

**WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE (WBS) TEMPLATE**

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**WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE (WBS)**

**<PROJECT NAME>**

**COMPANY NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE ZIP CODE**

**DATE**

**INT****RODUCTION**

The WBS is a view into the project which shows what work the project encompasses. It is a tool which helps to easily communicate the work and processes involved to execute the project. The Project Manager and project team use the WBS to develop the project schedule, resource requirements and costs. There are many ways you can present the WBS for your project; this template provides many of the most popular layouts from which you can choose. Depending on where in the Project Plan you're putting the WBS a different layout may be more suitable for you. For instance many Project Managers include a high level WBS within the project plan, then a detailed version as an appendix to the plan. You may find that you prefer one layout for a high level WBS and a different one for a detailed WBS.

In order to save space in this template we only developed the WBS examples down to the third level. In your project you will want to develop them down to a much more detailed level using the 8 to 80 rule (where the WBS is broken down to where a work package contains between 8 and 80 hours of work to complete).

The Work Breakdown Structure presented here represents all the work required to complete this project.

**OUTLINE VIEW**

The outline view presents an easy to view and understand layout for the WBS. It is also a good layout to use when developing the WBS because you can easily make changes, especially since the Microsoft Word auto numbering feature updates the WBS Code automatically.

1. Widget Management System
	1. Initiation
		1. Evaluation & Recommendations
		2. Develop Project Charter
		3. *Deliverable:* Submit Project Charter
		4. Project Sponsor Reviews Project Charter
		5. Project Charter Signed/Approved
	2. Planning
		1. Create Preliminary Scope Statement
		2. Determine Project Team
		3. Project Team Kickoff Meeting
		4. Develop Project Plan
		5. Submit Project Plan
		6. *Milestone:* Project Plan Approval
	3. Execution
		1. Project Kickoff Meeting
		2. Verify & Validate User Requirements
		3. Design System
		4. Procure Hardware/Software
		5. Install Development System
		6. Testing Phase
		7. Install Live System
		8. User Training
		9. Go Live
	4. Control
		1. Project Management
		2. Project Status Meetings
		3. Risk Management
		4. Update Project Management Plan
	5. Closeout
		1. Audit Procurement
		2. Document Lessons Learned
		3. Update Files/Records
		4. Gain Formal Acceptance
		5. Archive Files/Documents

**HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE**

The hierarchal structure is similar to the outline view but without indentation. Although this format is more difficult to read, it may be useful where you have many levels and indenting each level would make the table to large to fit into a document.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level | WBS Code | Element Name |
| 1 | 1 | Widget Management System |
| 2 | 1.1 | Initiation |
| 3 | 1.1.1 | Evaluation & Recommendations |
| 3 | 1.1.2 | Develop Project Charter |
| 3 | 1.1.3 | Deliverable: Submit Project Charter |
| 3 | 1.1.4 | Project Sponsor Reviews Project Charter |
| 3 | 1.1.5 | Project Charter Signed/Approved |
| 2 | 1.2 | Planning |
| 3 | 1.2.1 | Create Preliminary Scope Statement |
| 3 | 1.2.2 | Determine Project Team |
| 3 | 1.2.3 | Project Team Kickoff Meeting |
| 3 | 1.2.4 | Develop Project Plan |
| 3 | 1.2.5 | Submit Project Plan |
| 3 | 1.2.6 | Milestone: Project Plan Approval |
| 2 | 1.3 | Execution |
| 3 | 1.3.1 | Project Kickoff Meeting |
| 3 | 1.3.2 | Verify & Validate User Requirements |
| 3 | 1.3.3 | Design System |
| 3 | 1.3.4 | Procure Hardware/Software |
| 3 | 1.3.5 | Install Development System |
| 3 | 1.3.6 | Testing Phase |
| 3 | 1.3.7 | Install Live System |
| 3 | 1.3.8 | User Training |
| 3 | 1.3.9 | Go Live |
| 2 | 1.4 | Control |
| 3 | 1.4.1 | Project Management |
| 3 | 1.4.2 | Project Status Meetings |
| 3 | 1.4.3 | Risk Management |
| 3 | 1.4.4 | Update Project Management Plan |
| 2 | 1.5 | Closeout |
| 3 | 1.5.1 | Audit Procurement |
| 3 | 1.5.2 | Document Lessons Learned |
| 3 | 1.5.3 | Update Files/Records |
| 3 | 1.5.4 | Gain Formal Acceptance |
| 3 | 1.5.5 | Archive Files/Documents |

**TABULAR VIEW**

The Tabular View is a nicely organized table view of the WBS. It is a good option for organizations which prefer table formats.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| 1 Widget Management System | 1.1 Initiation | * + 1. Evaluation & Recommendations
		2. Develop Project Charter
		3. Deliverable: Submit Project Charter
		4. Project Sponsor Reviews Project Charter
		5. Project Charter Signed/Approved
 |
| 1.2 Planning | * + 1. Create Preliminary Scope Statement
		2. Determine Project Team
		3. Project Team Kickoff Meeting
		4. Develop Project Plan
		5. Submit Project Plan
		6. Milestone: Project Plan Approval
 |
| 1.3 Execution | * + 1. Project Kickoff Meeting
		2. Verify & Validate User Requirements
		3. Design System
		4. Procure Hardware/Software
		5. Install Development System
		6. Testing Phase
		7. Install Live System
		8. User Training
		9. Go Live
 |
| 1.4 Control | * + 1. Project Management
		2. Project Status Meetings
		3. Risk Management
		4. Update Project Management Plan
 |
| 1.5 Closeout | * + 1. Audit Procurement
		2. Document Lessons Learned
		3. Update Files/Records
		4. Gain Formal Acceptance
		5. Archive Files/Documents
 |

**TREE STRUCTURE VIEW**

The Tree Structure View is the most popular format for the WBS. It presents an easy to understand view into the WBS; however, it is also tricky to create without an application specifically designed for creating this organizational chart structure. The Tree Structure below was created using only Microsoft Word and the SmartArt graphics option under the insert menu.

Widget Mgmt.

System 1

Initiation 1.1

Planning 1.2

Execution 1.3

Control 1.4

Closeout 1.5

Evaluation & Recommendations 1.1.1

Create Preliminary Scope Statement 1.2.1

Project Kickoff Meeting

1.3.1

Project Management 1.4.1

Audit Procurement 1.5.1

Develop Project Charter 1.1.2

Determine Project Team

1.2.2

Verify & Validate User Requirements 1.3.2

Project Status Meetings 1.4.2

Document Lessons Learned

1.5.2

Deliverable: Submit Project Charter

113

Project Team Kickoff Meeting 1.2.3

Design System 1.3.3

Risk Management 1.4.3

Update Files/ Records 1.5.3

Project Sponsor Reviews Project Charter

114

Develop Project Plan

1.2.4

Procure Hardware/Software 1.3.4

Update Project Management Plan 1.4.4

Gain Formal Acceptance 1.5.4

Project Charter Signed/Approved 1.1.5

Submit Project Plan 1.2.5

Install Development System

135

Archive Files/ Documents 1.5.5

Milestone: Project Plan Approved 1.2.6

Testing Phase 1.3.6

Install Live System 1.3.7

User Training 1.3.8

Go Live 1.3.9

**WBS DICTIONARY**

The WBS Dictionary contains all the details of the WBS which are necessary to successfully complete the project. Most importantly it contains a definition of each Work Package which can be thought of as a mini scope statement. Resources on the project will look at the WBS dictionary to determine the scope of the Work Package they've been assigned, so it's important to be clear when writing the definition. Most WBS dictionaries contain more information than we show in our sample. These things usually include Level of Effort, Cost Control Numbers, Resource Assignments, Responsibility Assignments - just to name a few.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level | WBSCode | Element Name | Definition |
| 1 | 1 | Widget Management System | All work to implement a new widgetmanagement system. |
| 2 | 1.1 | Initiation | The work to initiate the project. |
| 3 | 1.1.1 | Evaluation & Recommendations | Working group to evaluate solution setsand make recommendations. |
| 3 | 1.1.2 | Develop Project Charter | Project Manager to develop the ProjectCharter. |
| 3 | 1.1.3 | Deliverable: Submit ProjectCharter | Project Charter is delivered to theProject Sponsor. |
| 3 | 1.1.4 | Project Sponsor Reviews ProjectCharter | Project sponsor reviews the ProjectCharter. |
| 3 | 1.1.5 | Project Charter Signed/Approved | The Project Sponsor signs the Project Charter which authorizes the Project Manager to move to the PlanningProcess. |
| 2 | 1.2 | Planning | The work for the planning process forthe project. |
| 3 | 1.2.1 | Create Preliminary ScopeStatement | Project Manager creates a PreliminaryScope Statement. |
| 3 | 1.2.2 | Determine Project Team | The Project Manager determines theproject team and requests the resources. |
| 3 | 1.2.3 | Project Team Kickoff Meeting | The planning process is officially started with a project kickoff meeting which includes the Project Manager, Project Team and Project Sponsor(optional). |
| 3 | 1.2.4 | Develop Project Plan | Under the direction of the Project Manager the team develops the projectplan. |
| 3 | 1.2.5 | Submit Project Plan | Project Manager submits the projectplan for approval. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | 1.2.6 | Milestone: Project Plan Approval | The project plan is approved and the Project Manager has permission to proceed to execute the project accordingto the project plan. |
| 2 | 1.3 | Execution | Work involved to execute the project. |
| 3 | 1.3.1 | Project Kickoff Meeting | Project Manager conducts a formal kick off meeting with the project team, project stakeholders and projectsponsor. |
| 3 | 1.3.2 | Verify & Validate User Requirements | The original user requirements is reviewed by the project manager and team, then validated with the users/stakeholders. This is whereadditional clarification may be needed. |
| 3 | 1.3.3 | Design System | The technical resources design the newwidget management system. |
| 3 | 1.3.4 | Procure Hardware/Software | The procurement of all hardware, software and facility needs for theproject. |
| 3 | 1.3.5 | Install Development System | Team installs a development system fortesting and customizations of user interfaces. |
| 3 | 1.3.6 | Testing Phase | The system is tested with a select set ofusers. |
| 3 | 1.3.7 | Install Live System | The actual system is installed andconfigured. |
| 3 | 1.3.8 | User Training | All users are provided with a four hours training class. Additionally, managers are provided with an additional twohours class to cover advanced reporting. |
| 3 | 1.3.9 | Go Live | System goes live with all users. |
| 2 | 1.4 | Control | The work involved for the controlprocess of the project. |
| 3 | 1.4.1 | Project Management | Overall project management for theproject. |
| 3 | 1.4.2 | Project Status Meetings | Weekly team status meetings. |
| 3 | 1.4.3 | Risk Management | Risk management efforts as defined inthe Risk Management Plan. |
| 3 | 1.4.4 | Update Project Management Plan | Project Manager updates the Project Management Plan as the projectprogresses. |
| 2 | 1.5 | Closeout | The work to close-out the project. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | 1.5.1 | Audit Procurement | An audit of all hardware and software procured for the project, ensures that all procured products are accounted for andin the asset management system. |
| 3 | 1.5.2 | Document Lessons Learned | Project Manager along with the project team performs a lessons learned meeting and documents the lessonslearned for the project. |
| 3 | 1.5.3 | Update Files/Records | All files and records are updated toreflect the widget management system. |
| 3 | 1.5.4 | Gain Formal Acceptance | The Project Sponsor formally accepts the project by signing the acceptancedocument included in the project plan. |
| 3 | 1.5.5 | Archive Files/Documents | All project related files and documentsare formally archived. |

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

It's important that you provide a glossary of terms as some of the terms are not understood by persons without a project management background. For instance what the PMI *Practice Standard for Work Breakdown Structures* refers to as the WBS Code is commonly referred to as the WBS number.

Level of Effort: Level of Effort (LOE) is how much work is required to complete a task. WBS Code: A unique identifier assigned to each element in a Work Breakdown

Structure for the purpose of designating the elements hierarchical location within the WBS.

Work Package: A Work Package is a deliverable or work component at the lowest level of its WBS branch.

WBS Component: A component of a WBS which is located at any level. It can be a Work Package or a WBS Element as there's no restriction on what a WBS Component is.

WBS Element: A WBS Element is a single WBS component and its associated attributes located anywhere within a WBS. A WBS Element can contain work, or it can contain other WBS Elements or Work Packages.

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