

ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES

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Plan Schedule Management

Plan schedule management is the process of establishing policies, procedures, and documentation for planning, developing, managing, executing, and controlling the project schedule (PMI, 2013). This plan is critical to ensure all project members understand how the project schedule will be managed throughout the project lifecycle. Depending on the project type, this plan can vary in detail, format and complexity. The plan should also address contingencies and updated appropriately to reflect changes as required. A well thought out schedule will help ensure project success.

The schedule management plan in a global setting is very challenging. Due to the nature of cultural differences and social behaviors schedules will vary. In a global setting a schedule must take cultural/social behaviors into consideration. A few examples are, siesta in Spain, prayer times in Muslim cultures, tea time in China, yes, China! So when creating the schedule management plan everyone involved in the project must be taken into consideration to avoid future schedule conflicts. This can be a very daunting and overwhelming task but if done methodically and correctly it will pay off.

If you are taking over a failing project you will need to take a few more things into consideration when creating a new schedule if it is required. First, once you have determined the root causes you will now need to tailor the schedule to ensure the same mistakes aren't repeated if schedule related. This may lead you to plan details on how to fast track or crash the project schedule. Second, you will need to be aware of any risk associated with changing the schedule and how that will improve or hinder project success. If you use the tools and techniques provided to you as a project manager you will be able to effectively manage a failing projects schedule.

Our team would use a variety of analytical techniques for the RFP. Because we will need to choose strategic options to estimate and schedule the project we would need to use a few different options. Some of these techniques could include, scheduling methodology, estimating approaches, formats and project management software. Based on policies and procedures we would determine how we were to employ the various techniques. A good combination that supports the project goals will lead to successful schedule planning.

References

Larson, E. & Gray, C. (2014). *Project Management: The Managerial Process* (6th ed.). New York, NY. McGraw Hill Education.

Project Management Institute (PMI). (2004). *A guide to the project management body of knowledge (PMBOK guide)*. Newtown Square, Pa: Project Management Institute.