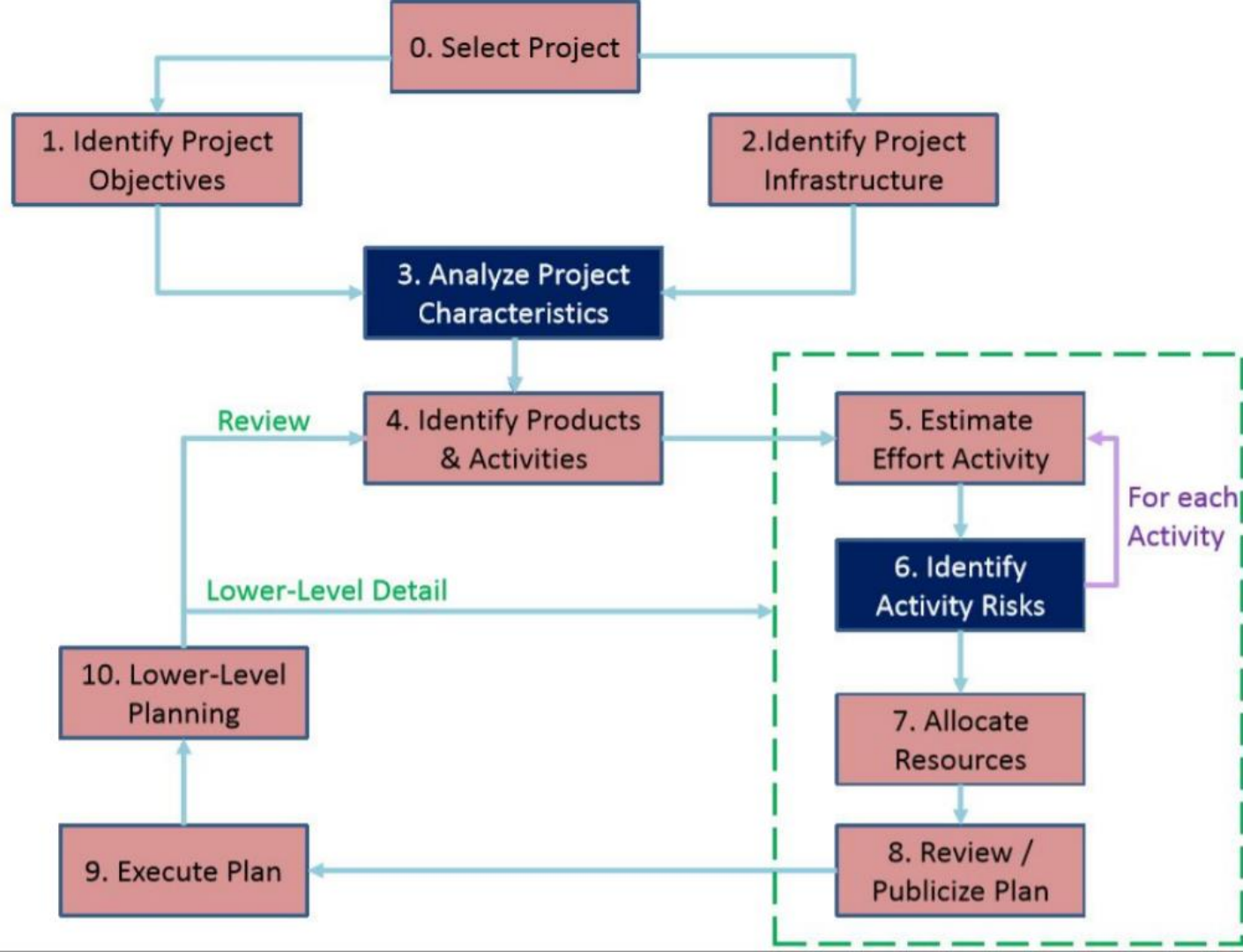


IS 2108 – IT Project Management  
Lecture 06

# *Risk Management*

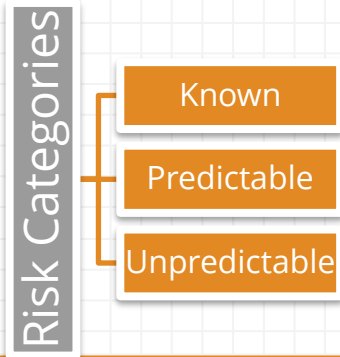
Sanduni Thrimahavithana

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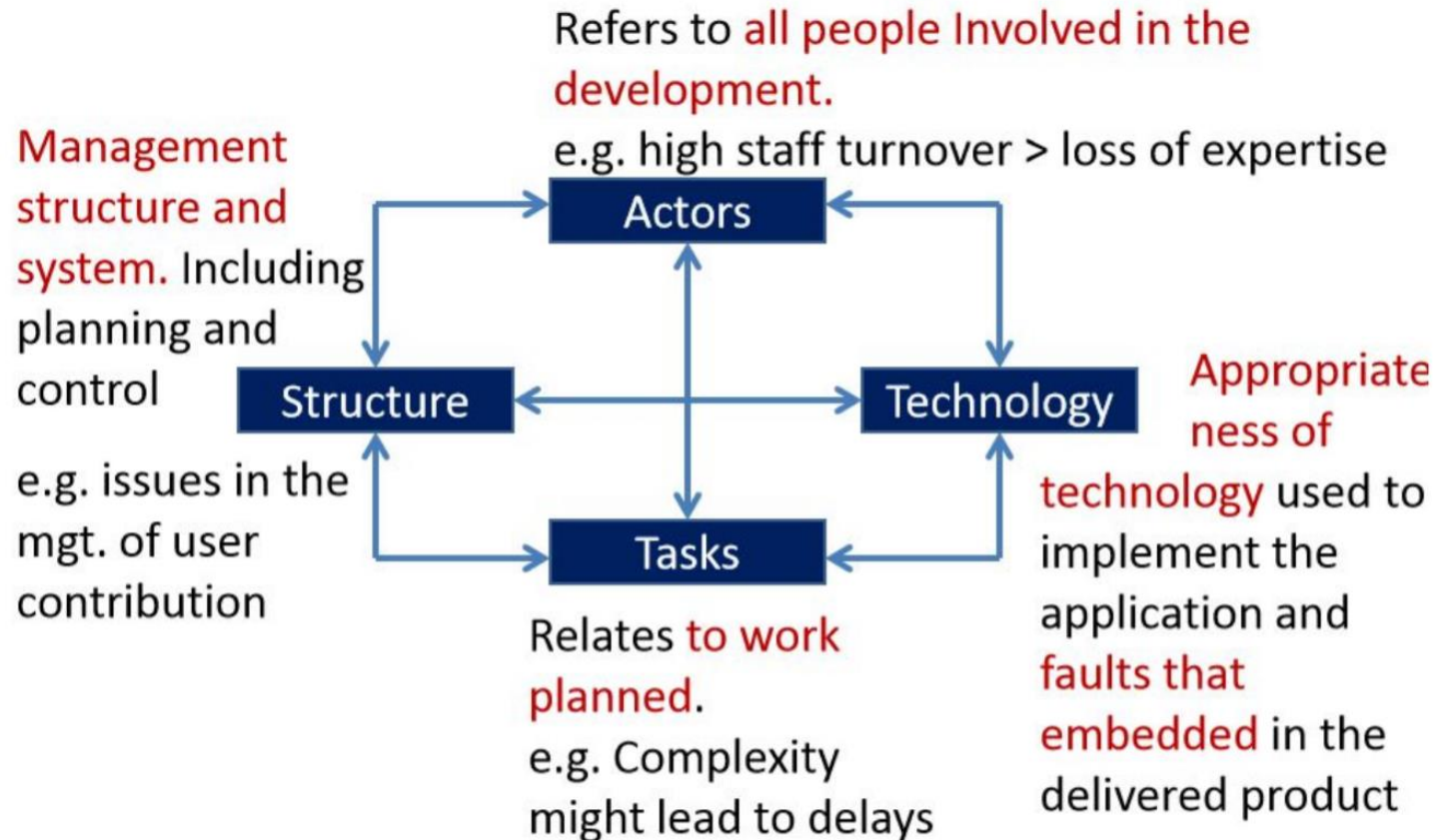


# WHAT IS A *RISK*?

- An **uncertain event or condition** that has a negative effect on the project objectives.
- An unforeseen event that can **adversely impact on the project's cost, schedule, or quality.**
- Relates to the **future**
- **Measured in terms of probability of occurrence** (High-Low) and **consequences** (Loss: High-Low)
- Involves **cause and effect**



# CATEGORIZING *RISKS*



# RISK *MANAGEMENT* (RM)

- An attempt to minimize the chances of failure caused by unplanned events/risks.
- Aim to **identify, quantify and take actions** to minimize the effect of risks on the project.
- Risk management involves additional costs.
  - **RM is cost effective only if the cost of RM is considerably less than the loss incurred.**
- It is not easy to measure the value of RM.
- Involves two key components:



# A FRAMEWORK FOR *DEALING WITH RISKS*



# RISK IDENTIFICATION - *TYPES OF RISKS*

- **Estimation Errors**

- Some tasks are harder to estimate due to;
  - Lack of experience
  - Unique nature of the task
- E.g.
  - Producing a user manual – Straightforward & no risks involved
  - Program testing & debugging – High risk in estimating time/duration
- Estimations can be improved by analyzing historical data



# RISK *IDENTIFICATION*

- **Application Factors**

- Projects with Safety Critical Factors may have risks
- Remote transactions

- **Staff Factors**

- Issues related to experienced and skilled staff

- **Project Factors**

- Problems in defining project objectives etc.

- **Project Methods**

- Problems that occur if well specified and structured methods are not used





# RISK *IDENTIFICATION*



- **Hardware/Software Factors**
  - Projects that require new hardware may have higher risks
- **Changeover Factors**
  - Risks in projects such as parallel or incremental change over to a new system
- **Supplier Factors**
  - Risks involved depending on external organizations
- **Environment Factors**
  - Changes in environment (e.g. change of government tax policy)
- **Health and Safety Factors**
  - Health and safety of project participants

# PRIORITIZING *RISKS*

- Reducing Risk Exposure by reducing Likelihood and Impact
- Confidence of Risk Assessment
  - Some risk assessments are very poor
- Compound Risks
  - Some risks depend on others
- The Number of Risks



# A PROBABILITY - *IMPACT MATRIX*

Impact

Tolerance Line

High		R6		R1
Significant		R2, R3, R5		
Moderate				R4
Low				
	Low	Moderate	Significant	High

Probability

\*\*Refer the  
reference book  
for more details

# RISK *ESTIMATION*

- Risk Exposure: **Expected Value** of the loss for the risk

**Risk Exposure = Risk Likelihood x Risk Impact**

$$\text{RE(R)} = \text{Prob(R)} \times \text{Loss(R)}$$

- Risk Likelihood: The probability of a risk.
- Risk Impact: The total loss incurred if the risk happens.

# RISK *ESTIMATION*

A project depends on a data center which is vulnerable to fire. It is estimated that there is a 1 in 1000 chance fire actually happening. If a fire occurred a new computer configuration should be established for Rs.500,000. Find the risk exposure.

$$RE = Rs.500,000 \times 1/1000 = Rs.500$$

*This is the minimum sum an insurance company would require as a premium*

# QUALITATIVE *DESCRIPTIONS*

Probability	Range
High	Greater than 50% chance of happening
Significant	30-50% chance of happening
Moderate	10-29% chance of happening
Low	Less than 10% chance of happening

*Qualitative description of risk probability and associated range values*

Impact Level	Range
High	More than 30% above budget expenditure
Significant	20-29% above budget expenditure
Moderate	10-19% above budget expenditure
Low	Within 10 % of budget expenditure

*Qualitative descriptors of impact on cost and associated range values*

# RISK PLANNING, *MONITORING & CONTROL*



# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Acceptance (Tolerate)**
  - Do-nothing
  - Approval of operations under exposure to the risk, according to the organizations policies and criteria for risk acceptance
  - Should also involve provision for recovery under business continuity management



# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Avoidance (Terminate)**
  - Changing or re-engineering the business process
  - Terminate the activity giving rise to risk

# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Reduction (Treat)**
  - Reduction
    - Attempts to reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring
    - Application of security controls
    - Treat risk with appropriate control measures and mechanisms
  - Mitigation
    - Takes actions to ensure that the impact of the risk is lessened when it occurs.

# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Transfer**
  - Transfer the risk to another party
    - Partners, suppliers or business process outsourcing
    - You can transfer the risk, but not the responsibility
  - Insurance or Outsourcing
    - Provision of financial coverage for potential losses incurred

# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Control : Application of Controls**
  - Introduce controls **to reduce or remove** the likelihood or impact
  - Different actions of controls
    - Avoid , Communicate, Correct, Detect, Deter, Monitor, Prevent, Recover, Reduce
  - Different categories of controls
    - Technical, Procedural, Educational
    - Will have different Effects, Constraints, Implications
    - May have very different cost

# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Control : Implementation Constraints**
  - **Time**
    - Implementation deadlines due to legal , regulatory, contractual, business or management requirements
    - Requirements for short, medium and long term solutions
  - **Money**
    - Cost of control compared to benefits
    - Budget for implementation, operational and maintenance cost
  - **Technical**
    - Capabilities of internal/ external staff
    - Compatibility with existing technology

# RISK PLANNING & *CONTROL Cont...*

- **Risk Control : Implementation Constraints**
  - **Cultural**
    - Compliance of internal/ external staff
  - **Environmental**
    - Space availability and other characteristics of the specific location
  - **Legal**
    - IT related legislations and regulations
    - Other legislations and regulations (Labor Laws, Fire Protection, etc.)

# RISK *ACTIONS*

- Some risks can be avoided or reduced immediately.
- For others;
  - Cost vs. Benefits
- Cost effectiveness of a risk reduction can be evaluated by;
  - **Risk Reduction Leverage**
  - Calculates a value for the return on investment
  - Simple calculation that gives a numeric value to a countermeasure, enabling different countermeasures to be compared.

$$\text{RRL} = \frac{\text{RE before} - \text{RE after}}{\text{Risk Reduction Cost}}$$

- If the value is greater than 1, it is good.

# EVALUATE THE EFFECTS OF *UNCERTAINTY*

- Uncertainty surrounding estimates of task durations
- Most Likely Time (m) –The time we would expect the task to take under normal circumstance
- Optimistic Time (a) –The Shortest Time
- Pessimistic Time (b) –The Worst Possible Time



# EVALUATE THE EFFECTS OF *UNCERTAINTY*

- Expected Duration ( $t_e$ )

$$t_e = (a + 4m + b)/6$$

- Activity Standard Deviation ( $s$ )

$$s = (b - a)/6$$

$s \propto (b - a)$  is used to rank the measure of degree of uncertainty or risk of activity

## EXAMPLE

$$t_e = (a + 4m + b)/6$$

$$s = (b - a)/6$$

Activity	Optimistic (a)	Most Likely (weeks) (m)	Pessimistic (b)	$t_e$ (wk)	s (wk)
A	5	6	8		
B	3	4	5		
C	2	3	3		
D	3.5	4	5		
E	1	3	4		
F	8	10	15		
G	2	3	4		
H	2	2	2.5		

## EXAMPLE

$$t_e = (a + 4m + b)/6$$

$$s = (b - a)/6$$

Activity	Optimistic (a)	Most Likely (weeks) (m)	Pessimistic (b)	$t_e$ (wk)	s (wk)
A	5	6	8	6.17	0.50
B	3	4	5	4.00	0.33
C	2	3	3	2.83	0.17
D	3.5	4	5	4.08	0.25
E	1	3	4	2.83	0.50
F	8	10	15	10.50	1.17
G	2	3	4	3.00	0.33
H	2	2	2.5	2.08	0.08

# THANKS!

Do you have any questions?  
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