



Template For a **Software Documentation Management Plan**

Version 2

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TEMPLATE FOR A SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Overview

Purpose of this Template:

This template provides guidance for developing a Software Documentation Management Plan to address documentation issues and satisfies ISO/IEC 12207:2008, *Software life cycle processes* (2008) Clause 6.3.6 Information Management Process

A Plan is an assessment of everything related to documentation for a project and provides a solid foundation for the project.

The Plan needs to contain enough information to ensure its persuasiveness, e.g., goal orientation, clearly understood figures and tables, and team orientation.

A Plan should be the first project artifact developed since it drives the format, style and documentation processes for all documentation. A contract may not require a Plan, but without a Plan other documentation will have quality and consistency risks and problems that will add cost, time and resources, plus customer concerns about the entity's ability to produce products and to meet expectations.

There is a saying that, "The job is not done until the paperwork is finished". This is especially true when dealing with government, or large and complex projects. Paperwork is essential in these situations to provide customers with assurance that the final product is being built right (as required), and the final product is what the customer wants (as expected). Another reason for paperwork is to ensure that only approved changes are implemented into the products.

How to Use this Documentation Plan Template

This template is designed to aid a person with limited knowledge of documentation requirements and methods to implement a sound Plan. The provided template may be applied to manual and electronic methods and can be easily managed by one person. It is applicable to small, large, critical and non-critical projects. There may be one or more intermediate and final documents.

To use this template, the user must understand the following:

- This template is designed for projects: an activity that has a defined beginning and end. However, this template can easily be modified for non-projects.
- This template's coversheet and the entire Overview Section need to be deleted for the final Plan.
- Delete the underlined text, which provides information about how to use/implement this template.
- *Italic* text provides optional information (i.e., two or more suggestions) that may be deleted or used (after changing the italics to regular characters) to replace other information.
- Text that is not underlined or italicized denotes the recommended wording. As needed, this text can be modified or deleted to satisfy project requirements. Instead of providing examples, this technique makes the template easier to use by providing users with ideas on how to word the Plan.
- If a temple's section is not needed, the section can be deleted, or include the header with a statement explaining the reason for the deletion, e.g., Not required by the contract.
- This template assumes the user has a standard format for documents, e.g., covers, table of contents, headers, footers, style and format (e.g., font, margins, justification and spacing between paragraphs). If required, the user may add a Preface, Forward or Index sections.

Support

Software Engineering Process Technology (SEPT) provides three (3) hours of free consulting with this product concerning the understanding and application of this template, to be provided within 60 calendar

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About the Authors

Andy Coster is currently Process Control Manager at Samsung Electronics in Staines, UK. His role includes quality management, life cycle definition and tool support for part of the Samsung R&D organization. He continues to be involved in standards activities including participation in a recent Life Cycle Management (including Service Management) study group. At Samsung Andy has used ISO/IEC 12207 to develop life cycle processes and ISO/IEC 15504 for process assessment.

Mr Coster was previously Managing Director of Coster, A Consulting Ltd a UK organization founded in 2002 specializing in Quality Management and related consultancy. The Coster, A Consulting motto was "there is not a software quality problem that is too large or difficult for us to solve."

Mr. Coster is the International Project Editor for the ISO/IEC 90003:2004 and ISO/IEC TR 90005:2008 Standards. Mr. Coster is past chair of the British Standards Institute Software Engineering committee (IST/15) and past chair of the UK Computing Software and Services Association Quality committee. Mr. Coster has participated in international software and systems standards for the past 15 years. Andy also participated in the development of ISO/IEC 12207 Software life cycle processes and ISO/IEC 15288 System life cycle processes projects and was involved as IST/15 representative for the British Standard that evolved into ISO/IEC 20000. Recently Andy contributed to the upgrade project for ISO/IEC 12207 and 15288

In a career spanning some 35 years in quality related roles, Mr. Coster has worked at all levels of large and small organizations on quality related activities and in some 34 countries, having conducted over 200 audits. At Oracle Mr. Coster was lead author for the Oracle QMS series of books and wrote an application document for Oracle Support Services European Quality Award submission. Also while at Oracle, Mr. Coster won a technical award for achieving certification for the Oracle UK organization to ISO 9001, and went on to gain certification for Oracle in 30 countries in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region.

Several articles written by Mr. Coster have been published in the TickIT International Newsletter and UK SQM Magazine (Software Quality Management). As part of work for the UK Computing Software and Services Association (now Intellect), Mr. Coster produced member publications on Software Life Cycles and Software Quality Metrics, and acted as editor for the publication of Intellect Quality Practice Guidelines (Internet).

Mr. Coster has an engineering honours degree from Southampton University and is a qualified ISO 9001 TickIT auditor as well as a member of the UK Chartered Quality Institute. He may be reached at mail@acoster.fsnet.co.uk

Overview

Stan Magee is president of Software Engineering Process Technology Company, a firm specializing in the implementation of software process technology for U.S. and international corporations and organizations.

Mr. Magee is the past convener (1999-2002) of WG 7 (Life Cycle Management) for ISO/IEC-JTC1 SC 7 (Systems and Software Engineering) standards group. In 1994 he signed off the final version of ISO/IEC 12207 for the United States. Mr. Magee served as a U.S. delegate to the International Plenary meetings from 1986 to 2002. In 1995 he was elected to the IEEE Computer Society Golden Core of 500 people who have significantly served the IEEE Society in standards development over its 50-year history.

Mr. Magee is co-author of the books, *Guide to Software Engineering Standards and Specifications*, Artech House Publishers, 1997, *ISBN 0-89006-919-0* and *Guide to Standards and Specifications for Designing Web Software*, Artech House Publishers, 1998, *ISBN 0-89006-819-4*. In 1997 Mr. Magee was part of a "People to People" quality mission to China and lectured at Shanghai University on software quality standards. He gives seminars on meeting the requirements of international software standards for medical device firms. In 1994 he established a software business and quality system plan, for VNIPI Sport of Moscow, Russia for obtaining ISO 9001 certification. VNIPI is the privatized MIS section of the Russian Olympic Committee. In 2002, Mr. Magee established a plan for Thailand to become a major producer of software in the world market place by 2010. Mr. Magee has over 42 years experience in the software field and is considered an expert in the area of software life cycle methodology. He is active on many governmental, educational and professional boards, and holds a BS from the School of Engineering, Oregon State University and an MBA in International Business from the University of Puget Sound.

SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Version X.Y

Produced for:

Project Name and any other needed information

Security Classification ____

Produced by:

Company name

Address

Telephone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX, Ext XXXXX

E-mail: XXXX@XXXX.XXX

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1. Documentation Plan Scope

This Software Documentation Plan (i.e., Plan) was developed for Project <u>XYZ</u> and complies with company requirements for software documentation management. **NOTE**: "plan" (small "p") refers to other plans.

This section identifies the policy; objective; purpose; assumptions, constraints, risks and dependencies; and overview of this Plan.

This section identifies for this Plan's users the extent and limitations of the documentation management methodology and must contain a clear, concise description of the documentation management methodology. It is critical for readers of this Plan to clearly understand the terminology and methodology used.

This Plan must fit in with any other plans, e.g., Configuration Management and Project Management Plans.

Prior to, or as part of, writing this Plan, a set of clearly defined processes must be established. As defined later, it is recommended that this Plan make reference to these processes (rather than include them in this Plan) and provide a summary of the key processes. This is to minimize changes to this Plan if any process changes. Thus, try to be as comprehensive as possible, but some detailed information is better presented in a Reference Section/Appendix or made part of the referenced processes used to implement this Plan.

This Plan may be updated due to a change in planning, e.g., managed documentation or tools. As with any documentation, changes to this Plan follow the documentation change control process described in this Plan. The approved review results are documented in the Amendment History Section. As much as possible, figures and tables are used to provide documentation management information to help in the maintenance of this Plan.

2. Documentation Plan Objective

This Plan defines the required project documentation and the processes, resources, schedule, etc., needed to produce this Plan's identified documentation (see the Managed Plans, Documents and Reports for this Project Section), including change control and documentation maintenance. This Plan contains all the material or references needed for a person to understand the Project's documentation management methodology. This Plan's contents are based on user and Project requirements, standards and expectations. As the Project evolves, this Plan is evaluated by the Documentation Manager for consistency with Project changes and to ensure consistency with other Project plans.

This plan emphasizes the users' needs, and ensures the Plan's objectives and purpose are consistent and complement Project requirements and other Project plans.

3. Documentation Plan Purpose

This Plan satisfies ISO/IEC 12207:2008, *Software life cycle processes* (2008) *Clause 6.3.6 Information Management Process.* This Plan identifies and describes:

- a. What is managed, i.e., the software documentation under configuration control of this Plan.
- b. How to manage this controlled documentation, i.e., high-level description of the main processes and tools. References are given for process details.
- c. Documentation management roles and responsibilities.
- d. When key documentation milestones and activities occur.

For this Plan, the term "product" includes all documentation prepared for delivery to a customer (e.g., hardcopies (paper) and electronic copies, and the final product) and documentation used internally (by the developing or maintaining organization) to build a user product.

Even for small projects, documenting what was done, is being done, or how to operate products, is not always completed in a timely or in a useful manner. A major exception is Off-the-Shelf-Software (OTS) products that require sophisticated (electronic) explanation on how to use the OTS product; a must to sell the product to people with little or no experience with the product. When producers of OTS products work on a complex or large project, many times they find the user asking for documentation the producers have no experience in producing, e.g., detailed designs, requirement trace abilities and plans.

Another major concern is documentation change control. History has shown producers provide change control (even if weakly done) for the initial software products, but documentation changes are often after the fact and are poorly implemented. For instance, the template author has witnessed a situation in which engineers modified old, approved documentation amendment history information without going through any change-control process; even though the producing company said they implemented and enforced a change-control process.

One of the major problems this Plan will assist a project with is the minimization of review cycles. Each unplanned review increases cost, can greatly impact schedules, ties up valuable resources and impacts team morale. The management of this Plan may only require one person. The key is the development of quality documentation with the help of the entire Project team, not just the documentation management group.

This Plan describes the processes used to manage the identified documentation, including the development, maintenance and retirement of this documentation. This Plan takes precedence over any documentation, process, etc., dealing with documentation management that may affect this Project.

This Plan consolidates the methodology, requirements and processes used to manage the development, packaging, delivery and maintenance of documentation, including documentation change control. As a result, the documentation management methodology is organized to provide proper control of information development, dissemination, changes and retirement.

This Plan provides management with visibility on documentation status and cost; including a clear picture of future documentation management needs. This Plan helps control documentation scope creep and documentation expectations.

For this Plan, the term "documentation" includes processes, delivered documentation, <u>any data placed under documentation management control</u>, and the internal documentation used to help produce delivered documentation, or used to manage the Project.

The term "management" is used since this Plan includes how to manage and develop useful documentation while maintaining a system for uniquely identifying the documentation and related changes. At the same time, the Documentation Manager manages the related resources and schedules.

This Plan addresses the documentation that is covered. <u>It is critical that a Plan delineate what will not</u> be covered, e.g., the change control process may use the Configuration Management change control process or some documentation may not be controlled by Documentation Management. Consideration must be given to factors affecting how to go about working on a project, any specific concerns needing to be addressed for the stakeholders (e.g., users, management and Project sponsor) and what is needed to make the documentation useful.

4. Documentation Plan Overview

<u>Identify</u> the major sections of this Plan and briefly describe the purpose of each major section. Ensure the identified sections are listed in the same order as presented in this Plan.

The developers of this Plan worked closely with the customers and developers of other Project plans to ensure consistency of terms, schedule, use of resources and content. This Plan is divided into the following major sections:

- Documentation Management Scope
- Documentation Plan Objectives
- Documentation Plan Purpose
- Documentation Plan Overview
- Documentation Management Policy
- Documentation Assumptions, Constraints, Risk and Dependencies
- Managed Plans, Documents and Records for this Project: this Plan addresses covered items
- Documentation Processes: a list and summary of key documentation processes
- Documentation Management Tools and Aids: list of the key tools and aids used to create, manage and maintain documentation, along with a brief description of each tool or aid
- Documentation Management Organization and Key Team Personnel: description of how the company, Project and Documentation Management organizations relate, along with a list of key positions involved with Documentation Management and where they fit within the Project
- Documentation Management Schedule: the Documentation Management Schedule is introduced
- Documentation Management Budget: a description of the Documentation Management budget and cost accounting system as it applies to documentation
- Amendment History for this Documentation Plan: a summary of when and what changes were made to this Plan
- Appendix A: References: list of standards and requirements relevant to this Plan
- Appendix B: Definitions and Abbreviations: definition of key terms and a list of abbreviations and their meaning

5. Documentation Management Policy

The following is the policy for managing documentation: <u>Insert the company documentation policy</u> <u>here.</u> This policy should be signed at highest company level as possible, e.g., Vice President of Product Assurance.

"It is the policy of <u>company/project name</u> that the <u>Documentation Manager</u> is responsible for the implementation of this policy and all documentation that will:

- Be managed, produced and maintained to ensure the highest quality possible.
- Satisfy the requirements and defined expectations of the customers and users."

6. Documentation Assumptions, Constraints, Risks and Dependencies

This section identifies perceived documentation problems areas and plans to resolve the problems. Include what obstacles users may face in terms of implementing this Plan.

The following assumptions (for planning purposes, are considered to be true, real or certain) are made:

- Over time, customer documentation expectations change. This could impact previously published documentation.
- Over time, product requirements change, thus impacting documentation contents.

The following constraints (application restrictions affecting the Project's performance) are made:

- The user quickly accepts this Plan.
- Coordination between the user and the Project team is timely, open and documented.
- There are no more than two customer reviews prior to the documentation being published as final and baselined.
- The Documentation Plan and Schedule are updated for the customer's review on a schedule set by the Project Manager.

The following risks have been identified:

- **Risk**: documentation Authors are technically qualified, but do not know how to write readable documentation. **Resolution**: the Documentation Manager provides writing-training classes, has highly-qualified editors and has established processes and checklists to help authors. The established review cycle emphasizes quality, readability, and content accuracy and consistency.
- **Risk**: inconsistency between documentation. **Resolution**: terms, abbreviations, strategies, figures, tables, etc., are pre-defined, as much as possible. As requirements or information change, this is distributed to all authors, authors' manager and the Documentation Manager for distribution to the appropriate Documentation Editor.
- **Risk**: a key Project person is not available (e.g., death or leaving the Project) to continue the documentation effort. **Resolution**: work is identified through the use of Work Requests (to start a task) and a recording process, which includes documentation, recommendations, issues, etc. This allows for new and replacement people to quickly "get up to speed" on their new assignments.

This Plan has the following dependencies:

- Documentation Management Schedule is dependent on the Project Schedule.
- Project plans depend on each other for consistency and accuracy.
- Adequate resources at the scheduled time to ensure documentation stays on schedule and within budget.

7. Managed Plans, Documents and Records for this Project

Tables 1, 2, and 3 identify the plans, documents and records of this project. "Managed documentation" is documentation delivered or used by this Project. Any documentation not listed in Tables 1, 2, or 3 is not within the scope of this Plan. As needed, the Documentation Manager updates this list, which is based on satisfies ISO/IEC 12207:2008, Software life cycle processes (2008) Clause 6.3.6 Information Management Process

A table is beneficial if there is a need to identify the purpose, provide a summary description or goal of each item of documentation. It may be advisable to group this documentation by some logical schema, e.g., phase.

Table 1, 2, and 3 considerations:

- General:
 - Examine the given list to ensure it matches the appropriate documentation for this Plan.
 - Ensure compliance with the standards, processes, etc., identified in this Plan.
- <u>Identifier: enter the Project schema for uniquely identifying each item of documentation. It is recommended that the listed documentation relate to the Project's Work Breakdown Structure (WBS).</u>

- <u>Title: Enter the unique title for each item of documentation.</u> See the notes at the end of the table explaining the genesis of the documentation items.
- <u>Description and Purpose: provide a brief documentation description and purpose.</u> <u>Do not assume the template provided descriptions are valid for the subject project.</u>
- Example (specific) contents: An example of what the plan should contain. . Do not assume the template provided contents are valid for the subject project.
- Phase: enter the lifecycle phase where the documentation is to be first baselined. For this template, the sequence of phases is: concept, planning, requirements analysis, design, development, testing, implementation, maintenance and then retirement. Do not assume the template provided phases are valid for the subject project.
- <u>Intended Audience: identifies who is the intended audience of this documentation. Do not assume the template provided groups are valid for the subject project.</u>
- Prime Responsible group: identify the group who has the prime responsibility for the development of this documentation. Do not assume the template provided groups are valid for the subject project.

It may be helpful to readers if a "documentation tree" is provided, e.g.:

- The Project Management Plan is based on the Project Charter, Contract, schedule, availability of resources, WBS and company processes.
- All plans are based on the Project Management Plan, this Plan and the Contract. A plan may relate to other plans.
- All documentation is based on this Plan and other related plans, documents and reports.

Consideration should be given to add a column to Tables 1, 2, and 3 to show documentation dependences, e.g., Documentation A depends on Documentation B (e.g., Implementation Plan depends on the Installation and Training Plans). Another consideration is documentation hierarchy, especially if documentation has duplication of information, delineate which documentation has precedence if one or more of the documentation has erroneous information due to project evaluation, i.e., to minimize updating.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 were developed from the view of a seller or a producer of software. Change the wording if a buyer's view is required.

For Tables 1, 2, and 3:

- 1. A plan describes the "what, when and how" a task/activity will be performed.
- 2. A *document* contains information on a particular subject.
- 3. A report or record provides the status or history of the subject topic.

- Managed Project Plans -

7.1 Managed Project Plans

Table 1: Managed Project Plans

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008 Requirement)	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
1.	Acceptance Plan	Describes the what, when and how of software and system acceptance. Includes the acceptance criteria.	 What Acceptance criteria When Acceptance schedule & milestones How Roles & responsibilities Acceptance testing V&V activities Issue management 	Planning	Customer Project Manager QA Manager Test Team Senior Technical (I) Senior Technical (O)	Project Management Office (PMO)
2.	Acquisition Plan	Describes the what, when and how to acquire resources. This includes the "make or buy" issue.	 What Acquisition requirements When Acquisition schedule & milestones How Roles & responsibilities Acquisition strategy Decision criteria Change management 	Concept	Customer Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Project Management Office (PMO)

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008 Requirement)	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
3.	Acquisition Support Plan	Describes what, when and how the customer will support the supplier for the project	 What Acquisition support requirements When Acquisition timescale How Roles & responsibilities Acquisition support scope Issue management 	Planning		Project Management Office (PMO)
4.	Asset Management Plan*	Describes the what, when and how to manage Project assets.	 What Asset management requirements When Asset management schedule How Roles & responsibilities Asset identification Asset tracking Asset transfer Asset disposal 	Concept		Project Management Office (PMO)
5.	Audit Plan	Describes the what, when and how audits are performed.	 What Audit requirements When Audit schedule How Roles & responsibilities Audit process Audit reporting Audit action closure 	Planning	Customer Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Quality Assurance (QA)

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008 Requirement)	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
6.	Domain Engineering Plan*	Defines the what, when and how of domain engineering for the Project.	 What Domain requirements When Domain engineering schedule How Roles & responsibilities Domain use cases Domain models Reuse component management Domain change management 	Requirement s Analysis	Customer Management Project Manager Senior Technical (I)	Systems Engineering
7.	Engineering Environment Plan*	Describes what, when and how the engineering environment is planned to support the project.	 What Environment requirements When Environment engineering schedule How Roles & responsibilities Environment scope Implementation stages Configuration management Environment change management 	Planning	Management Project Manager Finance Manager Senior Technical (I	System Engineering

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
8.	Requirement) Human- Centered Design Plan*	Describes what, when and how human-centered (HC) items are designed.	 What HC Design requirements When HC Design schedule How Roles & responsibilities HC Design scope Use cases HC Design review 	Planning	Customer Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Systems Engineering
9.	Information Management Plan*	Describes what, when and how information management (IM)will perform their tasks	 What IM requirements When IM schedule How Roles & responsibilities IM scope IM implementation IM configuration management IM change management 	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Project Management Office (PMO)

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008 Requirement)	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
10.	Infrastructure Configuration Plan*	Describes the what, when and how the configuration of the project infrastructure will be archived and maintained.	 What Infrastructure configuration requirements When Infrastructure configuration schedule How Roles & responsibilities IC scope IC identification IC control IC accounting IC audit IC change management 	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Project Management Office (PMO)
11.	Infrastructure Plan*	Describes the what, when and how of the Project's infrastructure.	 What Infrastructure requirements When Infrastructure schedule How Roles & responsibilities Infrastructure scope Infrastructure implementation Infrastructure configuration management Infrastructure change management 	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Development

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008 Requirement)	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
12.	Knowledge Management (KM) Plan*	Describes the what, when and how to identify and analyze the available and required knowledge assets and knowledge asset related to processes, which have this knowledge for the project.	 What KM requirements When KM schedule How Roles & responsibilities KM scope KM assets KM resources KM implementation KM training 	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Subject Management Expert
13.	Lifecycle Development Plan	Describes the what, when and how to develop software throughout the project lifecycle.	What O Lifecycle requirements When O Lifecycle schedule How O Roles & responsibilities O Lifecycle identification O Lifecycle types O Life cycle stages O Lifecycle process list O Lifecycle change management	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I))	Development

ID#	Title (* = ISO/IEC 12207:2008	Description and Purpose	Example (specific) Contents	Phase	Intended Audience	Prime Responsible Group
14.	Requirement) Measurement Process Plan*	Describes the what, when and how to perform measurements critical to the success of the project, based on quality assurance and specifications.	 What Measurement process requirements When Measurement schedules How Roles & responsibilities Measurement scope Measurement techniques Measurement reporting 	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Development
15.	Measurement Supporting Technologies (MST)Plan*	Describes what, when and how of the technology that will support the measurement process.	 What Measurement technology requirements When Measurement technology implementation How Roles & responsibilities MST scope MST list MST cost 	Planning	Management Project Manager QA Manager Senior Technical (I)	Measurement