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What is a Project?

Project Management

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Course description

If you've been assigned to manage a project, welcome to the world of managing deadlines, managing other people, and seeing a project from start to finish. This series is designed to walk you through the steps and processes you go through when managing a project. There are certifications out there, and this series does NOT grant you certification. It will provide you with the basic understanding of project management. In this first course, we'll define what a project is, we'll introduce you to the four phases of the project management process, and we'll touch on some typical project constraints.

Project management definition

- Project management is “the application of processes, methods, knowledge, skills, and experience to achieve project objectives.”
- According to the Project Management Institute, a project is “a temporary, unique, transient endeavor, undertaken to achieve planned objectives, which could be defined in terms of outputs, outcomes, or benefits.”

Project objectives

- These define target status at the end of the project.
- A project is often not considered successful until all of the goals of the project are met.

Project specifics

- A project is considered “unique” because it's not a routine operation, but a specific set of operations that need to be executed to accomplish a goal or purpose.
- It is temporary because it has a defined timeline and deadline.

Project phases

1. Planning
 2. Communicating
 3. Managing
 4. Wrapping up
- Not all projects go through every stage.
 - Some projects may not reach the end.
 - There is not a firm set of criteria or steps to follow with every project.

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Constraints

- Cost:
 - Cost is the budget that has been established for the project.
 - It is a major factor throughout the project life cycle.
 - This may be out of your control.
- Time:
 - All project members should communicate about timelines.
- Resources:
 - These are things that you need to get the project completed.
 - People involved with the project
 - Equipment
 - Facilities
- Constraints are not necessarily bad things, but they may hinder the project.
- Project managers should be aware of all constraints.

Application Questions

1

Briefly describe a recent project that you or your company has worked on.

2

List the constraints associated with the above project.