

## ACS 567 - Software Project Management

Spring 2009 - Kalyan Govindu

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### PMBOK Knowledge Area : Project Scope Management

#### Focus:

As the name of this knowledge area suggest, it deals with Scope of a Project in its entirety. This is a very important area out off all the KA (Knowledge Areas) in the PMBOK, simply because getting this wrong could mean an incomplete project deliverable, a very long running project time line, unhappy customer in some cases or ultimately project abandonment.

#### Major Steps:

Developing a detail project scope which clearly identifies the deliverables. This should also indicate any assumptions or risk that being taken by the stakeholders, like attempting implementation in a new platform or using a new tools for a integral part of the project etc.

This is also the area that mandates a WBS (Work Breakdown Structure) which is area of some confusion in the my experience. WBS at this stage should be all encompassing, mean a plan for the entire project, what is the work that needs to be completed? who will do this work? any details of how it will be done. It is to be noted that WBS is preliminary and includes all the information that you know at the time. Based on the progress of the project and what happens as the project progresses, the items in the WBS might be readjusted. This, I believe is a very sticking point between higher management and Software Project Management.

#### Experience:

Scope out a project as gained considerable momentum in recent years. Although the big software companies have recognized the importance of this area a long

time ago, all the medium to small class operation have conducted projects with little or no Scope definition. True, it might have been in someones head, but it was never documented or formalized in any manor. With current efficiency requirements in the smallest of companies, it has become painfully apparent that a scope needs to be defined early and formalized by getting the acceptance from all stakeholders.