

Why Planning?

Why Planning?

"Planning is bringing the future into the present, so you can do something about it now."- Alan Lakein

A plan

- **highlights** what can be done now.
- **moves** you towards a future goal.

For software development:

Planning involves using **processes** and **requirements** to start organizing **tasks** and **schedules**.

Estimates and schedules are important part of good planning practices.

Creating tasks and schedules requires:

- identifying who should do the work,
- and estimating how long that work will take.

Previously on "Requirements"

Requirements & Estimates in Planning

- **Poorly written** requirements make accurate time estimates difficult.
- The **more specific** the requirements are, the **clearer** it is to estimate how long the work will take to complete.

What happens when your **schedule** is based on **poor time estimates**?

- Overestimate the work? – The client will take their business elsewhere.
- Underestimate the work – not delivering as promised.

Estimates & Not over committing

The client will feel that the product is less than what you promised.

-> Having good estimates reduces project risk.

Quiz - context

- You are working for a local startup.
- You have a good chunk of your planning complete.
- You are now required to make time estimates for the development tasks.

Who do you think is responsible for creating time estimates? Choose all that apply.

- A. Developers.
- B. Software Product Manager.
- C. Clients.
- D. CEO.

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- The developers best know how long it takes them to develop features.
- The Product Manager, can also offer another opinion.
- The client and CEO can determine **target dates**, but do not normally have a say in time estimates.

Why Planning?

Risk management is the largest benefit of planning

If you can predict future risks and do something about them in the present to mitigate them, then your project will have a higher chance of success.

Examples of risks that can be managed in the planning phase

- Development of team responsibilities.
 - You can create plans for
 - what's needed to be done
 - who will complete it.
 - -> reduce misunderstanding about responsibility
 - -> help to establish a constant development pace

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 - time for repair?
- Missing deadlines and/or budgets.
 - keep development on track
 - reduces wasted resources (time, money, ...)

Quiz - context

You are now working as a Product Manager for a project that is developing a communication application that will be used on the next space shuttle mission. It is essential that this product works as intended. So you have spent a lot of time working with your development team to identify risks. You've developed a long list of potential risks.

What do you think your next step should be now that the potential risks have been identified?

- A. Continue with development as usual.
- B. Notify an executive.
- C. Develop a risk plan.
- D. Give up.

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Problems anticipation & Risk plan

Planning can also help you to anticipate problems that may occur.

ACTION: Identifying risks is a useless process if you there is no risk plan.

Why Planning?

Think of solutions & be prepared

- What if a developer gets sick?
- What if someone quits?
- What if your client contact changes?
- Or what if your technology crashes?

Another point:

Planning is not just for the beginning of a project. In software development, planning is something that occurs constantly throughout the project.

Software is always evolving, your plans have to be flexible. When you have a process to review your plan, your project becomes more agile. Meaning you can easily adapt to change.