Assignment:

Compare Projects and Operations

Duration: 30 Minutes

Comparing Projects and Operations

Projects are temporary endeavors to create unique products, services, or results. Projects do not last forever. They are launched by the project sponsor, managed by the project manager, completed by the project team, and approved by the project customers. Any person affected by the project is considered a project stakeholder. In an organization, projects are special work outside of the usual activities that sustain the business.

For example, a manufacturer may want to launch a project to design a new piece of furniture. In this example Jane Franz is the COO and serves as the project sponsor. Mark Smith is the project manager who will lead the project team through the design and testing of the new piece of furniture. The project stakeholders include Jane Franz, Mark Smith, the project team members, and anyone who is involved in the decision making involved with the piece of furniture, the manufacturing people who will receive the finished design, and all of the customers that want to buy the furniture.

Learning Objectives

In this lab you'll confirm your understanding of projects and operations. By the end of this lab, you'll be able to

- Identify endeavors that are projects
- Identify ongoing activities that are operations
- Compare and contrast projects and operations
- Determine to launch a project or continue operations

Hands-On Exercise

Considering the definition of a project and operations, complete the following table by identifying if the activity is a project or operation and why.

Activity	Project or Operation	Why
Designing a new network infrastructure		
Creating a new piece of software		
Managing the invoicing for a company		
Building a skyscraper		
Performing preventive maintenance on equipment		

Constructing a new house		
Updating a web site with daily news and information		
Producing a weekly newsletter		
Designing a brochure		
Installing 1,500 new workstations		

Solution: Defining Projects and Operations

Considering the definition of a project and operations, identify if the following things are projects or if they are operations:

Activity	Project or Operation	Why
Designing a new network infrastructure	Project	The design of the new network infrastructure won't last forever, has a definite end result, and creates a unique product.
Creating a new piece of software	Project	The creation of a new piece of software is a project, as this is a temporary endeavor that creates a unique product.
Managing the invoicing for a company	Operation	The management of invoicing is an ongoing activity that supports the primary functions of the company.
Building a skyscraper	Project	Building a skyscraper is a project, as it is a temporary endeavor with a definite end result.
Performing preventive maintenance on equipment	Operation	Maintenance is an operation, as it describes an ongoing activity that supports the functions of a company.
Constructing a new house	Project	Constructing a new house is a temporary endeavor that creates a unique product or condition for the project stakeholders.
Updating a web site with daily news and information	Operations	The daily update of a web site implies that this activity is an ongoing activity with no definite end date.

Activity	Project or Operation	Why
Producing a weekly newsletter	Operations	The production of a weekly newsletter is an ongoing operation of an organization without a real definite end date. It is possible, in some interpretations, to consider each newsletter its own project so that each week a new newsletter project is launched. In strict project management terms, however, this isn't likely, as the newsletter is an ongoing activity of the organization.
Designing a brochure	Project	The design of the brochure is a temporary endeavor that creates the unique product. It has a definite beginning and ending and does not continue.
Installing 1,500 new workstations	Project	The installation of 1,500 workstations is a project, as it is a temporary endeavor because of the limit of 1,500 workstations. This undertaking has a definite ending for the organization.