Project plan debriefing

Criteria

As a client/manager, I need:
– Evidence that what is being proposed is feasible
– Visibility into your development process so that I can judge whether we will make deadlines

Needs satisfied by a plan that contains:
– detailed breakdown of tasks and their coordination
– precise estimates of the time/resources required for each task

How does a manager (or client) use such a plan?

Common problems/mistakes

Ill-defined tasks: missing input/output or procedure
Ill-defined phases:
– Unidentified deliverables
– Waterfall not just a “conceptual model”; phase produces a “thing” that is required by subsequent phase
Underestimation of time required to analyze and specify requirements
Process models that do not conform to the waterfall framework that I imposed in the schedule

Parts of a requirements spec

Detailed definitions (i.e., model) of:
– concepts/relationships in the problem domain
– actors who interact with the system in any way
– uses permitted by the system

Structuring principles:
– Organize by data/relations
– Organize by use cases

How to get started on reqts spec

Lots of problem-domain concepts that need rigorous definition:
– E.g., site
  • What is it?
  • Synonym for URL? Some collection of resources that are reachable from a URL? Any other constraints on it?
  • Model its structure
– E.g., test
  • What is it?
  • Something the user must define? What kind of information must he/she provide?