

## What is a project life cycle?

Project life cycle is a series of phases of a project from initiation to completion. The life cycle gives a practical approach to problem solving applied to all aspects of a project. Phases in a project life cycle encompass sequential and overlapping phases. A project life cycle typically has 4 major phases: Initiation Phase – Planning Phase – Implementation/ Execution Phase – Closure Phase.

### Project life cycle phases

**Initiation Phase:** The project need is identified in the initiation phase. It signals the start of a project. The first phase explores the project concept. Scope is defined during this phase. Feasibility studies are made in order to identify if there is a business need and justification to pursue the project. Project charter is developed for approval. This is the phase in which the project team is constituted and the project manager is identified.

**Planning phase:** This phase is where the project solution is further explored and the steps necessary to achieve their goals. This phase further details the scope of the project. Tasks and resources are identified and assigned during this phase. Project manager coordinates the preparation of the schedule and project budget. Risks are identified ahead to anticipate any project threats. Quality plan is developed to maintain proper standards throughout project. Communications plan is created in order to ensure everyone is constantly informed of project status.

**Implementation phase:** The project plan is put into action. This phase is when people are carrying out the tasks of their plan. This phase is where the work outlined in the project plan is performed. This phase consumes the most resources and energy. Constant and close monitoring of the work should be done to ensure efficiency of the project execution. Status reports are important for all stakeholders involved. Deliverables are measured against the set metrics to ensure quality is acceptable

**Closure phase:** This phase is the final closing of all project processes and handing over deliverables to the customer. This is the last phase of the project life cycle and involves handing over final deliverable to the customer. Contracts are properly terminated for equipment, vendors and staff. All stakeholders are to be informed of project closure. This phase is when the team reviews the overall project and identifies lessons learned for future projects.

## References

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