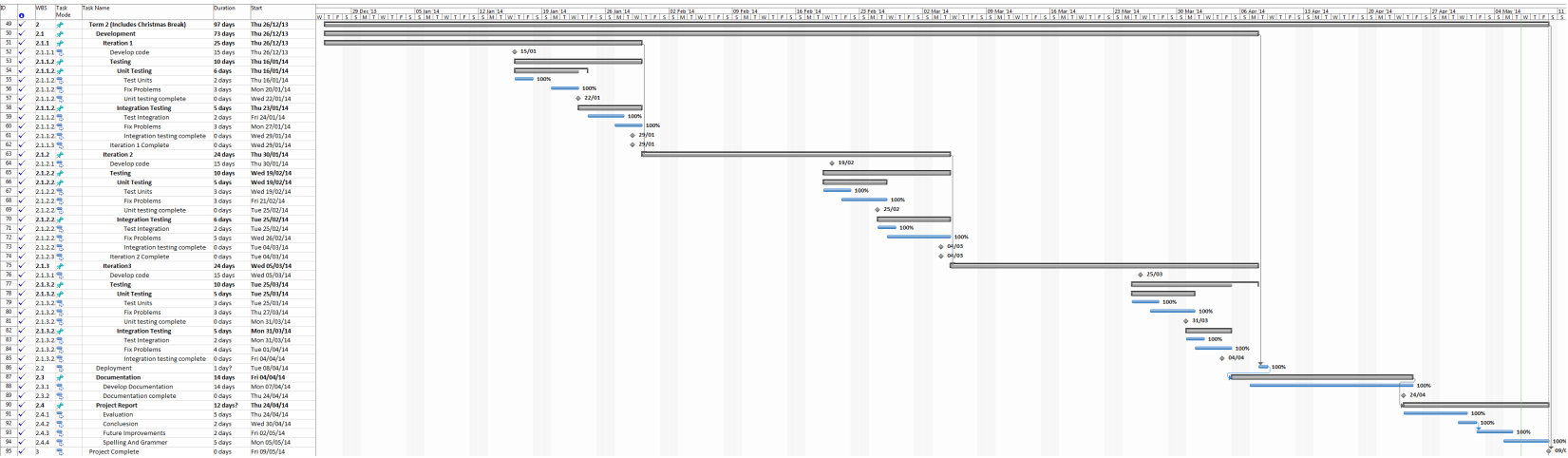


Figure 1.8: Final Gantt Chart for Term two produced on the 7th May 2014

1.3 People Involved

A number of project stakeholders have already been outlined with the initial problem analysis. Within this section the stakeholders that are involved with the project will be redefined upon a more formal basis.

The ‘group’ will be actively referred to throughout the project, and therefore the group will be defined. The group will have four members throughout the project, and these members are:

- Leanne Butcher
- Luke Hackett
- Stuart Leader
- Mohammad Rahman

The project group is based largely upon democratic discussions and decisions, however to ensure that group deadlocks do not occur Mohammad has been selected as the group leader.

The group will be assigned a project supervisor directly from the University. The project supervisor will help to deal with an technical and non-technical queries, whilst also ensuring the group remains upon a general focus. The project supervisor may also suggest features and improvements to work that the group managed to produce. The group’s project supervisor is Dr. Gary Allen.

A weekly meeting will take place between all group members and the project supervisor to discuss all aspects of the project. This includes (but is not limited to) project issues, software development issues, research findings, possible improvements and code reviews.

As the project is a formal assessment, the project assessor and moderator will be classified as indirect stakeholders within the project. Dr Sotirios Batsakis and Dr Colin Venters have been assigned the roles of project assessor and project moderator respectfully. Both the project assessor and moderator will have a limited amount of contact time with the group, but will be present at formal presentations that are scheduled throughout the year.

The project formally does not have any clients associated with the work, however Dr Hugh Osborne has offered to fill a client-like role within the project. Hugh has a keen interest in cryptic crosswords and the problem area that the group intends to solve. The role of the client for the group project will be to input ideas and potential requirements which Hugh, as an experienced solver of cryptic crosswords, would consider to be necessary.

1.4 Ethics and Professionalism

1.5 Psychology of Software Development

1.6 Estimation and Costing

1.7 Allocation of Work

Glossary of Terms

The following section contains a glossary with the meanings of all names, acronyms, and abbreviations used by the stakeholders.

| Term/Acronym | Definition |
|--------------|---|
| The Guardian | A newspaper with a website featuring cryptic crosswords |
| Blackberry | A mobile phone platform by Blackberry |
| iOS | A mobile phone platform by Apple |
| Android | A mobile phone platform by Google |
| NLP | Natural Language Processing |
| SRS | Software Requirements Specification |
| App | Short for application |
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Bibliography

Jalote, P. (2005). *Planning a Software Project*. Springer US, Boston, MA.

Lock, D. (1986). *Project management*. Wildwood House, Aldershot.