Software Project Management



Fifth Edition



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Bob Hughes and Mike Cotterell



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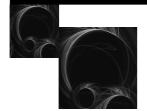
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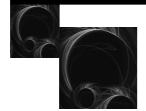
Dedication

For Pavle Bataveljic 1945–2008



Brief Table of Contents

	Preface	X
	Guided tour	xii
	Technology to enhance learning and teaching	xiv
	Acknowledgements	xvii
1	Introduction to software project management	1
2	Project evaluation and programme management	21
3	An overview of project planning	49
4	Selection of an appropriate project approach	73
5	Software effort estimation	103
6	Activity planning	129
7	Risk management	162
8	Resource allocation	192
9	Monitoring and control	212
0	Managing contracts	236
1	Managing people in software environments	254
2	Working in teams	271
3	Software quality	293
	Appendix A	325
	Appendix B	337
	Further reading	375
	Indov	270



Detailed Table of Contents

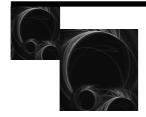
	Prefa	nce	X		2.9	Strategic programme	
Guided tour			xii			management	40
	Technology to enhance learning				2.10	Creating a programme	40
	and teaching		xiv			Aids to programme management	43
	Ackn	nowledgements	xvii		2.12	Some reservations about	
						programme management	45
1	Intro	duction to software project			2.13	Benefits management	45
	mana	agement	1		2.14	Conclusion	47
	1.1	Introduction	1		2.15	Further exercises	48
	1.2	Why is software project					
		management important?	2	3	An o	verview of project planning	49
	1.3	What is a project?	2		3.1	Introduction to Step Wise project	
	1.4	Software projects versus other				planning	49
		types of project	4		3.2	Step 0: Select project	53
	1.5	Contract management and			3.3	Step 1: Identify project scope	
		technical project management	5			and objectives	53
	1.6	Activities covered by software			3.4	Step 2: Identify project	
		project management	5			infrastructure	55
	1.7	Plans, methods and			3.5	Step 3: Analyse project	
		methodologies	8			characteristics	58
	1.8	Some ways of categorizing			3.6	Step 4: Identify project products	
		software projects	9			and activities	60
	1.9	Stakeholders	11		3.7	Step 5: Estimate effort for	
	1.10	Setting objectives	11			each activity	65
	1.11	The business case	13		3.8	Step 6: Identify activity risks	67
		Project success and failure	14		3.9	Step 7: Allocate resources	68
	1.13	What is management?	15		3.10	Step 8: Review/publicize plan	69
	1.14	Management control	16		3.11	Steps 9 and 10: Execute	
	1.15	Conclusion	18			plan/lower levels of planning	70
	Anne	ex 1 Contents list for a project			3.12	Conclusion	71
		plan	18		3.13	Further exercises	71
	1.16	Further exercises	19				
				4		ction of an appropriate project	
2	Project evaluation and programme				appr		73
	mana	agement	21		4.1	Introduction	73
	2.1	Introduction	21		4.2	Build or buy?	74
	2.2	A business case	22		4.3	Choosing methodologies and	
	2.3	Project portfolio management	24			technologies	76
	2.4	Evaluation of individual			4.4	Choice of process models	81
		projects	26		4.5	Structure versus speed of delivery	81
	2.5	Cost-benefit evaluation			4.6	The waterfall model	82
		techniques	28		4.7	The spiral model	84
		Risk evaluation	34		4.8	Software prototyping	84
	2.7	Programme management	38		4.9	Other ways of categorizing	
	2.8	Managing the allocation of				prototypes	86
		resources within programmes	39		4.10	Incremental delivery	88

viii Detailed Table of Contents

	<i>I</i> 11	Agile methods	92	7	Rick	management	162
		Atern/Dynamic Systems	92	,	7.1	Introduction	162
	7.12	Development Method	93		7.1	Risk	163
	112	Extreme programming (XP)	95 95		7.2		165
		Managing iterative processes	99		7.3 7.4	A framework for dealing	103
			99		7. 4	with risk	100
	4.13	Selecting the most appropriate	100		7.5		166
	116	process model	100			Risk identification	166
		Conclusion	101		7.6	Risk assessment	168
	4.17	Further exercises	101		7.7	Risk planning	172
_	c (1	· · ·	400		7.8	0	173
5		vare effort estimation	103			Evaluating risks to the schedule	176
	5.1	Introduction	103			Applying the PERT technique	176
	5.2	Where are estimates done?	105			Monte Carlo simulation	182
	5.3	Problems with over- and under-				Critical chain concepts	183
		estimates	107			Conclusion	188
	5.4	The basis for software estimating	108		7.14	Further exercises	188
	5.5	Software effort estimation					
		techniques	108	8		urce allocation	192
	5.6	Bottom-up estimating	109		8.1	Introduction	192
	5.7	The top-down approach and			8.2	The nature of resources	194
		parametric models	111		8.3	Identifying resource	
	5.8	Expert judgement	112			requirements	195
	5.9	Estimating by analogy	113		8.4	Scheduling resources	197
	5.10	Albrecht function point			8.5	Creating critical paths	201
		analysis	114		8.6	Counting the cost	202
	5.11	Function points Mark II	11 <i>7</i>		8.7	Being specific	203
	5.12	COSMIC full function points	119		8.8	Publishing the resource	
	5.13	COCOMO 13: a parametric				schedule	204
		productivity model	120		8.9	Cost schedules	204
	5.14	Conclusion	125		8.10	The scheduling sequence	207
	5.15	Further exercises	126			Conclusion	209
						Further exercises	209
6	Activ	vity planning	129				
	6.1 Introduction		129	9	Mon	itoring and control	212
	6.2	The objectives of activity	,	,		Introduction	212
	··-	planning	130		9.2		213
	6.3	When to plan	131		9.3	Collecting the data	216
	6.4	Project schedules	131		9.4	Visualizing progress	218
	6.5	Projects and activities	133		9.5	Cost monitoring	222
	6.6	Sequencing and scheduling	133		9.6	Earned value analysis	223
	0.0	activities	138		9.7	Prioritizing monitoring	229
	6.7	Network planning models	139		9.8	Getting the project back	223
		Formulating a network model	140		5.0	to target	229
		Adding the time dimension			9.9	Change control	
			144			Conclusion	232
		The backward pass	146			Further exercises	235
		The backward pass	146		9.11	ruither exercises	235
		Identifying the critical path	148	10	M A a a a		226
		Activity float	150	10		aging contracts	236
		Shortening the project duration	150			Introduction	236
		Identifying critical activities	151			Types of contract	237
		Activity-on-arrow networks	151			Stages in contract placement	243
		Conclusion	160			Typical terms of a contract	247
	6.16	Further exercises	160		10.5	Contract management	250

Detailed Table of Contents ix

	10.6	Acceptance	251	12.6	Dispersed and virtual teams	284
	10.7	Conclusion	252	12.7		286
	10.8 I	Further exercises	252	12.8	=	288
				12.9		289
11	Mana	ging people in software		12.1	0 Conclusion	292
		onments	254	12.1	1 Further exercises	292
	11.1	Introduction	254			
	11.2	Understanding behaviour	256	13 Softv	vare quality	293
	11.3	Organization behaviour:		13.1	Introduction	293
		a background	257	13.2	The place of software quality in	
	11.4	Selecting the right person			project planning	294
		for the job	258	13.3	The importance of software	
	11.5	Instruction in the best			quality	295
		methods	261	13.4	Defining software quality	295
	11.6	Motivation	261	13.5	ISO 9126	298
	11.7	The Oldham–Hackman job		13.6	Product versus process quality	
		characteristics model	264		management	304
	11.8	Stress	265	13.7	Quality management systems	306
	11.9	Health and safety	266	13.8	Process capability models	308
	11.10	Some ethical and professional		13.9	Techniques to help enhance	
		concerns	267		software quality	314
	11.11	Conclusion	269	13.1	0 Testing	319
	11.12	Further exercises	269	13.1	1 Quality plans	322
				13.1	2 Conclusion	323
12	Worki	ng in teams	271	13.1	3 Further exercises	323
	12.1	Introduction	271			
	12.2	Becoming a team	273		endix A PRINCE2 – an overview	325
	12.3	Decision making	276		endix B Answer pointers	337
	12.4	Organizational structures	281	Furt	her reading	<i>375</i>
	12.5	Coordination dependencies	283	Inde	X	379



Preface

Preparing the fifth edition of this book has reminded us that project management is not just a crucial element in successful software and IT development, but is also a fascinating topic in its own right. It is an intriguing mixture of the technical and the very human, of the rational and also the intuitive. Initially we offered this topic as an ancillary discipline for software engineers and IT practitioners. We have, however, become increasingly convinced that the discipline should have a more central role: that the question of *how* systems are implemented is a vital one to be asked at the same time as that of *what* a system is to do.

Not many software books have lasted as long as this one. Clearly the principles of project management are less transient than those of software design and implementation, which have gone through some very major developments over recent years. However, project management has not been immune from change. One development has been the growth in project management bodies of knowledge such as those of the Project Management Institute (PMI) in the United States and the Association for Project Management (APM) in the United Kingdom. There has also been the development of project management standards such as PRINCE2. These developments are to be welcomed as externalizing and codifying good practice - indeed we have included an appendix on PRINCE2. However, we have resisted becoming a 'PMI' book or a 'PRINCE2' book. Partly this is because we believe that software project management, while incorporating all the key elements of generic project management, also has to deal with the peculiar problems associated with creating software. These include the relative intangibility of software, its extreme malleability, the intimate relationship it has with the systems within which it is embedded, and its sheer complexity. We also wanted to avoid means-end inversion where there was a focus on the recall of specific terminology and procedural detail at the expense of an understanding of underlying concepts and purpose.

One new development that has been taken on board has been the growing awareness that a project is rarely an isolated activity but is almost always part of a broader programme of work aimed at meeting organizational and business objectives. There are also agile approaches, such as extreme programming, which have been a timely reminder that software development is an intensely human activity. In contrast to this emphasis on the highly productive, highly interactive co-located team, there is also a growth of dispersed or virtual projects where all or part of the development team is in another country or even continent. We noted these developments in previous editions but have expanded their treatment in this one – this greater emphasis on development team dynamics has led to the creation of a chapter devoted solely to these topics.

One major problem has been the conflict between a desire to include all the topics that our reviewers would like to see and the desire for a concise volume that avoids 'bloating'. Sometimes there are topics and standards which appear to be current and of which one feels people should be aware. On closer inspection, the material for various reasons is less

useful or relevant than one hoped. In this edition we have dropped an appendix on the British standard BS6079. This is because the new version of this has become what is essentially a general advisory guide on project management practice. As such it duplicates material already covered in this book. Some individual topics have also been dropped because it was felt that they really needed a deeper treatment better conveyed by a more specialist publication than this one: the internal rate of return (IRR) in project evaluation and the Hofstede analysis of national cultural characteristics are examples. In general, though, we have erred on the side of caution in retaining topics.

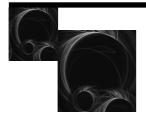
It seems a long time since the first, rather slim, edition published in 1995. As novice authors, Cotterell and Hughes were very indebted to Dave Hatter and Martin Campbell Kelly who had a huge influence on the style of the book. Dave Hatter in particular emphasized the need for each chapter to have clear learning objectives: ideally the reader should finish the chapter feeling they had learnt a new skill. He also instilled the need to explain things clearly – to feel confident in using simple words to explain things that might at first appear complicated. We are aware that we have not always lived up to these values – and have been taken to task by our students and teachers from other institutions who have kindly acted as reviewers. Many of the changes we have made in the new edition are as a result of this process.

Acknowledgements

During the course of preparing the four previous editions since 1995, we have received assistance from many people. These people have included: Ken l'Anson, Chris Claire, David Howe, Martin Campbell Kelly, Barbara Kitchenham (for permission to use a project data set shown in Chapter 5), Paul Radford and Robyn Lawrie of Charismatek Software Metrics in Melbourne, David Garmus and David Herron (the last four, all for material in Chapter 10), David Purves, David Wynne, Dick Searles, John Pyman, Jim Watson, Mary Shepherd, Sunita Chulani, David Wilson, David Farthing, Charlie Svahnberg, Henk Koppelaar and Ian McChesney.

We have made use of materials produced by Abdullah Al Shehab and David I. Shepherd in the chapter on risk. David also offered some advice on the developments in earned value analysis. Our colleague Marian Eastwood helped us out on some of the finer points of the Unified System Development Method.

We would also like to thank the team at McGraw-Hill. The role previously taken by Karen Mosman was taken over by Catriona Hoyle (née Watson) and Katy Hamilton who, among other good things, instilled the necessary disciplines of timeliness. We have already mentioned Dave Hatter who was our former editor at International Thomson Press and then at McGraw-Hill and we hope he continues to enjoy retirement in the groves and glades of Essex.



Guided tour



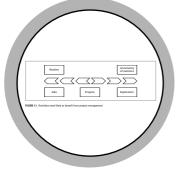
Objectives

Each chapter opens with a set of learning objectives, summarizing what the reader should learn from each chapter.

Margin notes

New ideas, terms and references are placed in the margin where appropriate. Margin notes also indicate the links to ideas and concepts covered elsewhere in the textbook.





Figures and tables

Each chapter provides a number of figures to show the various models, project planning tools and charts.

Case study examples

Brief case studies run throughout the chapters to illustrate the application of project management techniques.





Exercises

Brief exercises are dotted throughout the chapters, to allow students to practise the techniques and apply the methodology to real-world situations.

Chapter conclusions

This briefly reviews and reinforces the main topics covered in each chapter to ensure that students have acquired a solid understanding of the key topics.





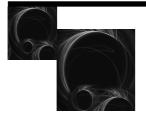
Further exercises

These questions encourage the reader to review and apply the knowledge acquired from each chapter and to explore further some of the ideas in the chapter.

Appendices

Appendix A at the end of the book explains PRINCE2. Appendix B, Answer pointers, provides guide answers to the questions and exercises set in the book.





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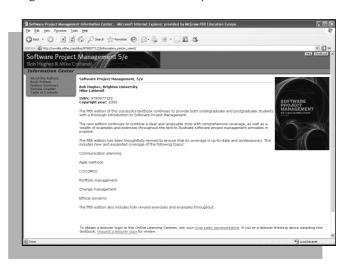


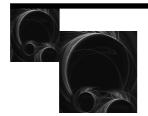
Online Learning Centre (OLC)

After completing each chapter, log on to the supporting Online Learning Centre website. Take advantage of the study tools offered to reinforce the material you have read in the text, and to develop your knowledge of project management in a fun and effective way.

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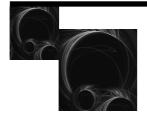
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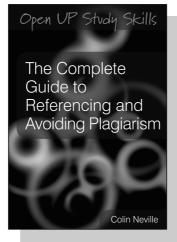
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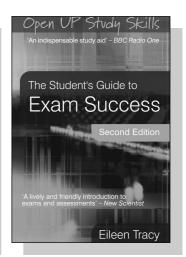




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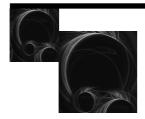
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