

Prince2 100 Success Secrets

The Missing Foundation
and Practitioner Exam
Training, Certification
and Project
Management Guide

Gerard Blokdijsk

Prince2 100 Success Secrets:

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Exam Training, Certification and Project
Management Guide**

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PRINCE2 100 SUCCESS SECRETS

There has never been a Prince2 manual like this.

100 Success Secrets is *not* about the ins and outs of Prince2. Instead, it answers the top 100 questions that we are asked and those we come across in forums, our consultancy and education programs. It tells you exactly how to deal with those questions, with tips that have never before been offered in print.

This book is also *not* about Prince2 best practice and standards details. Instead, it introduces everything you want to know to be successful with Prince2.

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THE WONDER THAT IS APMG

If you have not noticed already, there has been a continuing interest in improving and validating today's business standards and procedures. At the forefront of this movement towards excellence stands apmg, a leading and pioneering expert in accreditation and verification.

This organization is exceptionally skilled in different aspects of business management evaluation such as certification, accreditation and qualification. It comes as no surprise then that apmg is considered to be internationally renowned by government agencies all over the world. Its worldwide presence is evident in the number of offices that have been established throughout the world, including Australia, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, China and the United States of America.

The skills of apmg lie in their ability to undertake an operation via a management by project approach, including outsourcing to the other types of expertise in different fields. At last count, they have been able to expertly streamline their head office with a small working force of a mere 30 individuals all committed to help make success happen.

Everyday responsibilities are assigned to a select few – those who are considered to be highly motivated and committed in their tasks as managers. Their program is such that they recognize the skills and the commitment their employees put in, thus earning for themselves an Investors in People award. Because of this commitment to working efficiently and producing top quality results, APMG has clearly become a well-established leader in such an industry, leaving others far behind in the dust and forging on to break ground with more successes. As such, everyone directly and indirectly involved in their processes benefits – from the lowest-tier employees to their families and friends – and to society as a whole.

APMG PRINCE2 HELPS YOU!

The importance of project managements is something that ought to be met with much seriousness, as it can make or break a company. Every time we wish to do something or create something that will be for the betterment of society, we end up spending a lot of time thinking about the important elements that are crucial to the success of any type of endeavor that one considers to be important. Questions about how to start the project, who to hire, how to manage the materials and how to target any market are some of the pressing issues and concerns of project starters. Because of this, one will really need a foundation such as Prince2 in order to go about the tasks in a more efficient way.

Prince2 project management will allow the user to manage the project in a more ordered and logical way – clearly following very detailed steps to ensure that nothing is missed and every little thing is addressed. Such a method must have a controlled start in order to let the project starter begin the endeavor in a confident manner, an organized middle to ensure that the project follows the processes and procedures without any breaks in the system and a controlled end as a way to monitor the process follows through and meets the project starter's objectives. In order to accomplish all the parts, Prince2's series of processes will assure you of total coverage of all the activities that are required to make the project a complete success.

HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM APMG PRINCE2

Prince2 is an amazing new method that can help make your projects a lot more manageable and efficient to carry out. You can gain many benefits from incorporating the Prince2 advantage into your daily business and personal projects. For one, it has an extremely easy and efficient way of putting you in control of all your project resources. It can also accurately monitor your project progress, giving you status reports and feedback so you can have an idea of the way and manner in which your project is progressing. The different roles and responsibilities that are required in order to manage a project are described in great detail and are readily adaptable in order to suit any project's size, no matter how big or how small, it gets the job done in the soonest possible way. It takes into consideration the complexity or the simplicity of your endeavor, so you can work within your span of control seamlessly without a hitch.

The Prince2 method can provide a wide array of organizations with a standardized approach when it comes to the management of their various projects. Such a method has proved itself to be very established and works well with different kinds of business practices and environments. Thanks to its generic and non-propriety characteristic, that is. Because of these benefits and so much more it is no wonder why people are looking into Prince2 as a way of making their business a lot easier to manage than before.

HEAD TO HEAD: PRINCE2 AND PMI'S PPM

Prince2 is said to be different from many other project management systems out there, especially Pmi's PMP system. It is the only one that offers a uniquely structured framework that has the characteristic of being tailored and sized in accordance to a project's qualifications. It has no time to devote to mundane issues such as the softer human skills that are required of a project manager, because it does the same thing in half the time!

More importantly, Prince2 is compatible with different kinds of project management qualifications because it is able to work out the technical structure of the exact framework of all its projects. One popular project management qualification, PMP, has the answers that will satisfy the questions and qualifications of a project manager. In essence, Prince2 is grounded heavily on technological basis of lightning speed transmissions in project monitoring, while PMP's pmi has the human project management system as its core. In this light, both serve to take the project in effect but done through almost similar but at the same time vastly different means.

Compared to the national framework, Prince2 sits comfortable at Level 3 - which is several notches higher than its closest competitors. This simply proves that yes, there are a lot of project management systems that are available out there on the market – to serve the different needs of differently sized and differently oriented individuals and corporations – but despite all these offerings people will still look at Prince2 as the industry standard that one should definitely consider looking into.

PRINCE2 PROJECT MANAGEMENT: WORTH THE COMPARISON?

Princes 2, as most people especially project managers know, is a methodology that was invented by the UK government in order to make it systems run effectively. From a national standpoint, it trickled down to the local economy and is now being used in the private sector in order to make efficiency work at the local level. It is very popular in a lot of European nations, leaving all its competitors in the dust and constantly building up a steady stream of loyal followers. In fact, there seems to be no point in comparing Prince2 to other project management qualifications, because aside from the fact that it is the industry standard, it has proven its merit by being the first established system and continues to run up to today.

Compared to the other type of management process (Ten Step), Prince 2 only runs on eight. Yes, two steps shorter than the other industry established system! If we break down the process three - namely starting up, initiating and planning) make up the planning part of the project. Starting up and Initiating can be found in the beginning portion of the Prince2 system. Planning is a process that goes until the last stage of the project sequence. Ten step, on the other hand, only uses two steps in the planning phase of its system. Its last eight steps are devoted to the management of project execution – a process that obviously takes more time compared to Prince2. So if you were to choose one, it is highly likely that you will go for the Prince2 better option!

THE BUZZWORD THAT IS PRINCE2

Everyone's talking about it. It's part of everyone's conversations. It's the newest byword in the world of project management. What is this Prince2 Project Management system, anyway? If you have not got a clue or are not really in the know (task, task!), it is always best to start your knowledge with a basic definition of Prince2 Project management system.

This UK government developed project management methodology has been widely used (international, actually) in the realm of information technology. This Prince2 system incorporates the use of the best proven technology practices of project management, gathered from a wide range of industries, in order to meet the project management needs of different businesses. Its main selling points are its document templates that have clearly visible decision points and have two levels of exam-based individual certifications, which are Foundation and Practitioner.

Prince2 runs using eight processes that include:

1. Startup (defining the needs);
2. Direction (detail management);

3. Initiation (for project approval presentations);
4. Stage control (manageable stages of sizes and risk levels);
5. Stage Boundary Movement (stage revision and development);
6. Planning (decision-making of products and activities, plus costing);
7. Product delivery management (product-schedule variable); and
8. Closing (evaluation).

These eight stages make up the entire Prince2 process. It can be said that it sounds very simple but to a certain extent it actually is. This is because Prince2 is a highly developed and complicated system that has simplicity as its end product. And for any user looking for a way to make things progress in a more efficient manner, this is definitely good news!

PRINCE2: A DOWNLOAD AWAY FROM SUCCESS

The Prince2 project management system is a great tool that you can use every time you want to give your system an upgrade or a much needed boost. It coincides with the latest product and software developments so you are assured that you are never left in the dust. This is true especially in cases wherein you do not wish to introduce a standard that is external to you and you want to put your chances on the best that there is in the field of project management. Thankfully, Prince2 is a project management system that you can actually download. See how efficient it is, you have not even installed it in your computer and it is already making a lot of things easier for you!

The downloadable Prince2 project management system will come with all the processes procedures, manuals, and other what-have-yous that you will need for your business. Whether big or small, that copy of Prince2 on your computer will get the job done. This is because no matter who downloads the Prince2 project management system it will always find a way to tailor fit its processes in order to serve the individual needs of your goings-on. When you have the Prince2 system in your workstation you will be able to see the different between doing everything manually (by yourself) and having a handy dandy aid that will never let you down, make you complete the project in half the time (and with better results, too!) and graciously allow you to take all the credit for such a fantastic job.

LEARNING FROM SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF PRINCE2

Successful example of Prince2 includes its use in implementing a modernization plan to improve police force consolidation and crime management, product launch and delivery, and company reorganization and integration of new service delivery, among others. In fact, Prince2 can be used in any type of projects whether implemented by private companies or government institutions.

Managers and Chief Executives know that initiating, managing, and delivering a project is a painstaking process that could be a source of big headaches. Every stage of the project and every little step required to push the project forward will necessitate careful planning and smooth coordination between managers and implementers. These are complicated processes that should be handled correctly through a fail safe project management model.

Prince2 or Projects in Controlled Environments could be the answer to all the woes that hound any type of project delivery. Prince2 has been successfully used in numerous projects not just in UK but throughout the globe. This project management methodology can ensure smooth implementation, coordination, and control of a specific project. Not only that, Prince2 could guarantee on time and within budget delivery of a project. This is due to the fact that Prince2 uses tight integration and timely communication for every stage and flow of the project at hand. In doing this, the risk of veering away from the core substance of the project is eliminated and glitches could be addressed quickly.

Prince2 is every manager's solution to project management, control, and delivery. Skills in using Prince2 are necessary in order to ensure the success of any given project.

FREE PRINCE2 TEMPLATES: MAKING PROJECT DESIGN EASIER

Free Prince2 templates are valuable tools to help management teams and staff in designing any type of project. These free templates designs comply with the standards set by the Prince2 project management methodologies. Key persons assigned to plan, implement, and deliver a project can use the Prince2 templates to save precious time and reduce the cost of start up. It eliminates the stage of composing and preparing voluminous forms and tables that are necessary for project documentation.

Free Prince2 templates are generally available on the Internet. Some Web sites that are offering downloadable Prince2 software give free templates as add-on service. It also makes the software easier to use because users are spared of manually creating several project document forms. Some government Web sites are also offering free use of Prince2 templates for visitors of their pages. Templates are downloadable and usually formatted in word document. This makes it easy for anyone who wish to use the free forms and tables because there will be no third party applications needed to use the templates. Issues of compatibility are eliminated and users can simply save the templates in their computers and proceed to use it according to their needs.

Even the size of a project will not be an issue because the free Prince2 templates can be customized by the management staff in order to accommodate projects with varying scope. It should be noted however that the use of Prince2 templates cannot ensure the success of a project. Everything will really depend on responsible people who are tasked to put into operation any assigned projects.

HOW DO I GET MY PRINCE2 EXAM RESULTS? JUST WAIT FOR THE MAILMAN.

How do I get my Prince2 exam results? This is a frequently asked question of examinees who wish to be accredited as certified practitioners of Prince2 project management methodologies. Certification is given to successful examinees by the APM Group, a world wide accreditation institution specifically for project management practitioners.

The APM Group has numerous accredited training organizations or ATO. These training organizations also have presence throughout major cities around the globe. The APM Group will transmit the results of Prince2 accreditation exam to their accredited training centers. It is now the responsibility of these training organizations to give the results to the examinees. Usually, accredited training organizations will mail the results of the exams to their examinees upon receipt of the same from APM Group. This is the current standard and there is still no indication that results can be accessed through online methods.

The APM Group accredits two types of exams for Prince2 practitioners. One is called Foundation examination and the other is Practitioner exam. An examinee can get certifications from the two disciplines. Certified Prince2 practitioners can offer independent Prince2 project management services as a professional consultant. A Prince2 certification is also advantageous for managers because it can elevate their status as expert project managers. The added skills gained through the Prince2 foundation and practitioner courses can open opportunities for future promotion.

Prince2 trainings and certification exams are very important for project managers. Turnover of examination results are pretty fast and once the certification is issued, managers gain the benefit of amplifying their qualifications to implement Prince2-compliant projects.

THE ITIL PRINCE2 COMBINATION: INTEGRATION MEANS IMPROVED ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

ITIL or IT Infrastructure Library is a set of principles and practices designed to provide systematic management and approaches to IT environments or services. It can be integrated into the Prince2 methodology so that major changes in company organization will not disrupt management of IT service delivery. For example, when a company decides to implement major changes in its operation, this now becomes a full pledged project which needs the Prince2 model to ensure success. Implementation of change will encompass every organization within the company and naturally, it includes the IT service. However, to ensure that the IT services provided to customers will not be hampered by the ongoing project, managers and project consultants should install ITIL best practices for its IT sector.

This may sound complicated but the scenario only describes the integration of company wide project management to existing systems of service deliveries. The result is optimization of current operations because the company will continue its business while implementing a major overhaul of its organization.

ITIL and Prince2 came from the same source, which is the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) of United Kingdom. These management systems have been applied to numerous organizations and its implementation has resulted to successful project and systems management. Literatures and guidance for the integration of ITIL and Prince2 have been provided by the OGC in its books and manuals. Managers and project consultants can study the intricacies of integrating the two systems so that change management and efficient IT service delivery can go hand in hand in improving the performance of any organization.

KEY SKILLS IN PRINCE2 DEVELOPMENT: SUREFIRE SUCCESS IN PROJECT DELIVERY

Prince2 is a proven methodology in systematizing project initiation, start-up, control, and implementation. It is a system that can provide comprehensive approaches to the different aspects of project management. The Prince2 systems can develop valuable key skills of companies and organization in terms of project management and deliveries.

Skills in project estimation can be developed by Prince2. Problems in project estimation can be averted because the system provides mechanisms to explore in advance different estimates of project deliveries, costs, and inherent risks. This is very important because time wasted on estimation mistakes can derail the whole implementation of a project.

Another key skill that can be enhanced by Prince2 is effective management of stakeholders. Communicating project status and deliverables to the stakeholders is addressed by Prince2 through the imposition of tighter report mechanisms at each level of the project. This would ensure complete oversight of project implementation by responsible individuals and organizations.

Risk management skill is also reinforced by the Prince2 methodology because the system provides managers with the necessary tools to foresee areas where there exist significant risks to the implementation of the project. Unfavorable scenarios could be avoided by the provision of contingencies for every known risk. As the project progresses, risks multiply but Prince2 mitigates this and guides managers to install the needed contingencies.

Because of the comprehensive approach of the Prince2 methodology, managers can effectively guide and handle each stage of the implementation of a given project. The Prince2 system ensures that managers and executives will not neglect important details and at the same time keep their focus on the over-all direction of the project.

MANAGING PROJECT WITH PRINCE2: SURE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Managing project with Prince2 methodologies is a modern approach that can ensure effective and efficient implementation. It could also be the key factor for successful project deliveries.

Prince2 is a project management method developed by the Office of Government Commerce of United Kingdom. Although originally designed to standardize different project implementations of the UK government, the system has been successfully used in commercial projects. Because of this, the Prince2 protocols have become popular throughout the world and are being used widely for public and privately initiated projects.

The popularity of Prince2 primarily rests on the system's capability to adapt to different scenarios. The customization inherent in the Prince2 system has enabled project managers to implement a high degree of flexibility in ensuring smooth flow of project stages. The Prince2 method will allow companies and organization to design and organize projects according to their specifications. Specific controls and management of resources can be put in place to reinforce critical points of the project.

These characteristics will enable project managers to successfully deliver appropriate products on time with minimum losses in resources and efforts. This is due to the fact that the Prince2 method has mechanisms for installing efficient project structures and effectively interconnects it through tighter control, supervision, and communication.

The Prince2 project management method has come a long way. Beginning as a process to standardize government project implementation, it has evolved into a comprehensive approach to standardize any types of projects. Today, the Prince2 method is responsible for the success of some high impact projects throughout the globe.

KEY ELEMENTS IN MANAGING SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS WITH PRINCE2

Managing successful projects with Prince2 also requires excellent coordination and communication between top level executives, stakeholders, and key project managers. This is essential because the substance of project deliverables rests primarily on the complete understanding of end goals by persons and entities involved in the project.

Luckily, the Prince2 methodology has ensured that planning process and the formulation of project goals should be incorporated in the over-all project management design. This aspect of Prince2 method eliminates the hazard of committing major mistakes in the process of implementation. When quantifiable goals are set, every component of the project should fall into place with minimum slippage. Good relationships then would arise between stakeholders, company executives, and project managers. If this is the case, the success of any given project would be assured.

The beauty of using Prince2 method in successfully managing projects also relies on the fact that it has a built-in feature of adaptability and flexibility for every possible scenario. Prince2 practitioners are not tied by rigid implementation because the system can be tailor made to suit specific environments. This makes it easy to implement important tasks needed for the success of the project.

Prince2 can be considered now as one of the best methods in ensuring successful implementation of a project. Managing projects using the Prince2 system can give managers enough tools to realize complete product deliveries in record time while minimizing mistakes and wastage of valuable resources. This has contributed greatly to the popularity of Prince2 as an effective project management method.

MODEL ANSWERS: HELP FOR PRINCE2 PRACTITIONERS

Studying for the Prince2 Foundation examinations are no laughing matter. But then again, they are not as deathly as you think they are – especially since there are different tips and tricks that you can employ in order to remember the information you need to be aware of. Using a combination of the CBT practice exams and the manual proves to be a very effective method of studying the concepts and monitoring the progress of your work – maybe even to the point of being confident in yourself on exam day due to the fact that such a technique actually mirrors the training materials you will make use of.

In this light, the model answers for Prince2 Foundation examinations really do help you get the highest marks that you can. In addition to the model answers, it also helps to familiarize yourself with the Prince2 model scheme as well as get to have a good grasp of the range of questions that might come up.

One useful tip when it comes to committing the model answers to memory is to shorten them into cues that are easier to recall than long strands of words and terms. Enrolling in review courses will also prove to be extra beneficial to the Prince2 Foundation examination course taker, as they can give you helpful advice on how to make the model answers stick to your mind, guiding you all the way through the exam. The model answers include a complete in-depth analysis of the different project management techniques that one ought to know. Even after the examination, you will find the usefulness of the Prince2 model answers when applied to your work because it is designed in such a way that the theoretical foundation is not far off from the practical side.

OGC SOS: PRINCE2 TO THE RESCUE!

The OGC or otherwise known as the Office of Government Commerce, is the body that is tasked with improving the many systems a particular nation has – including upgrading the standards and capability to produce output. Because of this, the office of government commerce needs a good system that can help them come up with better projects and high quality outputs. Enter the Prince2 project management system, the answer to all of the many problems that the office of government commerce needs to answer.

The Prince2 project management method can be seen and is highly recommended in many core books about project management, most especially in the publication of the Office of Government Commerce. The OGC even extended the information by producing complementary publications that also act as guides for individuals seeking to tailor fit the method to their needs, including insights on how to manage the workforce that is involved in a Prince2 project.

The Office of Government Commerce utilizes Prince2 project management method because it is a clearly defined framework of different but essential components that are necessary in the applications that are involved in the project. These processes and controls are designed to give you a simple structure that becomes the basis for supporting the life of the entire project itself, guiding you by explaining the information that you need to know along the way. Such a method is able to demonstrate how any project can be easily divided in manageable parts or chunks, thus allowing you ore time to plan for additional projects and success your resources whenever you need them.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRINCE2 AND PMBOK?

Much talk has been going on about Prince2 project management and PMBOK, even to the point that a lot of people have been comparing the two – putting them head to head and engaging in a heated debate as to which system is better. For purposes of enlightenment, this article will discuss what these two systems really are and how they work to make tasks more easier for you.

The Prince2 and the PMBOK systems have different purposes and serve the different needs of their clients. Because of this, you really can't compare the two at all. The PMBOK serves as the standard and also the foundation for instruction of the subject content of all the areas of knowledge. However, a lot will agree that it is not a very effective way too provide guidance or acting as an overseer of a project. Such a corollary can be said about other PLCs. Prince2, a life cycle-based model, finds it difficult to do justice to all of the project management areas of knowledge.

Truth be told, a lot of project organizations simply comply with what you are advocating – never going above and beyond the expected means. Many organizations establish PMBOK enterprise project management because it is deemed as the best practice and of core competence in establishing functional PLCs which may be aligned to PMBOK and then optimized for a functional unit that has a higher level of performance. On the other hand, Prince2 is simply a methodology that provides aid in many deployment projects in a very consistent manner – that is, in terms of a process perspective.

CHOOSING BETWEEN PMI AND PRINCE2: SOME CONSIDERATIONS

If you have been looking for ways to make your organizational projects run at a more efficient pace and produce better outputs, you might want to consider Prince2. But before you jump on the Prince2 project management and PMI bandwagon, it is essential to do a lot of self-reflection and assess if you really know how you can apply such a tool to your projects.

For one thing, you need to know if your organization is aligned to OGC's best practice or PMI. This is the very first thing you need to consider. If some hesitation on your part occurs, you might want to do a rethink. Next, consider all the strengths of the solution you are considering. What is good about? What makes OGC stand out? Following this train of thought, think of the possible weaknesses of both PMI and OGC. You also need to determine if it is necessary for you to extend the PMI and Office of Government Commerce materials in order to make your organizational operations a lot more effective and productive.

If the answer is yes, which major areas have you highlighted or pinpointed as the necessary recipients of such tools? Finally, brainstorm with your team and figure out if there are still any unanswered questions that you might need to satisfy - questions that are necessary in order to proceed with the actual general consensus and decision-making with regard to the proper solution you need to incorporate in your program. Once you answer these questions, you will be able to make the right decision regarding the right project management solution.

UNDERSTANDING PRINCE2 KEY POINTS USING THE P2 PM TOOLKIT

Prince2 or PProjects IN Controlled Environments is an internationally recognized methodological standard for project management, which was released in 1996. Its previous version, PRINCE, was established by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) in 1989 and is now a registered trademark of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). There is no hardware or software involved in Prince2 (aside from the usual tools needed to support it). It is a plain best practice approach on how projects should be handled in a more consistent, and flexible manner.

The concept of Prince2 is very complex and discussing its key points and learning to fully implement it would be a bit of challenge. But then again, a group of project management experts have come up with a toolkit that everyone can use to make Prince2 a bit easier to grasp. This is known as the P2 Project Management Toolkit, which was designed for starters who are interested to learn more how Prince2 works, and at the same time, have a glimpse of the various Prince2 tools and templates.

To list down the key points behind the Prince2 process, the toolkit is inclusive of the following materials, mostly supplied in MS Word format:

- A. **Templates** – documents that are designed to save users time in accomplishing project requirements;
- B. **Presentations** – PowerPoint slides to highlight the Prince2 process;
- C. **Role Definition Documents** – overview of the job descriptions within the Prince2 environment;
- D. **Research Articles**;
- E. **Project Risk Assessment Kit** – risk measurement of a project;
- F. **Fact Sheet** – summary of the Prince2 process;
- G. **Project Management Plan and Handbook** – serves as a guide in coming up with an excellent project management plan; and
- H. **Bonus Files** – documents and other presentations.

THE NEED TO SCAN THE PAGES OF THE PRINCE2 MANUAL

There is no other way to make it easier for interested users to understand better the concepts behind a certain process or methodology other than reading reference materials, which can be found either in the pages of a book or content of a Web page. For starters, it would be more practical to use such resources to give you an ample time to have a glimpse on how the process goes, though acquired knowledge can be eventually hasten through process application or by enrolling in classroom courses that may be a bit costly. The same thing goes for Prince2. Yes, the process behind it being a project management standard is a bit complex. To lighten things up, all you need is the Prince2 Manual, a reference guide to Prince2 project management methods and processes.

The Prince2 Manual has been known to be the daily bread of soon-to-be and currently practicing project managers. The reason being is that this book details everything that any curious mind should know about Prince2. This includes Prince2 components, techniques, concepts and processes that will serve as a guide in the proper planning, organizing, controlling, managing and implementing successful projects in a more timely and cost effective manner. It also list down some of the challenges that may come along way that may present as risk factors or threats that everyone should be aware of for the proper delivery of the project. This will help you on how to cope with such situations and give the best course of action on any given scenario.

The Prince2 Manual may be available in a bookstore near you or you may also try ordering online from various Web sites.

PRINCE2 MATURITY MODEL: ASSESSING THE ORGANIZATION'S READINESS FOR CHANGE

It is indeed a critical part of the planning process of any organization to assess its readiness before jumping into a different implementation process or revising some of the methods used in certain applications that they may find unproductive anymore. The reason being is that the business operation is at stake here, especially while during the course of project creation and delivery. Making minor (or major) adjustments to the various processes involved in project management may sacrifice the success of the project itself. This concept is also applied to Prince2 and evaluating an organization's capability to undergo such transition is described in the Prince2 Maturity Model (P2MM).

The Prince2 Maturity Model (P2MM) can be used by organizations to gauge their maturity in making use of the different project management methods behind Prince2. A P2MM draft form has been made available for download from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Web site since the year 2004, and was released formally at a later date (April 2006).

There are three maturity levels and these are the following:

1. Level 1 – initial;
2. Level 2 – repeatable; and
3. Level 3 – consistent / defined.

These levels define an organization's readiness to Prince2 transition.

Turning into P2MM can also be used in the proper implementation of Prince2. It can also help organizations to improve their performance as far as project management is concerned. This is by identifying the best practices that can be incorporated in operations to ensure the organization's edge in achieving the next maturity level.

There are a lot of books and references that organizations can choose from to know better the concepts behind P2MM, as well as the benefits that they can get out of it. Just check out the Web on how to obtain copies of these reading materials.

PRINCE2 METHODOLOGY: DEFINING THE PROCESSES BEHIND PRINCE2

Prince2 is used on both IT and non-IT projects as a generic approach to project management. It was originally established in 1989 by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) in UK, and is now known to be the de facto standard for project management.

Also known as PProjects IN Controlled Environments, Prince2 provides scalable and tailoring changes to effectively manage projects within organizations. Each process done using the Prince2 methodology is well-defined. These include the various key inputs and outputs, the pre-determined objectives that are set to be achieved, and the activities that need to be accomplished. Since Prince2 is product based, it is focused more on delivering desired results rather than mere planning when things should be carried out.

There are eight processes involved in the Prince2 framework that can be applied in all sorts of project management. These are the following: (a) directing a project; (b) starting up a project; (c) initiating a project; (d) controlling a stage; (e) managing product delivery; (f) managing stage boundaries; (g) closure; and (h) planning. This structured flow of activities provides a standard approach in project management, aside from being widely accepted by all levels within the organization as the common language used by the project participants themselves.

It also provides benefits such as:

- clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of key people in the organization;
- providing control in use of resources;
- encouraging open communication channels between project managers and stakeholders; and
- reducing risk factors in managing changes made within the system.

Using the Prince2 methodology simply means successful implementation of the project.

PRINCE2 ONLINE COURSES: THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING PRINCE2

Prince2 certification levels (Foundation and Practitioner) are among the most prestigious certifications that IT professionals would like to take nowadays. This also applies to non-IT personnel as well, for as long as candidates aspire to hasten their skills and test their knowledge about project management.

Just like any other certification, candidates have the option to take training courses to master the ins and outs of Prince2. There are three options to choose from: (a) Prince2 Courses - classroom training; (b) Prince2 CBT or Computer-based Training; and (c) Prince2 Blended Learning. For those who would like to engage into comprehensive discussions and get answers from an instructor or trainer to frequently asked questions, then a candidate can opt to attend classroom training courses. The duration of classroom trainings depends on how competent the enrollees are. Candidates with more working knowledge about Prince2 may mean lesser number of hours or days on training. However, this is also time consuming and will take more of your valuable money.

Prince2 e-learning or computer-based training, on the other hand, offers a lot of benefits. Taking online courses has proven to be more effective. It is more convenient on the part of the enrollee since it requires less time, less effort, and reduced cost. Most of the online CBT courses nowadays are interactive as if you are speaking with a real classroom instructor.

Providing the most successful approach to Prince2 training is the blended training, wherein traditional classroom courses are integrated with CBT. In here, students expect to receive support from a trainer usually via phone or email, and at the same time, online courses are also made available for them to access. This is typically the best option for overseas training.

PRINCE2 ONLINE CERTIFICATIONS: WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER?

Getting a Prince2 certification is one of the most in demand and widely known certification programs nowadays. This will not only make candidates test their project management knowledge and skills, but also this will be a great reason for them to feel confident to successfully implement projects successfully within an organization. Prince2, being an internationally known standard for project management will also look good on your resume. With a considerable number of years of experience, a Prince2 certification will pave the way in getting a more secure and highly compensated job in the future.

Prince2 certification has two levels: the Foundation and Practitioner. The difference of these two certification levels lies on the role that the candidate would like to take part on the project itself. If you would like to get involved in the project but with a supporting role, then Foundation is the exam that you should be taking. Such jobs include those that handle administration, technical, or marketing work. If you would like to lead projects, then you should aim on passing the Practitioner exam. Qualifications vary depending on the level that you would like to achieve. However, having a working knowledge of Prince2, or at least having an experience with project management would be an advantage.

To hasten your familiarity of the different processes and methods behind Prince2, having an online training would be the best option. There are a lot of Web sites that offer comprehensive training courses about Prince2 to prepare candidates in the certification exams. This might be the break that you have been waiting for. So sign up now and experience that Prince2 difference in your organization.

HOW REVIEWING PRINCE2 PAST QUESTIONS WILL WORK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

It would be an advantage on the part of the Prince2 certification aspirant to receive training before taking the exam, either trainer-led (classroom) or through computer-based training (CBT). This will not only give them a chance to study in detail the concepts and processes behind Prince2, but this will also help them assess their readiness in taking the exam. How? By taking online examinations, enrollees of Prince2 training can determine how it feels like to be at the hot seat, answering from average to tough questions within a specific time frame.

This is usually the technique of most training programs with students that are up for certification. Conducting of exams, usually online, will give students an edge over other Prince2 aspirants. This is because exam questions taken during the training happen to be the same questions given from past exams. Though there is no assurance that these past questions will be included again on the next exam, students can still try to answer them for self-assessment.

Prince2 candidates can choose between Foundation and Practitioner level exams. The Prince2 Foundation certification exam consists of 75 multiple choice questions, wherein the candidate should at least get a 50% mark or more to pass. The Prince2 Practitioner exam, on the other hand, consist of 3 questions, each is worth 50 marks. Candidates must get 75 out of 150 to pass the exam. These 3 questions are typical scenario background type that is suited for people to lead projects within the organization. Candidates should complete the exams within 3 hours. It is a good thing though that they can browse through the pages of their paper-based reference manual to help them in answering questions.

PRINCE2 FILES MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH PDF

Aside from books, the Internet has been the most useful and helpful resource that people can count on whenever they need to learn more about a certain subject. The only difference is that books can only be read if you will purchase or borrow one from a friend or a public library. However, the Internet can provide the convenience that most users long for since Web content can be accessed almost anytime, anywhere.

The Internet also provides solutions to make things easier for people. If in the past, books can only be accessed at the library or a bookstore, now it is a different case since the birth of a file format called Portable Document Format or PDF. PDF files are like scanned pictures of the content of a book, making it easier for users to read. What is good about PDF files is that there is no way for other people to make changes to it. This is an added protection on the part of the user. The content of the PDF file can also be printed.

There are a lot of Web sites that make PDF files available to download, either for free or through subscription basis. The processes and methods behind Prince2, for example, can be downloaded on some sites to make potential users understand better how Prince2 really works. Usually, PDF files are embedded on Prince2 online training Web sites to prepare exam candidates on their quest for the certification that they have been longing for. PDF is a file format from Adobe Systems, which was established in 1993.

INTEGRATING PRINCE2 PROCESSES WITH PMBOK: TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

The big question in the world of project management is this – “What is the difference between Prince2 and PMBOK?” Making it more concrete, the question that should be asked then is “If Prince2 is known to be the de facto standard in project management, what makes it different then from PMBOK?” The answer is simple. Prince2, which stands for PProjects IN Controlled Environments, is focused on the different processes and methods that are within the scope of project management. While PMBOK, on the other hand, stands for Project Management Body of Knowledge, provides a basic reference for project management. This simply means that the two complements each other. Prince2 will take care of the methodology, while PMBOK will check on the knowledge, tools and techniques for project management implementation.

If PMBOK has eight Areas of Knowledge, Prince2 has eight components as well. PMBOK's Area of Knowledge includes the following: (a) Integration; (b) Scope, Cost, Time; (c) Quality; (d) Risk; (e) Communications; (f) Human Resources; and (g) Procurement. The comparable components of Prince2 are the following: (a) Change Control, Combined Components and Processes; (b) Business Case; (c) Plans; (d) Configuration Management, Quality; (e) Risk; (f) Controls; and (g) Organization.

What is good about Prince2 is that it has a lot of useful and impressive features that sets it apart from other project management processes. Each feature enhances what is provided on the PMBOK, or it can go even further. Prince2 and PMBOK integration is something that project managers should really take advantage of. Having these resources at hand will definitely result to a very successful project.

PRINCE2 AND PMP: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

When project management methodologies are being talked about, two names will definitely stand out. One is Prince2, which stands for PRojects IN Controlled Environments. It came from the UK and was developed in 1989 by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). The other one is PMP or Project Management Professional. It is being managed by the Project Management Institute (PMI), which is based in the US. PMP was published by PMI in 2005. PMP is one of the three levels of certification programs being offered by PMI - the other two being CAPM or Certified Associate in Project Management and PgMP or Program Management Professional. Prince2 and PMP are the most internationally recognized standards in project management.

So what is the difference between these two terms? Basically, it is on the area of concentration. PMP is more focused on the various tools and techniques used to develop individual capabilities in project management. It is concentrated more on the development of individual skills needed by project managers in carrying out projects. Examination and training are based on the principles specified by the Project Management Book of Knowledge (PMBOK).

On the other hand, Prince2 takes its part in developing whole organizational capabilities in management of projects. To control projects in a more efficient manner, Prince2 requires a real business objective that is presented through a business case. This is updated regularly throughout the course of the project to evaluate key decision points that are critical to project management success.

Both PMP and Prince2 play a very crucial role in the successful rollout of a project. In producing desired results, a blend of individual and group performance should be manifested as this goes hand in hand. The success of one is also the success of the whole organization.

PRINCE2: A “PRINCE” ABOVE ALL ROYAL STANDARDS

Has anyone ever wondered what Prince2 actually stands for? It's the latest and the greatest byword in the world of information technology. Everyone's using it. Everyone wants to use it. But what is it really? To start off and answer the sixty million dollar question, Prince2 means Projects in Controlled Environments (so all of you with high-wired imaginations can stop imagining a strapping handsome British prince at the forefront of such a technology) and it is a method that is process-based in order to come up with effective project management. It is so popular (as you already know) that it is considered as the de facto standard that is extensively used by the government of United Kingdom. Its popularity has reached a global level, as it is also widely recognized and applied in many private sectors, both in the United Kingdom and abroad.

The Prince2 method is considered to be in the public domain. It offers the best practice guidance (non-proprietary, even!) on project management. As a little trivia, Prince2 was also established and registered by the Office of Government Commerce in the United Kingdom.

It offers a lot of great features, including business justification, a well-defined structure for the entire project management team, a planning approach that is project based, flexibility in terms of appropriate project levels and a deep emphasis on dividing the project in easily managed and controlled stages or chunks of tasks. All these and a lot more will surely excite more potential clients, but for the time being it is great to know what Prince2 actually stands for – literally and figuratively!

A PEEK INTO PRINCE2 ACCREDITATION

The Prince2 project management system has two types of exams that one seeking to specialize in it needs to pass. The first type of Prince2 exam is called the Foundation Exam. This exam runs for an entire hour and has a multiply choice format. The second exam, called the Practitioner Exam, is a much lengthier test of your skills. Its three hour run will require you to answer objective types of tests of multiple choices using only an official Reference Manual. But the catch is, it is no longer a completely open book examination. The text from the Reference Manual may be annotated but takes control not to include additional attachments. In the United Kingdom, the Prince2 exams are proctored by the APM Group.

It is possible for would-be test takers to self-study for the exam – granted that he or she has solid project management experience. For those who are fresh off the boat, be grateful for the fact that there are a lot of training organizations that offer study courses. This is, of course, hardly mandatory but the beauty of such organizations is they get to hone the skills of would be accredited Prince2 project management specialists and thus weed out the incompetent ones from the group.

If you feel confident in your skills or are backed up by several years' worth of experience in project management, you might want to take the test with only a short self-review by yourself. Then again, it never hurts to have some extra help through books, software and actual human effort.

MAKE THE PRINCE2 ADVANTAGE WORK FOR YOU

If you work for a professional organization, chances are you are always looking for ways to innovate your systems so you add more leaves to your laurels. This is the time when you might want to consider applying the Prince2 advantage to your project management tasks. It is a solid, structured approach to many project management situations, continuously working to provide a way to manage your projects within a framework that has clearly defined boundaries. The Prince2 advantage includes descriptions of procedures that are necessary in coordinating the people and the different activities that are part and parcel of any particular project. In addition, Prince2 project management system also guides you in designing and supervising the projects and reassures you by knowing what to do if there are adjustments that need to be made (as well as find solutions in case the project does not develop as you planned).

In such a method, each of the processes are specified with their own key inputs as well as outputs, keeping in mind their specific activities as well as goals that are supposed to be accomplished – thus giving off a sense of automation in terms of control of any sort of deviation from their plan. Since the method is divided into very manageable stages, many users agree that they experience a more efficient sense of control in the handling of their resources. Because of this, the project is easily monitored and carried out, with over a hundred percent chance of success and near-perfect fulfillment.

SOLID PRINCE2 ADVICE TO RID YOU OF THE JITTERS

Are you in dire need of some solid Prince2 advice for your upcoming examinations? In this article, you will be privy to a lot of things that will help you rest easy as you will have a better idea of what the test will be about!

The Prince2 Foundation exam has a standard test format. It runs for an entire hour and consists of seventy-five multiple choice questions. If you want to pass the exam, you will need to score at least thirty-eight correct answers. Keep in mind that this is a closed-book exam, so do not even think of sneaking in your mile-high pile of examination reviewers.

Such an exam is designed to measure whether or not a candidate is truly ready to take on the role of a project manager team under the Prince2 project management method. As such, the test taker will need to demonstrate his aptitude in the basic principles and terminologies of the Prince2 project management method. Aside from this, the test taker will also need to know how to describe the purpose and primary content of the different roles of Prince2, its eight-step structure the eight processes as well as sub-processes and the multiple techniques necessary to run the system. Its general objective includes tests in stating which products of project management are input or output of the eight processes, knowing the main purpose as well as the key contents of the management products, stating the relationship between the various deliverables and processes, and describing the role of management in the project.

PRINCE2 AND APPLICABILITY: RESOLUTION OF ISSUES USING A PROCESS-BASED APPROACH

Prince2 has become the standard method of numerous companies in project implementation and management. This innovative methodology is a flexible approach in initiating a project because managers and project directors can customize and scale it to accommodate any type of projects. Applicability of the system to different project environments has been proven to work. Projects that are keyed on overhauling the whole business process operations of a company can be undertaken using Prince2 methodologies. Not only that, even smaller scale projects such as IT services deliveries can be implemented using Prince2 methods. Needless to say, Prince2 can be used on a variety of projects, whether enterprise-wide or just small changes in its sub-departments.

The key element that unifies Prince2 to applicability concerns is its focus on the process itself. Prince2, being a process-based system could ensure that different stages of any project will not be neglected. Prince2 methods can be used right from the inception of a project until its completion. Mechanisms will be in place from the drawing room, where conceptualization and planning takes place, to project deactivation, evaluation, and assessment.

The systematic process that will be implemented using Prince2 methodologies can minimize risk and project slippage. It is the task now of project managers to ensure that communication and interconnection between processes are strictly being applied. In so doing, project management can be made easier and output can be delivered within reasonable time.

Prince2 methods opened opportunities for companies to constantly adapt to changing conditions. The system gave companies and organizations valuable tools in efficiently handling projects which can be applied to different situations.

PRINCE2 AND BEST PRACTICES: DIFFERENT TERMS, SAME MEANING

For several years now, Prince2 and best practices has been synonymous in terms of delivering quality project management solutions both for public and private sectors. Excellent results have been produced by companies and organizations that adapted the Prince2 methodologies in managing projects of varying scope. Not only that, project leaders delivered products within specified time with minimum slippage.

In fact, Prince2 which is a newer version of the initial Prince method was the result of consolidation of numerous user best practices, evaluations by hundreds of project management experts, and input from companies and organizations that have used the Prince methodologies. That is why Prince2 has been touted as the most advanced and most effective project management method that can be used for any type of projects. And the claim has been proven true. Since its introduction to the market, Prince2 has been used by numerous companies for their business and organizational projects around the globe. Success has been reported and project management tasks became easier.

The Prince2 system was specifically designed to give organizations the ability to effectively implement and deliver any types of projects. It is a tool that can be used by project management specialists to systematically handle the processes involved in running a project. The methods of Prince2 also seek to institute tighter control mechanisms and unhampered communication process at every stage of the project. In theory, this could lead to efficient delivery of projects with minimum wastage of resources. In practice, Prince2 has been proven to deliver some of the best project management practices throughout the world.

PRINCE2 AND PDF: ENRICHING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF PROJECT MANAGERS

The Prince2 project management method has benefited a lot from PDF technology. PDF or portable display format is a computer program that allows document formatting so it could be displayed on different platforms. It makes documents readily downloadable from the Internet and displayed on any browser. This portability allowed Prince2 developers to disseminate the program's documentation to a wider audience.

Most Prince2 manuals and guidebooks can be viewed or saved on individual computers because of PDF. These documents have been converted in PDF files so that students and practitioners of Prince2 can easily retrieve these valuable online resources. For project managers who want to review certain processes of Prince2, all they have to do is to download a manual or guide book that are formatted in PDF.

Prince2 forms, tables, and other useful templates are also available in PDF files. Project managers who wish to save time and effort could make use of ready-made templates and forms that can be viewed from any standard computer. However, templates are generic documents and they typically cover broad outlook and applications of Prince2 method. Managers should be able to customize these documents to suit the specific environments of their projects. In fact, Prince2 developers in UK are encouraging users to customize their forms and processes in order to enrich the practice of Prince2 project management methodologies.

In order to read Prince2 documents in PDF files, one should download a copy of the program over the Internet. It is a freeware and everyone can use it without paying a fee.

ELEVATING THE SCIENCE OF PRINCE2 AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

The introduction of Prince2 method elevated the quality of project management practices not just in UK, where the program originated, but also in other parts of the world. As a standard set of processes that covers every important aspect of project management tasks, Prince2 methodologies have become valuable tools in the delivery of quality projects. Private corporations and large organizations have benefited from the systematic approaches of Prince2 method to project management.

The Prince2 methodology traces its history from the efforts of United Kingdom government to standardize its project management systems in order to improve delivery of government services. The Office of Government Commerce of UK developed the Prince methodology which was subsequently updated to Prince2. The new version is an improved package which was derived from previous best practices of numerous practitioners. It is the consolidation of initial successful efforts of project management and was upgraded to suit the changing needs of current business and organizational realities.

The refresh was a success because Prince2 has become the standard project management methodology not only in UK but in other countries as well. The method also introduced innovative approaches to handle several project management processes. Today, Prince2 methods have been used not just for large scale government projects but also for private and commercial projects. The system has become equated with good project management practice. This is evidenced by the growing demand for certified Prince2 managers. Some major companies now are requiring their project managers to have the skills and ability consonant to Prince2 practices.

PRINCE2 AND TSO: PROJECT MANAGEMENT REFERENCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Some of the most reliable publications about Prince2 have been authored by The Stationary Office or TSO. Documents, manuals, books, official guidance, and software concerning Prince2 methods were published under the TSO trademark. This publishing house has produced titles exclusively for Prince2 practitioners and students. The rich resources helped in popularizing the use of Prince2 framework for every type of project management solutions.

Prince2 documents and official manuals are generally circulated by the Office of Government Commerce as additional services for Prince2 practitioners. These are technical books which tackle the how-to of Prince2 methodologies. Publications of the OGC can greatly help technicians and project managers in understanding the basic operations and processes of Prince2. These guidebooks can also help new and aspiring project managers who will take Prince2 certification exams.

On the other hand, comparative studies, best practices, and analysis of different Prince2 applications can be studied through books and publications which are generally available online. The TSO publishing house has been the leading producer of these resources which could guide the practice of Prince2 methods. The reading materials published by TSO can be accessed as electronic publications. Other titles are available to the public as paperback editions and can be acquired through online bookshops.

Prince2 methodologies are useful tools to make project management easier. It can also impact on the quality of any project by organizing the process of implementation at different stages. Project managers can effectively implement Prince2 methods with the help of books and other publications. These are valuable references necessary for grasping the principles and practical applications of the Prince2 framework.

OUTLINING THE ENTIRE PRINCE2 METHODOLOGY

The Prince2 method is usually described as process-driven project management. It has 45 definable sub-processes which are accordingly organized into eight major processes. Specifically, these processes are:

1. Starting up a project;
2. Planning the project;
3. Initiating the said project;
4. Directing it;
5. Controlling the stage;
6. Product delivery management;
7. Managing the boundaries of the stage; and finally
8. Closing the project.

These eight processes are home to a number of components that make up the entire system:

- A. The first one is the business case, which highlights the reason for doing the project;
- B. Second comes organization wherein the structure of the people that make up the project team is rostered;
- C. Third is the plans component and these include the different documents that shed light on what the project aims to accomplish, how the tasks must be carried out and who should be responsible for fulfilling such responsibilities;
- D. The fourth component is called controls and it describes the different ways in which both project manager and project board exercise their different control levels of the project; and
- E. The fifth component, called the management of risk component, is simply the way in which such a project must be approached and how to best manage risks involved.

Prince2 project management also defines the term or the concept of 'risk' as an outcome that is uncertain. It can be positive or negative. It can serve as a new opportunity or a threat to the project. Whichever way the pendulum swings, it is necessary to analyze the risks and have a strong background in its management in order to know how to appropriately reduce or remove the negative effects.

PRINCE2 ATO: THE PROJECT MANAGER'S PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

Prince2 ATO or authorized training organizations are online centers that provide courses and certification exams for anyone aspiring to become Prince2 practitioners. Actual training and examinations are conducted in the respective ATO centers which could be found in major cities around the world.

Authorized training organizations provide comprehensive courses on Prince2 project management methodologies and techniques. There are two types of trainings being offered by authorized training organizations. The first is called Foundation Level which is usually a three day training course for beginners and students of project management. The more comprehensive course is the Practitioner Level training which usually last for five days. It tackles advance studies of Prince2 methodologies and normally covers practical applications of the framework.

Training organizations should be accredited by the APM group. This is the central body that gives authority to these centers to train professionals. The APM Group is also responsible in giving Prince2 certification exams. Successful examinees will be accredited by the Group as a Certified Prince2 practitioner. Unsuccessful examinees have to take a refresher course especially in the Practitioner Level studies. Examinations are scheduled regularly, which allow flexibility for working professionals. Certification examinations are very competitive although the format of exam has been changed from essay type to multi-choice test.

Some companies are requiring their project managers to undergo Prince2 training and certification. A certification from APMG usually means upward career movement for some project managers. That is why authorized training organizations are in demand right now and their trainees continue to increase.

UNDERSTANDING PRINCE2 BASICS: THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

The Prince2 framework for effective project management is a standard set of practice initially designed for reorganizing and improving the system of government organizations. The methods of Prince2 however have evolved to encompass even large projects initiated by private companies. This is because the system can be scaled and customized to suit any type of projects. Understanding Prince2 basics is very important for project managers. This will enable them to efficiently implement and manage any projects.

Prince2 methodology is founded on certain basic characteristics. It starts with a business case. This aspect is very important to justify the implementation of a project and the necessary resources and personnel needed for the project. This will be presented to the stakeholders and the board of directors which functions as an oversight body. Prince2 also organizes different stages of the project into distinct processes which are interconnected. Goals are planned and the underlying methods to reach the desired output. Any deviation from this would require automatic review. This will ensure that risks and mistakes are minimized to avoid unnecessary delay in the process of implementation.

Control is also a basic feature of Prince2 methods. Project structures are defined as well as the different tasks and responsibilities of every structure. There would be effective checks and balances at every stage of the project. This is reinforced by the institution of efficient communication among project implementers.

Prince2 is a probably the best method to use in managing any type of projects. Managers should familiarize themselves with the basic procedures and processes embodied in Prince2.

LUCRATIVE PRINCE2 BEGINNERS' JOBS

Prince2 beginners can secure lucrative positions whether in government or private corporations. The demand for Prince2 practitioners is on the rise and middle level managers should equip themselves with skills and knowledge on the principles and procedures of Prince2 methodology. There are many job opportunities for project managers. However, some companies require applicants to have a comprehensive grasp of Prince2 principles. Being an accredited Prince2 practitioner can also give project managers significant edge over their competitors.

Beginner Prince2 practitioners should pursue further training and studies in advanced project management courses. In a company setting, Prince2 practitioners who are just starting their career as project managers can get positions such as assistant managers or line managers responsible for a specific project structure.

This is a good training ground for new Prince2 practitioners. The training imparted during certification process can now be applied in a real life situation. Theoretical knowledge can be tested on different scenarios and the applicability of Prince2 principles could be put into action.

Prince2 beginners can also serve as assistant consultant. This is good training for project managers who wish to establish their own practice. More companies are outsourcing their project management tasks to third party consultancy group or to an outside consultant.

After gaining enough experience, Prince2 practitioners can comfortably offer their expert services to several companies. Project managers with expertise in the Prince2 methodology can command lucrative salaries from companies. Being an expert in Prince2 increases the chance of project managers to quickly climb the corporate ladder.

PRINCE2 BOOKS: REPOSITORY OF BEST PRACTICES

Prince2 books are valuable reference materials for new and established project managers. Books on Prince2 principles can guide managers on their project management tasks. Aside from being an expert in project management, Prince2 practitioners should also be avid readers of books and other reference materials. This would enrich their knowledge base which could be very valuable for their profession.

Prince2 books are widely available on the market. Some titles can be found on the Internet and are being sold as downloadable electronic books. General references such as manuals and guide books are available for the public. These are free reading materials provided by developers of Prince2 method. Training organizations also offer free reference materials. However, advanced courses need specialized books and references and these could be acquired in online bookshops for a reasonable price.

Prince2 books are also available as paperback editions and are sold in major bookstores around the globe. There are many publishing houses that are producing quality books on Prince2 and these could greatly help every practitioner. Online bookstores also offer Prince2 paperback editions and it is usually delivered to subscribers upon payment of necessary fees and charges.

Books on Prince2 are very important. It could help project managers refine their skills and improve on their practice. Books contain the best practices of other companies with analysis on mistakes committed. Knowing past experiences can significantly reduce mistakes when implementing a project. In the end, Prince2 books can provide valuable lessons and insights to improve the current practice of project management.

WHY A PRINCE2 BOOK PACKAGE IS BETTER THAN ANY OLD REVIEWER

Studying for the Prince2 exams can be a bit overwhelming if you do not know where to begin. Should you buy some materials, or should you save enough money to enroll in a review course? Can you handle such an endeavor alone, or will you need the support and the additional wisdom from fellow test takers? Will you have to quite your current projects just so you can have ample time to study, or are you willing to juggle the review with your other life responsibilities? These and so much more can gnaw at the minds of would-be Prince2 project management method test takers.

The first thing you need to do is assess how many percent of the entire system you already know by heart and can perform to the letter. If you realize that you will need additional human help, then by all means do enroll in a class that can help you pass the test. But if you think you can hack it with just a little bit of alone time and some study materials, then you should really consider ordering a book package for your Prince2 review.

A book package will contain high quality reviewers that are developed by the specialists over at Prince2. Aside from this, you will also receive training manuals and step-by-step guides and emergency handbooks that will surely help you beyond the test. While any reviewer will guide you through the test itself, a book package will ensure that you have the guidance you actually need once you become a certified Prince2 professional. Is not it so much better to have some help for something – both for now and in the future?

CURE YOUR PRINCE2 BRAIN DRAIN WITH BRAINDUMPS

Studying for a Prince2 project management method exam can be quite...well, brain draining. You have so many terms to memorize, so many frameworks to weave through, so many systems to commit to heart. Before you panic and run off in the other direction, keep in mind that there are other things that can surely help you rise up from your brain drain – or prevent you from having one. The answer lies in braindumps – no matter how ironic that term may sound!

Have you heard of braindumps? These come in many forms, but the bottom line is that braindumps are aids that will help you commit to memory everything you need to know about the Prince2 project management method. Some examples of braindumps are sample questions and answers that were lifted off the tests themselves (both from Foundation and Practitioner exams). In short, braindumps are the actual exam questions themselves.

Talk about a real honest to goodness exam knowledge boost! Braindumps can also come in the form of tips or helpful advice that people who are knowledgeable about the Prince2 project management method are willing to share with newbies. Their tips were formulated because of their experience with the system – so you can be sure to watch out for any potholes or easily solve any problem once you start handling the system yourself. If you think about it, braindumps are like a vast collection of knowledge that everyone has contributed in – and it is meant to be shared for everyone's benefit as well.

CASE STUDIES: WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION OF THE SUCCESS OF PRINCE2

Since the Prince2 project management method has been applied in many different corporations all belonging to different industries, there can be many case studies made out of other people's experience in handling such a system. Prince2 is a structured approach that has the capability of being tailored to a particular type of project – no matter how big or small. If this is the premise, then we can really imagine the width and breadth of the different case studies that involve the use of the Prince2 project management method in large scale corporations and also in the cottage industries.

For example, one extremely popular case study regarding the use of the Prince2 project management method is the experience that was shared by the Cheshire Constabulary. This organization is known for being one of the early users of the Prince2 project management method – going as far back as the year 1996. The Cheshire Constabulary's good experiences with the Prince2 project management method are clearly defined in the case study that they have. Their case study also notes that thanks to the Prince2 project management method, their desire to implement a Corporate Strategy was carried on to the fullest – it was very successful, highly regarded and highly inspirational for the members of the group. Thanks to the help that was provided by the Prince2 project management method, the Cheshire Constabulary was able to provide only the best and the service that is of the highest possible quality to the people and the different communities that all reside in Cheshire.

COMPUTER-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR PRINCE2 TEST TAKERS

You might be wondering what the best possible option for studying for the Prince2 exams are. After some deliberation, you decide that you might get really good help if you enroll in a human course that will help you remember the things you need to learn in the test. Unfortunately, there is not much left in your pocket to pay for a human course and you can hardly afford to take some time out of your very hectic schedule to actually attend it. What is a dude to do in a situation such as this? The answer lies in the heart of technology, then – go for a CBT (or a computer-based training)!

There are many online consulting companies that can pinpoint you in the direction of Web sites that offer online training sessions that can help you cover everything that is mentioned in the Foundation or Practitioner syllabi of the Prince2 project management method. The advantage of enrolling in an online course is two things that provide a solution to the previous predicament that was mentioned a while ago:

1. One, it is a lot cheaper since the trainers do not need to pay for a training room or actual live materials; and

2. Two, you can review to your heart's content anywhere you wish – for as long as you can log on to the Internet without a hitch, that is.

Such a method of studying is comparable to attending a general three day classroom course that is offered by all accredited training organizations of Prince2 practitioners. Imagine – you can take the course on your own time while being virtually guided by an accredited trainer of Prince2! Now that is what you can call a personalized service that does not leave a hole in your pocket!

A PEEK INTO PRINCE2 CERTIFICATION

Being certified in the Prince2 project management method is no easy task to fulfill. S such, you cannot go around passing the test with half a day's review. If you want to be certified in Prince2, you need to bring out the books and burn the midnight candle! Well, at least for some people. Basically, the Prince2 project management method certification is composed of two exams which you need to pass – aptly named Foundation and Practitioner.

The first exam, the Foundation exam, will compose of an entire hour of sweatin' it out with a series of multiple choice questions. If you pass it, congratulations – but no need to pop open that wine bottle just yet because you still have one more trial to go through! The Practitioner exam is three times as long as the Foundation exam. Just like the harder levels in most video games, you still have the same concept of answering objective type questions. The catch? You can only use the official Reference Manual for a quick refresher every time you get stumped on a question. AS of late, it has been confirmed that the Practitioner exam is no longer a purely open book type of test.

Apparently, the standards have been raised! Now, certification is attainable only through long hours of hard work (read: reviewing) and a faith in one's knowledge about the Prince2 project management method – and a little peek into the official Reference Manual as well. You will be completely certified in no time!

WANT A SALARY UPGRADE? BE CERTIFIED IN PRINCE2!

Why is everyone looking to be certified in Prince2 project management method? Is there really an edge to having that piece of paper declaring you as a Prince2 project management expert? Are the benefits worth it? More importantly, is the effort you invested (i.e. Slaving over your review and sacrificing pleasure time for studying) worth it?

If you must need more convincing evidence that will surely make you think that being certified in Prince2 project management method is worth everything, then you are in for some really surprising – pleasantly surprising, or astoundingly shocking, even – news. According to recent surveys that track down the salaries of different occupations, those who are certified in Prince2 and practice it in their current occupations have one of the highest salaries in the country.

How would you like to be at the very top of the salary scale? As it turns out, certified Prince2 professionals average over eighty thousand dollars per annum in the United States alone (some even earn more than that in other cities or metropolitan areas). Outside the country, the same rate applies—especially if the experts come from the United Kingdom (the birthplace of Prince2 project management method) and expatriated into far countries.

This piece of information alone is powerful enough to move others into pursuing a career in Prince2 project management method. It will probably take more pages to fully explain the benefits of Prince2 project management, but you will probably agree that this one will already suffice!

SHEDDING LIGHT ON PRINCE2'S “CLOSE A PROJECT” SECTION

All projects that are undertaken, whether using Prince2 project management methods or not, have three parts – a beginning, a middle and an end. While the first two ones are obviously the planning and implementing stages, what goes on in the ending or the “close a project” part?

In a nutshell, the Prince2 close a project section is in charge of checking all the tasks and making sure that each has been completed. It acts as a supervisor slash checker, ensuring that all the products that were developed in the project have been successfully delivered into the hands of their customers – and with much approval at that.

The close a project section also makes sure that there is a detailed record or documentation of any additional actions that were taken during the course of the project, such as maintenance checks and support groups. Before the project is closed and shelved, an assessment plan is conducted in order to evaluate the benefits that became the outcome of the project's business case.

A final report also finds its home in the close a project section of the Prince2 project management method. This final report is a full record of the actual performance of the entire project and is compared with the initial objectives and expected outputs that were outlined in the Project Initiation Document. These findings are reported back to the team and finally, the close a project's last task is to file for a request to the Project Board to conclude the end of such an endeavor.

PRINCE2 COMPONENTS: AN EIGHT-STEP PROCESS

The Prince2 project management system is made up of a series of intricately woven components that all work together in order to perform the expected project tasks that the user has assigned. Specifically, there are eight components:

1. The first component goes by the title Business Case. Here you can find the justification for starting a project in the first place;
2. Next comes the component called Organization. The Organization component will define who the members of the project team are and what their role is in the entire project structure;
3. The third component, the Plans component is in charge of documenting the methods in which the project will be carried out and what it actually aims to accomplish. Included here are the specific responsibilities of each person that is assigned to a particular aspect of the project;

4. Fourth, we have the Controls component, which will state how much control the project manager and the project board is allowed to exercise in order to carry out the project smoothly and in the most efficient means possible;
5. Next comes the Management of Risk component. Here, the different types of risks that a project might encounter are in detail. The risk is defined as an outcome that has an ambiguous nature, or it can be negative or positive. However you may look at it, an approach is necessary to deal with the results of such an encounter;
6. After this comes Quality in a Project Environment, which is the way in which the entire project must ensure that quality is upheld every time a product is released and delivered to the customers;
7. Configuration Management, the seventh component, is the way in which the products that were produced are tracked and monitored; and finally we have
8. The Change Control component, wherein the ways in which the management of the project is to any specifications are determined.

PRINCE2 COURSE: WORTH THE INVESTMENT? DEFINITELY.

The debate over whether or not to enroll in a Prince2 project management method course can take you so many days to finish, but if you think about it, it all boils down to two things: time and money. If you lack both, then you will most likely end up doing a self-review of sorts with whatever reviewer you can scrounge up – borrowed from friends, lifted off the Internet and some conversations with actual Prince2 project management method professionals themselves – in whatever time you have on your hands (while riding the cab, waiting for your dinner to arrive, in between work tasks and before going to bed).

If you really prepared for the Prince2 course, chances are you had saved up some cash in order to enroll in a course and blocked off at least two consecutive days which you will allocate from your course class time. If you did, then congratulations! Many will admire your determination to truly immerse yourself in the ins and outs of Prince2 project management method.

The price of the courses will vary – some will be a couple of hundred dollars while the most expensive course runs up to two thousand dollars. It is usually a two-day event that will reintroduce you to the Prince2 methodology and will provide great tips that will allow you to commit the basic processes and tools to memory. A Prince2 project management course is primarily focused on connecting the processes with actual and practical application, enabling the users to see the logic and the efficiency behind such a system.

PRINCE2 COURSE MATERIAL: SHARPENING THE SKILLS OF PROJECT MANAGERS

Prince2 course materials are important sources of information for anyone who is preparing for Prince2 certification exams. Course materials for Prince2 trainings include manuals, study guides, workbooks, spreadsheets, graphs, and interactive media. There are numerous study and training materials to choose from and some of it will really come in handy when examination time comes.

Prince2 course materials are organized according to the level of training of students. Those taking the Foundation level trainings can avail of course materials that tackle the basics of Prince2. It includes standard manuals, guidebooks, study tips and tricks, and spreadsheets that introduce different forms and tools in applying the Prince2 method. Some training centers or organizations even give their students complimentary DVDs that show the step by step process of project management using the Prince2 method.

For advanced project management courses, managers should take the Practitioner level training. This level of study requires a totally different set of course materials in order to build the capacity of trainees in understanding more complicated concepts, processes, and applications. Aside from the basic study materials required for Foundation training, Practitioner level course materials include whole set of recognized books and manuals which discuss the intricacies and practical application of Prince2. There are problem solving references where actual and real life Prince2 practice is presented to the trainees. Cases must be solved by the trainees and corrective actions should be recommended. These course materials will really hone the skills of trainees in the practice of Prince2 methodology. It will also prepare the trainees for the rigorous Prince2 certification exams.

TAKING PRINCE2 COURSES IS A FORWARD CAREER MOVEMENT

Project managers can improve their skills and gain new insights in applying the Prince2 methodology by taking accredited project management courses. Prince2 courses are designed to train professionals in handling real life project management tasks. The courses also prepare trainees for the Prince2 certification exams.

Basically, there are two major training courses that project managers should take to master the application of Prince2 to their projects. The first one is the Prince2 Foundation training course which helps the trainee in understanding the concepts and processes of Prince2 method. This is a three-day training course that includes introduction of Prince2 application, familiarization and better grasp of Prince2 tools and methods, and study of best practices. The course will give project managers the complete picture of Prince2 methods. This could help them gain confidence in handling complicated project management tasks.

Another important course for project managers is the five-day Prince2 Practitioner training. This is a more advanced course offering which deals with the application of theory to real scenarios. The course is a combination of Foundation and Practitioner trainings and comprehensively explores the inner working of Prince2 framework. This course will greatly improve the mastery of project managers in applying Prince2 to their own projects.

Prince2 courses can enhance the qualifications of project managers as Prince2 practitioners. It will definitely help in facing the challenges of project management in their own respective industries. The courses can also serve as preparation for the competitive Prince2 accreditation exams. These trainings are good investments. Every project managers should take advantage of it to improve their skills and learn the art of Prince2 methods.

PRINCE2 COURSES CERTIFICATION: SURE TICKET TO SUCCESS

A certified Prince2 practitioner has a definite advantage over other project managers lacking skills and training in the Prince2 methodologies. More than the additional advantage in skills and knowledge, the job market for project managers usually requires a certain level of grasp in the Prince2 methods and principles.

To be able to get proper certification and be considered as an accredited Prince2 practitioner, one must undergo series of trainings that are given by accredited Prince2 training organizations. These accredited training centers give Prince2 courses which are designed to equip project managers with necessary skills in handling any type of project using Prince2 methodologies.

For basic Prince2 training, the Foundation level course can be availed. This is a 3-day affair which generally covers the basic principles and applications of Prince2 methods. On the other hand, project managers who wish to further advance their careers should take the Practitioner level training. It is a course which lasts for 5 days and tackles complicated real life project management situations. The Prince2 principles and processes will be applied to real problems which can give insights on the details of Prince2 methodologies.

Trainees can opt to take a Prince2 certification exam after their training. This is highly recommended in order to enhance the qualifications of project managers. Examinations can be booked online but the actual tests will take place in testing centers designated by the accredited training organization. Successful examinees will be accredited as a certified Prince2 practitioner. This badge of honor will definitely boost the careers of every practicing project managers.

SIMPLE PRINCE2 DESCRIPTION FOR BEGINNERS

The Prince2 project management methodology can be summarized using three key terms. Basically, Prince2 is all about organizational focus, effective control, and efficient management. Everything about Prince2 methodology revolves around these three important features. Correct implementation of key Prince2 principles could ensure prompt delivery of successful projects. So a good project manager should fully apply all the basic elements of Prince2 in order to get maximum benefits from this innovative project management model.

The Prince2 method was introduced in 1989. It was developed by the government of UK through its Central Computer and Telecommunication Agency. The CCTA was later renamed Office of Government Commerce, which now holds the trademark of the Prince2 project management methodologies. The system was originally designed as a standard model for all IT based project management tasks of United Kingdom.

Because of the inherent flexibility and universal applicability of Prince2, it has been used for other projects even in non-IT environments. Today, Prince2 has been recognized as a standard method for all project management tasks of UK. The influence of Prince2 however has reached other countries and it is being applied to projects initiated by major industries and large organizations throughout the world.

Prince2 method's effectiveness is due to the fact that it considers project management as a dynamic process. The system institutes effective organizational structures that complement each other. It rationalizes every project and derives from it achievable goals and deliveries. Each stage of the project will be monitored and any slippage will be resolved at once by responsible bodies. Suffice it to say that Prince2 stands on full control and pro-active management of the project using efficient organizational process. These are the key factors that contribute to the success of the Prince2 model.

PRINCE2 DOCUMENTS: THE PRACTITIONER'S BEST FRIEND

To better grasp the essence and understand the applicability of the Prince2 methods, one should diligently study every available Prince2 documents. These important texts can give Prince2 practitioners the necessary guidance for their project management tasks. Constant study and review of Prince2 guide documents can sharpen the skills of every project managers that are using the Prince2 framework.

Prince2 documents come in many forms. The standard document which is very important to acquire is the Prince2 manual. This manual is widely distributed over the Internet and it can be accessed or downloaded for free. The manual covers every aspect of Prince2 and discusses the technicalities of the processes involved in Prince2.

Some Prince2 documents come in the form of workbooks and guide books. These are also generally available on the net. Some training organizations give Prince2 workbooks as added service. They distribute it especially to those interested in taking Prince2 training. These workbooks contain actual situations of companies that implemented the Prince2 approach to project management. It contains valuable insights precisely because practice is normally a rich source of best experience. Best methods can be studied thoroughly to give examples to practitioners about practices that worked.

Other documents like Prince2 forms, tables, process flow, and organizational charts can also assist project managers in understanding the details of Prince2. These documents are sometimes included in workbooks or Prince2 templates which can be accessed for free. Web sites devoted to Prince2 usually allow its visitors to download such documents. The templates can help project managers design a Prince2 model easily.

ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES TO PASS THE PRINCE2 EXAM

A Prince2 certification can significantly enhance the career of a project manager. It will be an advantage in terms of getting juicy positions within a company or clinching a lucrative consultancy job. The accreditation and certification process is not mandatory but it is highly recommended for every project managers who wish to advance their career in project management. In order to get a Prince2 certification, one must undergo a comprehensive training and take the accreditation exams.

Prince2 examinations are highly competitive. It can last for hours and the examinee must answer hundreds of questions for a very limited time. Not preparing well could mean failure and subsequent retake which is very cost prohibitive. To avoid unfavorable results of examinations, practitioners could take advantage of online simulated tests. Some training organizations provide this service to their trainees. These simulated exams can help condition the examinees which is a good preparation for the rigorous actual test.

There are also Prince2 exam questionnaires or sample test papers available on the Internet. Aspiring examinees should take advantage of these by making hard copies of the questionnaires. They could start practicing for the exams by answering the downloaded test papers. This is a good way of familiarization and getting initial grip on the details of actual examinations.

There are many ways to prepare for Prince2 exam. Those who wish to get the valued Prince2 certification should practice diligence and creativity in preparing for the actual tests. Prince2 examinations would be easier to handle if examinees have prepared excellently for it.

NEW PRINCE2 EXAMINATION METHOD: CHANGE FOR THE BETTER?

Not many years ago, Prince2 examinations are essay-type tests. Examinees will be presented with lots of practical questions and the answer should be written legibly and of course, correctly. Previous examinations lasts for almost three to four hours and within that limited time, the examinees must build their cases and propositions on the questions at hand. Usually, the questions demanded practical solutions to some of the most pressing project management problems. And it follows that the examinees should use the Prince2 methodologies in solving the problems.

This type of exam was replaced by an objective testing method. In practical parlance, today's Prince2 examinations are multiple choice exams. Questions will be presented to the examinees and there are four arrayed answers to choose from. The time allotted to finish the whole exam did not change but the number of questions ballooned. The same pressure is still there and some examinees are really hard pressed to complete the exams at the appropriate time.

Some sectors asserted that the quality of Prince2 examinations have been downgraded by the implementation of the multi-choice system. However, developers and official test makers disputed this claim. In fact, the examination became more competitive and the level of difficulty increased. The wide range of topics that can be covered by the new examination system can be considered as an upgrade because test masters can concretely determine the actual grasp of examinees on the different elements of Prince2.

The change lessened the writing time of examinees but it significantly increased their thinking time. For most practitioners, this is a good development.

VALUABLE TIPS WHEN TAKING THE PRINCE2 EXAMS

There is no single formula on how to successfully pass the Prince2 exams. In fact, examinees can use several techniques in order to hurdle the difficult exams on their first try. However, it is always good to remember that the most basic and very important thing that an examinee should do is to prepare intensively. This is the key in order to successfully pass the Prince2 exams.

The first thing an examinee should do is to book a slot in Prince2 training course. Through trainings, aspiring Prince2 examinees can get important details and practical solutions to project management problems.

After the training, the examinee should allot enough time for review and preparation. Actual preparations should include taking mock exams or simulated tests. This stage is very important in order to get the feel of actual testing environments.

Mock exams are good but it should be constantly reinforced by regular reviews. There are review papers for Prince2 exams which are available on the market. The best ones are those that contain valuable tips and reminders on how to pass Prince2 tests.

Other than the mental preparations, examinees should also prepare their physical condition. Rest is a must because a tired body will not be able to withstand the pressure of Prince2 examinations. Enough rest can also avoid sluggish thinking so this part is also very essential.

On examination day, the examinee should come to the venue on time to avoid undue pressure. It is true that Prince2 exams are very difficult. But the examinee could make it easier with proper preparation methods.

SAVE TIME AND RESOURCES: USE PRINCE2 FORMS

When using Prince2 templates, project managers will encounter numerous forms, charts and tables. These Prince2 forms are very important in order to design a good project using the Prince2 methods. Developers of Prince2 however are encouraging users to customize and scale the forms according to the requirements of a specific project. This will make Prince2 more dynamic and it could also enrich the body of knowledge that could be attributed to the Prince2 framework.

Prince2 forms normally are formatted in standard word processing program. This would make it easier for users to utilize the form because the need for conversion or additional software will be eliminated. Some forms can also be availed in PDF files. PDF documents can be viewed easily on any browser and it should work with different platforms. The program is a freeware and could be downloaded from the Internet.

Using standard Prince2 forms can significantly reduce the preparation of management teams in starting up a project. Designing numerous forms for a project will definitely eat a lot of time. Since time is essential for any project, the time saved in using Prince2 forms can be devoted to other equally important tasks of the management team.

Using Prince2 forms can also reduce the cost of project start up. Project management forms are costly. The free forms available in Prince2 templates can definitely give positive impact on the project financials.

Prince2 forms are very important. It can be used to make work easier and also helps in reducing project start up costs.

PRINCE2 FOUNDATION CLASSROOM TRAINING OR CBT COURSES: WHICH IS BETTER?

One of your options to get a comprehensive training to learn more or hasten your knowledge and expertise about Prince2 is to sign up for a Prince2 Foundation Course. Aside from developing project management skill sets, enrolling to such course will also give you the much needed preparation before taking up a life-changing exam. Because of this training, you will also gain more confidence to involve yourself in various projects that your organization may require you to participate in.

There are a lot of training institutions that are offering Prince2 Foundation Courses. Prince2, being one of the internationally recognized in the world of project management, has been the inspiration for project managers, IT personnel and other professionals to do the switch in their careers and take on new challenges as Prince2 advocates. Some (if not all) of these institutions have their own Web sites to accommodate inquiries about training schedules, fees and other necessary requirements. The course duration varies from 3 days up to week, depending on the content of the modules. There may also be exams to test the delegates' knowledge and get constant feedback every now and then so that trainers will have an idea on how to deliver topics in such a way that everyone will understand.

Prince2 Foundation courses are also available in computer-based training (CBT) format that you can access at the comfort of your own home. This is much cheaper compared to classroom training; however, you may not raise some of your questions since a trainer will not be available. But then again, some CBT providers have incorporated interactive features to their software programs so that students will not be bored while learning Prince2.

Now the choice is yours in the making.

HOW COPIES OF FOUNDATION EXAMS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR PRINCE2 CERTIFICATION

Do you want to know the easiest way to pass the Prince2 Foundation certification exam? Then you may want to search for copies of Prince2 Foundation exam questions that can be downloaded from the Internet. Though there is no assurance that these questions will be given again on the next exam, still it is worth a shot to find answers to these questions. This may also act as a form of a review for you. There are a lot of Web sites that offer such downloadables, either for free or for a premium fee that is reasonable enough for delegates on a tight budget. It would be advantageous if you will do this as a group to lessen the load of uncovering the answers to certain challenging questions.

This has always been an issue to some since they claim that this is a sort of cheating. Well maybe it is if you will bring it with you during the exam and peep on some answers. If not, then it could just be a form of a resource material that you can take advantage of during training. However, it is not good to rely only to these exam copies in passing the exam. Candidates should still have to work their butts off in understanding the concepts and processes behind Prince2 to prepare them on taking bigger project support roles in the future.

There is nothing wrong on being resourceful. Checking on some Web sites that could give you review materials before the exam is a plus on your part. Who knows? You might be surprised that the first question on the actual exam happens to be one of the questions that you have reviewed.

REVIEWING PRINCE2 FOUNDATION EXAM QUESTIONS: AVOIDING ERRORS FROM THE PAST

In a typical high school classroom setting wherein the final exam will cover everything that has been discussed since the start of the school year, the best way to revisit past lessons is by reviewing the test questions that you have taken previously. This is the best way to check your knowledge and assess your confidence in passing the long and grueling final exam. By doing this, you already have a slight idea on what questions to expect, which will give you better chances of getting a high score and eventually pass the exam.

This is also similar in taking certification programs such as Prince2 Foundation. Since there have been a lot of exams conducted in the past, you can use those past questions as a sort of a review. It does not matter if you are a first time taker or an exam veteran. Taking advantage of such resource will definitely affect the results of your exam in a positive way.

Because of the need to pass the exam that paved the way for Website administrators to make past exam questions available for others to download in a form of an exam simulator, hoping that it will help them ease the pain of revisiting past lessons. But then again, there is no assurance that past exam questions will reappear on the next Prince2 Foundation exam. However, this will still help you develop strategies in answering the exam. Prince2 Foundation exam should be completed within an hour and therefore it would be best to have a sample exam first to know how it feels like to answer 75 questions within specific time constraints. Surely, you will never regret it.

PRINCE2 FOUNDATION EXAM: YOUR BRIDGE TO PRINCE2 PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

Taking on an exam is one of the things that make people nervous, especially when you are not that confident on your answers. To avoid this from happening, you have to take into consideration a much needed preparation to ensure your way in passing the exam. There are a lot of reference materials that you can choose from. You can either read books or browse Web sites to get the information that you need. Just like when taking on certification programs such as the Prince2 Foundation exam, you will definitely need every help that you can get.

The Prince2 Foundation exam will test a candidate's knowledge of the Prince2 methods. The candidate should have an understanding of the terminologies and principles behind Prince2 that he or she can apply as a future member of a project management team that supports Prince2. This may come as a challenge as 75 mind-boggling questions await those who will be taking the exam on a multiple choice format. The exam should be completed within an hour wherein candidates should have answered 38 questions correctly for them to pass. Unlike the Prince2 Practitioner exam, you are not allowed to bring your manuals with you to search on possible answers during the Prince2 Foundation exam.

Therefore, attending comprehensive training courses is a must. You can also take sample Prince2 quizzes to assess how prepared and confident you are before the actual exam date. To avoid cramming, you may also form your own strategy in answering exam questions so that you will be assured to have it done within the required parameters. Indeed, your Prince2 training will be your sole line of defense against failing the exam.

PRINCE2 FOUNDATION: IS IT THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU?

One of two PProjects IN Controlled Environments (Prince2) certification programs that you may want to get into is Prince2 Foundation. This is one step closer to becoming a bonafide Prince2 Practitioner. Obtaining a Prince2 Foundation certification will not only develop your skills and acquire more knowledge of the different processes behind Prince2, but this will also boost your professional career prospects as this can be one of the aces in your resume. If you would like to work as a support to a big project, then Prince2 Foundation is just right for you. You may end up doing administrative, technical or marketing functions, which will definitely enhance your project management skills.

Now who would be the best candidates to take up a Prince2 Foundation exam? The Prince2 Foundation exam is open to all interested applicants who would like to hasten their skills as far as Prince2 is concerned. If you are just new or even an experienced member of the project delivery team and would like to take on bigger roles as a support staff, then you may want to consider taking up the Prince2 Foundation exam. This exam also fits those who would like to become Prince2 Practitioners someday such as the contractual staff and consultants who are already working on a Prince2 environment. There are a few project management processes around and since Prince2 is one of the widely used, other project managers are considering a switch to Prince2.

Prince2 Foundation is indeed the right choice for a program management certification. More and more organizations are realizing the advantages of Prince2 and they are all making changes to their current processes. Passing the Prince2 Foundation exam will not only give you the experience that you need, but a brighter future as well.

PRINCE2 DOWNLOADS: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FREE RESOURCES

“Free service” is something that everyone would like to take advantage of. May it be a “30-day free trial” or a “buy 1 – take 1” promo, this will definitely be a hit to budget conscious consumers. Such offers are commonly seen through the Web pages displayed on the Internet. All you need to do is to click on a link or button and you will get the service that you need.

The same promo is being offered to people who would like to take chances on passing certification exams such as the Prince2 Foundation and Practitioner levels. When a candidate has shown his or her intent of getting a certification, he or she has to be armed with an extensive understanding of the various processes involved in Prince2 project management. This can only be done by taking classroom training courses or computer-based training (CBT). Since classroom training may require candidates more time and effort to complete, many resort to online training. Aside from the fact that it is cheaper, it is also more convenient since you take the course any time you like.

Because of the growing demand for online training, a lot of Web sites have been developed with free downloads that everyone can enjoy. Some Web sites present it as an introductory offer and once you get hooked with the service, you can get additional content at a very affordable price. Indeed Prince2 free downloads are beneficial, but may offer limited information as well. However, be cautious of virus and spyware that may also penetrate your system after the download. Getting it from a more reliable source or Web site would be a lot safer.

A BRIEF PRINCE2 HISTORY: A LOOK BACK

Looking back, it is said that projects then were not delivered on time. A lot of factors may have contributed to this failure such as lack of competent people to run the project or the directors have exceeded project costs from the proposed budget. It is because of these reasons that institutions have taken the initiative to draft certain processes that are proven effective towards project success and devise a project management standard that others can follow. This is how Prince2 was developed.

The quest began in 1979 when the Central Computing and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) has adopted PROMPT, which is short for Project Resource Organization Management and Planning Techniques. This is in response to the different challenges that they have encountered, such as budget and time management, in running computer projects. PROMPT aims to set some guidelines in computer project management that has eventually led to the development of Prince (PROject IN Controlled Environments) in 1979.

Prince main features include a well-defined management structure, a systematic plan for resource management, a different set of control procedures and a renewed focus on obtaining project deliverables. But then again, the Prince methodology appears to be ambitious to other organizations that it can only be applied to large projects. This again paved the way for a revision released in 1996, called Prince2.

If Prince is only applicable to IT projects, Prince2 has been made as a generic one that can be used to non-IT controlled environments. It has been recognized worldwide and was updated in consultation in 2005. Because of this, Prince2 has become the de facto standard for project management; a success not only to its developers but for the whole industry as well.

IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH PRINCE2 QUESTIONNAIRES AND DOCUMENTS

Do you want to make sure that everything is in order and are aligned to the different Prince2 project management processes and principles? Then you may want to come up with an implementation questionnaire and other documents that you can look on once in a while to determine if there are settings that need to be adjusted or changed whenever necessary within the course of project implementation.

Here are some of these documents:

1. **Acceptance Criteria:** This is a document that can be written in a form of a questionnaire to determine the acceptability of a final product to its intended users (either customers or staff) against defined measurable terms. The results can then be accepted to improve or enhance the product being made;

2. **Configuration Item Record:** This is used to check the status of every item produced, if indeed it meets the standards of the company. Every piece of information that is written on this document will be used to make reference to product breakdown structure, change control, quality log and other relevant work packages;
3. **Issue Log:** This is where every issue experienced is documented. It can be in a form of a question, a concern or a request that needs to be brought to the attention of project developers. These issues should then be answered to determine the best course of action at any given time. If not yet answered, one can create a follow-up until the item is cleared; and
4. **Lessons Learned Log:** This is used to record any lesson learned, either good or bad, which can be used and applied on the next project. Usage of new tools and products can also be recorded in here for future reference.

PRINCE2 AND ITIL: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE IT INDUSTRY

Prince2 and ITIL works hand in hand in seeing to it that projects are done within the scope of certain standards and best practices. ITIL, which stands for Information Technology Infrastructure Library, holds a set of practices and concepts that are used to manage the development, infrastructure and operations of Information Technology (IT). As you can see, ITIL has a broader scope as it encompasses every single thing that is IT-related, from service delivery and support, to other major functions that include problem management, change management and availability management among others.

The area where Prince2 is used mostly on ITIL is ICT Infrastructure Management, specifically on ICT Deployment Management. This area of ITIL provides a structure for the successful management of various activities involved in an ICT project. These processes include designing, building, testing and rolling the product out to consumers. Following the Prince2 processes and principles will definitely make ICT projects successful.

However, it is a must that appropriate planning is done before anything else. In a Prince2 environment, planning has always been a part of the process so as to ensure if there is really a need for a certain project to be done. In the market today, a lot of innovations have been introduced, each promises to provide convenience to consumers. But you may also have noticed that some products that after a couple of months of release, they are no longer a hit to the market, simply because due to lack of value and importance. It is a fact that consumers are getting smarter and so project proposals should also follow. This is where ITIL and Prince2 stand, that every thing should be carefully planned and executed towards customer satisfaction.

WHAT JOBS AWAIT PRINCE2 PASSERS

Are you considering a sudden shift from your current career? Are you getting tired of doing the same thing every now and then, and at the end of the day you realized you are no longer happy? Having these questions on your mind make you a bit unproductive with your current work setup. People are known to get bored once in a while, however the renewed passion for work can only be attained if you are ready for changes and make a difference. One of the best ways that you can consider is getting a certification, such as Prince2 Foundation and Prince2 Practitioner.

To start off, you may want to enter Prince2 training programs that you can definitely learn a lot from. If you would like to involve yourself in a project but with limited support, then taking up a Prince2 certification exam is the right choice for you. Once you passed the exam, you can apply and work in various departments under the Prince2 environment. You may want to do administrative work, marketing job or technical support, whichever you find that will bring out your full potential.

On the other hand, if you are the “always on the go” type, would like to accept bigger roles and eventually run your own project, then take up the Prince2 Practitioner exam. This is more appropriate to previous project managers, general managers or other project staff that were proven effective in their roles within the project environment of Prince2. Considering such circumstances, it is indeed safe to say that you will find your niche with Prince2, aside from the additional color that it can provide to your comprehensive resume.

PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER EXAM REVISION AND ITS IMPORT FOR EXAM TAKERS

This is wonderful news to all Prince2 Practitioner certification aspirants. As of the 1st of September, 2007, the Prince2 Practitioner exam format has been changed from a regular multiple choice type to a scenario-based exam. There will only be 9 questions that will be asked during the exam but each question is worth 40 points. This means that you will get better chances of passing the exam since you will only need to apply what you have learned from months of preparation that includes classroom and computer-based training (CBT).

The passing mark for the Prince2 Practitioner exam will be 180 points. This means that you have to answer more than 4 questions correctly to get the certification. In this three hour exam, candidates are allowed to open their manuals. However, please take note that they only accept the Prince2 Manual. This is what makes the Prince2 Practitioner exam different from other certification exams. Yes, this may look easy for others. But then, you could be wrong so better think again and focus on your training.

The Prince2 Practitioner exam will definitely test your knowledge and skills of Prince2. First and foremost, you have to demonstrate your understanding with the processes behind Prince2, which will eventually prove your worth to be a certified practitioner. Every points count on this exam. Unlike in the previous multiple choice exam, all you have to do is to select the best answer. Now scoring would be entirely different. For each question you can obtain partial points depending on how accurate your answer is. Following of instructions is also a must so as to avoid making correct answers void.

PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER EXAMPLE EXAM: GETTING CERTIFICATION ON YOUR FIRST TAKE

Are you one of those unlucky fellows who have taken a certain certification exam but failed to deliver good results? Have you already resorted to different techniques necessary to pass the exam but you still end up failing? This is frustrating. Others who are on the same situation may have lost hope already and decided not to take the exam anymore. They are thinking that it is no longer necessary as it a waste of time and perhaps, valuable money. But then, there are others who keep on holding on as they are determined to obtain their goals. This is a characteristic that everyone should emulate.

Finding means to do better each and every time before a scheduled exam should be done smartly. You have to sit down first and reflect on the things that you could have prepared to pass the exam. You can also ask successful exam takers of the different practices that they have accomplished. Probably one will say that he or she have a taken a sample exam prior to taking the actual one. Just like taking Prince2 Practitioner exam, you definitely need to practice more as the 3 hour exam will stretch your brain muscles to the fullest.

What makes the Prince2 Practitioner exam different from others is that questions are derived from challenging project management scenarios. This will test your familiarity in applying the different Prince2 processes effectively on any given situation. Expect a really grueling and mind-boggling exam that will push your analytical skills to the limit. It is because of these reasons why it is very critical for you to take sample exams and apply the techniques that you have learned to make your next Prince2 exam a success.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER?

After passing the Prince2 Foundation exam, you may want to consider taking another step forward by preparing for the Prince2 Practitioner certification exam. Your certification for the Foundation exam serves as a pre-requisite to the Practitioner exam, though you also have the option to fast track and combine both by taking a 5-day classroom course or blended training. If you have passed the Prince2 Practitioner exam, this means that you are more than ready to take on leadership responsibilities as it will be your proof that you can already run projects. This is the reason why the Prince2 Practitioner certification attracts general managers, project managers, program managers and other project support staff.

As a requirement, Prince2 Practitioner exam candidates must pass the exam to demonstrate their working knowledge of Prince2 that will be applied to various project circumstances and to show their understanding of the different processes, techniques and components enveloping Prince2. In addition, the exam will cover questions that are with a scenario background, which means that if a candidate gave reasonable answers simply means that he or she is aware of the processes involved in the appropriate application of Prince2 towards project success.

Indeed, acquiring certifications has become the trend nowadays before you can get employed. It is a growing expectation that if you are into project management, you must have at least passed certification exams to gain the respect of many. Since Prince2 is a widely known brand, acquiring a Practitioner certification is important as it will give you better chances of manning or running a project that will definitely hasten your project management skills towards more fruitful years to come.

PRINCE2 PROCESS MAP: A QUICK REFERENCE TO PRINCE2 IMPLEMENTATION

If you are traveling and you find yourself lost from some unknown reasons, then what is the tool that you will use to put you back again on the right track? What is this thing that is often used by Amazing Race contestants? The answer, of course, is obviously the map. The map can provide you a quick reference as to where you are currently located. In Prince2, a process map is needed to determine the next step towards project implementation.

There are different processes involved in the creation of project as illustrated in the Prince2 process map:

- A. The first one is directing a project (DP), which marks the start of the project. This stage is aimed at the Project Board, which is used to monitor reports;

- B. Starting up a project (SU) is next in line, which happens to be the first Prince2 process that is aimed to determine if every prerequisite are indeed present and available before a project will be initiated;
- C. This leads to the third process, which is initiating a project (IP). What happens here is that everyone that is involved in the project should provide a justification to proceed with it and how it will be done;
- D. The fourth stage is managing stage boundaries (MSB) wherein the Project Board will now decide if the project should be continued;
- E. Once approved, this will be followed by controlling a stage (CS) wherein the project manager should control and monitor the activities of the project such as generation of reports among others;
- F. Managing product delivery (MP) is performed next to make sure that the planned products are created and delivered on schedule; and
- G. Closing a project (CP) is the next to wrap things up.

Not too complicated, is it?

THE KEY PEOPLE BEHIND THE PRINCE2 PROCESS

Prince2 is a set of processes and methodologies for project management, which has been proven effective through the years. This is the reason why more and more organizations, big or small, are following the Prince2 principles all for the successful completion of a project. These principles will not be implemented well if not for the different men and women behind the processes of Prince2, who also do special project management roles. These are some of them:

- A. **Executive** – the chairperson of the Project Board. He has the ultimate responsibility for the successful delivery of the project, as assisted by the Senior User and Senior Supplier. He ensures that everything is under control and that every process fulfills project objectives;
- B. **Senior User** – one of the members of the Project Board. He sees to it that every need of the customer who will use the product will be met in terms of functionality, quality and ease of use;

- C. **Senior Supplier** – also a member of the Project Board who is responsible for the design, development and implementation as well as operations and maintenance of project products. He also makes sure that every single thing delivered by the supplier is in good working condition; and
- D. **Configuration Librarian** – a chief custodian and keeper of all master copies of end products that were produced during the course of the project. He also maintains product's issue log, as well as documenting project's issues.

Indeed, a project will not be successful without the help of these talented individuals. Each and every one of them is working hard to make sure that every process done meets the standards of Prince2. Indeed, team effort keeps the flame alive in most projects.

PRINCE2: A (PROCESS) MODEL'S MODEL

A lot of people say that the Prince2 process method is a very structured approach when it comes to project management. Such a method provides for project management that is within a framework that is clearly defined. In simpler terms, Prince2 works to describe the procedures that are needed in order to coordinate the people and the activities that are required in a project. It also includes different ways to design and supervise such a project and what one can do if some adjustments need to be made if it does not develop or proceed as planned.

In the Prince2 process model, all of the different processes that make up the system has specific key inputs and outputs that all have their own individual goals and activities that should be performed. The model is divided into several manageable bits, so one can say that the Prince2 process model has a very efficient control of its resources, maximizing time and saving precious funds as a result.

Because it is an efficient system that is easy to control and easy to understand, it is no wonder Prince2 is such a popular and widely recognized project management method all over the world. Its easy to use method creates a common language that is easily understood by all the users of its projects. Thus, the people who make up the project team have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are prepared to give one hundred percent in their contribution to the entire project. No matter how simple or how complex a particular project may be for the company, the Prince2 method makes it easily accomplishable as a result.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO PRINCE2 PROCESS MODULES

The Prince2 project management method has two types of exams that one needs to pass in order to be called a certified expert in such a system. These two exams are called the Foundation exam – the basic test – and the Practitioner exam – applied test. Because there is so much that one needs to know in order to pass these two tests, experts in Prince2 have developed different types of modules that will not only help the test takers breeze through their exams, but also guide them into the actual work that they will do using Prince2 project management method. Because of this, theory and application go hand in hand in the module in order for the reader to truly appreciate the cohesiveness of the knowledge that make up Prince2 project management method.

The modules for both exams will also include sample questions that have a very high chance of coming out in the exams themselves. It also has easily understandable diagrams that the test takers will be able to commit to their memory in no time, as well as terms and definitions that they need to familiarize themselves with. Such modules are sure to be great buys, despite the hefty price tags that one might discover in most shops that offer these. This is because the modules will also include emergency how to guides in troubleshooting the system as well as a what to do list if ever something that is not supposed to happen occurs. In this light, the process model modules will find a permanent spot in your office desk once you become a certified expert in Prince2.

CREATING BETTER PROJECTS WITH PRINCE2

If you want to start a project, you might want to look into using Prince2 project management method in order to increase its chances for success. No matter how big or how small your project is, if it is a Prince2 project it is bound to be a really big success. Just think about it – Prince2 project management method covers all aspects of efficiency that one needs to have in carrying out any projects.

It will help you organize your plans and your resources. It can make like a transformer and easily tailor fit the functions according to your specific instructions. It can complete your project in the fastest time. It will also help you save on your resources and finances, as it works well below your budget. If you are a project manager, it would be so much easier to deal with your work if you have a Prince2 project, right? You can also train your subordinates in Prince2, and you will not have to worry about them creating accidental or unnecessary boo-boos because the system is easy to understand and easy to carry out.

If you want to know the key ingredients of a certified one hundred percent Prince2 project, watch out for these signs: it has a clearly defined life cycle, it has comprehensible business products, it has an efficient set of activities in order to produce the products, a clearly defined amount of finances and resources, and a powerful organizational structure (with responsibilities defined in black and white) that will serve as the foundation of the project itself.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT LIKE NO OTHER

Anyone well versed in Project Management ought to know Prince2 by heart – that is, if one knows that he is an exceptional project manager who is capable of churning out great results! Prince actually stands for Projects in Controlled Environments and it is one type of project management method that is widely used by many organizations, thanks to its ability to make projects easy to manage and control. This amazing system was created by the CCTA or otherwise known as the United Kingdom Computer and Telecommunications Agency. It has become such a success with the Brits that it now a great part of the OCG or the Office of Government Commerce back in the year 1989, serving as the numero uno standard when it comes to Information Technology project management. While the amazing Brits of the United Kingdom takes props for its development, it is also free to use by anyone and everyone. If you dig deeper, you will also know that the Prince2 traces its roots to PROMPT, a project management method back in the seventies.

Prince2 Project Management has widely used in the private as well as public sectors of many cities. Its popularity makes it, as previously mentioned, the industry standard in United Kingdom project management, but is also fast gaining ground in countries such as Holland, New Zealand and Australia. Soon enough, it will be well known all over Europe, the United States and Asia, and it will be the buzzword of all project management specialists of the world.

INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS IN PRINCE2 PROJECT MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

The Prince2 Project Management Methodology is made up of eight processes that all work together to come up with a really great result. From the planning of the project to the actual closing, these processes have definitive roles to play. These processes are, in their own ways, easy to manage and have a clear path that one can follow so as not to lose sight on the project itself. What makes Prince2 a success also lies in its business justification. Prince2 constantly strives to link project progress to the actual reason that the organization holds for providing support for the project itself. One can see the mandatory checks when one is just starting out in the business case in order to arrive at the point of declaring that such an endeavor is truly worth it. Its planning approach begins with the products itself, and works from there by collating it with the time and cost that are needed in order to complete the products. Such a technique zeros in on the goals of the project and keeps the customer in mind throughout its production.

In addition to this, Prince2 runs management by exception. It works on all levels of the entire project but has additional tools especially made for senior management, who are in a position to assume a leadership role and make wise decisions for the project team. All in all, Prince2 project management method has a stable structure that can be relied on for any type of project that one wishes to pursue.

WHY PRINCE2 IS THE SMART PROJECT MANAGER'S CHOICE

One favorite tool of savvy and experienced project managers is Prince2. Among the many choices out there, Prince2 serves as the industry standard for a number of reasons. Almost everyone already knows that Prince2 is popular because of its easy to tailor method, and that it also includes extensive information on how one can manage, organize and control the myriad of projects that all demand of your time and attention. Project managers look for systems or methods that will help them successfully deliver top notch products to their waiting customers right on time, and they have found out that Prince2 is the only project management method that can do this on time and with the least amount of resources and finances spent.

There are some principles of Prince2 that a project manager can also apply to any type of project that he may work on in the future – with or without the help of such a system. Thanks to Prince2, project managers will learn a lot on managing risks, controlling quality and change in a more effective manner, as well as maximizing the opportunities as well as challenges that result during the entire system of production. Some lessons that a project manager can learn from Prince2 includes establishing a finite life cycle, learning how to create measurable products, aligning the activities of the project to the end output, managing as well as conserving resources, and learning to operate and delegate the different responsibilities to other members of the project team.

WORD DOCUMENT TOOLKITS FOR BETTER PRINCE 2 MANAGEMENT

Handling projects is never easy, especially when people rely on your wisdom and ability to lead. This is where Prince2 comes in. Prince2 project management method not only gives you an easier time with your projects, but it also has the ability to make everything comprehensive by way of easy to consult documents or tool kits. These tool kits are different documents that allow you access to pertinent project-related information with just a few clicks of your computer. It was created by a group of project managers who have so many years of experience in Prince2, and is designed to help you get unstuck from any Prince2 rut. These documents come in a variety of formats, including word document. This way, you can apply it immediately and forge along your project without any fuss.

These word document toolkits have different key materials. It has project templates that will allow you to save time and help you take hold of the project in a more effective way. It has also got different types of project management presentations, from a high level introduction all the way to a very detailed introduction or Prince2 – along with the much-needed speaker notes! Role definition documents are also part of the toolkit, serving to document the important roles in the Prince2 environment, as well as a peek into inter-role playing. Still included are very important and up to date research articles that are reading musts in order to make you extremely well versed in Prince2 language.

THE TAIL END OF PRINCE2 QUALIFICATION

The reason why everyone is going for their Prince 2 qualifications is because of the number of benefits that one can get once you pass the Foundation and the Practitioner exams. But before we go into the high-paying jobs and the cushy workspaces that are part and parcel of Prince2 expert lives, we must first take into a look at the very thing that will determine your Prince2 qualifications: the Practitioner exams. You already know the basics and it will probably be enough for you to ace your Foundation test, but the percentage suddenly drops when it comes to the Practitioner exam. This is because some application is required, so no matter how much you memorize it will all be no good if you cannot put into action the sixty million terms that are currently swimming in your head.

As previously mentioned, the Prince2 Practitioner exam is the second of two tests that you must pass if you want to be a certified practitioner of Prince2 project management method. It aims to measure the candidate's ability to apply Prince2 in the real project setting. It has always been established that would-be Prince2 experts exhibit their competence in action so as to determine their eligibility for such a title and the benefits that come with it. The test takers will need to show how they address the different problems and needs of the project. To be more specific, they will need to provide detailed explanations of all the processes involved in Prince2 project management, as well as the different techniques and components that come out in any type of Prince2 project. It may sound very hard or quite overwhelming, but one simply needs some experience in applying Prince2 and it will be quite easy to demonstrate their competencies in the end.

PRINCE2 RISK MANAGEMENT: CONTROL IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

Control is one of the major elements that make Prince2 a reliable project management methodology. The systems of Prince2 seek to minimize the level of risk for a given project. Because risk is a natural feature of any type of projects, correctly identifying and applying mitigating solutions to it should be addressed by project managers. It is therefore imperative for every project managers to institute effective risk management using Prince2 control systems.

Risk management is a whole set of processes within Prince2 project management paradigm. The project manager should determine and identify actual and potential risks and it must be included in the planning stages. After this, the project manager should ensure that corrective action plans or contingency plans are in place for each identified risks. Responsibilities must also be assigned to the appropriate project teams who are capable of monitoring and evaluating the occurrence of risks. These mechanisms are good safeguards in order to anticipate risks and avoid slippage during the course of the project. All these measures show how Prince2 control systems contain risks and good project managers must implement these systems to ensure the success of the project.

Stakeholders should also be involved in the management of risks. During review processes, the project manager must inform stakeholders about the level of risks at every stage of the project and what mechanisms are in place to mitigate those. Full disclosure is important to properly assess risk levels and to determine if control mechanisms are sufficient. In doing this, everyone who is involved in the project can have a comprehensive view of the whole management process.

AUTOMATION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT USING PRINCE2 SOFTWARE

Prince2 software can provide powerful support for project managers who will implement projects using the Prince2 methodologies. The application automates tasks and processes that are required for every Prince2 projects. The software eliminates manual designing of project structures and gives accurate information on the data needed for each stage. Use of Prince2 software will enable project managers to initiate plans at record time without the danger of overlooking important tasks.

Functions of Prince2 applications include customizable project structures which simulates the standard manual process. The software will prompt users about the needed documentations and processes involved in each structure. For example, at the planning level, the software can guide the project manager in creating project briefs and rationale. These documents are required in order to justify other tasks of the entire project. At each step of the process, the software will ask the necessary reviews and evaluations and other documents that should be produced for that level. This powerful feature can make the work of project managers easier.

Prince2 software is free to use but some applications, especially those with advanced features require certain fee before one can download it from the Internet. The application can run on any platforms and can be used immediately after local installation. Upgrades are also available to enrich the software database and to add more templates for different project scenarios.

Prince2 applications are good tools that can help project managers systematize their work. The software is very valuable because it can actually speed up the implementation of any projects.

CREATING EXCELLENT PROJECT DESIGNS USING PRINCE2 TEMPLATES

Prince2 templates can be very handy when creating project designs. These templates offer ease of use so that project managers will be spared of the arduous task of creating forms, designing structures, and writing documents. Templates also minimize duplication of efforts because some projects may require same sets of documents. Project managers then can revise a few points and process in the template and the project is good to go.

Prince2 templates are generally available over the Internet for free. Most training organizations, Prince2 software vendors, and even the Office of Government Commerce of UK offer free downloadable templates which can be used immediately by project managers. Interested users can look up for free Prince2 templates on search engines and thousands of Web sites can be found offering templates for Prince2 practitioners.

Prince2 templates are very useful and can be used for any type of project. However, every project manager should understand that all projects have their own unique characteristics. It is imperative therefore to customize the templates according to the project's needs. The templates can also be scaled depending on the scope and size of each project. In this way, Prince2 templates will become more effective and it will add dynamism to the project design.

Prince2 templates can be the project manager's essential tool to simplify the work on project designs. Although it is recommended that in order for the templates to be effective, the project manager should customize and scale it to suit the needs of their project.

PRINCE2 TRAINING: A SURE CAREER BOOST

Project management is a very demanding work which requires excellent organization and managerial skills. That is why every project managers should always upgrade their skill levels through trainings, advanced studies, and professional seminars. This is especially true for practitioners of Prince2 project management methodologies. Deep understanding and superior skills in implementing the Prince2 methods can make any project manager invaluable to companies and organizations. And Prince2 trainings can make this possible.

Basic Prince2 training is important for managers who wish to improve their careers in project management. The Prince2 Foundation course provides managers with valuable input on the basics of Prince2 and how the system works for any type of project designs. This three day training can also give managers information on the best practices of Prince2 and the techniques in applying it to their own projects.

For project managers who have backgrounds in Prince2 implementation, the Prince2 Practitioner Level course is best. This five day training details the advance practices and applications of Prince2 and can give useful insights on some of the most successful projects that have used Prince2 as project management model. This training also serves as a good preparation for taking the Prince2 certification exams.

Prince2 training is a must for project managers who wish to improve their career. The added qualification and expertise could give them an edge over other managers. Prince2 training can also help managers in designing, implementing, and delivering successful projects. The skills and knowledge learned during the training could serve as their reliable guide.

HURDLE THE EXAMS: TAKE PRINCE2 TRAINING COURSE

Prince2 training courses are the first steps in becoming a registered Prince2 practitioner. Project managers will be accredited by APM Group of UK if they pass the Prince2 certification exams. However, not everybody who takes the certification exams could hurdle the difficult process. In order to avoid a retake, which is very costly, project managers should first equip themselves on the intricacies of Prince2 methodologies. Grasping the principles and applications of Prince2 can definitely help in passing the certification exams.

To prepare for the exams, one should undergo training in Prince2 Foundation and Practitioner Level courses. These courses introduce to the trainees the basic operations of Prince2 methods. Concepts, principles, and best techniques are analyzed and presented to the trainees for their guidance. Real scenarios and project management problems are discussed and solutions to these are provided.

The Foundation Level course focuses mainly on the basics of Prince2 while the Practitioner Level assumes that trainees have prior Prince2 knowledge. Therefore, more advanced concepts and practices are tackled in the Practitioner course. There are other seminars and courses on project management which can complement the Prince2 trainings. Having enough trainings and advanced studies, Prince2 practitioners can definitely improve their performance in managing projects. It could also prepare them for the very demanding Prince2 certification and accreditation exams.

Prince2 training courses can be booked online but the actual trainings are conducted in physical centers designated by training organizations. Today, every major city in the world has training organizations that provide important Prince2 training courses.

PRINCE2 TRAINING MANUAL: A MUST FOR ONLINE TRAINEES

A Prince2 training manual is provided free for anyone who will take an online Prince2 training. The distance learning system for Prince2 course uses the modular approach of training. Upon signing up for the course and paying the required fee, online training centers will provide students with reference materials and the most important of these is the training manual.

The Prince2 training manual provides the general overview of the complete course. This will enable the trainee to see the extent of study and the necessary time required to complete each sub-topic of the course. The training manual is readily available to trainees immediately after sign up to the online program. The manual contains hundreds of questions that are typically asked during Prince2 examinations. It also includes Prince2 practices and different scenarios which could be studied by the trainees. Online Prince2 training centers and its distance learning system are also accredited by the APM Group. The manuals, reference materials, and other study guides are all sanctioned documents and could really help trainees master the different aspects of Prince2 methods.

For working professionals who cannot afford to leave their offices for classroom Prince2 trainings and studies, the online trainings are best for them. The system can give them flexibility in terms of time management. Aside from the Prince2 training manual and other study materials, trainees also get solid support from accredited Prince2 trainer. Instructions and facilitations on different course topics are done on a per trainee basis. So the lessons learned in studying the manual can be reinforced by the personalized teaching method of online Prince2 training course.

PRINCE2 VS PMP: IS ONE BETTER THAN THE OTHER?

There are many project managers who are wondering what should be the best project management credential needed in order to get a lucrative job in the field. Some would say that a Prince2 certification would be great for project managers who wish to advance their career in UK. On the other hand, some sectors would prefer PMP or Project Management Professionals certification especially if the manager will work in the United States.

The difference lies in the origin of the two frameworks. Prince2 was developed in the UK and was extensively used successfully in that country. Prince2 however has been adapted by companies and organizations outside of the UK and has been getting good press through the world. PMP certification on the other hand is being primarily used by project management professionals in the US. It also has many practitioners around the world and has been in existence for nearly 35 years now.

Some observers asserted that the advantage of Prince2 method lies in its focus which is product based. Prince2, as a project management methodology concerns itself with successful deliveries of projects rather than on the activities of the project. This makes the Prince2 system output-driven and is viewed as a more pro-active way of handling and managing different projects.

The debate on Prince2 vs. PMP has been ongoing for many years now. However, it would be good for project managers to be certified both as Prince2 and PMP practitioners in order to broaden their career opportunities in the field of project management.

PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT: THE MILESTONE THAT WILL START THE PROJECT

Project Initiation Document or better known as PID is a major piece of document for any given project. The Prince2 methodology requires project managers to accomplish the Project Initiation Document first before starting any other activities of the project. The PID will be assessed and reviewed in the board room and everyone involved in the project including the stakeholders should be aware of the contents of this document.

The Project Initiation Document should contain all key aspects of the project. It outlines every activities of the project in a simple and concise manner in order to accommodate even those not technically versed in project management. Specifically, the goals and major aims of the project should be included in the PID. The goal normally is the major deliverable of the project. Every activity should be aligned to the project goal.

Another important aspect of PID is the scope and limitation of the project and the corresponding structures and organization needed as well as control mechanism. The scope should determine the type of organization for the project. This is important in order to effectively handle activities at each level of project implementation. Finally, the Project Initiation Document must have a clear business case which will justify the project itself.

The Project Initiation Document is very important in order to start any project on a sound footing. Every aspect of the project should be considered before any major activity is launched. In fact, the creation of PID signifies that the Start up phase of the project has started and it should be ready for launch once the approval of the Company Board has been clinched.

HOW TO USE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR YOUR SUCCESS

As time passes by, more and more organizations are competing with each other. And the business environment has been flooded with different methods and strategies as the competition gets tougher. Due to this, a lot of entrepreneurs and employees alike are finding ways on how to improve the organizational structure as well as the optimization of the management capability of each individual involved in the organization. The methods and the operations within the division should be effective, at the same time, efficient in order to achieve its desired goal. It has been observed that the project environment greatly affects the management technique to be employed. Moreover, it should provide a steady assurance with regards to the stakeholders, that their resources are being managed to the fullest.

The project management system and practices should emphasize several factors such as the deadline, the budget as well as the quality of the desired product or aim. Although the project may be considered successful, it may not be efficient. It should convene all the technical specifications and it should meet the criteria. There are many project management tools that could help people be successful in their designated projects. There are software products that are already available to help anyone with the estimating costs and the creation of bids. Before the project starts, it should remind all the persons involved how significant it is to complete the project successfully. It does not matter whether the size of the company is great or small. It is how organized and how the management uses these tools to finish the project in due time.

THE ADVANTAGE OF GETTING PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

What does project management training offer? It is actually a method of helping individuals involved in the project to become fully conscious of their duties in the entire assignment. Moreover, these trainings would help them develop their skills and broaden their understanding in order to come up with a successful task.

Project management training come in different forms and it is usually adopted based on the purpose and intention of the task. These events may be done regularly over a period of time depending on the project necessities. It should be organized and should be implemented at optimum levels to ensure the efficiency of the training.

So what does these trainings consist of? Well, it greatly depends on the marketing plan to be used and it will also depend on the human resources. Self-assessment tests are done and the realization of the goals and objectives should be instilled in their minds. Before the project starts, all the people involved should know well their task and be motivated enough to pursue these goals. A detailed overview of the plan should be presented to them and be given modules to further widen their knowledge on the project.

In addition, the project management training could be a series of lectures as well as an open forum to know the suggestions and opinion of the members. Moreover, it is very important that each should give his best in order for it to be a success. At the end of the training, they should know already how to manage the project in the most effective manner at minimum costs. Leadership plays a great role in project management. And most importantly, implementation of the plans should be retained in their minds. The resources and budget should be optimized to endure the efficiency of the project management.

PROJECT METHOD PRINCE2 THAT WORKS

Today, the information economy is definitely changing fast. With technology and greater innovations, most corporate businesses are also increasing. The objective of innovating while maintaining low costs exemplifies the success of a project. Furthermore, the business situation nowadays is evolving swiftly that the conventional methodologies are dying out as more and more methods are being formulated. Various techniques are employed for large and small scale business projects that should be managed well. Each individual involved in the project should perform well to come up with the task successfully.

Prince2 project management is one of the top methods used to create optimized results. The costs are controlled and managed efficiently. The resources should be maximized and the risks should be taken in consideration. The best practices should be implemented and the organization should seek an approach that best suits the project's needs. Prince2 project method involves several processes that should be done to achieve the best outcome. It breaks down the project into different stages. This would enable the members to divide the tasks with regular monitoring. This would make the complex tasks easier to do. The project method Prince2 has become popular because of its approach when it comes to project management.

There are many people these days who take the Prince2 project management examinations. The training follows and teamwork is really a must. Any organization will not be successful enough if the members do not agree with each other. Organizational methods should initiate proper communication among its members. It has also been a great method when it comes to IT investment for public and private sections.

HOW PROJECT OFFICE PROVIDE BETTER RESULTS

A project, no matter how big or small should exemplify proper management in order for it to be triumphant. It should have motivated members as well as an organized plan to accomplish the task effectively and in due time. There should be teamwork as well as applying a project management method that would evaluate all the resources to meet the needs of the assignment. The members should not be cramming and they see the project as an opportunity to apply their management skills.

Project management involves administrative work, public relations as well as the finances. In any project, there should be a plan. The project manager is in charge of presenting the plan to the members before starting the task. They must come up with the specific methods and strategies to be applied in order to finish the task in due time without sacrificing the quality of the project. The next thing would be the formulation of a timetable wherein the members could estimate how much time they got left before the deadlines. Each step of the plan should have a specific time frame in order to monitor the activities and to constantly remind the members to work things out as soon as possible.

There are various project management office organizations. To have an effective project office, you need to know the factors that are involved in the task. Moreover, the best practices should be used by the individuals involved in the project to ensure the attainment of the goals. Team building and project management trainings could help a lot in knowing which type of project office is applicable to the task.

KNOW MORE ABOUT PROJECTS IN CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTS

Every organization might have experienced doing a project that is overdue or is doomed to be late. Moreover, some projects may lack budget or may have been unsuccessful due to the lack of resources. This happens usually in large public construction projects and every organization would not want their tasks to come undone. Besides, every project has a specific time frame and the failure could be caused by some other factors. In the world today, project leaders are finding more and more ways to optimize business organization's capability.

A project may not be considered successful if it has only completed the task before the deadline. It will be considered a success if it has optimized the resources, efficient, and done with the use of cost effective methods. Some project managers tend to be so demanding without realizing its effect on the members involved in the task. Some coaching and proper motivation is indeed a must do. The timing plan may not always be the solution to making a project triumphant.

It should involve a process or a number of steps to convert the data or materials into quality products. There should be a certain approach on how the project should be handled and managed. This is where Projects in controlled environments (Prince2) enters. A certain manufacturing process may not be applicable to a different project. In addition, some methods are more flexible and could be altered depending on the complexity of the project itself. Once the planning has been set, the timing plan as well as the methodology should be implemented in order to make the project efficient enough.

A QUICK LOOK AT RISK MANAGEMENT

When there's a project, there will always be risks. The bigger the project is, the more risks there will be. Sometimes, risks can be handled easily, but most of the time, they can get out of hand. This is why risk management is an essential part of project planning.

Risk management ensures that the project will go its natural course regardless it encounters along the way. Depending on the project, there are many ways to manage risks. However, whatever the risks may be, it is important to follow a certain procedure to ascertain that they are handled correctly and efficiently.

The first step in risk management is identifying the exact risks involved and the aspects of the project that they affect. After this, you can proceed to the planning stage during which you determine how you can come up with an approach to handle the risks. The next step is creating an outline that will define the direction for the fourth step, which is analyzing and studying the details of the risks. The fifth and last step--eradicating or at the very least, minimizing the risks with the use of available resources--is the most important part of the whole procedure. If you're able to target all risks, both existing and potential, your project will have a much smoother course to run on.

Risk management is a scientific approach to handling problems in a project; this is the reason why even large corporations put serious effort on this activity. In the long run, a well-planned elimination or minimization of risks will lead to a more stable project and therefore, more reliable output.

A SAMPLE OF WHAT A PRINCE2 PROJECT ENTAILS

Prince2 is a well known and often used approach to project management. Its structured approach in handling the processes involved in a project made Prince2 a fast favorite among even the largest corporations. Its popularity is attributed to the long list of successful projects that have used Prince2 as their defining methods.

Just what makes a project run on Prince2 different from projects using other methods? A Prince2 project, for one, has a strong focus on structure and measurable standards. It also has a keen attention on details to ensure that not one important aspect is overlooked. Prince2 is a well known and often used approach to project management. Its structured approach in handling the processes involved in a project made Prince2 a fast favorite among even the largest corporations. Its popularity is attributed to the long list of successful projects that have used Prince2 as their defining methods.

Just what makes a typical project run on Prince2 different from projects using other methods? A Prince2 project, for one, has a strong focus on structure and measurable standards. It also has a keen attention on details to ensure that not one important step is overlooked. Each aspect is well-defined. Tasks and resources are precisely allocated to each step of the process. If you think Prince2, think about a project with a definite timeframe characterized by structured processes that adhere to high standards that are measurable and quantifiable. Once you encounter a project just like that, there is a big chance that it's a Prince2 project.

PRINCE2'S STARRING ROLE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A project, especially one at a grand scale, calls for an influx of resources which, if not properly managed, could lead to the failure of the said project. Since a project is usually limited by a certain time period during which it should be successfully orchestrated, it's even more important that it has an effective plan governing it. In order to ensure the project's success, good project management should be implemented.

Project management is the science of handling the resources of a project in an effective manner in order to have a beneficial output. Resources are diverse in nature because they involve anywhere from tools and people to ideas and technology. Because of this, project management is best implemented with a time-tested method, and Prince2 is exactly the one to do the job.

Prince2 stands for Projects IN Controlled Environments 2. It is a method suitable for any field's project management needs. It has a well-defined structure in the sense that all steps are laid out to form a solid framework. All aspects of a project are covered, with each one assigned as an important step in the process.

The approach employed by Prince2 makes project management organized and systematic. When properly followed, there will be little room for error. All details in this method are accounted for and all participants are answerable to at least one part. This eventually leads to a sense of ownership to the people involved, making them more responsible and proactive when it comes to problem solving.

THE FACE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT: PRINCE2

A project without structure and definition is hard to manage. Remember when you were back in school and had to accomplish projects as required by your teachers? Even something as small scale as those gave you a rather hard time without proper planning. Imagine the difficulties you encountered then multiplied a thousand times over, and you get a feel of a typical project managed by businesses and corporations.

Project management is a necessary component of handling these large scale projects. There are different methods to project management, but one of the most widely used because of its high levels of efficiency is Prince2, which stands for Projects IN Controlled Environments 2. There is a PRINCE1, but it is a method tailored for IT-based projects. However, Prince2 is far more flexible because it can be used for projects coming from different industries.

Prince2 was initially used by just the OGC (Office of Government Commerce) in the UK. In fact, OGC registered Prince2 as a trademark. However, Prince2 started to gain more popularity in projects outside of OGC because of its effective approach to project management. Prince2 is centered on the process that needs to be done. Around that process, Prince2 organizes in a systematic manner all the available resources of the project in such a way that each step has a defined amount allotted to it. Prince2 is all about implementing quantitative standards on each step to make tracking success and failure rates much easier.

Prince2 is now considered an internationally accepted approach to project management.