**UAGC CST-499 Week 5 – Discussion Forum 1 – Vicki Kelm**

**Imagine that you are running a company project and your boss asks you the following questions:**

**Why do we need to have a full project management plan if we already have an elaborate software development life cycle? Are we doing too much by doing both? Are we duplicating the effort? Can we just survive with one plan or something hybrid between the two?**

A full project management plan is needed even if there is an elaborate software development life cycle. “Software project management follows a management process to ensure that the appropriate software engineering process is implemented” (Tsui, Karam, & Bernal, sect. 13.1.2).

Having a good project management plan in addition to the SDLC supports the project and product quality. There are several benefits that a project management process contributes, such as providing consistency of success in regards to time, cost, productivity and quality objectives, ensuring that customer expectations are met, collecting any historical information and data for future use, providing a method of thought for ensuring all requirements are met through a work definition process that is comprehensive, risk reduction associated with the project, that team members operate effectively with high morale, and that required tools and other resources are available and utilized effectively.

Having a project management plan also ensures management commitment, which is a significant factor in the success of the project. A project management plan also promotes client involvement and willingness to support and understand the defined project management plan and SDLC.

A good project management plan does not duplicate the effort but instead supports and confirms the effort. “The SDLC is essentially a layer underneath the project management methodology or standard, focusing specifically on just the development phases, tasks and plans to deliver the IT system” (Karunaratne, 2018). While it is possible to survive with just one, or a hybrid of the two, doing so would require sacrificing benefits that one or the other provides that might make the difference between the project being a success or a failure.

**References**

Karunaratne, C. (2018). *What IT Project Managers Need To Know about the Software Development Life Cycle*. <https://www.pmi.org/learning/library/software-development-life-cycle-11412>

Tsui, F., Karam, O., & Bernal, B. (2018). *Essentials of Software Engineering* (4th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning. <https://platform.virdocs.com/read/2348054/11/#/4/2[ch06]/2/2,/3:0,/3:0>