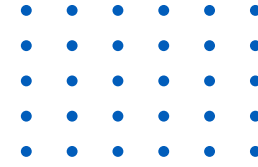




The Project Life Cycle: From Glimmer to Closure



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01

Setting the Stage

A Journey, Not a Snapshot

Introduction to Project Life Cycle

The project life cycle is a dynamic journey, not a static moment. It transforms the initial spark of an idea into structured action, guiding projects through essential phases.

Predictive Cycle

The predictive cycle, also known as the Waterfall model, consists of four main phases: Initiating, Planning, Executing, and Closing. Each phase is interconnected and necessary for success.

Importance of Rhythm

Understanding the project life cycle helps manage complexity by providing a structured rhythm. This framework ensures that projects move forward with clarity and purpose.



Projects and the Human Heartbeat

Heartbeat Analogy

The project life cycle can be compared to a four-beat heartbeat, where each phase is essential and sequential. Skipping or rushing a phase can disrupt the entire system.

Waterfall Model

In the Waterfall model, each phase must be largely completed before moving to the next. This disciplined approach ensures that projects progress in a structured and controlled manner.



02

Initiating the Project

The Birth of Intention



Stakeholder Alignment

This phase ensures that all stakeholders are aligned and committed to the project's goals. Clarity and alignment are crucial for success.

● Formalizing the Idea

The Initiating phase is where an idea becomes formalized. It's about securing permission and defining the project's purpose, not yet about execution.

● Project Legitimacy

Initiating establishes the project's legitimacy. It's the foundation upon which all subsequent phases are built, ensuring that the project has a clear mandate.

● Importance of Clarity

A clear and well-defined project intention sets the stage for effective planning and execution. It helps avoid misunderstandings and misalignment later on.

The Project Charter

Project Charter

The Project Charter is the foundational document of the project. It authorizes the project, names the project manager, outlines high-level scope, and links the project to a business need.



Initiating's Vulnerability

Fragility of Initiating

The Initiating phase is fragile. A weak Charter, unclear objectives, or misaligned stakeholders can doom the project before it begins.



Stopping Early

It's better to stop a flawed project during the Initiating phase than to proceed and fail later. Rigor in this early stage sets the tone for the entire project.



03

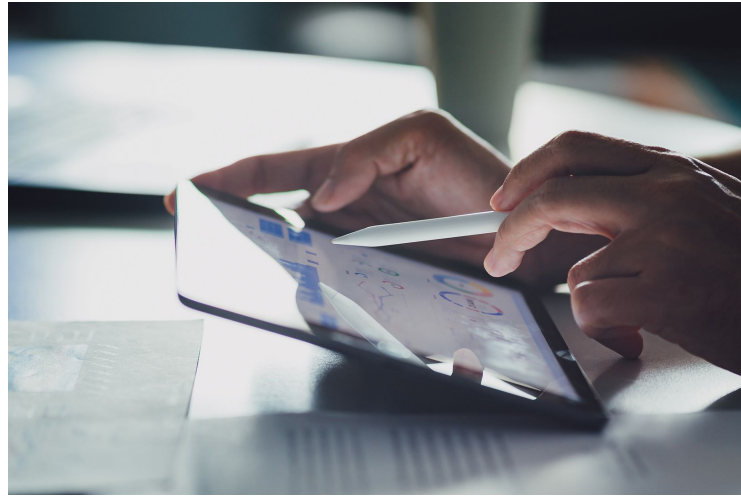
Planning the Path



The Map is Not the Territory

Creating a Roadmap

The Planning phase is about creating a roadmap for the project. It translates the Charter's vision into actionable steps, guiding the team through the project lifecycle.



Adaptability

While plans are essential, they are not reality. Changes will occur, and a good plan provides guidance and structure to navigate uncertainty.



Intellectual Phase

Planning is an intellectual and strategic phase, focused on preparation. It requires a balance between detail and pragmatism to support effective execution.





The Knowledge Areas

Comprehensive Planning

Planning involves ten knowledge areas, including Scope, Schedule, Cost, and Quality. Each area requires its own plan, forming a comprehensive Project Management Plan.

Scope Management

Scope management involves defining and controlling what is and is not included in the project. The Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) is a key tool in this area.

Schedule Management

Schedule management focuses on creating and maintaining the project timeline. Tools like Gantt charts help visualize and manage project activities.

Cost Management

Cost management ensures that the project stays within budget. It involves estimating, budgeting, and controlling costs to meet project objectives.

The Planning Trap

Avoiding Over-Planning

Beware of over-planning or analysis paralysis. While Planning is crucial, excessive detail can delay action and hinder progress.

Balanced Approach

A balanced approach to planning ensures that the project has a clear roadmap without becoming overly complex. Pragmatic planning supports execution.



The Project Management Plan

Comprehensive Guide

The Project Management Plan (PMP) is the comprehensive output of the Planning phase. It integrates all subsidiary plans and serves as the definitive guide for execution.

Baseline for Execution

The PMP provides a baseline for managing scope, time, cost, and quality. It ensures that all project activities are aligned with the project's objectives.

Dynamic Document

While the PMP is a detailed plan, it must remain dynamic, allowing for adjustments as the project progresses. Flexibility is key to successful project management.



04

Executing the Work

The Long Road of Execution

Resource-Intensive Phase

Executing is the longest and most resource-intensive phase. It's where the actual work happens, requiring sustained effort and coordination.

Team Collaboration

This phase involves building deliverables, collaborating with team members, and managing stakeholder expectations. Effective communication is crucial.

Challenges and Adaptability

Executing is often chaotic and demanding. Teams must be adaptable, ready to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for breakthroughs.

Sustained Effort

The phase requires stamina and resilience. It's like a marathon, with long hours and hard work, but also moments of achievement and progress.

Direct and Manage Project Work

Core Task of Execution

The core task of Executing is to direct and manage project work. This involves coordinating resources, performing planned activities, and producing deliverables.

Project Manager's Role

The project manager acts as a conductor, ensuring all parts work in harmony. Outputs include deliverables and performance data for tracking progress.

People and Knowledge in Action



01

Human-Centric Phase

Executing is people-centric. It involves managing team dynamics, stakeholder expectations, and capturing lessons in real time.

02

Managing Expectations

Effective management of stakeholder expectations is crucial. Clear communication and regular updates help maintain trust and alignment.

03

Capturing Knowledge

Documenting what works and what doesn't is essential. Capturing project knowledge improves future performance and builds organizational learning.

Monitoring and Controlling



Parallel Process

Monitoring and Controlling runs concurrently with Execution. It ensures that progress is tracked against the plan and deviations are corrected early.

Plan vs. Actual



Core Principle

The core principle of Monitoring and Controlling is comparing planned performance to actual results. This includes tracking schedule, cost, and quality metrics.

Variances and Corrective Actions

Variiances trigger corrective actions. Continuous oversight ensures the project stays on course and risks are managed proactively.

Earned Value Data

Earned Value data provides insights into project performance. It helps identify variances and supports data-driven decision-making.

Integrated Change Control



Systematic Change Management

Integrated Change Control ensures that changes are managed systematically. Any change to scope, schedule, or cost must be evaluated for its full impact.

Maintaining Alignment

This process protects the project from scope creep and keeps all elements aligned, preserving the integrity of the plan and ensuring successful execution.



05

Closing the Project

The Exhale of Closure

01

Final Phase

Closing is the final phase of the project life cycle. It's not just about finishing work but about formally concluding the project with resolution and satisfaction.

02

Emotional and Administrative Resolution

This phase brings emotional and administrative resolution. It's the exhale after the long effort, ensuring that all obligations are met and the project is properly transitioned.

03

Importance of Formal Closure

Formal closure is essential for releasing resources, documenting lessons learned, and ensuring that the project's outcomes are fully realized.

Administrative and Contractual Closure



Administrative Closure

Administrative closure involves finalizing documentation, releasing resources, and updating records. It ensures that all project activities are formally completed.

Contractual Closure

Contractual closure includes settling payments, closing supplier agreements, and ensuring legal completion. It formalizes the end of all contractual obligations.



Handover and Final Acceptance



Formal Acceptance

Obtaining formal acceptance of the final deliverable is crucial. This signature confirms that the client or sponsor is satisfied and the product is ready for use.

The Lesson Learned Ritual



Organizational Knowledge

These insights become organizational knowledge, contributing to a culture of continuous improvement and learning.

» Capturing Insights

Capturing lessons learned is a valuable ritual. It involves reflecting on what went wrong and why, and what succeeded, to improve future projects.

» Honest Reflection

Honest reflection is key. It's not just about identifying problems but understanding their root causes and how to avoid them in the future.

» Growing from Experience

Lessons learned help organizations grow from their scars. They ensure that valuable insights are captured and shared, improving future project outcomes.

Next Steps: Into Initiation

Completing the Cycle

The project life cycle is complete. Initiating, Planning, Executing, and Closing form a repeatable framework for managing complexity.

Revisiting Initiation

Now that the cycle is complete, the next step is to revisit Initiation with deeper insight. This sets the stage for future exploration of project charters and initiation practices.



Thank You

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