



May 2007

PMO SIG Local Interest Group Meeting - Minutes

Main Topic: PM Methodologies – A Review/Discussion

Secretary:

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Member Announcements
 - Job opportunities (within our companies, industries, etc.)
 - None reported
 - Tools – Project, time management, specialty, ...
 - Qualiware (part of the vendor corner) – See chapter site for details
 - Two Monte Carlo simulation software packages that easily integrate with Microsoft Project:
 1. Risk+ (<http://www.deltex.com/products/riskplus/>) – highly recommended by Larry Cooke. Gives you “scientific evidence” and good probability analysis to back up your case.
 2. Crystal Ball (http://www.crystalball.com/crystal_ball/)
 3. @Risk (<http://www.palisade.com/risk/>)
 - Gus recently viewed a demonstration of Coveo (<http://www.coveo.com>), a search engine for Microsoft Sharepoint (both Sharepoint Portal Server (SPS) and Windows Sharepoint Services (WSS)). While he cannot vouch for the product, from experience, it does seem to fill a need that many Sharepoint users have – that of cross-site searches.
 - Articles of Interest
 - None reported
 - Other meetings/seminars of interest
 - Good feedback about the NYC PMI Chapter. They have three to four events per month (and really good food)
 - SPEAKER ALERT: Our own Larry Cooke will be speaking at the NYC Chapter meeting on June 27th, 7:30am.
 - Linda Dowdell has recently been looking at Prince2 (<http://www.prince2.com>) – in short, the European equivalent of PMI. She was really impressed with their offerings and highly recommends it.
 - Gus mentioned that “Project World” (PW) and the World Congress for Business Analysts (WCBA) were combining for a seminar in Boston, MA, June 19-22. There appears to be a certification path for “business analysts” called CBAP (Certified Business Analysis Professional). The certification is provided by IIBA. This is similar to the PMP/PMI relationship. For more details, go to <http://www.projectworldregional.com>
 - With some newer people in the group, a reminder was made about ITIL, a good standard to follow for those involved with IT (especially, infrastructure/help desk). For more details, go to <http://www.itil.co.uk> and visit the FAQ section.
3. Success (or Blunder) of the Month
 - None reported

Date
7:45 - 8:45 PM

Chair: Gus Sanchez
Phone: (914) 829-7750



4. Problem/Challenge of the Month

- Rich shared his challenge with “the international matrix project team”. Major issue with time zones and 30-hour cycles to address issues. Some of his key resources are not sharing responsibility, thus relegate the remainder of the team to follow his/her particular work hours (as with a DBA in China). Recommendations from the team focused on obtaining some kind of “overlap”, so that issues and tasks could be “handed off” to those other resources working in different time zones. It’s either that, or getting used to the longer turnaround times. It sounded very frustrating. We’ll check in with Rich in a few months to see how he’s doing.

5. Main Topic

- It appeared that the majority of the participants followed a “waterfall” methodology.
- Kimberly said her group was using a form of Scrum, combined with waterfall.
- Larry said that “agile” methodologies provided quick and visible results but warned that it would be touch to “add stuff later”.
- Gus asked if people were using different templates, depending on the size of their projects. The majority said yes. Size of project could be determined by cost, estimated number of hours, estimated number of resources or a combination.

Other

1. The topic planned for September* is TBD.

* - The Quality SIG will meet in June. The PMO SIG, therefore, will not meet until September, after the summer break.