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Risk Management Practicals

# Project Scenario 1

Sue is a project manager working in the Institute of Global Monitoring of Stuff, at the University of North Berwick. A year previously she submitted a grant application to one of the UK academic funding bodies. The proposal was a for 104 person-week project to develop a software library for parallel processing of stuff. The software library is to use C and MPI and is to be portable.

Sue has been allocated two experienced software engineers, Tom and Joe, who worked previously on projects for parallel processing of stuff.

In formulating the proposal, Sue drew up a workplan for the project. This workplan included a variety of work packages covering design, implementation, testing and integration of the various components of the software library. Since Sue was a seasoned project leader, she got an experienced software engineer, Tom, to check through her task estimates. Tom reckoned they should double the original estimates to be on the safe side. This gave rise to the 104 man weeks of effort.

Sue has just heard that the application has been successful and is obviously very pleased. However she has been told that the funding has been cut to 52 person-weeks instead of the original 104 person-weeks.

The funding body have also said they may ask for the library to include a component for parallel processing of a new form of stuff which has appeared in the last year. The funding body said they will inform them part-way through the project once the outcome of some further research is known if they need this, but so far this is looking fairly likely.

Sue and Tom reckon this new component is at least another 12 week’s worth of work. However Tom has told Sue of a new Gee-Whiz tool which claims to speed up software projects by 25%.

Prior to the project start, one of the software engineers, Joe, says he has some work to do after the project start date but says it won’t affect his schedule for the project. He says this should take 6 weeks to complete.

# Project Scenario 2

The General Assistance Department of the Government has been charged with the implementation of a national bird incident database. The database has to record all bird related incidents and accidents which happen within the borders of the UK, be it to living or inanimate objects.

The lead for the General Assistance Department is a civil servant known as Deryck Guyler who is being charged with sourcing the requirements and creating a contract with the company, Birds and Databases Limited. Guyler will be assisted by his coworkers Mildred Ronald and Richard Pitkin.

Birds and Databases has engaged a project manager, Norma Brown, to run the project on their behalf. Brown has developed a proposal which uses a LAMP software stack with custom portal and reporting capabilities.

Brown has to populate her project team from the available developers in Birds and Databases Limited which include Simon - an experienced data engineer - but is currently working on another project, Annalise - a web developer coming off of a project which ran overbudget, Miriam, a software engineer of some experience just returned from a sabbatical and Rufus, a newly hired programmer.

The project requires that the system be in place within 54 weeks, and the budget for the system will cover 67 person-months and has a budget for infrastructure as well.

The bird incidents need to make use of mapping software and need to be able to export to a variety of analysis packages as well as being able to accept input manually and via defined interfaces from other software.

Norma drew up a workplan for the project which uses three people, including work packages covering design, implementation, testing and integration of the various components of the software library. After the plan was submitted to Guyler, Guyler has expressed that he wishes the project to adopt an Agile approach.

Simon currently has 12 weeks of effort left on his other project, and could be replaced by Miriam and Rufus who would require more effort to complete the project.

Another complication is that the head of the General Assistance Department, Sir Gregory Murdoch, is known for changing the scheduling of projects and becoming closely involved without understanding what is going on.