

LifecycleStep Project Lifecycle Process™ Overview

Projects are the way that most new work gets delivered. Projects can include building a house or office building, planning and executing a marketing campaign, upgrading desktop operating systems, developing an IT business application, etc. Project management defines the overall management and control processes for the project.

However, project management does not actually result in the project execution. At some point, you still need to define the actual activities necessary to build the house, execute the marketing campaign, develop the IT business application and upgrade the desktop operating systems. These activities are referred to as the project lifecycle, and the project lifecycle is the focus of LifecycleStep.

In LifecycleStep, the typical waterfall lifecycle model is described first in detail. The steps are as follows:

- **Analysis** - The Analysis Phase is where you break down the high-level Project Definition into the more detailed business requirements. The Analysis Phase is also the part of the project where you identify the overall direction that the project will take through the creation of the project strategy documents.
- **Design** - The Design Phase is where you look at the many potential solutions and narrow down the choices to determine the most effective and efficient way to construct the solution. At the end of the Design Phase, you will have a logical solution defined.
- **Construct** – The Construct Phase is the point in the project when we actually start to construct the solution. The Construct Phase is also where we will create support documentation such as a Disaster Recovery Manual and Users Manual.
- **Test** - We test our work for two main reasons. First, we want to ensure that the solution meets the business requirements. Second, we test to catch errors and defects. In other words, we need to prove that our solution is correct, while at the same time proving that there are no errors or defects.
- **Implement** - Implementation refers to the final process of moving the solution from development status to production status. If the implementation is relatively straightforward, then there is no reason for elaborate implementation processes. However, most projects have a number of implementation events to plan for and execute successfully.

Other Lifecycle Models

In addition to the classic waterfall model described above, LifecycleStep also describes other popular lifecycle models, including Rapid Application Development, enhancements, Agile and Research and Development. Although the waterfall model can be used on all projects, other models may be more effective given the nature of the project and your organizational environment.