

## **PMLite – A Practical Approach to Project Management for Small Software Projects**

A Project Manager (PM) is often caught in the quagmire of adapting the right approach – embrace the Project Management Institute (PMI) standards, which are time- and resource-heavy, or adapt to organization's culture. Most organizations cannot afford to allocate the resources needed to pursue all Project Management Process Groups and therefore the PM has to share the bulk of responsibility. This often leaves gaping holes in the key process areas and therefore when assessed for project management adherence and maturity, such organizations perform poorly.

In this paper, the authors present a case study demonstrating how small software solution projects can be completed effectively with a proven lightweight methodology. While this approach embraces all five process groups, it also recognizes the need for the project team to stay agile and expect change. PMLite employs an iterative process for delivering frequent incremental builds of usable software during the Plan, Execution, and Monitor & Control processes while leaving the Initiation and Closing processes generally unchanged. The case study demonstrates how the iterative approach has helped a project team to manage the changing requirements, provide more frequent analysis and mitigation of risk, and provide transparency of the project plan.

While applying PMLite to smaller software projects has many advantages, applying it to the wrong size or type of project will almost guarantee project failure. The authors also discuss the challenges and limitations of implementing the PMLite methodology in this paper.

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