DECOMPOSITION

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Create WBS

Creating a WBS is the process of subdividing project deliverables and project work into smaller, more manageable components (PMI, 2013). What this achieves is a visual representation of all the work of a project. It enables the project manager to assign assets to each deliverable and track milestones. This aids the project manager by ensuring the project is staying on track, according to the timeline and on budget. This is also a great tool to utilize as a means of communicating to the project team what tasks need to be accomplished, who needs to accomplish them, the order of precedence and the deadline.

The only major difference I would foresee in a global setting is if there would be an industry specific WBS standard that would need to be used. Some countries might dictate the template of the WBS that would need to be used. This is important to know ahead of time so that the project manager and his team could become familiar with the regulated format. Overall a WBS shouldn't change to significantly on a global project.

With regards to a failing project the WBS process itself should not change but it can be utilized to help with determining the reason(s) for the failure. Because the WBS organizes and defines the total scope of the project you would be able to work backwards from the lowest levels of the project to see what the root causes of the project failure could be. So starting with the work packages you will be able to see the work that has been scheduled, estimated, monitored and controlled. With this information you can determine where the project has gone astray. Regardless if a project is failing or right on track, the WBS is a project manager's greatest asset in managing a project.

Our group would utilize the decomposition technique with the RFP. Decomposition involves dividing and subdividing of the project scope. This allows the scope to be broken down into

project deliverables that are more manageable. The lowest levels of decomposition are work

packages. The level of detail for work packages will vary with the size and complexity of the

project (PMI, 2013). Whether we used an application like MS Project or other similar software

product, the decomposition technique is critical to a successful WBS.

References

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

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Project Management Institute (PMI). (2004). *A guide to the project management body of*

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