

What is SPM?

Max
Zhejiang Normal University
Software Project Management

Abstract

This report introduces the fundamental concepts of Project, Project Management, Software Project Management(SPM), including the scope of SPM, the comparison between common projects and software projects, the role of management, the need for planning, monitoring and control, the stakeholders in a project.

Keywords: Software Project Management, Planning, Monitoring, Control, Stakeholders

1 Introduction

A project, generally speaking, is a temporary endeavor which has start and end in order to achieve some particular goals. There are a lot of components in the development of the project such as resources, people, communications, documents, etc. Therefore, it is important to have project management which is of critical importance in a successful project. In the scope of software engineering, it is called Software Project Management(SPM). SPM is a series of procedures about the planning, monitoring and control of software projects[Wikipedia].

2 Software projects versus common projects

Software projects is actually a general project, so most management of skills can use on a software project. But there also has many special characteristics in software project.

Invisibility If one is going to build a house, the construct of the house and the progress can be seen, while the progress of software project is not visible at every time.

Complexity Because of larger components and scale than most real products, quantities of money, efforts should be put into.

Flexibility Unlike desk, chair, bed or other objects that will not change frequently, a software must improve or optimise to meet the increasing demands of system.

3 Software Project Management

Software projects contain not only coding, many factors are related to the process of project development. Basically, there are three massive processes that a complete software being constructed[Hughes and Cotterell 1999]:

Planning This is usually to take a investigation to identify the scope of the project, estimate the work involved and create a project schedule. An outline plan for the whole software project will be formulated, and the overall requirements will be confirmed during the planning stage.

Project Monitoring When the feasibility study and the planning has done, the software project is ready to start. On the project's

progress, it is necessary to keep the team and management up to date for better collaboration.

Project Control If a software project is not well controlled, some small parts may deviates from the plan, which can cause huge drawbacks on the process of whole project. Besides, if new needs come, the project control will keep the software up to date.

4 Stakeholders

A stakeholder is those who have a stake or interest in the software . Because they are the decision makers of the entire software project, so it is important to contact them as soon as possible[Hughes and Cotterell 1999]. Stakeholders might be either internal or external to the project team. If they are internal to team, they will directly control the project leader. When external, if they are in the same organization, they might take an assistant role, if not, they are probably end users.

5 Conclusion

Good techniques of Software Project Management is closely related to produce a software successfully and before the deadline, as software project has many significant problems that mentioned before.

References

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