

Kim Harrison, CETPA CTO Mentor Candidate

CONTEXT:

To demonstrate my understanding of Project Management, I have created the Project Assessment artifact that demonstrates my working knowledge of project planning with consideration to cost, time, and quality as well as risk management.

LEARNING OUTCOME:

This artifact addresses the following Learning Outcome from the *Project Management* class.

PrM-05. Demonstrate the ability to apply Project Management Initiation and Planning Tools to gain board approval to implement a technology project

REFLECTION:

The Security Event and Incident Management (SEIM) District Solution project assessment describes the various aspects of project initiation with attention to the goals and objectives and their alignment to the larger district goals; measurable, realistic and achievable requirements; sequential and logical milestones; budget implications and considerations of personnel resources; and assumptions about the adoption of an SEIM and any potential risks associated with this project. Communicating information about the project both amongst the technology team and vendor as well as with district leadership will be critical given the sensitivity of the topic and possible misconceptions of the need for an SEIM solution.

I created the artifact using information about project management planning from the session on July 16 and my experience in working with the technology team, SEIM vendors, and colleagues in the field. Project management best practices were covered in the prerequisites for the class and further discussed in greater detail during the session. This information went into great depth around identifying project goals and objectives and the importance of how they align with those of the organization. The class materials and discussions combined with my working knowledge of the project details were used to create the project assessment artifact. The project assessment artifact demonstrates my ability to identify the components of a project plan and the lifecycle, from initiation

to closeout, of a managed project and to be able to apply the project management process as it relates to my work.

As I was creating the project assessment artifact, I learned the importance of being able to articulate the connection the project has to the overarching strategic plan through the goals and objectives. This is critical to the success of the project because without this alignment, the project could potentially be seen as unnecessary or irrelevant to the organization. I also appreciated the amount of detail about the SEIM project that the artifact called for and that these details were incorporated into the project in order to more fully realize the scope of work, the amount of necessary communication between all of the stakeholders, and the impact risks related to scope of work and services could have on the timeline and budget. Although somewhat formulaic, the project management process required me to fully think through the project, which is not something that I always do, so this was a powerful learning experience for me and is something that I would like to learn more about.

The information from class combined with the experience of drafting a basic project plan made me realize the importance of project planning as a tool for CTOs. Much of the work a CTO does is project-based and having a foundation in the aspects of project management is critical to keeping a project on time and on budget. Applying the principles of project management ensures alignment with district priorities, creating opportunities for the CTO be viewed as a district leader moving the organization forward. As I go forward with technology projects, I will incorporate project management principles into my work and use these as points of clarification in working with other departments on large scale initiatives. I will further explore the use of a Gantt Chart as a tool to manage, monitor, and communicate project timelines, milestones, budget, and resources.