

I Project Description

1 Project Overview

A brief description of the product to be produced, before getting into details.

2 The Purpose of the Project

2a The User Business or Background of the Project Effort

Content

content, motivation, examples and Considerations

A short description of the business being done, its context, and the situation that triggered the development effort. It should also describe the work that the user intends to do with the delivered product.

Motivation

Without this statement, the project lacks justification and direction.

Considerations

You should consider whether the user problem is serious, and whether and why it needs to be solved.

2b Goals of the Project

(Note: This item and the following one together cover the " Objectives and success criteria of the project" item specified by Bruegge & DuToit.)

Content

This boils down to one sentence, or at most a few sentences, that say why we want this product. Here is where you state the real reason the product is being developed.

Motivation

There is a danger that this purpose may get lost along the way. As the development effort heats up, and as the customer and developers discover more about what is possible, the system could potentially wander away from the original goals as it undergoes construction. This is a bad thing unless there is some deliberate act by the client to change the goals. It may be necessary to appoint a person to be custodian of the goals, but it is probably sufficient to make the goals public and periodically remind the developers of them. *It should be mandatory to acknowledge the goals at every review session.*