



Project Initiation

Identify & Define the Problem

Course #1

Conduct a Strategy Analysis

Course #2

Plan the

Project

Course #3

Project Execution

Elicit Business Analysis Information

Course #4

Organize, Prioritize, & Manage Requirements

Course #5

Solution Implementation

Transition to Solution

Course #7

Solution Evaluation

Course #8



Business Analyst: Identify and Define the Problem

Jeremy Aschenbrenner | The BA Guide* Business Analyst Manager & Trainer | Best Selling Instructor

Learn how to use **business** analysis to identify a problem, find its root cause, and create a project proposal

O 69 lectures O 3.5 hours N All Levels ■



Analyze,

Design, &

Model

Requirements

Course #6



BUSINESS ANALYSIS PROCESS SERIES

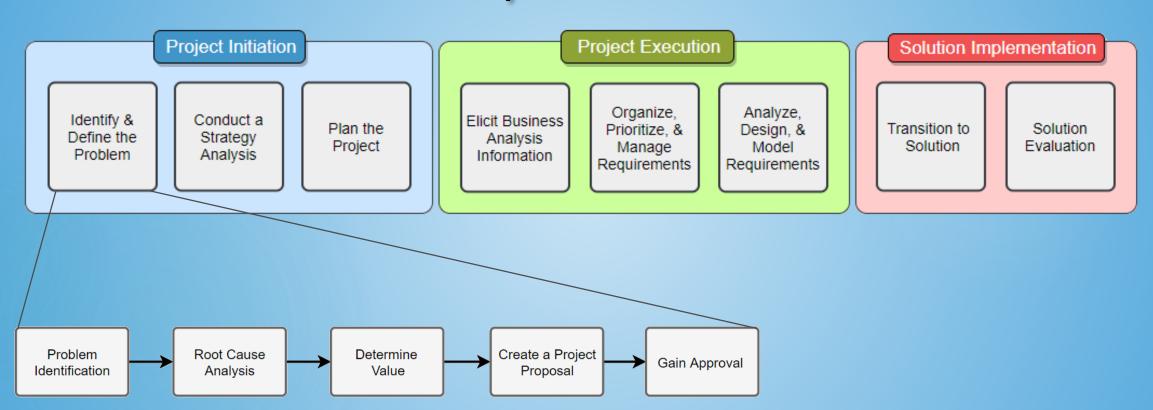
Student Workbook



The BA Guide's Strategy Analysis Process

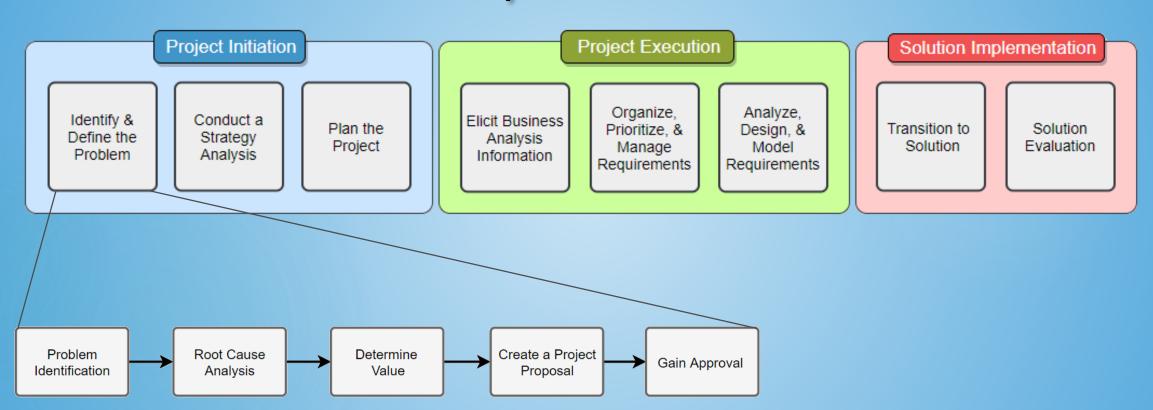






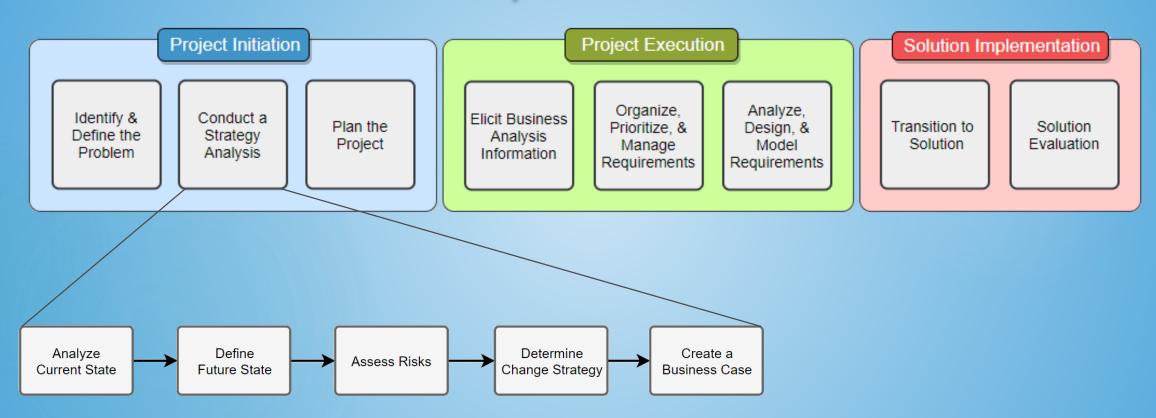










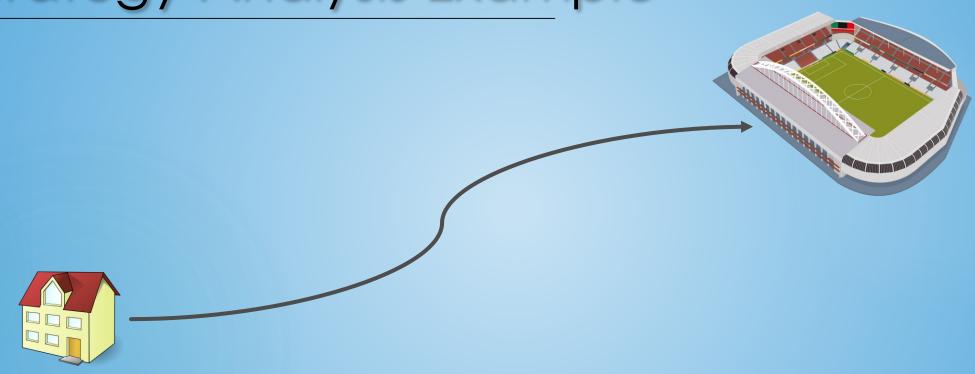




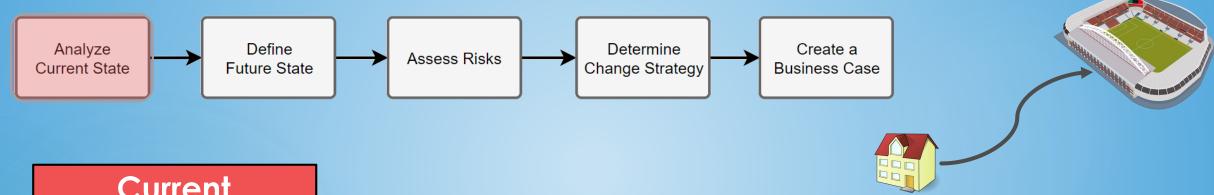
The BA Guide's Strategy Analysis Process







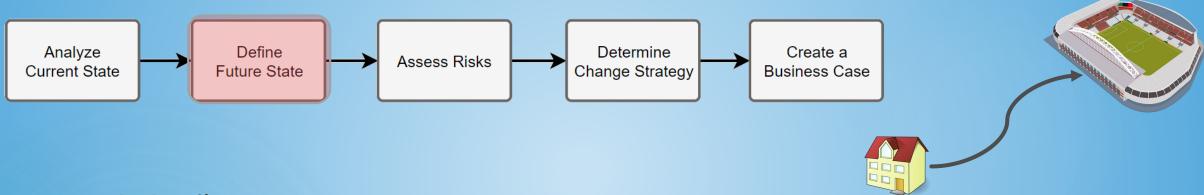




Current

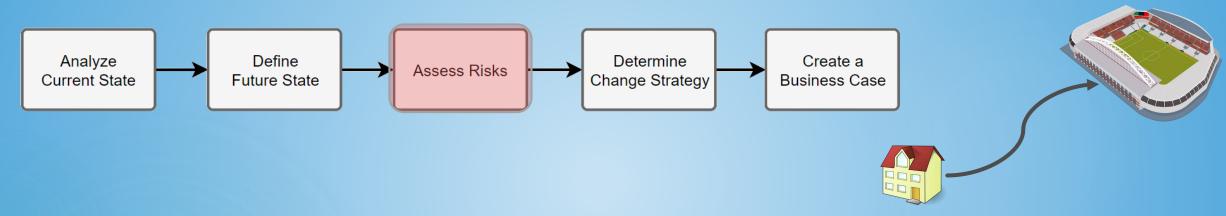
- At home
- 2:00 pm





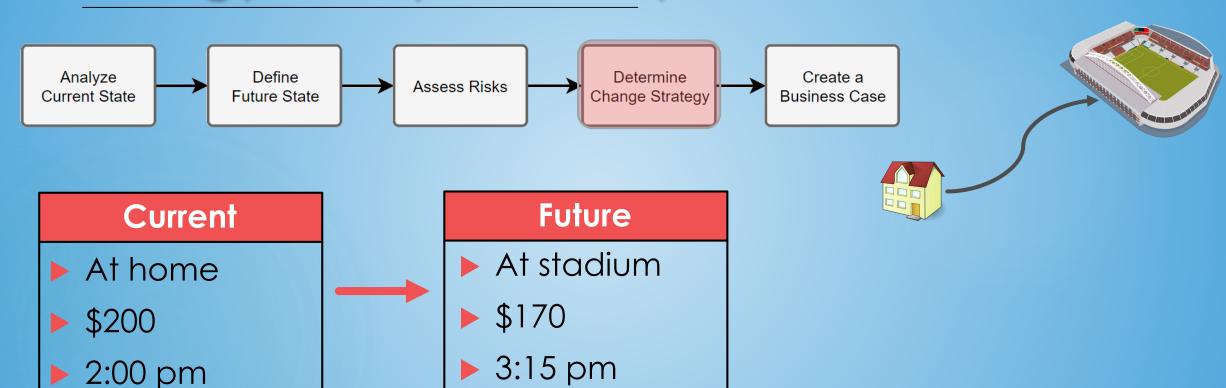
- At stadium
- ► Have at least \$170 (food, beverages, souvenirs)
- Arrive by the start of the game (3:15pm)
- In a capacity to watch the game



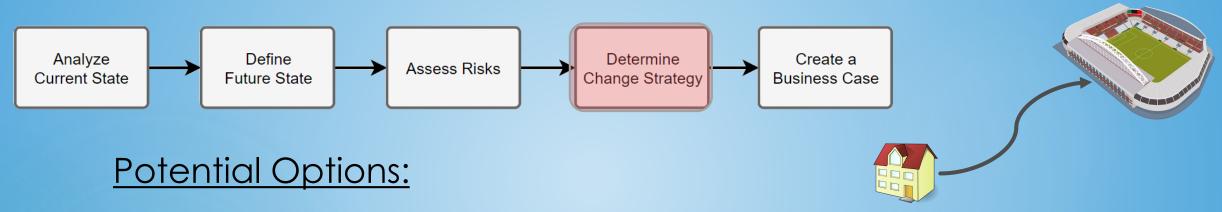


- Not enough money
- Get there late
- Injured or exhausted



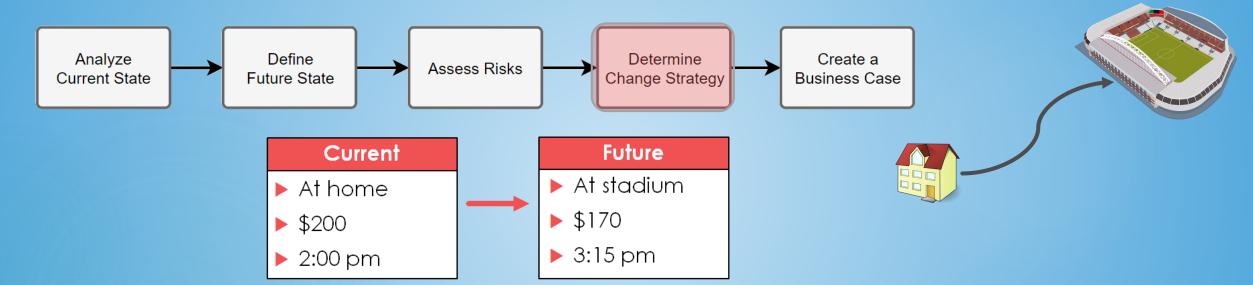






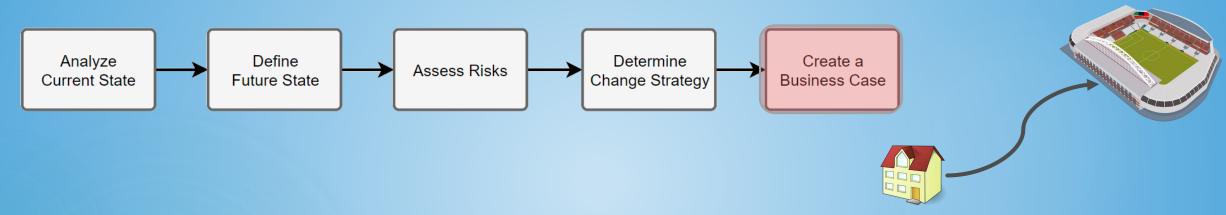
- Uber
- Taxi
- Bus
- Bicycle
- Walk
- Don't go to the game





	Cost		Time
☆ Uber	\$	21.25	25 minutes
Taxi	\$	42.50	30 minutes
Bus	\$	2.25	145 minutes
Bicycle	\$	-	80 minutes
Walk	\$	-	225 minutes





- The problem
- Potential solutions
- Recommended solution



What is a Project?

- Temporary endeavor
- Creates or improves upon a product or service
- Constrained by
 - Schedule
 - Budget
 - Resources



Risk

Constraint





Risk

Constraint





Constraint



Risk

Constraint



Risk

Constraint



What is a Project Team?

- Temporary team
- Cross-functional and versatile
- Could be part-time or full-time basis
- Share responsibility for the outcome



Project Manager





Project Manager



Project Manager



Project Manager



The BA Guide's Strategy Analysis Process





Analyze Current State







Goal:

Understand the reasons why an enterprise needs to make a change and what would be affected by the change, both directly and indirectly.





Elements within Analyze Current State:

- Review business needs
- Perform organizational assessment
- Understand capabilities
- Assess policies and processes
- Analyze technology and infrastructure
- Understand business architecture
- Identify external influencers

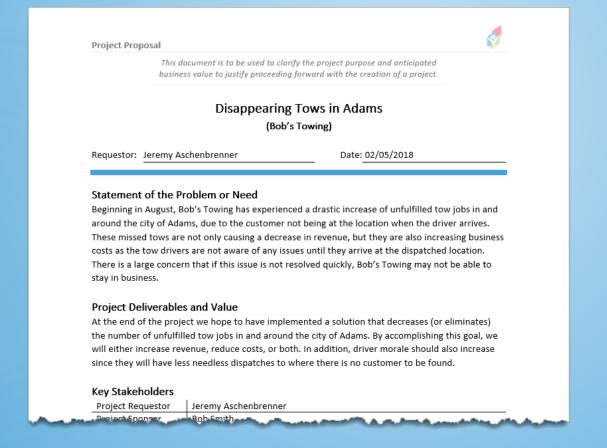


TIP: Stay within scope of the business need





Review Business Needs







Perform Organizational Assessment

- Culture
 - Beliefs
 - Values
 - Norms

- Structure
 - Formal relationships
 - Reports to







Understand Capabilities

Collective skills, abilities, and expertise



Hiring Practices



Training



Compensation





Understand Capabilities

- Collective skills, abilities, and expertise
 - Talent
 - Speed
 - Brand Identity
 - Accountability
 - Collaboration
 - Learning

- Leadership
- Customer
 Connectivity
- Strategic
- Innovation
- Efficiency





Assess Policies and Processes

Policies

- Dictate routine operations
- Provide guidance to staff on behavior and actions
- Ensure decisions are made correctly
 - Look over policy handbooks
 - Read through checklists







Document Analysis





Prepare

Review and Analyze







Prepare

Review and Analyze





Prepare



Review and Analyze





Prepare

Review and Analyze













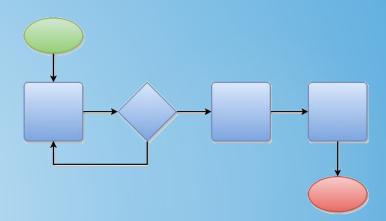






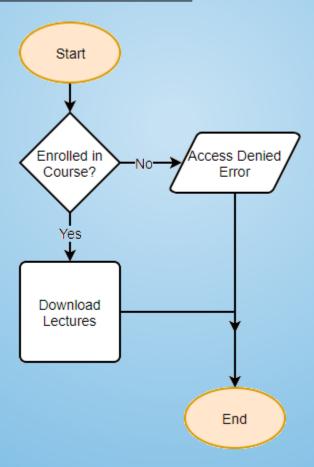
Processes

- Dictate the flow of business
- Provide step-by-step guides to staff
- Ensures some level of consistency
 - Review process documentation
 - Create flowcharts as necessary



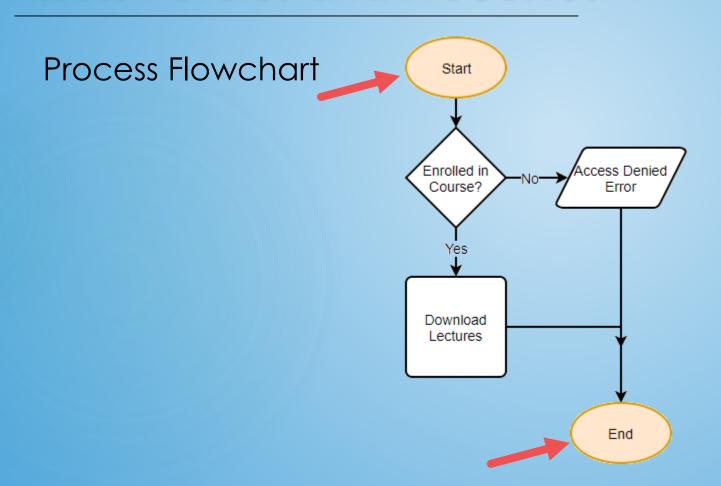






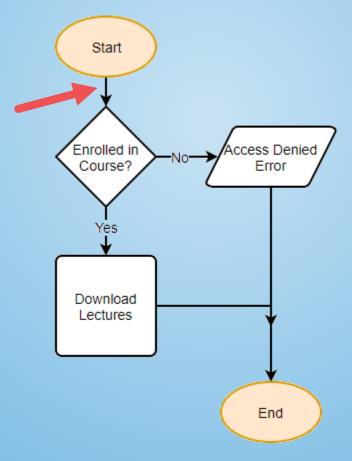






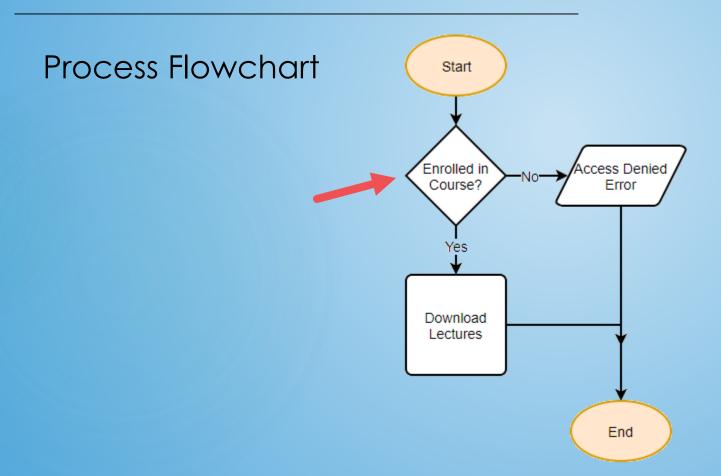






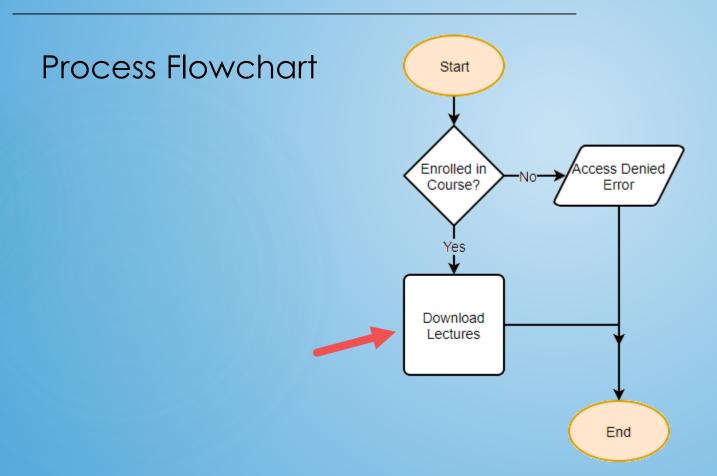






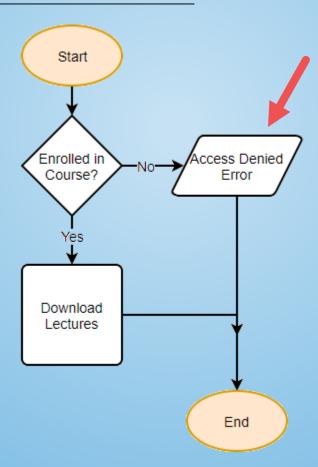






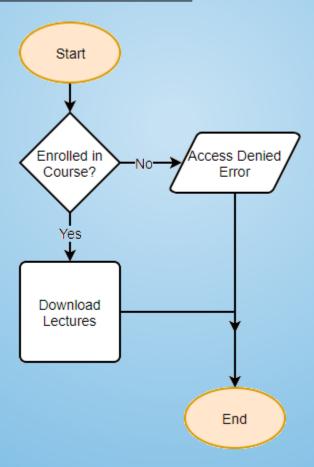






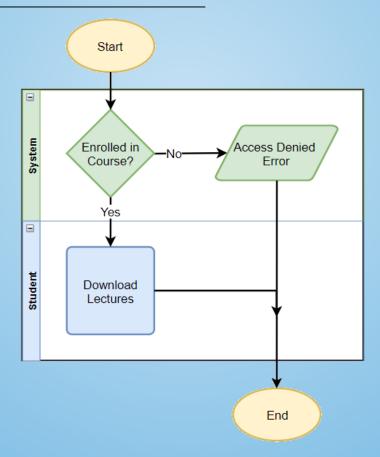
















Analyze Technology and Infrastructure

- Review utilized software
 - Execute processes
 - Makes decisions
 - Interacts and enables communication
- Analyze technology hardware and logistics





Understand Business Architecture

How everything fits together

- Organizational Strategy
- Departments
- Objectives





Identify External Influencers

- ► Industry structure
- Competitors
- Customers
- Suppliers
- Regulatory bodies
- ▶ Technology





Elements within Analyze Current State:

- Review business needs
- Perform organizational assessment
- Understand capabilities
- Assess policies and processes
- Analyze technology and infrastructure
- Understand business architecture
- Identify external influencers

TIP: Stay within scope of the business need









Gather sufficient information to make the best possible choices among potential options.







- Validate success is well outlined
- ▶ Is feasible and achievable
- Ensure scope is well defined
- Key stakeholders agree on vision





- Validate success is well outlined
- ▶ Is feasible and achievable
- Ensure scope is well defined
- ► Key stakeholders agree on vision

TIP: You are not creating a description of the outcome to be used for implementation





Describe new, removed, and modified components

Huge changes:

- Company merger
- Acquisition
- New market
- New product

Smaller changes:

- Process adjustment
- Acquire resources
- Restructure organization
- Create or update system or software
- Additional training





Elements within Define Future State:

- Set business goals and objectives
- Define solution scope
- Identify constraints
- Define changes to the organization
- Identify assumptions
- Validate potential value





First review project deliverables and value

Goals are...

- ▶ Long term
- ▶ Ongoing
- Qualitative





Specific – observable outcome

Measurable - track and measure the outcome

Achievable - feasible, can be done

Relevant – aligns with the organization's mission

Time-bounded - time frame is consistent with the need





- Increase customer satisfaction
- Increase customer satisfaction among teenagers (ages 13-19)
- Increase number of teenage (ages 13-19) customers who rate us very satisfied by 25%
- Increase number of teenage (ages 13-19) customers who rate us very satisfied by 25% within 20 weeks

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time-bounded





Who else is involved?

- Project Sponsor
- Project Manager
- Other key stakeholders
 - Executives
 - Management





- Defines new capabilities the project will deliver
- ► Mhy?
 - Changes solution options that can be considered
 - Reduces chance of scope creep
 - Keeps focus in right areas (reducing timeline)
 - Creates a shared vision (increasing stakeholder satisfaction)





Project Scope
vs
Solution Scope





- Written scope statement(s)
 - Focus on three areas of impact:
 - Process
 - People
 - Technology

TIP: Also list out of scope items to avoid confusion





- Solution Scope Process
 - We currently use manual procedures to validate someone has active insurance through our company. The goal is to have that process automated and to only send validated insurance claims to live claim representatives. The non-validated claims would be recorded and reviewed by support representatives based on a batched queue.





- Solution Scope People
 - Support representatives will need to be trained on the new process and the software that supports it.





- Solution Scope Technology
 - We will need to implement technology to automate the insurance validation.
 - We will need to enhance our current software to support the new support representative user group.





- Out of scope items
 - Process changes for claims representatives (they will now only receive qualified insurance claims)
 - Software changes for claims representatives





Define Solution Scope

- Verifying Solution Scope
 - Are the identified business needs addressed?
 - Are all solution scope items aligned with the problem statement?
 - Are items clearly defined as in or out of scope?
 - Is there enough detail for stakeholders to understand and validate the scope?
 - Are the scope statements clear and concise?





Identify Constraints

- Aspects of the current state
- Aspects of the planned state
- Mandatory elements of the design
 - Budget restrictions
 - Schedule restrictions
 - Technology
 - Infrastructure
 - Policies

- Resource limitations
- Skill restrictions
- Regulations
- Certain stakeholders cannot be affected by the solution





- Organizational structure and culture
- Capabilities
- Policies and Processes
- Technology and infrastructure
- Internal assets





- Organizational structure and culture
 - Reporting lines
 - Relationships to facilitate teamwork
 - Elements of the culture





- Capabilities
 - Newly needed capabilities
 - Adjustment to current capabilities





- Policies and processes
 - New, adjusted, or removal of policies
 - New processes
 - Adjustment to current processes





- Technology and infrastructure
 - Development languages
 - Hardware and software platforms
 - Application software
 - Resource utilization
 - Data size and timing
 - Updated architectural standards





- Internal assets
 - Resources to make the change
 - Resources to support the future state
 - Necessary training and skill development





Identify Assumptions

- Take something for granted without guarantee
 - Quality Assurance testers will be able to assist in testing
 - Users will only need a two hour training session to learn the software
- Steps to combat:
 - Validate the assumption
 - Determine action if assumption ends up being false





Validate Potential Value

- Review project proposal
- Make note of any changes or updates

TIP: Don't just assume the project still has value. It is better to catch it now than later.





Real World

- No set order of operation
- Combined phases









Undesirable consequences of internal and external forces on the enterprise during the transition to, or once in, the future state.





- Project Manager usually facilitates
- Risks are added and updated throughout

TIP: Don't skip risk assessment





- Identify risks
- 2. Determine probability and impact
- 3. Prioritize risks
- 4. Determine risk tolerance
- 5. Identify actions





Identify Risks

What:

- Come up with potential risks (current, future, change)
- Make a risk list (register)





Identify Risks: Examples

- Lack of executive support
- Conflict between stakeholders
- Extremely low budget
- Disengaged stakeholders
- Lack of resources
- Resource turnover
- No Subject Matter Expert
- Disagreement between goals/scope





Identify Risks

What:

- Come up with potential risks (current, future, change)
- Make a risk list (register)

How:

- Individual identification
- Brainstorming session









Prepare
Conduct Session
Wrap-up





Prepare

Conduct Session

Wrap-up

- Topic area
- Time and location
- Roles





Prepare

Conduct Session

Wrap-up

- Topic area
 - Time and location
- Roles



- Facilitator
- Scribe
- Timekeeper





Prepare

Conduct Session •

Wrap-up

Set expectations

- Set time limit
- Brainstorm
- Visibly record ideas





Prepare

Conduct Session

Wrap-up

- Evaluate ideas
- Condense list
- Rate ideas





Benefits











Determine Probability and Impact

What:

- Probability (Very High, High, Medium, Low, Very Low)
- Impact (Very High, High, Medium, Low, Very Low)





Determine Probability and Impact

What:

- Probability (Very High, High, Medium, Low, Very Low)
- ► Impact (Very High, High, Medium, Low, Very Low)

Risk Description	Probability		Impact Details	Impact	
			She has been here the longest and has		
The Subject Matter Expert (Jane Smith) is set to go on a 7 week			the most intricate details on why and		
maternity leave in approximately 3 months. Since this project			how things are setup the way they are,		
is expected to take 9+ months, we will lose her expertise for			but there are others that have quite a		
the major portion of the project.	Very High	5	few details as well	Medium	3
All of our project details are being stored on a local server. This					
server is not backed up regularly and if it crashes, we could			We would lose most, if not all, project		
lose everything.	Very Low	1	data.	Very High	5





Determine Probability and Impact

What:

- Probability (Very High, High, Medium, Low, Very Low)
- ► Impact (Very High, High, Medium, Low, Very Low)

How:

- Individual
- Workshop









Prepare

Conduct

Wrap-up





Prepare

Conduct

Wrap-up

Purpose

Participants

- Roles
- Agenda
- Outputs
- Schedule
- Send details





Prepare

Conduct

Wrap-up

Purpose

Participants

▶ Roles ——

Agenda

Outputs

Schedule

Send details

Sponsor

Facilitator

Scribe

Timekeeper





Prepare

Conduct

Wrap-up

Purpose

Participants

- Roles
- Agenda
- Outputs
- Schedule
- Send details





Prepare

Conduct -

Wrap-up

- Set expectations
 - Direct conversation
- Validate note taking





Prepare

Conduct

Wrap-up

Finalize discussion

Set action items

Distribute notes





Workshop

Benefits







Workshop







Prioritize Risks

- Rank by probability and impact
- Higher risks go towards the top





Determine Risk Tolerance

- Risk-adverse
 - Unwillingness to accept much uncertainty
 - Avoids risk or invests to reduce risk
- Neutral
 - Accepts some level of risk
- Risk-seeking
 - Willing to accept risk
 - High risk, high reward





Risk-adverse

		Impact								
		Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High				
	Very High									
þ	High									
Likelihood	Medium									
:	Low									
	Very Low									

Risk neutral

		Impact								
		Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High				
	Very High									
po	High									
Likelihood	Medium									
Li	Low									
	Very Low									

Risk-seeking

		Impact								
		Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High				
Likelihood	Very High									
	High									
	Medium									
ij	Low									
	Very Low									





Identify Actions

- Move forward regardless of risk
- Adjust to reduce probability
- Adjust to reduce impact
- Increase benefits to outweigh risk









Define and assess possible approaches to the change and to recommend an approach.







- Context of the change
- Change strategy options
- Recommended change and justification
- Investment and resources needed
- Value change will provide
- Key stakeholders
- ► Transition states





- ▶ Business Case
- Statement of Work (SOW)





Elements within Determine Change Strategy

- Review solution scope
- Perform gap analysis
- Define change strategy
- Determine transition states and releases





Review Solution Scope

[Project Name]									
Name:	Date:								
Solution Scope - Pro	Solution Scope – Processes								
Solution Scope - Peo	ple								
Solution Scope – Tec	hnology								
Items Out of Scope									





Perform Gap Analysis

Steps to Perform:

- 1. Detail future state
- 2. Define current state
- 3. Determine gap





Perform Gap Analysis

Future State:

- Changes to the organization
- Solution scope
- Business goal and objectives

Current State:

Where are we at right now?

TIP: Mold formats between current and future states so they are comparable





Perform Gap Analysis

Gap:

- What is the difference between our current state and the desired future state?
- What is attributing to or causing the gap?
- Prioritize gaps by importance (as necessary)

TIP: Can conduct gap analysis as you identify and define the current and future states



Gap Analysis Template





Define Change Strategy

High-level plan with key activities and events that will be used to transform the organization from the current state to the future state.





Define Change Strategy

High-level plan with key activities and events that will be used to transform the organization from the current state to the future state.

TIP: Don't need to encompass all changes in one 'project'





Define Change Strategy

- Identify viable options
- Analyze options
- Make recommendation
- Define change method





Identify Viable Options

▶ What solutions should be considered?





Identify Viable Options

Solo analysis:

- Self reflect
- Initial solution research

Brainstorm sessions:

- First half Come up with potential list of options
- Second half Pair down to the top options





- Feasibility
- Solution scope
- Can meet business goals
- Cost-benefit analysis





- Feasibility analysis
 - Constraints
 - Assumptions
 - Product risks
 - Dependencies
 - Culture

- Technology
- Supportability
- Schedule
- Organization readiness





Validate option within solution scope

[Project Name]									
Name:	Date:								
Solution Scope - Pro	Solution Scope – Processes								
Solution Scope - Peo	ple								
Solution Scope – Tec	hnology								
Items Out of Scope									





Validate option would have the opportunity to meet business goals

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time-bounded





- Cost-benefit Analysis
 - Cost of change (solution & transition)
 - ► Total cost of ownership (solution, transition, & support)





- Cost-benefit Analysis
 - Equipment
 - Software
 - Facilities
 - Staff
 - Penalties

- Contracts
- Data conversion
- Training
- Communication
- Managing project





Cost-benefit Analysis

	Year	0		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Expected Benefits										
Revenue			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Reduced operating costs			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Time savings			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Reduced cost of errors			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Increased customer satisfaction			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Decreased cost of compliance			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Other			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Total Annual Benefits	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Costs										
Project costs	\$	-	\$		\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Ongoing support			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
New facilities	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Licensing	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Infratructure renewal	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Total Annual Costs	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Net Benefits	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Cumulative Net Benefits	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -





Solo analysis:

- Deeper dive into solution
- Initial feasibility analysis

Workshop sessions:

- Fully discuss each option
- Eliminate any non-contenders
- Document details of all others





What is the best option to meet the business need?

Techniques:

- Interviews
- Workshops

Tools:

- Cost-benefit Analysis
- Scoring Matrix / Ranking Matrix





Scoring Matrix / Ranking Matrix

- Differentiate between like options
- Compare critical success factors

	fakebook!	FakePress	Saje	*
Price	\$19.95/mo	\$24.95/mo	\$25.50/mo	\$29.99/mo
Administrative Controls	/	X	/	
Quick Install	/	/	/	/
Training Included	X	1	/	/
Unique Features	X	1	X	/





Scoring Matrix / Ranking Matrix

	fakebook!	FakePress		*
Price	\$19.95/mo	\$24.95/mo	\$25.50/mo	\$29.99/mo
Ease of Use	3	1	4	4
Time to Install	4	5	4	4
Quality of Training	0	4	3	5
Additional Features	0	3	1	4





Scoring Matrix / Ranking Matrix

	Weight	fakebook!	FakePress		*
		Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating
Cost	0.25	4	3	3	2
Ease of Use	0.40	3	1	4	4
Time to Install	0.05	3	4	3	3
Quality of Training	0.10	0	4	3	4
Additional Features	0.20	0	3	1	4
Total	1.00	2.35	2.35	3	3.45





Define Transition States and Releases

- Choose methodology
- Tentative project timeline
- Transition and release plan





Choose methodology

- Business needs
- Budget
- ► Skills
- Documentation
- Reusability
- Visibility
- Schedule





Choose methodology

- Waterfall
- Iterative
- Agile





Choose methodology

- Waterfall
 - Linear
 - One phase at a time
 - No going back







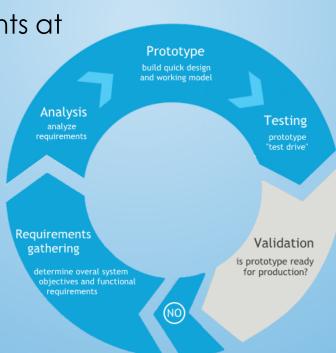
Choose methodology

- Iterative
 - Multiple iterations

Identify new requirements at each iteration

Cacrificiano

Mini-waterfalls







Choose methodology

- Agile
 - Multiple iterations
 - Incremental changes
 - Discovery at each iteration
 - Conversation over documentation



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Release

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Release

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Release

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	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			
Complex systems			
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			
Complex systems			
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements	(3)		(1)
Unfamiliar technology			
Complex systems			
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



The second secon			
	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			
Complex systems			(2)
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			
Complex systems			
Speed to deliver	(3)		
Component reusability			
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements	(2)		
Unfamiliar technology	(2)		(3)
Complex systems			(2)
Speed to deliver	(3)		
Component reusability			(3)
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



8	W		A =:1 =
	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			
Complex systems	(a)		(2)
Speed to deliver	(3)		
Component reusability			
Strict costs			
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



1	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology	(2)		(3)
Complex systems		©	(3)
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			(3)
Strict costs		©	
Documentation			(3)
Need stage approvals			
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



1	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology	(2)	©	(3)
Complex systems		©	(3)
Speed to deliver	(3)		
Component reusability			(3)
Strict costs		©	
Documentation			
Need stage approvals			(3)
Resource needs			
Visibility on progress			



	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			8
Complex systems			8
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			8
Strict costs			
Documentation			8
Need stage approvals			8
Resource needs			(2)
Visibility on progress			



	Waterfall	Iterative	Agile
Unclear requirements			
Unfamiliar technology			8
Complex systems			8
Speed to deliver			
Component reusability			8
Strict costs			
Documentation			8
Need stage approvals			8
Resource needs			(3)
Visibility on progress	(3)		







Tentative Project Timeline

- Determine project milestones
- Identify high-level resources
- Estimate high-level length to complete work
 - Complexity
 - Resource needs/availability

TIP: Always pad your schedule for unknown and forgotten items





Transition and Release Plan

Single or multiple releases? (phases, iterations)

- Delivery deadlines
- Resource constraints
- Budget considerations
- Business impact
- Training needs
- Organizational policies



Determine Change Strategy







Elements within Determine Change Strategy

- Review solution scope
- Perform gap analysis
- Define change strategy
- Determine transition states and releases









Provides reasoning and financial justification for investing in a project.







Adaptive

VS

Predictive





Business Case: Adaptive

Typical Sections:

- ► Scope Goals
- ▶ Time Goals
- ► Cost Goals
- ► Approach/Assumption/Outcomes





Business Case: Predictive

Typical Sections:

- ▶ Introduction/Background
- Business Objective
- Current Situation and Problem Statement
- Critical Assumptions and Constraints
- Analysis of Options and Recommendations
- Preliminary Project Requirements
- Budget Estimate
- ► Schedule Estimate
- ▶ Potential Risks
- Exhibits





Verifying the Business Case

- Validate problem statement justifies a call to action
- Ensure all valid solutions are given (including do nothing)
- Double check cost-benefit estimates and calculations
- Objectively dissect your recommendation
- Correct spelling or grammatical mistakes
- Review with another person





Presenting the Business Case

- Remind yourself they likely haven't seen it before
- Clearly define the problem and business need to act
- Give your recommendation
- Explain the return on investment (ROI)
- Touch on each identified risk and any mitigation strategies
- Restate the problem, benefits, and ROI