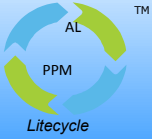


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Project Lifecycle Governance (PLG) vs. Project Lifecycle Management (PLM) vs. Application Lifecycle Management, (ALM) vs. Project Portfolio Management, (PPM) for IT

If one does an internet search, many more hits are returned relating to project lifecycle management vs. project lifecycle governance, and added in for additional confusion and overlap are hits related to PPM and ALM. Why is this? A few reasons come to mind.

- Big software companies with big marketing tend to drive the software category names. They have chosen to associate their products with the “management” linkage to projects, applications and portfolios.
- Governance sometimes has a negative connotation of “big brother” looking over the IT organizations shoulder with a bureaucratic stigma attached.
- Who has time for Governance, what’s in vogue is software to get the next “sprint” out.
- PMOs (also in vogue) as the name implies are focused on project “management”.
- An application lifecycle is seen by many as development to deployment tasks “management”.

One would therefore expect that with all the focus on “management” there would be a greater search hit rate on Project-Application-Portfolio “management” vs. governance. The above discussion supports a premise that Project-Application-Portfolio Lifecycle Governance is being ignored to a degree.

To turn this around, each of the above bullet points will be addressed. But first, a proposed definition of IT Project Lifecycle Governance (PLG) is made.

- PLG encompasses IT Project, Application, Portfolio, and Deployment governance (**the domain**)
- PLG is not focused on “management” tasks in the domain
- PLG is concerned that a process is followed which assures aggregate “management” tasks are completed from project initiation to IT deployment following an orderly gated (check points) way to eliminate organizational churn which slows completion and increases quality to eliminate rework and deployment back-outs.
- PLG bridges the gaps along a project path between all the organizational “silos” involved

- PLG follows best practice frameworks such as ITIL and Cobit
- PLG provides artifacts for audits and reviews
- PLG provides high-level information across the domain for schedule, cost, resources in an executive level dashboard for rapid assimilation of the domain status
- PLG above all is non-bureaucratic. The domain process is there to aid, facilitate and support the accomplishment of “management” tasks by the organization (similar to a domain level scrum master)

Now, let's get back to putting more attention on the PLG function and software. (First set of bullets)

- The recognition of PLG as a category is needed. Big Software is broadening across the PLG domain with new “management” applications, but is still slow to link the entire process and to produce a simple, non-bureaucratic governance approach which sits above the PLG domain (we think our approach with PPM Litecycle TM <http://ppmlitecycle.com> is a good start).
- PLG software applications need to work with the organization and “management” applications to make data collection as simple and non-burdensome, to the personnel involved in the domain, as possible.
- PLG applications need to support agile processes across the entire domain
- The role of the PMO needs to be reexamined. Is the function really to be involved in “management” tasks or in governance of the domain.
- ALM is the somewhat newer cousin of PPM; it needs to be linked with a higher level PLG application not a new standalone application.

At CIO Services, LLC <http://cioservices.us> we have developed PPM Litecycle TM with all of the above in mind.

Additional Information:



PPM Litecycle TM info - <http://ppmlitecycle.com>

A free, non-signup trial of the application - <https://ppmlitecycle-app.com>

A diagram of the PLG process from the application's first page - http://ppmlitecycle.com/ppm_main_page.png