Software Project Management: from Project Initiation to Goal Seeking!

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Abstract. With the growth of the new technologies, simultaneously the software development industry grows and extends its possibilities, thus creating a massive addiction to people towards technology and software applications. Each day thousands of new software applications are developed, turning the software development industry into one of the most needed and requested one. The software companies are struggling to stay on top, and by being closer to customer's needs and requirements they tend to increase the competitive advantage. An important factor to achieve that, is good project management, which consists of steps from initiation, planning, execution, monitoring and control of the project. These steps make a reliable framework of all that it takes to be done to ensure a successful project. This paper stands as a brief roadmap of some of the most important and basic concepts concerning software project management. It focuses on describing the overall software project management process, all the phases that it has to go through from the very beginning, till the end, when the project meets the objectives. Apart from that, various project management methodologies are discussed along with their pros and cons. A comparison between two basic methodologies, the traditional one and the agile is illustrated, along with the illustrations of some of the other methodologies. Also a brief overview of the stakeholders is given, focusing more on the role of the project manager. Relying on the gathered information and after discussing some reasons for project failure, this work furthermore offers recommendations for smooth project execution.

Keywords: Software project \cdot Software project management \cdot Project management methodologies \cdot Stakeholders.