

Industry Visitor (Jeff Gray) Questions

We want to know what *really* goes on in industry rather than the theoretical stuff that we learn in university.

We want *the truth*, not what the boss hears!

1. What is the development environment? Hardware, software, operating systems and so on.
2. What software development process do you use?
3. What PM process do you use?
4. Is it harder to control resources, time (schedule), people, budget or development?
5. How many people work on specific projects in Sun Life?
6. Are you a member of PMI? Are you a PMP? How many people at Sun Life are or care?
7. Do you follow the PMI List of Activities or other structured PM Process?
8. What CMM level is Sun Life? Do you care?
9. Do you follow the IEEE SPMP or any other structured PM plan?
10. What do you measure in terms of 'success'? How is it measured?
11. How do you do time estimation? Experience, LOC, Function Points, random guesses? How accurate are your estimates?
12. Do your people have more technical skills than business skills or vice versa? How about you?
13. What risk management issues have you encountered? Do you use Risk Management Plans?
14. Who 'controls' what in a software development project?
15. What change management, monitoring and control procedures do you have in place?
16. How many meetings do you have for a particular project? With whom? How many reports, presentations, revised schedules, budgets, and other paperwork?
17. How do you handle complaints from users? From developers? Who would normally handle any complaints about anything to do with a software development project?
18. Are Sun Life developers concerned about layoffs?
19. Describe the project for the IT Project Management award, or any other recent project. How many people were involved? How many different systems had to be integrated? How did you decide which system was 'best' or would be the standard for the others?
20. What was the differentiation that allowed you to win the IT Project Management award? Who else was in the running? Was there anything different in this project?
21. What difference did the 6-month time period make for this project? Were you 'given' the 6-month time period or did you estimate that time period for yourself?