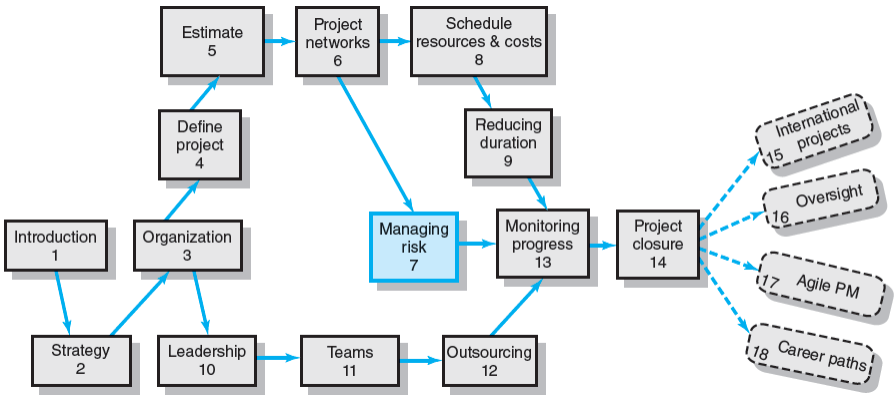
Project Management

Risk Management

Where We Are Now



7–3

Risk Management Process

- Risk
  - –Uncertain or chance events that planning can not overcome or control.
- Risk Management
  - –A proactive attempt to recognize and manage internal events and external threats that affect the likelihood of a project's success.
    - What can go wrong (risk event).
    - How to minimize the risk event's impact (consequences).
    - What can be done before an event occurs (anticipation).
    - What to do when an event occurs (contingency plans).

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The Risk Event Graph

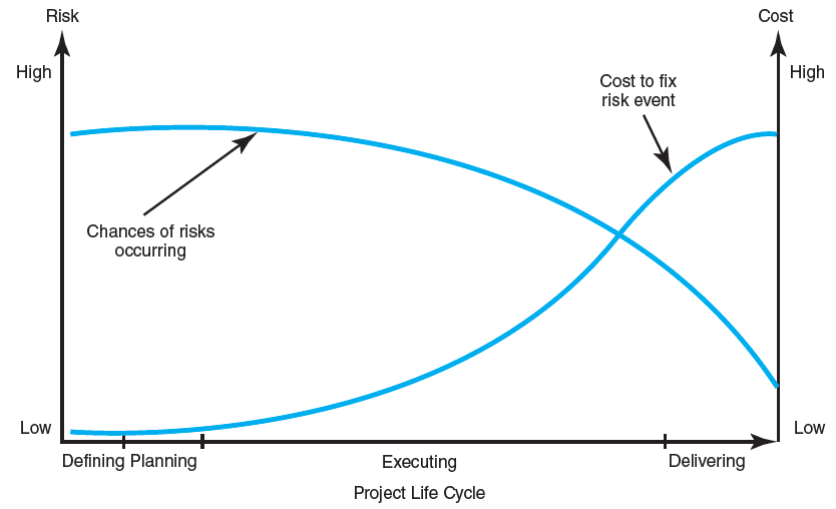

FIGURE 7.1

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Risk Management's Benefits

- A proactive rather than reactive approach.
- Reduces surprises and negative consequences.
- Prepares the project manager to take advantage of appropriate risks.
- Provides better control over the future.
- Improves chances of reaching project performance objectives within budget and on time.

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The Risk Management Process

FIGURE 7.2

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Managing Risk

- Step 1: Risk Identification
  - –Generate a list of possible risks through brainstorming, problem identification and risk profiling.
    - Macro risks first, then specific events
- Step 2: Risk Assessment
  - –Scenario analysis for event probability and impact
  - –Risk assessment matrix
  - –Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA)
  - –Probability analysis
    - Decision trees, NPV, and PERT
  - –Semiquantitative scenario analysis

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The Risk Breakdown Structure (RBS)

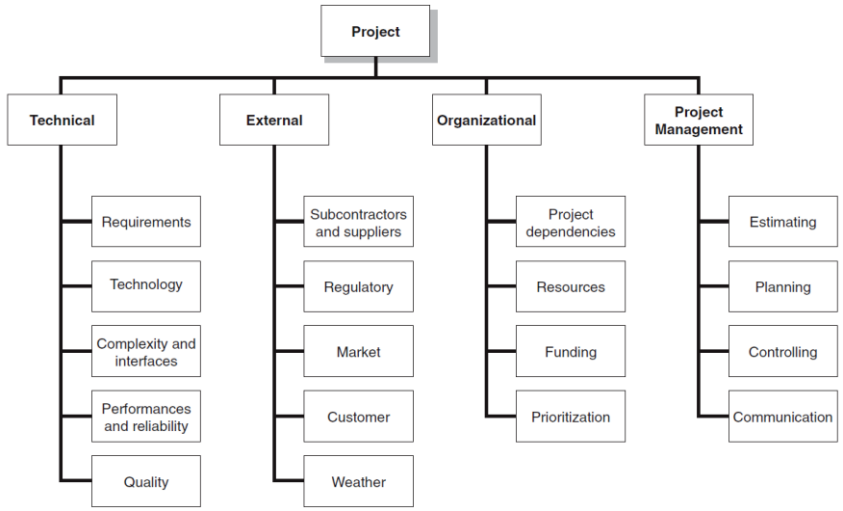

FIGURE 7.3

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Defined Conditions for Impact Scales of a Risk on Major Project Objectives (Examples for negative impacts only)

	Relative or Numerical Scale				
Project Objective	1 Very Low	2 Low	3 Moderate	4 High	5 Very High
Cost	Insignificant cost increase	< 10% cost increase	10–20% cost increase	20–40% cost increase	> 40% cost increase
Time	Insignificant time increase	< 5% time increase	5–10% time increase	10–20% time increase	> 20% time increase
Scope	Scope decrease barely noticeable	Minor areas of scope affected	Major areas of scope affected	Scope reduction unacceptable to sponsor	Project end item is effectively useless
Quality	Quality degradation barely noticeable	Only very demanding applications are affected	Quality reduction requires sponsor approval	Quality reduction unacceptable to sponsor	Project end item is effectively useless

FIGURE 7.5

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Risk Assessment Form

Risk Event	Likelihood	Impact	Detection Difficulty	When
Interface problems	4	4	4	Conversion
System freezing	2	5	5	Start-up
User backlash	4	3	3	Postinstallation
Hardware malfunctioning	1	5	5	Installation

FIGURE 7.6

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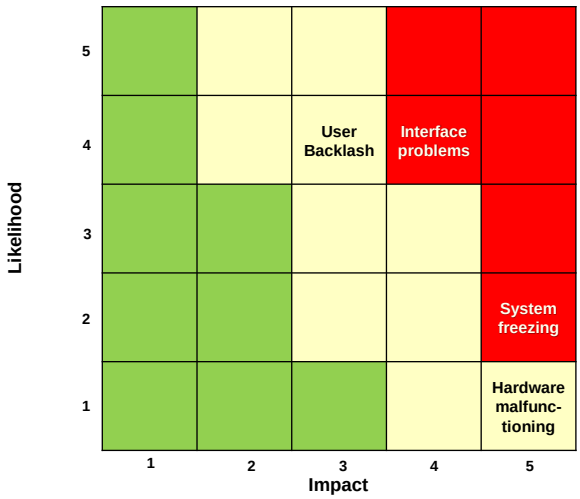
Risk Severity Matrix

Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA)

Impact × Probability × Detection = Risk Value



Red zone (major risk)
Yellow zone (moderate risk)
Green zone (minor risk)

FIGURE 7.7

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Managing Risk (cont'd)

- Step 3: Risk Response Development
  - Mitigating Risk
    - Reducing the likelihood an adverse event will occur.
    - Reducing impact of adverse event.
  - Avoiding Risk
    - Changing the project plan to eliminate the risk or condition.
  - Transferring Risk
    - Paying a premium to pass the risk to another party.
    - Requiring Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) provisions.
  - Retaining Risk
    - Making a conscious decision to accept the risk.

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Contingency Planning

- Contingency Plan
  - An alternative plan that will be used if a possible foreseen risk event actually occurs.
  - A plan of actions that will reduce or mitigate the negative impact (consequences) of a risk event.
- Risks of Not Having a Contingency Plan
  - Having no plan may slow managerial response.
  - Decisions made under pressure can be potentially dangerous and costly.

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Risk Response Matrix

Risk Event	Response	Contingency Plan	Trigger	Who Is Responsible
Interface problems	Mitigate: Test prototype	Work around until help comes	Not solved within 24 hours	Nils
System freezing	Mitigate: Test prototype	Reinstall OS	Still frozen after one hour	Emmylou
User backlash	Mitigate: Prototype demonstration	Increase staff support	Call from top management	Eddie
Equipment malfunctions	Mitigate: Select reliable vendor Transfer: Warranty	Order replacement	Equipment fails	Jim

FIGURE 7.8

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Risk and Contingency Planning

- Technical Risks
  - –Backup strategies if chosen technology fails.
  - –Assessing whether technical uncertainties can be resolved.
- Schedule Risks
  - –Use of slack increases the risk of a late project finish.
  - –Imposed duration dates (absolute project finish date)
  - –Compression of project schedules due to a shortened project duration date.

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Risk and Contingency Planning (cont'd)

- Costs Risks
  - Time/cost dependency links: costs increase when problems take longer to solve than expected.
  - Price protection risks (a rise in input costs) increase if the duration of a project is increased.
- Funding Risks
  - Changes in the supply of funds for the project can dramatically affect the likelihood of implementation or successful completion of a project.

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Opportunity Management Tactics

- Exploit
  - Seeking to eliminate the uncertainty associated with an opportunity to ensure that it definitely happens.
- Share
  - Allocating some or all of the ownership of an opportunity to another party who is best able to capture the opportunity for the benefit of the project.
- Enhance
  - Taking action to increase the probability and/or the positive impact of an opportunity.
- Accept
  - Being willing to take advantage of an opportunity if it occurs, but not taking action to pursue it.

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Contingency Funding and Time Buffers

- Contingency Funds
  - –Funds to cover project risks—identified and unknown.
    - Size of funds reflects overall risk of a project
  - –Budget reserves
    - Are linked to the identified risks of specific work packages.
  - –Management reserves
    - Are large funds to be used to cover major unforeseen risks (e.g., change in project scope) of the total project.
- Time Buffers
  - –Amounts of time used to compensate for unplanned delays in the project schedule.
    - Severe risk, merge, noncritical, and scarce resource activities

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Managing Risk (cont'd)

- Step 4: Risk Response Control
  - –Risk control
    - Execution of the risk response strategy
    - Monitoring of triggering events
    - Initiating contingency plans
    - Watching for new risks
  - –Establishing a Change Management System
    - Monitoring, tracking, and reporting risk
    - Fostering an open organization environment
    - Repeating risk identification/assessment exercises
    - Assigning and documenting responsibility for managing risk

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Change Management Control

- Sources of Change
  - –Project scope changes
  - –Implementation of contingency plans
  - –Improvement changes

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Change Control System Process

1. Identify proposed changes.
2. List expected effects of proposed changes on schedule and budget.
3. Review, evaluate, and approve or disapprove of changes formally.
4. Negotiate and resolve conflicts of change, condition, and cost.
5. Communicate changes to parties affected.
6. Assign responsibility for implementing change.
7. Adjust master schedule and budget.
8. Track all changes that are to be implemented

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Benefits of a Change Control System

1. Inconsequential changes are discouraged by the formal process.
2. Costs of changes are maintained in a log.
3. Integrity of the WBS and performance measures is maintained.
4. Allocation and use of budget and management reserve funds are tracked.
5. Responsibility for implementation is clarified.
6. Effect of changes is visible to all parties involved.
7. Implementation of change is monitored.
8. Scope changes will be quickly reflected in baseline and performance measures.

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Appendix 7.1

PERT and PERT Simulation

Appendix 7.1

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PERT—Program Evaluation Review Technique

- Assumes each activity duration has a range that statistically follows a beta distribution.
- Uses three time estimates for each activity: optimistic, pessimistic, and a weighted average to represent activity durations.
  - –Knowing the weighted average and variances for each activity allows the project planner to compute the probability of meeting different project durations.

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Activity and Project Frequency Distributions

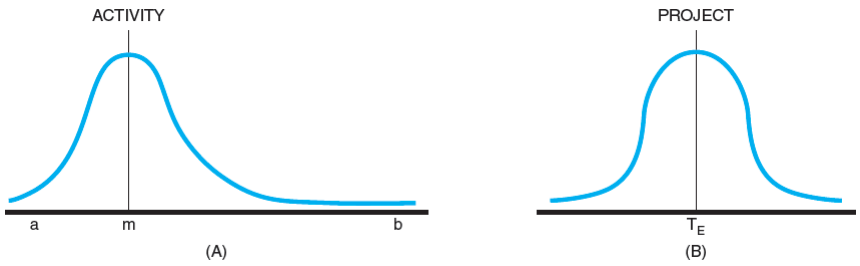

FIGURE A7.1

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Activity Time Calculations

The weighted average activity time is computed by the following formula:

$$t_e = \frac{a + 4m + b}{6} \quad (7.1)$$

where t_e = weighted average activity time

a = optimistic activity time (1 chance in 100 of completing the activity earlier under *normal* conditions)

b = pessimistic activity time (1 chance in 100 of completing the activity later under *normal* conditions)

m = most likely activity time

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Activity Time Calculations (cont'd)

The variability in the activity time estimates is approximated by the following equations:

The standard deviation for the activity:

$$\sigma_{t_e} = \left(\frac{b - a}{6}\right) \quad (7.2)$$

The standard deviation for the project:

$$\sigma_{T_E} = \sqrt{\Sigma \sigma_{t_e}^2} \quad (7.3)$$

Note the standard deviation of the activity is squared in this equation; this is also called variance. This sum includes only activities on the critical path(s) or path being reviewed.

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Activity Times and Variances

Activity	a	m	b	t_e	$[(b-a)/6]^2$
1–2	17	29	47	30	25
2–3	6	12	24	13	9
2–4	16	19	28	20	4
3–5	13	16	19	16	1
4–5	2	5	14	6	4
5–6	2	5	8	5	1

TABLE A7.1

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Probability of Completing the Project

The equation below is used to compute the "*Z*" value found in statistical tables (*Z* = number of standard deviations from the mean), which, in turn, tells the probability of completing the project in the time specified.

$$Z = \frac{T_S - T_E}{\sqrt{\Sigma \sigma_{t_e}^2}} \qquad (7.4)$$

where T_E = critical path duration

T_S = scheduled project duration

Z = probability (of meeting scheduled duration)

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Hypothetical Network

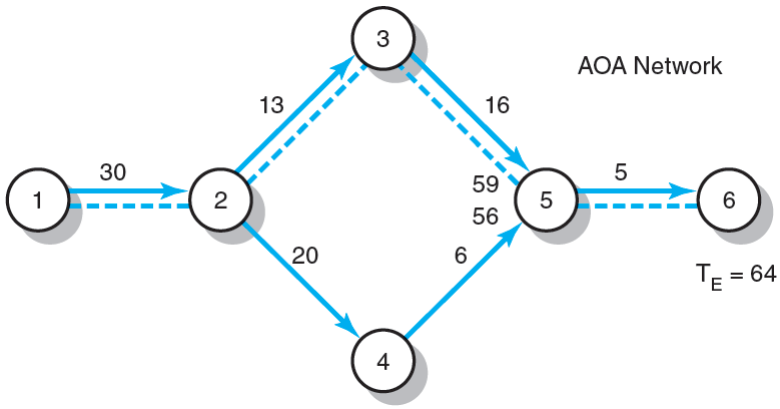

FIGURE A7.2

Hypothetical Network (cont'd)

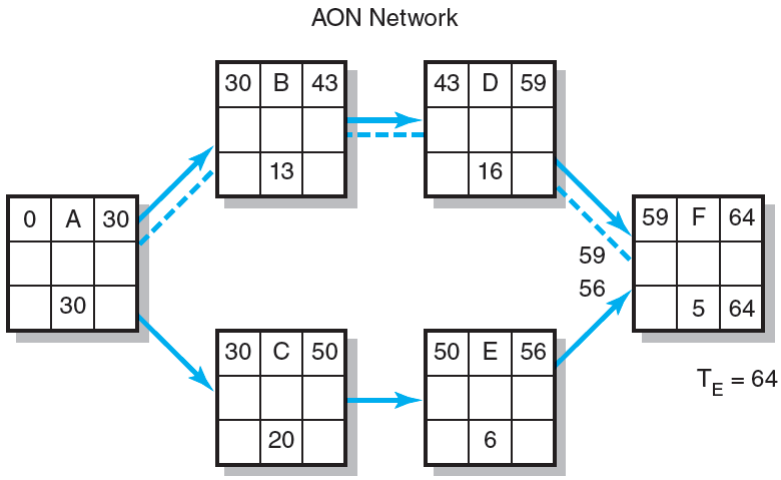

FIGURE A7.2 (cont'd)

Possible Project Duration

Probability project is completed before scheduled time (T_S) of 67 units

$$Z = \frac{T_S - T_E}{\sqrt{\Sigma\sigma_{t_e}^2}} = \frac{67 - 64}{\sqrt{25 + 9 + 1 + 1}} = \frac{+3}{\sqrt{36}} = +0.50$$

$$P = 0.69$$

Probability project is completed by the 60th unit time period (T_S)

$$Z = \frac{60 - 64}{\sqrt{25 + 9 + 1 + 1}} = \frac{-4}{\sqrt{36}} = -0.67$$

$$P \approx 0.26$$

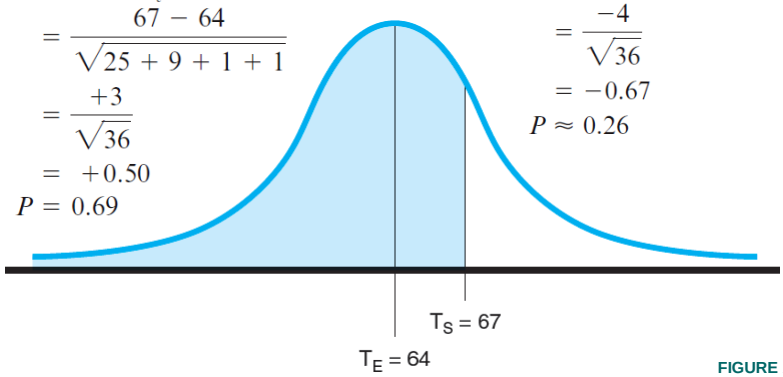

FIGURE A7.3

Z Values and Probabilities

Z Value	Probability	*Z* Value	Probability
−3.0	.001	+0.0	.500
−2.8	.003	+0.2	.579
−2.6	.005	+0.4	.655
−2.4	.008	+0.6	.726
−2.2	.014	+0.8	.788
−2.0	.023	+1.0	.841
−1.8	.036	+1.2	.885
−1.6	.055	+1.4	.919
−1.4	.081	+1.6	.945
−1.2	.115	+1.8	.964
−1.0	.159	+2.0	.977
−0.8	.212	+2.2	.986
−0.6	.274	+2.4	.992
−0.4	.345	+2.6	.995
−0.2	.421	+2.8	.997

TABLE A7.2