



System Analysis & Design

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The Planning Phase is the fundamental two-step process of understanding why an information system should be developed and creating a plan for how the project team will develop it.

The deliverables from both steps are combined into the project plan, which is presented to the project sponsor and approval committee at the end of the Planning Phase. They decide whether it is advisable to proceed with the system development project.

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Chapter 1: THE SYSTEMS ANALYST AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES

- Explain the role played in information systems development by the systems analyst.
- Describe the fundamental systems development life cycle and its four phases.
- Explain how organizations identify IS development projects.
- Explain the importance of linking the information system to business needs.
- Be able to create a system request.
- Describe technical, economic, and organizational feasibility assessment.
- Be able to perform a feasibility analysis.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

	Introduction	Feasibility Analysis
	The Systems Analyst	Technical Feasibility
9	Systems Analyst Skills	Economic Feasibility
	Systems Analyst Roles	Organizational Feasibility
	The Systems Development Life Cycle	Applying the Concepts at Tune Source
	Planning	Appendix 1A—Detailed Economic
	Analysis	Feasibility Analysis for Tune Source
	Design	
	Implementation	
	Project Identification and Initiation	
	System Request	
	Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	









Planning

The *planning phase* is the fundamental process of understanding *why* an information system should be built and determining how the project team will go about building it. It has two steps:

1. During project initiation, the system's business value to the organization is identified—how will it lower costs or increase revenues? Most ideas for new systems come from outside the IS area (from the marketing department, accounting department, etc.) in the form of a system request. A system request presents a brief summary of a business need, and it explains how a system that supports the need will create business value. The IS department works together with the person or department generating the request (called the project sponsor) to conduct a feasibility analysis. The feasibility analysis examines key aspects of the proposed project:

- The technical feasibility (Can we build it?)
- The economic feasibility (Will it provide business value?)
- The organizational feasibility (If we build it, will it be used?)

The system request and feasibility analysis are presented to an information systems *approval committee* (sometimes called a *steering committee*), which decides whether the project should be undertaken.

2. Once the project is approved, it enters *project management*. During project management, the *project manager* creates a *work plan*, staffs the project, and puts techniques in place to help the project team control and direct the project through the entire SDLC. The deliverable for project management is a *project plan* that describes how the project team will go about developing the system.

Analysis
The <i>analysis phase</i> answers the questions of <i>who</i> will use the system, <i>what</i> the system will do, and <i>where</i> and <i>when</i> it will be used. (See Figure 1-3.) During this phase, the project team investigates any current system(s), identifies improvement opportunities, and develops a concept for the new system. This phase has three steps:
 An analysis strategy is developed to guide the project team's efforts. Such a strategy usually includes a study of the current system (called the <i>as-is system</i>) and its problems, and envisioning ways to design a new system (called the <i>to-be system</i>). The next step is <i>requirements gathering</i> (e.g., through interviews, group workshops, or questionnaires). The analysis of this information—in conjunction with input from the project sponsor and many other people—leads to the development of a concept for a new system. The system concept is then used as a basis to develop a set of business <i>analysis models</i> that describes how the business will operate if the new system were developed. The set typically includes models that represent the data and processes necessary to support the underlying business process. The analyses, system concept, and models are combined into a document called the <i>the system proposal</i>, which is presented to the project sponsor and other key decision makers (e.g., members of the approval committee) who will decide whether the project should continue to move forward.
The system proposal is the initial deliverable that describes what business requirements the new system should meet. Because it is really the first step in the design of the new system, some experts argue that it is inappropriate to use the term <i>analysis</i> as the name for this phase; some argue a better name would be <i>analysis</i> and <i>initial design</i> . Because most organizations continue to use the name <i>analysis</i> for this phase, we will use it in this book as well. It is important to remember, how-ever, that the deliverable from the analysis phase is both an analysis and a high-level initial design for the new system.

Design
The <i>design phase</i> decides <i>how</i> the system will operate in terms of the hardware, software, and network infrastructure that will be in place; the user interface, forms, and reports that will be used; and the specific programs, databases, and files that will be needed. Although most of the strategic decisions about the system are made in the development of the system concept during the analysis phase, the steps in the design phase determine exactly how the system will operate. The design phase has four steps:
1. The <i>design strategy</i> must be determined. This clarifies whether the system will be developed by the company's own programmers, whether its development will be outsourced to another firm (usually a consulting firm), or whether the company will buy an existing software package.
2. This leads to the development of the basic architecture design for the system that describes the hardware, software, and network infrastructure that will be used. In most cases, the system will add to or change the infrastructure that already exists in the organization. The <i>interface design</i> specifies how the users will move through the system (e.g., by navigation methods such as menus and on-screen buttons) and the forms and reports that the system will use.
The database and file specifications are developed. These define exactly what data will be stored and where they will be stored.
4. The analyst team develops the <i>program design</i> , which defines the programs that need to be written and exactly what each program will do.
This collection of deliverables (architecture design, interface design, database and file specifications, and program design) is the <i>system specification</i> that is used by the programming team for implementation. At the end of the design phase, the feasibility analysis and project plan are reexamined and revised, and another decision is made by the project sponsor and approval committee about whether to terminate the project or continue. (See Figure 1-3.)

Implementation

The final phase in the SDLC is the *implementation phase*, during which the system is actually built (or purchased, in the case of a packaged software design and installed). This is the phase that usually gets the most attention, because for most systems it is the longest and most expensive single part of the development process. This phase has three steps:

- 1. System *construction* is the first step. The system is built and tested to ensure that it performs as designed. Since the cost of fixing bugs can be immense, testing is one of the most critical steps in implementation. Most organizations spend more time and attention on testing than on writing the programs in the first place.
- 2. The system is installed. *Installation* is the process by which the old system is turned off and the new one is turned on. There are several approaches that may be used to convert from the old to the new system. One of the most important aspects of conversion is the *training plan*, used to teach users how to use the new system and help manage the changes caused by the new system.
- 3. The analyst team establishes a *support plan* for the system. This plan usually includes a formal or informal post-implementation review, as well as a systematic way for identifying major and minor changes needed for the system.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND INITIATION

Where do project ideas come from?

 \rightarrow *A project is identified when someone in the organization identifies a business need to build a system.*

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Feasibility analysis

- guides the organization in determining whether to proceed with the project.

- identifies the important risks associated with the project that must be managed if the project is approved

Include techniques to assess three areas: technical feasibility, economic feasibility, and organizational feasibility

Technical Feasibility: Can We Build It?

- Familiarity with application: Less familiarity generates more risk.
- Familiarity with technology: Less familiarity generates more risk.
- Project size: Large projects have more risk.
- Compatibility: The harder it is to integrate the system with the company's existing technology, the higher the risk will be.

Economic Feasibility: Should We Build It?

- Development costs
- Annual operating costs
- Annual benefits (cost savings and/or increased revenues)

Intangible benefits and costs

Organizational Feasibility: If We Build It, Will They Come?

- Project champion(s)
- Senior management
- Users
- Other stakeholders
- Is the project strategically aligned with the business?

Feasibility Analysis Assessment Factors

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Technical Feasibility: Technical feasibility analysis is, in essence, a *technical risk analysis* that strives to answer the question: "*Can* we build it?"
Familiarity with the technology
Project size
The compatibility of the new system with the technology that already exists in the organization





ers and incom	porated into the ongoing operat	ions of the organization, to answer
e question "I	role	To Enhance Organizational Feasibility
Champion	A champion: Initiates the project Promotes the project Allocates his or her time to the project Provides resources	 Make a presentation about the objectives of the project and the proposed benefits to those executives who will benefit directly from the system. Create a prototype of the system to demonstrate its potential value.
Organizational Management	Organizational managers: • Know about the project • Budget enough money for the project • Encourage users to accept and use the system	 Make a presentation to management about the objectives of the project and the proposed benefits. Market the benefits of the system, using memos and organizational newsletters. Encourage the champion to talk about the project with his or her peers.
System Users	Users: • Make decisions that influence the project • Perform hands-on activities for the project • Ultimately determine whether the project is successful by using a root using the system	 Assign users official roles on the project team. Assign users specific tasks to perform, with clear deadlines. Ask for feedback from users regularly (e.g., at weekly meetings)



	Sales Projections					
		Individual Downloads	Subscriptions	Cross-Selling of CDs	Gift Cards	
	High-level estimate (prob. = 25%)	\$900,000	\$1,100,000	\$250,000	\$180,000	
	Medium-level estimate (prob. = 60%)	750,000	950,000	200,000	150,000	
	Low-level estimate (prob. $= 15\%$)	550,000	700,000	1 <i>5</i> 0,000	120,000	
Sales Projections for Tune Source	Weighted average expected sales	\$757,500	\$950,000	\$205,000	\$153,000	
	For example, Expected sale	for individual down s = (900,000 * .25) = 225,000 + 450	loads,) + (750,000 ,000 + 82,50	* .60) + (550,000 00)*.15)	
		= 757,500				

	Digital Music Download Project Executive Summary
	Carly Edwards and Jason Wells created the following feasibility analysis for the Tune Source Digital Music Dawnload Project. The System Request is attached, along with the detailed feasibility sudy. The highlights of the feasibility analysis are as follows:
	Technical Feasibility
	The Digital Music Dawnload system is feasible technically, although there is some risk.
	Tune Source's risk regarding familiarity with music download applications is moderately high.
	The Marketing Department has little experience with a subscription-based business model. The IT department has strong knowledge of the company's existing. Webbased CD sales system, but it has not worked with music downloads or customer subscriptions. Numerous music download sites exist on the Internet.
	Tune Source's risk regarding familiarity with the technology is moderately low.
Feasibility Analysis Executive Summary for Tune Source	The IT department has knowledge of the current Web-based order entry system and the databases and Internet technology it uses. The IT department has no direct knowledge of the technology required to store and deliver digital music downloads; however, many of the technology is will be the responsibility of the ISP. Consultants are readily available to provide help in this area.
	The project size is considered medium risk.
	The project team will likely consist of 10 or fewer people. Bainess user involvement will be required. The project time forme is somewhard triffical, since the system is needed to maintain our competitive position in the market.
	The compatibility with Tune Source's existing technical infrastructure should be good.
	 An Internet infrastructure is already in place at the retail stores and corporate headquarters. The ISP should be able to scale its services to accommodate the new Digital Music Download system.
	Economic Feasibility
	A cost-benefit analysis was performed; see attached spreadsheet for details (provided in Appendix 1A). Conservative estimates show that the Digital Music Download system has a good chance of significantly enhancing the company's bottom line.
	RCI over 3 years: 284, 18,431 NPY over 3 years: 264, 18,431 Breadveven occurs after (2.17 years
	Intangible Casts and Benefits Improved customer sublication. Enhanced competitive position through expansion of our brand into the music download market.
	Organizational Feasibility
Figure 1-15 presents the executive summary page of the feasibility study: The report itself was about 10	From an organizational perspective, this project has low risk. The top executives of the company have a strong interest in the project, and the project champion, Carly Edwards, is a respected and knowledgeable marketing executive. The users of the system, Internet consumers and interole kisks users, are expected to appreciate the entry of Tune Source into the music download area. Management at the stores may have some concern about last CD sales; however, since customers have so many other options available for music downloads, this system may prevent our loaing have customers to other digital music sources and may provide us with the opportunity to cross- sell those customers from our CD inventory.
pages long and it provided additional detail and	Additional comments:
supporting documentation	 The Marketing Department views this as a strategic system. This system will allow us to leverage our music archive and our well-established market position to establish a presence in the digital music download business. Our customers have been requesting such a capability, and we believe it will be well accepted. We should consider him a consultant with expentise in similar applications to assist with the project.
	We will need new staff to operate the system and potentially to provide customer service for subscribers and gift-card holders.



Chapter 2: PROJECT SELECTION & MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

- Explain how projects are selected in some organizations.
- Describe various approaches to the SDLC that can be used to structure a development project.
- Explain how to select a project methodology based on project characteristics.
- Become familiar with project estimation.
- Be able to create a project work plan.
- Describe project staffing issues and concerns.
- Describe and apply techniques to coordinate and manage the project.
- Explain how to manage risk on the project.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

Introduction Project Selection

- Applying the Concept at Tune Source
- Creating the Project Plan
- Project Methodology Options
- Selecting the Appropriate
- Methodology
- Estimating the Project Time Frame
- Developing the Work Plan
- Staffing the Project

Coordinating Project Activities

- Managing and Controlling the Project Refining Estimates Managing Scope Timeboxing Managing Risk Applying the Concepts at Tune Source Summary Appendix 2A—The Function Point Approach
- Appendix 2B—Project Management Tools: The Gantt Chart and PERT Chart

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Project So	election	
	Size	What is the size? How many people are needed to work on the project?
	Cost	How much will the project cost the organization?
lays to Classify Projects	Purpose	What is the purpose of the project? Is it meant to improve the technical infrastructure? support a current business strategy? improve operations? demonstrate a new innovation?
	Length	How long will the project take before completion? How much time will go by before value is delivered to the business?
	Risk	How likely is it that the project will succeed or fail?
	Scope	How much of the organization is affected by the system? a department? a division? the entire corporation?
	Economic Value	How much money does the organization expect to receive in return for the amount the project costs?

Creating the Project Plan

Once the project is launched by being selected by the approval committee, it is time to carefully plan the project

Project Methodology Options

- Waterfall Development, 2 variants
 - Parallel development method (evolved to address the lengthy time frame of waterfall development)
 - V-model (pays more explicit attention to testing)
- Rapid Application Development (RAD), 3 variants
 - Iterative development
 - System prototyping
 - Throwaway prototyping
- Agile Development
 - Extreme programming

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Usefulness in Developing Systems	Waterfall	Parallel	V-Model	Iterative	System Prototyping	Throwaway Prototyping	Agile Development
with unclear user requirements	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
with unfamiliar technology	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Poor	Excellent	Poor
that are complex	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Excellent	Poor
that are reliable	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Poor	Excellent	Good
with short time schedule	Poor	Good	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
with schedule visibility	Poor	Poor	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good

Developing the Work Plan

To create a work plan, the project manager identifies the tasks that need to be accomplished and determines how long each one will take. Then the tasks are organized within a work breakdown structure.

- Identify Tasks * (Fig. 2-12)
- The project work plan (Fig. 2-13)

Staffing the Project

Staffing the project includes determining how many people should be assigned to the project, matching people's skills with the needs of the project, motivating them to meet the project's objectives, and minimizing project team conflict that will occur over time

Staffing Plan

- 1. The first step to staffing is determining the average number of staff needed for the project
- 2. Motivation : project managers need to motivate the people to make the project a success
- 3. Handling Conflict : The third component of staffing is organizing the project to minimize conflict among group members

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