

What is SPM

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Abstract

SPM is Software Project Management, this class is teaching us how to manage a software project, and what exactly do we mean by 'software project management'? To answer this question, we should know 'what is a project?', 'what is a software project?' and 'what is software project management?'.

And we need to look at some key ideas about the planning, monitoring and control of software projects. Projects to produce software are worthwhile only if they satisfy real needs and so we will examine how we can identify the stakeholders in a project and their objectives. Identifying those objectives and checking that they are met is the basis of a successful projects. This, however, cannot be done unless there is accurate information and how this is provided will be explored.

Keywords: planning, monitoring and control of software projects. accurate information.

1 Introduction

The first question is: What is a project? The dictionary definitions put a clear emphasis: Project include: 'a specific plan or design', 'a planning undertaking' and 'a large undertaking: for example, a public works scheme'.

Another key aspect of a project is that the undertaking is non-routine: a job which is repeated a number of times is not a project. There is a hazy boundary in between. The first time you do a routine task it will be very like a project. On the other hand, a project to develop a system that is very similar to previous ones that you have developed will have a

large element of the routine.

We can summarize the characteristics that distinguish projects as follows:

- ✓ non-routine tasks are involved;
- ✓ planning is required;
- ✓ specific objectives are to be met or a specified product is to be created;
- ✓ the project has a predetermined time span;
- ✓ work is carried out for someone other than yourself;
- ✓ work involves several specialisms;
- ✓ work is carried out in several phases;
- ✓ the project is large or complex.

The second question is: What is a software project? We can compare software project and other types of project. I think they are very similar. One way of perceiving software project management is as the process of making visible that which is invisible.

- **Invisibility:** When a physical artefact such as a bridge or road is being constructed the progress being made can actually be seen. With software, progress is not immediately visible.
- **Complexity:** Per dollar, pound or euro spent, software products contain more complexity than other engineered artefacts.
- **Flexibility:** The ease with which software can be changed is usually seen as one of its strengths. This means the software systems are likely to be subject to a high degree of change.

The last question is: What is software project management? To answer this question, we should know the activities covered by software project management.

A software project is concerned not only with the actual writing of software. In fact, where a software application is bought in 'off-the-shelf', there might

be no software writing as such. This is still fundamentally a software project because so many of the other elements associated with this type of project are present.

2 History of Software Project Management

In the 1970s and 1980s, the software industry grew very quickly, as computer companies quickly recognized the relatively low cost of software production compared to hardware production and circuitry. To manage new development efforts, companies applied the established project management methods, but project schedules slipped during test runs, especially when confusion occurred in the gray zone between the user specifications and the delivered software.

To be able to avoid these problems, software project management methods focused on matching user requirements to delivered products, in a method known now as the waterfall model.

3 Overview

Software Project Management is the art and science of planning and leading software projects. It is a sub-discipline of project management in which software projects are planned, implemented, monitored and controlled.

4 reference

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2. Wikipedia