

Messenger

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The Master Plan of Auditing

Last month we began looking at how important it is to evaluate and monitor your projects in order to ensure success. Auditing the project will allow you to determine whether it is on time and budget. We detailed resources to use when conducting an audit and the elements of the audit report. This month we will look deeper into how an audit should be conducted.

There are four primary audits which may be used: Project management audit, Project performance audit, Pre-project (planning phase) audit, or Post-project (close out phase) audit.



Project Management Audit

A Project Management Audit provides a comprehensive examination of project management performance. This is accomplished through discussions and interviews with the project manager, technical leaders, and a sampling of project team members. You can also use reviews and examinations of project documents. Typically, this is used with larger and long duration projects. This type of audit should be performed quarterly until the project is completed. It is best when performed by an impartial auditor, but may be performed by the project manager or project team.

This Audit includes examination of:

- Project work plan and support plans created to guide the project management effort
- Effectiveness of project work plan and support plan implementation

- Oversight of project resource management and task performance
- Oversight of project vendor/contractor management and task performance
- Fulfillment of customer contractual obligations

Project Performance Audit

A Project Performance Audit shows a detailed examination of the financial and business aspects of the project. Emphasis is on evaluating and confirming the ability of the project to achieve specified objectives. During this audit, earned value analysis is applied, business case elements are reviewed, and project risk management plan is evaluated. This may be done independently or in conjunction with a project management audit.

This Audit includes examination of:

- The business case used to manage selection and continuation of the project
- Cost specified in the project work plan
- Schedule specified in the project work plan
- Resource utilization specified in the project work plan
- The project risk management plan

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Success is not a destination. It is a constant, continuous journey.
George H. Denny
Educator

The Mathis Group's Messenger

Online Classes Are Now Available!

The Mathis Group is excited to announce that our online project management classes are now up and running. Project Management Fundamentals, Project Risk Management, and Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight are up and running. Take these courses from the convenience of your own home, 24/7. Each class offered is registered with Project Management Institute and qualifies for Professional Development Units.

In the coming weeks we will add Vendor Management and our PMP® Exam Prep Boot Camp to our online repertoire. Visit our website at www.themathisgroup.com or www.pmexpertlive.com for more information and registration.



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Pre-Project Audit

The Pre-Project, or Planning Phase, Audit validates project readiness for implementation. It transitions from the planning phase to the execution phase and is usually performed by the project manager and project team. It is applicable to all projects.

This audit includes examination of:

- Initial project management documents
- Initial technical documents
- Initial project management planning documents
- Initial project team documents
- Initial vendor and contractor documents
- Initial customer documents

Post-Project Audit

The Post-Project, or Closing Phase, Audit confirms project readiness for closure. It is performed when all project activities have been completed,

deliverables have been accepted, and the project is ready for closure. It is usually performed by the project manager and project team and is applicable to all projects.

This audit includes examination of:

- Customer acceptance of project deliverables
- Project lessons learned
- Vendor/contractor close out activities

Any of these audits will be beneficial to your project. Knowing how your project is operating, if it is on time and on budget, is an area in which many organizations are failing. Being proactive in monitoring projects will save your company valuable time and money.



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