



Want to boost your success in managing projects?

Many Project Managers believe that to gain total project management success, you need to manage projects using a formal *project management methodology*. They say it helps give you direction, it saves you time and it improves the quality of your deliverables. But does it? By reading this newsletter, you will find out...

Why use a Methodology for Managing Projects

Of course most managers use a methodology of sorts, whether it be written on post-it notes stuck to their screen, documented in a stack of procedures on their desk, or included in software that they have bought.

Regardless of the type of methodology used, there is one common theme - that it typically helps them to manage projects and therefore improve their project success. Read this newsletter to find out why...

What is a Methodology?

A methodology is "a set of methods, processes and practices that are *repeatedly* carried out to deliver projects". The key concept is that you repeat the same steps for every project you undertake, and by doing that, you will gain efficiencies in your approach.

What is a Standard?

So what is the difference between a methodology and a standard? A *standard* is "a collection of knowledge areas that are generally accepted as best practice in the industry".

Standards give you industry guidance, whereas methodologies give you practical processes for managing projects. Standards are not methodologies, and vice versa. The two most popular standards are PMBOK® and Prince2®.

What should be included?

When you buy a project methodology, it should give you:

1. A core set of *processes* to follow for delivering projects.
2. A set of *templates* to help you build deliverables quickly.
3. A suite of *case studies* to help you learn from past projects.
4. An option for *customizing* the methodology provided.

Project Methodology List

To help you find and implement a project methodology which meets your needs, we have listed here the top 10 project methodologies for you.

1. MPM
2. Scrum
3. RUP (Rational)
4. AUP (Agile)
5. EUP (Enterprise)
6. UPMM (Unified)
7. Tenstep
8. PMCO
9. SSADM
10. IEM

Here is a summary of each methodology and its pros and cons:

MPMM

The "Method123 Project Management Methodology" is the only methodology that applies to all types of projects, in all industries. It includes the complete set of templates needed to manage projects. It is also aligned with PMBOK and Prince2.

[More info...](#)

Scrum

5. The ability to *import* your existing processes into it.

MPMM® is the only methodology that provides all of these features.

What will it not do?

A Methodology is not a *silver bullet*. It will not fix projects by itself or guarantee success. It is fair to say that no methodology "out-of-the-box" will be 100% applicable to every type of project. So you will need to customize any methodology you purchase to ensure that it perfectly fits your project management environment.

Why use a Methodology?

While a methodology is not a silver bullet for projects, it should help you by giving you a clear process for managing projects.

After you have customized it to perfectly fit your environment, your methodology should tell your team *what* has to be completed to deliver your project, *how* it should be done, in which *order* and by *when*.

Using a methodology you can:

- ✓ Create a project roadmap
- ✓ Monitor time, cost and quality
- ✓ Control change and scope
- ✓ Minimize risks and issues
- ✓ Manage staff and suppliers

Of course, you will need to use the elements of the methodology that are most suitable to each project you undertake. For instance, when managing smaller projects, you will only want to apply *lightweight* processes to your project. And when managing large projects, you should apply the *heavyweight* processes to monitor and control every element of your project in depth.

But if you can manage every project you undertake in the same way, then you will gain efficiencies with your approach, work smarter and reduce your stress. You will also give your team a clear understanding of what you expect from them and boost your chances of success.

Want a methodology for projects?

Type "*project management methodology*" into Google and check out the results. You will see **MPMM®** is ranked as the #1 methodology worldwide.

Download a complete [project management methodology](#)
Download an entire kit of [project management templates](#)

This is a lightweight agile method for software projects. It uses engineering practices and extreme programming for managing software projects.

RUP

The Rational Unified Process (RUP) is also a methodology for software projects. You access the methodology through an HTML viewer, though it is complex and not easily customized.

AUP

The Agile Unified Process is a simplified version of the RUP. It describes a simple approach to developing software.

EUP

The Enterprise Unified Process is another extension of the RUP, which focuses on large scale software deployments.

UPMM

The Unified Methodology is a similar offering to MPMM, except that it is a much more expensive product.

Tenstep

Tenstep allows you to read their project management process online.

PMCOP

PM Solutions implement their internal methodology called "PMCOP" when

they complete consulting assignments.

SSADM

SSADM is a systems approach to the analysis and design of information systems. It is available as a book through Amazon.

IEM

The Information Engineering Methodology is extensively taught in Universities. It is specific to software projects and also available as a book through Amazon.

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