

WBS vs. OBS

Although the two acronyms differ by one letter, they have little to do with each other. WBS stands for Work Breakdown Structure, which is a breakdown of all the work (in the project) to tasks (eventually to manageable tasks that can be scheduled), while the OBS stands for Organizational Breakdown Structure, which means the hierarchy of roles for that particular project

The WBS is a hierarchical breakdown of the work. It is used for estimating time, cost, and resources required for a project.

The OBS is an organizational breakdown. In complex organizations, it helps the project manager understand how the organization is structured and operates and relate the work tasks to the right points in the organization.

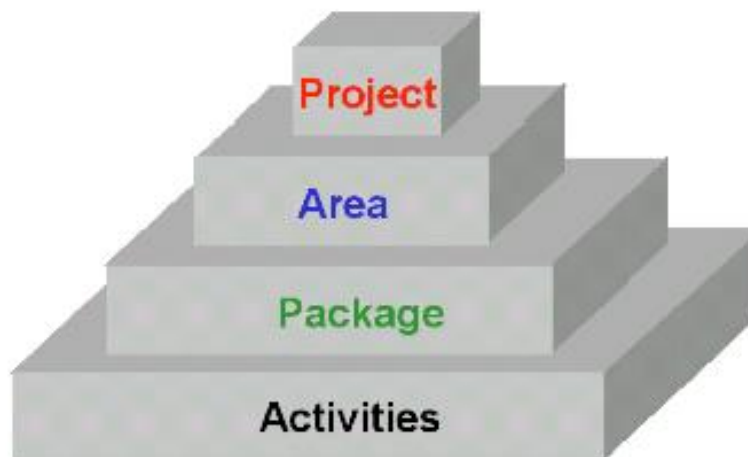
Definition of a WBS

□ A Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) is a fundamental project management technique for defining and organizing the total scope of a project, using a hierarchical tree structure.

Levels of a WBS

□ The first two levels of the WBS (the root node and Level 2) define a set of planned outcomes that collectively and exclusively represent 100% of the project scope.

□ At each subsequent level, the children of a parent node collectively and exclusively represent 100% of the scope of their parent node.



The 100% Rule states that the WBS includes 100% of the work defined by the project scope and captures ALL deliverables – internal, external, and interim – in terms of the work to be completed, including project management.

□ The 100% rule is one of the most important principles guiding the development, decomposition and evaluation of the WBS.