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Project Tracking Comparison

It is often said that for every problem, there will be several different solutions given by any number of people asked how to solve said problem. In terms of project management, there have been several different design philosophies constructed to better solve the problem of project organization. Additionally, there have been just as many software applications devised in order to make these philosophies easier to perform by the user. Notably, both Gantt Charts and Pivotal Tracker fall into this category, and while both act as project management software, they are more defined by their differences than their similarities.

In terms of their similarities, both Gantt charts and Pivotal Tracker accomplish their respective goals of providing intuitive visualizations of the design process. They both emphasize the methodical laying out of the current and future project tasks in order to get a better idea on where the project is in relation to its intended goal. This provides the development team with a sense of progress, and at worst urgency, as the overlapping of project tasks lends itself nicely to the idea of a deadline. These project management tools offer the team a greater appreciation of where their individual efforts factor in to the overall project as well. This can provide a sense of greater purpose as they can easily visualize their contribution in the larger scheme while also having a sense of accomplishment when the task is complete.

These two tools differ greatly however, as they represent two distinct design philosophies. Gantt charts represent the idea of waterfall development—that is, a project is broken down into sequential order with the next step not taking place before the previous is finished. Conversely, Pivotal Tracker focuses on the Agile development philosophy which allows for simultaneous development on several tasks at once with a major focus on a sprint to the completion of major subtasks. As such, these two tools are not interchangeable in their use, as a design philosophy may change between different groups. A team that is determined to tackle problems as a group would benefit from the Gantt charts whereas a team that prefers a more multifaceted approach would do better with Pivotal Tracker.