

What is SPM?

Software project management is a sub-discipline of project management in which software projects are planned, monitored and controlled. It covers the whole process of software engineering process. The fundamental purpose of SPM is to let the software project's life cycle be watched and controlled by the manager, to make sure hand over the product to the user on time.

First of SPM is project planning, a good plan needs to include what we need to do about the project, and what resources we need (like time, how many people and so on). Besides, it also requires a sufficiently detailed schedule, in order to monitor and control the whole project. Schedule is the primary task of software project planning, project planning is the most important part of software project management.

Then is project monitoring and control. I think it mostly is the project manager's job, he (or she) has to define all the project tasks and identify these important ones to make sure all the tasks are on their way, ensure the situation of delaying the progress would not happen. Every group of the project has to report the progress every week. Whenever user's demand has been changed, the manager must have a meeting about status and what has to be changed with all the team to keep the products up to date.

Why is it so important?

To be honest, without software project management, the project can still succeed, but the company will take greater risks (especially big project). When we are working on a project, there always exist problems. The earlier you find the problem, the less loss you will take. If a project without management can't find it in time, it will cause huge losses after the project is finished, because you must fix it, it will cost a lot more compared to the project which has management. A project which has management can easily find the problem, because the manager will always keep an eye on the project, and the team will also have a meeting with manager to make sure that the project is on track. What's more, the schedule can also help to find where is the crux of the matter.

So, software project management can help the project finish on time with good quality, and the company will take less risk to fix the project, that's why it's so important.