

Unit 17: IT Project Projects Life Cycles (P1)

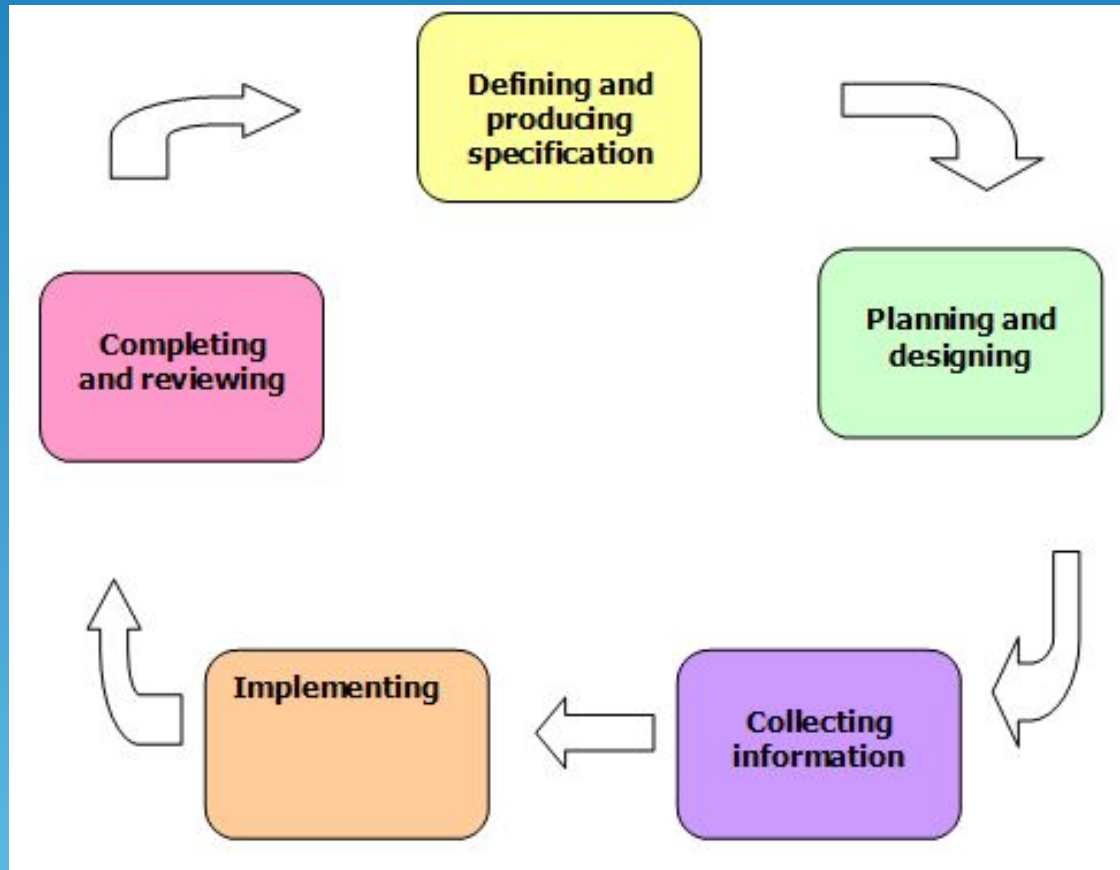


Learning Outcomes

- Project Life Cycle
- Stages of the Life Cycle



Project Life Cycle



Defining & Producing Specification

- Firstly, the problem must be carefully described, this can be achieved by speaking to the user/manager
- The problem is then defined in writing and agreed by all parties involved
- The specification is then defined as a set of actual deliverables (to be achieved through the project)
- Specification will focus on what the new system will need to do to enable users to carry out their tasks (functional perspective)
- Establish the inputs, processing requirements and output needed
- What hardware or software requirements or anything else that will facilitate the solution (network cabling, desks, chairs, routers, security software)

Planning & Designing

- The Planning & Designing stage and the Collecting Information stage more or less happen simultaneously, with each part providing information that might tweak another aspect of the process
- In the Planning & Designing Stage:
 - Plan the project
 - Identify review points and other milestones
 - Consideration of what resources will be needed
 - What money will be required to complete the project
 - What are the deadlines

Collecting Information

- While the planning & designing stage is going on, information about the existing system and processes are collected, collated and analysed
- You cannot design a solution if you do not understand what you have already!
- Collecting Information involves
 - Interviews
 - Questionnaires
 - Data Analysis
 - Meetings
 - Document Analysis
 - Observations

Implementing

- Implementation part of a life cycle includes:
 - Creating the project product (whatever that might be), so building your interactive website
 - Any testing that needs to be undertaken, testing you completed website
- Often project teams can underestimate how much time will be needed for this phase, since developing a product, such as a website, can take longer.
- At this stage it is sometime better to heavily overestimate than to underestimate (and therefore carry out more effective testing)

Completing & Reviewing

- Once the project is complete, the product is activated or brought to life and is tested
- All team members in the project will get together to review its success, using the original functional specification, to provide a list of performance criteria against which success or failure can be judged
- Review will highlight a number of aspects for immediate resolution or an additional wish list of enhancements
- In the event that the client wants or needs additional enhancements, in a commercial project there will be an opportunity to charge extra for the additional work

Task

- **Produce** a detailed presentation (with notes) **describing** the typical phases of a project life cycle.