

Lab 2.1.3 Creating a Project Plan

Objectives

- Describe the Plan Phase of the network lifecycle.
- Create a checklist with outcomes for the Plan Phase of the network lifecycle.

Expected Results and Success Criteria

Before starting this lab, read through the tasks that you are expected to perform. What do you expect the result of performing these tasks will be?

What benefits are gained from designing a network upgrade using a network lifecycle approach?

How will a network administrator know if the project plan has succeeded?

Background / Preparation

FilmCompany is an expanding small advertising company moving into interactive advertising media, including video presentations. This company has just been awarded a large video support contract by the StadiumCompany. With this new contract, FilmCompany expects to see their business grow approximately 70 percent.

To facilitate this growth, the FilmCompany has decided to significantly upgrade its data network. In this lab, you have the role of network design consultant. Your job is to develop network design and project documents for the FilmCompany that will meet the requirements of this upgrade.

This lab is the first of a series of labs that explore the FilmCompany existing network and its upgrade requirements.

In this lab you, will use the information in the separate document, "Lab Case Study: The FilmCompany," to examine the second phase of the six phases of the Cisco Lifecycle Services:

- The Prepare Phase
- The Plan Phase
- The Design Phase
- The Implement Phase
- The Operate Phase

- The Optimize Phase

For the Plan Phase, you will perform a site and operations assessment. The details of the project and its implementation will be developed in forthcoming labs.

Step 1: Evaluate the current network, operations, and network management infrastructure

- a. Use word processing software to create a Project Plan Checklist document based on this lab.
- b. From the case study, document, identify, and assess the current state of the following factors:
 - Physical facilities: _____
 - Environmental facilities: _____
 - Electrical facilities: _____

For each factor, indicate whether it is at capacity or has scope for growth. Include these factors on the checklist with your assessment.

- c. Assess the ability of the current operations and network management infrastructure to support a new technology solution. On the checklist, list the following categories and include what changes must be completed before the implementation of any new technology solution.
 - Infrastructure
 - Personnel
 - Processes
 - Tools
- d. Identify and add to the checklist any custom applications that may be required for the new network.

Step 2: Outline the project plan

- a. To manage the project, the project plan includes five components. List these five components and an example of each, and then add them to the checklist.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
- b. The plan needs to be within the scope, cost, and resource limits established by the business goals. List any potential issues that the FilmCompany may have to consider to meet these goals, and then add them to the checklist.

- c. The FilmCompany and the stadium management need to assign staff to manage the project from each of their perspectives. List the desirable skills and knowledge that these individuals should possess, and then add them to the checklist.

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- d. Save your Project Plan Checklist document. You will use it during the next stages of this network design case study.

Step 3: Reflection

Sometimes apparent urgency, pressure to present results, and enthusiasm for a project can create a work environment that causes projects to be started before proper planning has been completed.

Consider and discuss the potential problems that result from starting a network upgrade before completely assessing the existing network.
