

Step 19: Usability Project Planning

Purpose of this step:

The purpose of this step is to effectively manage work efforts in order to increase the likelihood that the project will be properly executed.

Overview:

Importance of scheduling:

- The usability project plan should be developed at the same time as the overall project plan.
- This ensure complete inclusion of the usability project and ensures third parties are able to adapt to the implementation of it.

Estimation of time:

- Initial gross over/under estimation of the actual required time occurs
- This improves with time and experience

Practical application of these principles to your site:

1) Decide which tasks to include:

- Consider budget/time constraints
- How complex is the product

2) Decide which techniques to employ for each task:

- Need to find short cuts for tasks that aren't chosen here

3) Determine resources for each task:

- Give best guess estimates from previous experience
- Fill out time/hours taken after delivery to learn from the experience

4) Submit usability plan for cost-benefit analysis:

- List the benefits (and problems) related to the time and cost taken to deliver the product.

5) Obtain approval for usability plan:

- If management does not approve a plan then the entire project can be jeopardized

6) Integrate the usability plan into project plan:

- The main project and the usability project must be integrated.
- Specific staff members should be assigned to usability tasks just like any other project task.

Examples: See examples of this step in the “Examples” folder.