

Advanced Project Management

PMG 506
Lecture 1
Introduction

Lecture 1: Projects in Contemporary Organizations

Project management provides an organization with powerful tools that improve its ability to plan, implement, and control its activities as well as the ways in which it utilizes its people and resources.

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Project management has emerged because the characteristics of our contemporary society demand the development of new methods of management. Of the many forces involved, three are paramount:

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- (1) the exponential expansion of human knowledge;**
- (2) the growing demand for a broad range of complex, sophisticated, customized goods and services**
- (3) the evolution of worldwide competitive markets for the production and consumption of goods and services**

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Forces Fostering Project Management:

First, the expansion of knowledge allows an increasing number of academic disciplines to be used in solving problems associated with the development, production, and distribution of goods and services.

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Forces Fostering Project Management:

Second, satisfying the continuing demand for more complex and customized products and services depends on our ability to make product design an integrated and inherent part of our production and distribution systems.

Third, worldwide markets force us to include cultural and environmental differences in our managerial decisions about what, where, when, and how to produce and distribute output.

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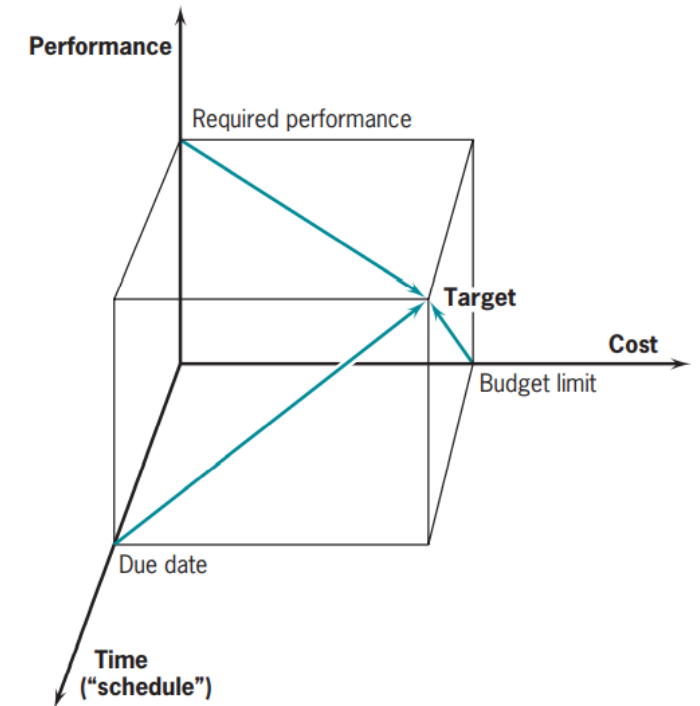
Three Project Objectives:

All undertakings have much in common, they are complex, multidisciplinary, and have the same general objectives—performance (or scope), time, and cost.

We refer to these as “direct” project objectives or goals.

The fourth dimension is the expectations of the client.

The expectations of client and project team should be aligned and integrated throughout the entire project, but rarely are.



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The Project Manager:

The project manager (PM) is expected to integrate all aspects of the project, ensure that the proper knowledge and resources are available when and where needed, and above all, ensure that the expected results are produced in a timely, cost-effective manner.

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The project manager's job is not without problems.

- **There is the ever-present frustration of being responsible for outcomes while lacking full authority to command the requisite resources or personnel.**
- **There are the constant problems of dealing with the parties involved in any project—senior management, client, project team, and public—all of whom seem to speak different languages and have different objectives.**

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The project manager's job is not without problems.

- **There are the ceaseless organizational and technical “fires to be fought.”**
- **There are vendors who cannot seem to keep “lightning-strike-me-dead” promises about delivery dates. This list of troubles only scratches the surface.**

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Trends in Project Management:

- ***Achieving Strategic Goals***

Projects that do not have clear ties to the strategy and mission are terminated and their resources are redirected to those that do.

- ***Achieving Routine Goals***

This is because lower level management has become aware that projects accomplish their performance objectives within their budget and deadline, and hope to employ this new tool to improve management of their functions.

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Trends in Project Management:

- *improving Project Effectiveness*

The creation of a formal Project Management Office and the evaluation of an organization's project management "maturity"

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1.1 THE DEFINITION OF A “PROJECT”

A project is “A temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service or result”

project, program, task, and work packages.

Program refer to an exceptionally large, long-range objective that is broken down into a set of ***projects***. These projects are divided further into ***tasks***, which are, in turn, split into ***work packages*** that are themselves composed of ***work units***.

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Attributes that characterize projects:

- **Importance**

It must be important enough in the eyes of senior management to justify setting up a special organizational unit outside the routine structure of the organization.

- **Performance**

A project is usually a one-time activity with a well-defined set of desired end results. Often, the project itself must be coordinated with other projects being carried out by the same parent organization

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Attributes that characterize projects:

- **Life Cycle with a Finite Due Date**

From a slow beginning they progress to a build-up of size, then peak, begin a decline, and finally must be terminated by some due date.

- **Interdependencies**

Projects often interact with other projects being carried out simultaneously by their parent organization.

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Attributes that characterize projects:

- **Uniqueness**

Every project has some elements that are unique. No two construction or R & D projects are precisely alike.

- **Resources**

The attempt to obtain additional resources (or any resources) leads to the next attribute conflict.

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Attributes that characterize projects:

- **Conflict**

The PM must be expert in conflict resolution, but we will see later that there are helpful types of conflict. The PM must recognize the difference.

- **Nonprojects and Quasi-Projects**

The use of a manufacturing line to produce a flow of standard products is a non-project. The production of weekly employment reports, the preparation of school lunches, checking your e-mail. They are all routine

One common quasi-project in the information systems area is where the project includes discovery of the scope or requirements of the task itself (and possibly also the budget and deadline).

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1.2 WHY PROJECT MANAGEMENT?

The basic purpose for initiating a project is to accomplish specific goals. The reason for organizing the task as a project is to focus the responsibility and authority for the attainment of the goals on an individual or small group.

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The project form of organization allows the manager to be responsive to:

- (1) the client and the environment,**
- (2) identify and correct problems at an early date,**

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The project form of organization allows the manager to be responsive to:

- (3) make timely decisions about trade-offs between conflicting project goals,**
- (4) ensure that managers of the separate tasks that comprise the project do not optimize the performance of their individual tasks at the expense of the total project—that is, that they do not suboptimize.**

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1.2 WHY PROJECT MANAGEMENT?

Advantages of using Project Management

- Better control
- Better customer relations
- Increase in their return on investment
- Shorter development times
- Lower costs

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1.2 WHY PROJECT MANAGEMENT?

Advantages of using Project Management

- Higher quality and reliability
- Higher profit margins
- Sharper orientation toward results
- Better interdepartmental coordination
- Higher worker morale

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1.2 WHY PROJECT MANAGEMENT?

Disadvantages of using Project Management

- Greater organizational complexity
- Organizational policy violation
- Higher costs,
- More management difficulties
- Low personnel utilization

The disadvantages seem to be the price one pays for the advantages. On the whole, the balance weighs in favor of project organization if the work to be done is appropriate for a project.

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1.3 THE PROJECT LIFE CYCLE

Most projects go through similar stages on the path from origin to completion, these stages are the project's life cycle.

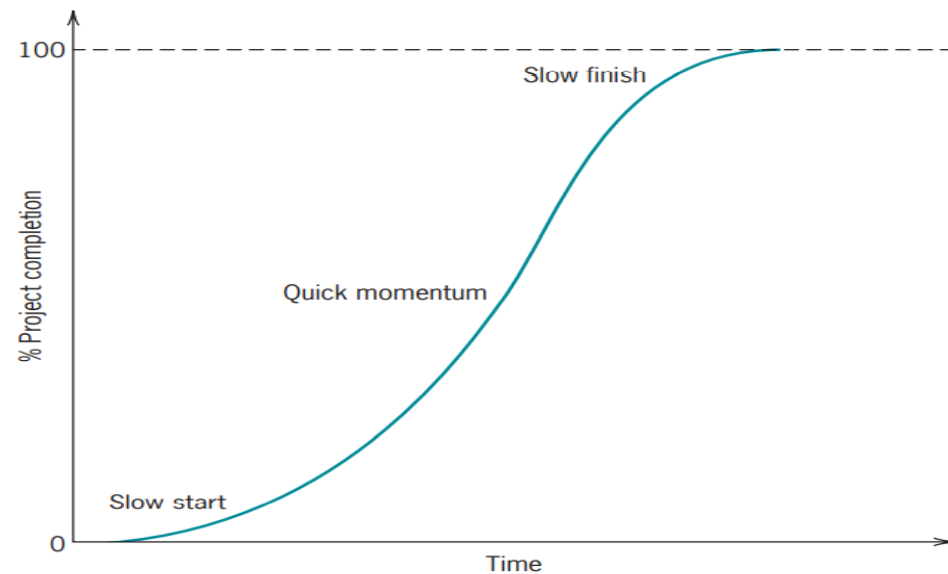


Figure 1-3 The project life cycle.

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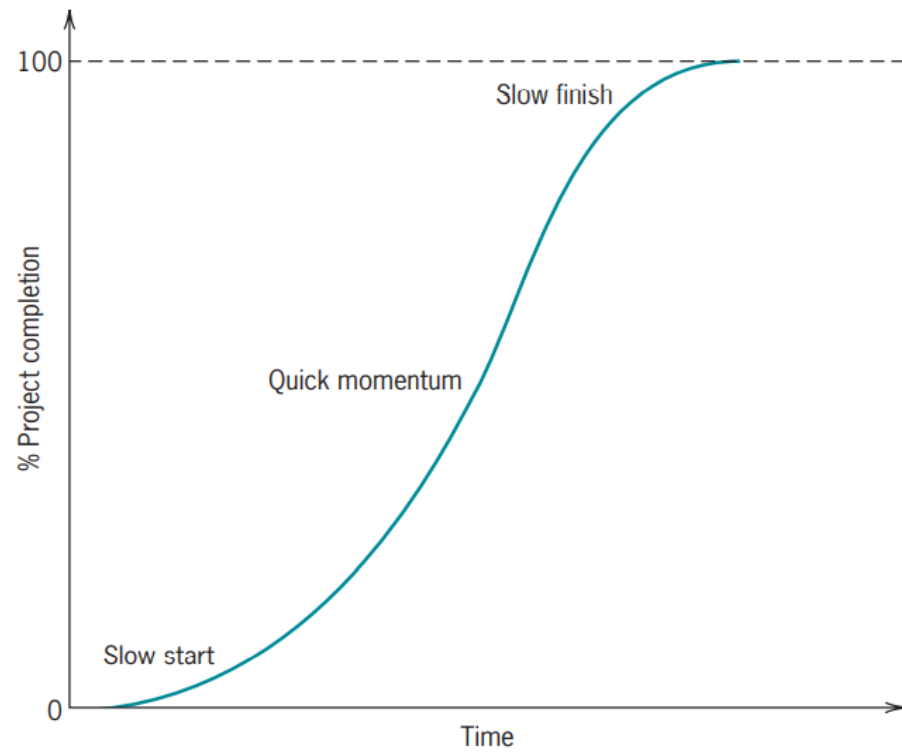


Figure 1-3 The project life cycle.

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There is a strong correlation between the life-cycle progress curve of Figure 1-3 and the effort curve of Figure 1-4 because effort usually results in corresponding progress.

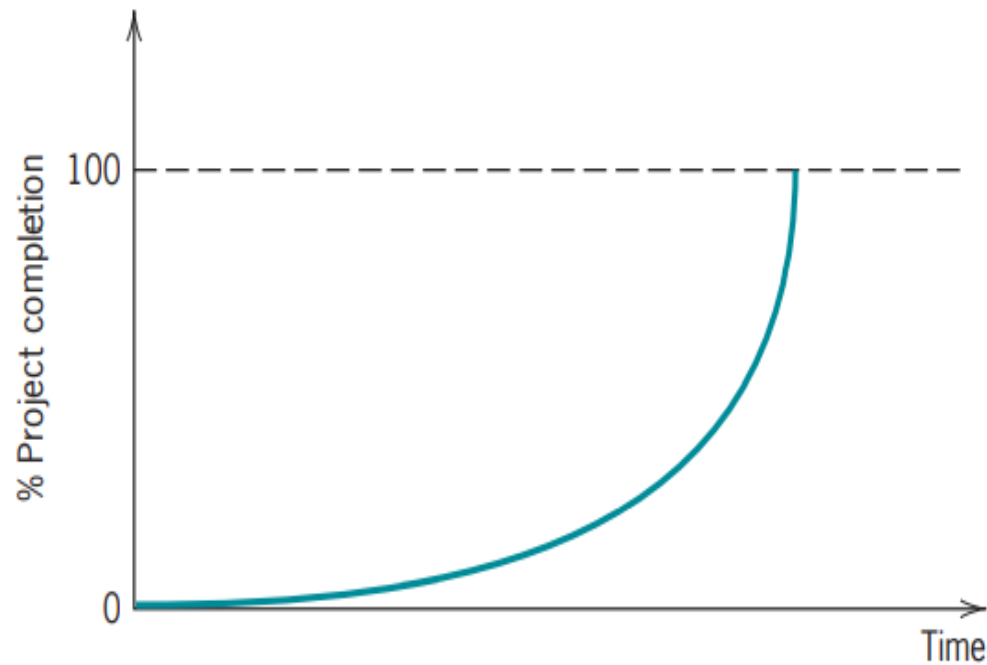


Figure 1-5 Another possible project life cycle.

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For the S-shaped life cycle in Figure 1-3, percentage of project completion is closely correlated with cost, or the use of resources.

However, for the exponential progress curve in Figure 1-5, the expenditure of resources has little correlation with progress, at least in terms of final benefit.

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Risk During the Life Cycle:

There may be considerable uncertainty about our ability to meet project goals (performance, time, and cost). The crosshatched portion of Figure 1-6 illustrates that uncertainty.

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Risk During the Life Cycle:

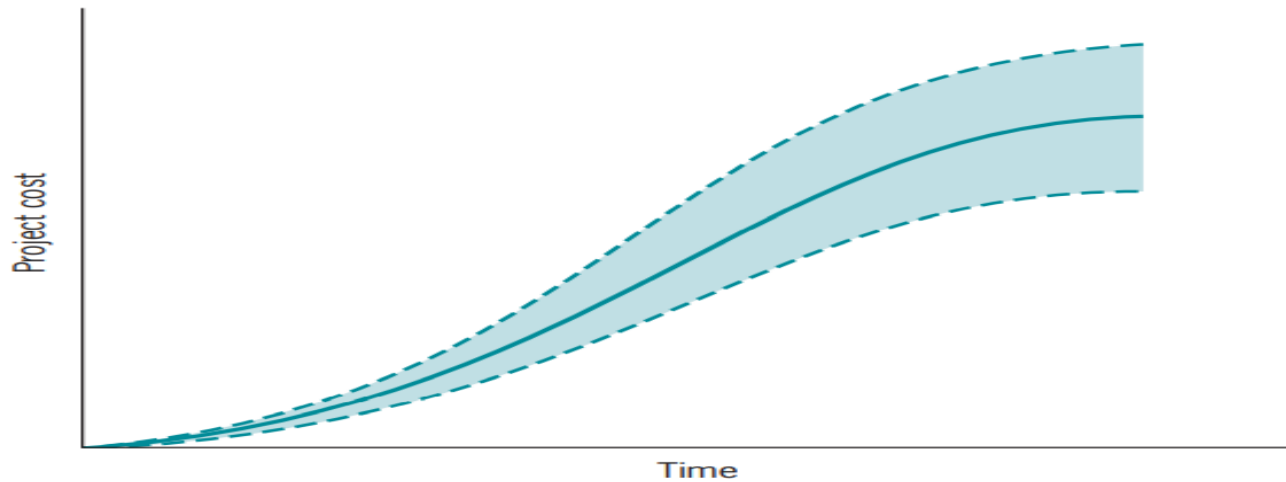


Figure 1-6 Estimate of project cost: estimate made at project start.

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Figure 1-7 shows how the uncertainty decreases as the project moves toward completion. From project start time, t_0 , the band of uncertainty grows until it is quite wide by the estimated end of the project. As the project actually develops, the degree of uncertainty about the final outcome is reduced. (See the estimate made at t_1 , for example.) A later forecast, made at t_2 , reduces the uncertainty further.

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It is common to make new forecasts about project performance, time, and cost either at fixed intervals in the life of the project or when specific technological milestones are reached.

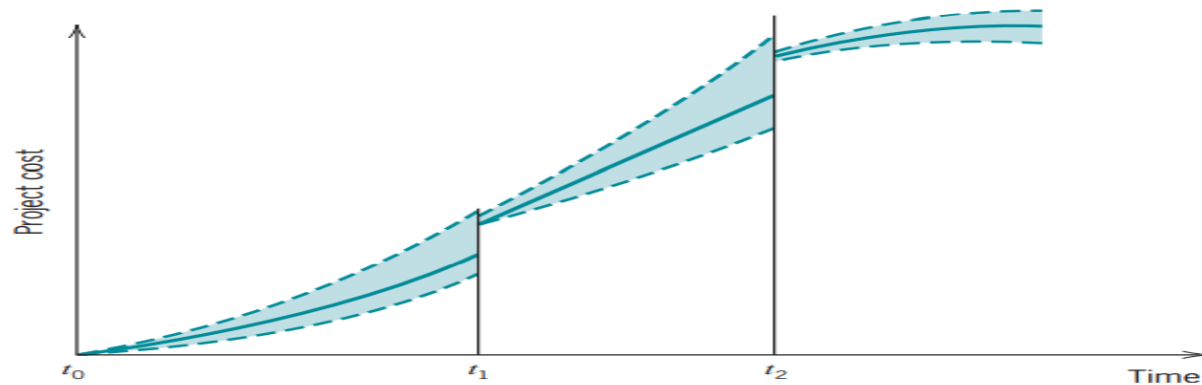


Figure 1-7 Estimates of project cost: estimates made at time t_0 , t_1 , and t_2 .

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Important takeaways:

- This chapter introduced the subject of project management and discussed its importance in our society. It defined what we mean by a “project,” discussed the need for project management, and described the project life cycle.

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Important takeaways:

- The three primary forces behind project management are (1) the growing demand for complex, customized goods and services; (2) the exponential expansion of human knowledge; and (3) the global production– consumption environment.

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Important takeaways

- The three prime objectives of project management are to meet specified performance within cost and on schedule.
- Our terminology follows in this order: program, project, task, work package, work unit.

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Important takeaways

- Projects are characterized by their importance, specific end results, a definite life cycle, complex interdependencies, some or all unique elements, limited resources, and an environment of conflict.

Lecture 1: Glossary

Deliverables

The desired elements of value, outcomes, or results that must be delivered for a project to be considered complete.

Interdependencies

Relations between organizational functions where one function or task is dependent on others.

Lecture 1: Glossary

Life Cycle

A standard concept of a product or project wherein it goes through a start-up phase, a building phase, a maturing phase, and a termination phase.

Parties-at-Interest

Individuals or groups (the stakeholders) with a special interest in a project, usually the project team, client, senior management, and specific public interest groups.

Lecture 1: Glossary

Program

Often not distinguished from a project, but frequently meant to encompass a group of similar projects oriented toward a specific goal.

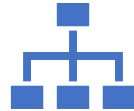
Project Management

The means, techniques, and concepts used to run a project and achieve its objectives.

Lecture 1: Glossary



Risk The chance that project processes or outcomes will not occur as planned.



Suboptimize Doing the best within a function or area but at a cost to the larger whole. **Task** A subset of a project, consisting of work packages.



Technology The means for accomplishing a task.



Trade-off Taking less on one measure, such as performance, in order to do better on another, such as schedule or cost.



Uncertainty Having only partial or no information about the situation or outcomes, often due to ambiguity or complexity.



Work Package A subelement of a task at the lowest level in the Work Breakdown Structure, used to assign costs and values.



Thank You

