Project Schedule and Risk

Identifying Risks

- What You Don’t
  - Know
  - Understand
  - Know How to Do
- Normally
  - Major Project Features
  - “Showstoppers”
- Varies From
  - Not Familiar With But (Probably) Can Learn to
  - Absolutely No Idea How to Do It

Example Risks

Including but not limited to...

- Key Application Features
- Hardware Systems
- Software Systems
- Development / Programming Environments
- Programming Languages
- Etc...

Prioritizing Risks

- Classify Difficulty
  - High Very Hard, No Idea How to Do
  - Medium Not Hard, Probably Doable
- Classify Importance
  - High Showstopper, Must Have
  - Medium Not Vital, Nice to Have

Prioritizing Risks

Difficulty

Low

High

Importance

Work On Now

Work On Later
Case Study: Basketball App

- For Each Player, Track
  - Minutes Played
    - Game Clock Time
    - Consecutive & Total
  - Minutes Rested
    - Wall Clock Time
    - Consecutive

- Must Be Usable
  - On the Bench
  - In Real Time

Basketball App Architecture

Basketball Playing/Resting Time

- Play/Rest Time
  - Application
    - Visual Basic
    - MS Access
    - Windows Vista
    - Tablet PC

Basketball App Risks?

- How do I program in VB?
- How do I make a GUI in VB?
- What SDK should I use?
- How do I interface VB with Access?
  - Create/Open/Save a Database?
  - Read/Write Records?
  - Traverse Records?
- How do I do clocks in Windows?
  - Game Clock?
  - Wall Clock?

Basketball App Risk Mitigation

- Game Clock
  - Start/Stop
  - Counts Down
  - By Minutes/Seconds

- Handling Access Records
  - Write Number
  - Read Number
  - Add Up Numbers

Mitigating Risks

- Use Existing Resources
  - Including But Not Limited To
    - Product Demos
    - Book Sample Code
    - Downloadable Examples
    - Etc...
  - Test Drive
    - Install
    - Compile
    - Extend
    - Etc...

- Build Prototypes
  - Single Purpose
  - Quick-and-Dirty

CSE498 Examples

- Team Auto-Owners Insurance
- Team Boeing
- Team Chrysler
- Team GE Aviation
- Team Medtronic
- Team Meijer
- Team Motorola
- Team Raytheon
- Team TechSmith
- Team Terex
- Team Urban Science

Nota Bene:
1. Check license if including in project.
3. Inform client.
Project Schedule and Risk

☑ Risk
☑ Project Schedule
☐ Teamwork

Where do you start?

- Project Plan
- Prioritized Risks
- Feature Set(s)
- Fixed Milestones
  - Course
  - Client

Tradeoffs...
Features vs Time
Are there fixed milestones in the “real” world?

Major Milestones

01/11: Course Overview / Course Inventory
01/12: Project Plan / Teams Assignments
01/18 (Martin Luther King Day; No Meeting)
01/20: Project Schedule & Risk
01/25: Teams: Status Reports
01/27: Prototyping
02/01: Teams: Project Plans
02/03: Teams: Project Plans
02/08: Teams: Project Plans
02/10: Teams: Project Plans
02/15: Resume Writing & Interviewing
02/17: Creating & Giving Presentations
02/22: Teams: Alpha Demonstrations
02/24: Teams: Alpha Demonstrations
03/01: Teams: Alpha Demonstrations
03/03: Teams: Alpha Demonstrations
03/08 (Spring Break; No Meeting)
03/10 (Spring Break; No Meeting)
03/15: Teams: Status Reports &/or Demos
03/17: Teams: Status Reports &/or Demos
03/20: Ethics and Professionalism
03/21: Intellectual Property and Copyright
04/05: Teams: Beta Demonstrations
04/07: Teams: Beta Demonstrations
04/12: Teams: Beta Demonstrations
04/14: Teams: Beta Demonstrations
04/19: Teams: Status Reports &/or Demos
04/26: Teams: Beta Demonstrations
04/28: Teams: Beta Demonstrations
05/04: Teams: Project Videos
05/06: Teams: Project Videos
05/08: Design Day Setup
05/10: Design Day
05/12: Teams: Project Videos
05/14: Teams: Project Videos
05/15: Teams: Project Videos
05/17: Teams: Project Videos

Project Parts

- Break Down Project
  - Main Parts
  - Sub-Parts
  - Sub-Sub-Parts
  - Etc…
- Categorize
  - Risks
  - Dependencies (Particularly Risk Dependencies)
  - Priorities
- Worry About
  - Interfaces Between Parts
  - Integration of Parts

Building A Project Schedule

- Start With Fixed Course Milestones
- Estimate Times for Tasks for Parts
  - Building
  - Integrating
  - Testing
- Assign Tasks to Team Members
- Must Keep Everyone Busy All the Time
- Use “Short” Deadlines (E.g., 2-3 Days) Why?
- Document and Track
  - Microsoft Project?
  - Collaboration Tool?

Estimating Time for Tasks

- Rough Estimate
  - Intuition
  - Experience
- Refined Estimate
  - Prototype or Partial Build
  - Extrapolation
  - E.g., 2 Days to Build 1 → 6 Days to Build 3
- Keys
  - Be Realistic
  - Include Buffer Time if Unsure
- Adjust Schedule Accordingly
Typical Build Cycle

Until Project Done Do
1. Divide Next Big Task Into Little Tasks
2. Assign Little Tasks to Team Members
3. Complete Little Tasks
   a. Implement
   b. Test
4. Integrate Little Tasks Into Big Task
5. Test Big Task

Very Important

High Priority Risks Get High Priority Scheduling

Revision Control

- Versioning
  - Discrete "Internal" Versions (States)
  - May Correspond to Builds
- Revision Control Systems
  - Check Code In and Out
  - Mark Specific States as Versions
- Motivation
  - Build Breaks System
  - Revert to Earlier Build
  - Avoid Bridge Burning
- Examples
  - Visual SourceSafe
  - GNU RCS (Revision Control System)

Can Be Serious Problem

Living Schedule

- Schedule Is Dynamic
  - Unforeseen Problems
  - Added Features (Avoid Feature Creep)
  - Etc.
- Track Your Progress
  - Microsoft Project?
  - Collaboration Tool?
- Revisit Schedule Often
  - Weekly Team Meetings
  - Weekly Triage Meetings with Ken
  - Identify Slippage
  - Hold Each Other Accountable (or Contact Ken or Me)
  - Set Corrective Action
  - Adjust Schedule

Project Schedule and Risk

- Risk
- Project Schedule
- Teamwork

Team Organization

- Up to Each Team
- Organize into Roles
  - Client Contact
  - Program Manager
  - Developer
  - Tester
  - Systems Administrator
  - Web Master
  - Etc...
- Everyone Must Make Technical Contributions

Team Dynamics

- Key to Success
- Significant Component of Course Grade
- Address Problems Immediately
  - Within Team
  - With Dr. D. and/or Ken
- Be Ready to Discuss During Interviews
Grading

- Team (70%)
  - Project Plan Document & Presentation 10
  - Alpha Demonstration 10
  - Beta Demonstration 10
  - Project Video 15
  - Project Software & Documentation 15
  - Design Day 5
  - Team Web Site 5
  - Project Software & Documentation 15
- Individual (30%)
  - Technical Contribution 10
  - Team Contribution 10
  - Team Evaluation 5
  - Class Meeting Attendance 5

Grading (2 of 3)

- Final Grade Sum Of...
  - Individual Grade
  - Percentage of Team Grade Based on Team Contribution
- Grand Total =
  (Individual Total) +
  (Team Total) * (Team Contribution) / 10.0

Nota Bene: Your Team Contribution will have a very significant effect on your final grade.

Team of Peers

Effective Team Members
- Relate as Equals
- Have Specific Roles and Responsibilities
- Respect Specific Roles and Responsibilities
- Empowers Individuals in Their Roles
- Have Specific Skills
- Hold Each Other Accountable
- Drive Consensus-Based Decision-Making
- Give All Members a Stake in the Project

Potential Problems

Over and/or Under
- Bearing
- Qualified
- Achiever
- Etc...

Mutual Responsibility

- You are your "brother's/sister's keeper".
- Responsible For
  - Your Contribution
  - Your Teammates' Contributions
- What Won't Work
  - "They never asked me to do anything."
  - "They never let me do anything."
  - "He/she never asked to do anything."
  - "He/she never wanted to do anything."
  - Etc...

Team Evaluation Form

- 5% of Final Grade
- Rate Each Team Member
  - Overall Effort
  - Overall Performance
- Other Questions
  - 8. Describe the contributions of each team member, starting with you. Be specific. Include comments about your/these individual/technical contributions as well as your/their contributions to the team as a whole.
  - 9. Whom do you feel did the best (either in effort or overall contribution to the team)? Why? Be specific.
  - 10. Whom do you feel did the worst (either in effort or overall contribution to the team)? Why? Be specific.
Team Problems

- Can Be
  - Really Hard
  - Awkward
  - Frustrating
  - Etc...
- Addressing Problems
  - ASAP
  - Directly
  - Respectfully
  - Maturely
- Resolving Problems
  - Internally First
  - See Dr. D. and/or Ken Next but ASAP (Don’t Wait)
- “Bad” Team Not an Acceptable Excuse

Potential For Bad Effect on 70% of Your Grade

What’s next?

- Submit Status Report
  - Email to Dr. D.
  - Due Midnight EST, Sunday, January 24
  - Subject: Status Report Team <TeamName>
  - Attach: team_<TeamName>_tsr.ppt
- Dr. D. Will Combine into Single PowerPoint
  - To Speed Things Up During Meeting
  - Do NOT Modify Master Slide Page
- Each Team Presents
  - Using Dr. D.’s Laptop
  - At Most 4 Minutes (Rehearse Timing)
  - Single or Multiple Presenters (Your Choice)

Team <TeamName>

Status Report (1 of 4)

- Project Definition
  - Description Point 1
  - Description Point 2
  - Description Point 3
  - Description Point 4
- Project Plan Document
  - Status Point 1
  - Status Point 2
  - Status Point 3
  - Status Point 4

Team <TeamName>

Status Report (2 of 4)

- Server Systems / Software
  - Description & Status Point 1
  - Description & Status Point 2
- Development Systems / Software
  - Description & Status Point 1
  - Description & Status Point 2
- Web Site
  - Status Point 1
  - Status Point 2

What’s up? (Delete this slide.)

1. What follows is the required skeleton for your presentation.
2. Do not change the organization or number of slides. Make your presentation fit within these four slides.
3. Replace items between angle brackets, <...>, with the appropriate information without the angle brackets.
4. The time limit for your presentation is 5 minutes (which will be strictly enforced). Practice your presentation to ensure that you finish within the allotted time.
5. All presentations are due via email to me by midnight on Sunday, January 24. Email me the PowerPoint source file named as team_<TeamName>_tsr.ppt as in team_AutoOwners_tsr.ppt. For subject, use “Status Report: Team <TeamName>”.
6. All presentations will be posted on the course web site so do not include company confidential information or anything that your client would not want posted.
7. The order of the presentations will team numerical order.
8. Do NOT include this slide in your presentation.
9. Delete this slide from the presentation.
Team <TeamName>

Status Report (3 of 4)

- Client Contact
  - Status Point 1
  - Status Point 2
- Team Meetings
  - Status Point 1
  - Status Point 2
- Team Organization
  - Description Point 1
  - Description Point 2

Team <TeamName>

Status Report (4 of 4)

- Risks
  - Risk 1
    - Description
    - Mitigation
  - Risk 2
    - Description
    - Mitigation
  - Risk 3
    - Description
    - Mitigation
  - Risk 4
    - Description
    - Mitigation