

CreativityModel Method Version 1.5

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Changes

CreativityModel Method Version 1.5 Changes

March 29, 2014

References to CreativityModel Global Alliance, Inc. and CreativityModel Enterprises, Inc. were removed, because both of these entities have been closed.

Attribution link was changed from

- Attribution — You must attribute CreativityModel Method to CreativityModel Global Alliance, Inc. and create a link to its website:

<http://www.CreativityModelMethod.org/>

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to

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Everything else remains the same as in CreativityModel Method Version 1.4.

CreativityModel Method Version 1.4 Changes

August 4, 2011

Two definitions were added to the Glossary:

- Ability – A quality that is required for doing something.
- Skill – Learned capacity to carry out pre-determined results.

Everything else remains the same as in CreativityModel Method Version 1.3.

CreativityModel Method Version 1.3 Changes

August 1, 2011

“Creative skills” was replaced with “creative thinking skills.”

CreativityModel Method versions that have been published so far address primarily manageable thinking skills usage. In order to highlight this aspect more clearly than it was done before, the following changes were made:

Creativity definition was changed from

- Creativity – Mental processes that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions regardless of the project type. Every individual has the right to determine what is or is not qualitatively appealing in his or her opinion.

to

- Creativity – Thinking activities and mental processes that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions regardless of the project type. Every individual has the right to determine what is or is not qualitatively appealing in his or her opinion.

Creativity management definition was changed from

- ❑ Creativity management – Management of the creative thinking skills that a person has, or a group of people have. That is, controlling, arranging and directing usage of the creative thinking skills that a person has, or a group of people have.

to

- ❑ Creativity management – Management of creative thinking skills and other mental processes of an individual person or a group of people. That is, controlling, arranging and directing usage of the creative thinking skills and other mental processes of an individual person or a group of people.

CreativityModel Method definition was changed from

- ❑ CreativityModel Method – All purpose creativity management method. CreativityModel Method usage helps to produce output that is qualitatively different from input so that coherent outcomes are assembled from elements that are created, stored, and accessed in a random order or in a coordinated fashion. Further, CreativityModel Method usage helps to achieve improved results effectively and efficiently within CreativityModel Method user's abilities. Enhanced results can be generated through computer usage, by doing Internet based and other types of research, by using additional sources of information and by working with other people.

to

- ❑ CreativityModel Method – Creativity management method that focuses on creative thinking skills usage for development of coherent outcomes from elements that can be generated and added either in a coordinated fashion or in random order. CreativityModel Method addresses both self-expressive choice supported creativity and goal oriented creativity usage. CreativityModel Method usage helps to achieve improved results effectively and efficiently within CreativityModel Method user's abilities, experience and expertise.

Relevant changes were made throughout the sections and subsections of CreativityModel Method Version 1.3.

Everything else remains the same as in CreativityModel Method Version 1.2.

CreativityModel Method Version 1.2 Changes

July 12, 2011

A grammatical error was corrected: in two places in the Glossary the word “prospective” was replaced with the word “perspective.”

Everything else remains the same as in CreativityModel Method Version 1.1.

CreativityModel Method Version 1.1 Changes

January 10, 2011

Compared to the previous CreativityModel Method Version 1.0, in CreativityModel Method Version 1.1 only two relatively small but clarifying and significant changes were made.

Creativity definition was changed from

- ❑ Creativity – Skills that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions. Every individual has the right to determine what is or is not qualitatively appealing in his or her opinion

to

- ❑ Creativity – Mental processes that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions regardless of the project type. Every individual has the right to determine what is or is not qualitatively appealing in his or her opinion.

Creativity management definition was changed from

- ❑ Creativity management – Management of skills that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions

to

- Creativity management – Management of the creative skills that a person has, or a group of people have. That is, controlling, arranging and directing usage of the creative skills that a person has, or a group of people have.

Everything else remains the same as in CreativityModel Method Version 1.0.

Please note that in Version 1.3 “creative skills” was replaced with “creative thinking skills.”

Glossary

- ❑ Ability – A quality that is required for doing something.
- ❑ Additional Functionality Units – Additional methods, computer application objects or other types of tools that extend or enhance CreativityModel Method's functionality.
- ❑ Choice Supported Creative Approach – Project development approach, where project structure and content are built around its theme. Project's structural parts and content components are usually related to each other through the perceived characteristics and the perceived associations between these characteristics, and are selected and assembled based on CreativityModel Method user's choices and preferences. Also, see *Goal Oriented Creative Approach*.
- ❑ Choice supported creativity – Instances of usage of Choice Supported Creative Approach.
- ❑ Component, or content component – One of the four project elements. Component is a portion of project's structure and content.

Looking primarily from project development perspective, a component is anything that could be part of project's content and can be perceived by someone who views, listens to or otherwise experiences the project.

Looking primarily from project perception perspective, in a completed project components are portions of the project's structural parts. In a completed project components form the project's structural parts, and project's structural parts form the project's content.

As project's building material, components are the most commonly produced project elements. Project's theme, goals and structure are all established for supporting building the project from components.

- ❑ Connections between the elements – A structure that relates project elements together in accordance with each element's type requirements, project specific rules and current project development stage's requirements. By the time a project is complete, the elements should be related to each other in accordance with the project's completion requirements.
- ❑ Connections inside the elements – A structure (for example, words) that relates parts of an element (for example, sentences) together in accordance with the element type requirements and current project development stage's requirements. By the time a project is complete, all elements should be completed in accordance with their respective completion requirements.
- ❑ Creativity – Thinking activities and mental processes that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions regardless of the project type. Every individual has the right to determine what is or is not qualitatively appealing in his or her opinion.
- ❑ Creativity management – Management of creative thinking skills and other mental processes of an individual person or a group of people. That is, controlling, arranging and directing usage of the creative thinking skills and other mental processes of an individual person or a group of people.
- ❑ CreativityModel Method – Creativity management method that focuses on creative thinking skills usage for development of coherent outcomes from elements that can be generated and added either in a coordinated fashion or in random order. CreativityModel Method addresses both self-expressive choice supported creativity and goal oriented creativity usage. CreativityModel Method usage helps to achieve improved results effectively and efficiently within CreativityModel Method user's abilities, experience and expertise.
- ❑ CreativityModel Method developer – An individual who modifies or extends CreativityModel Method.
- ❑ CreativityModel Method entrepreneur – An individual who uses CreativityModel Method for product or service providing purposes.
- ❑ CreativityModel Method user – An individual who uses CreativityModel Method for any purpose without modifying CreativityModel Method in the process in any way or manner.
- ❑ Element pooling (see *pooling*)
- ❑ Elements, or project elements – Theme, goals, structural storyline, and components are project elements. Elements should be combined into coherent outcomes in accordance with CreativityModel Method.

- ❑ Goal, goals – One of the four project elements. Project’s goals should reflect what the person or persons who are responsible for the project’s development and management intend to achieve with the project. Project’s goals should be in accordance with the project’s theme, and components should be established and removed in accordance with project’s goals and/or theme. Having goals is usually helpful, but is not always necessary for successful completion of a project. In addition to the entire project, the project’s structural storyline parts and even its components can have goals. Structural storyline parts and components’ goals must be in accordance with the project’s goals, and the components’ goals (if established) should support their respective structural parts’ goals.
- ❑ Goal Oriented Creative Approach – Project development approach, where project structure and content are generated and modified by establishing one or more goals for the project and then, based on the goals, project’s structure, which is thereafter filled with the components as needed. Also, see *Choice Supported Creative Approach*.
- ❑ Goal oriented creativity – Instances of usage of Goal Oriented Creative Approach.
- ❑ Main Development Stream – CreativityModel Method element creating processes and stages collectively, as differentiated from Additional Functionality Units.
- ❑ Objective – Overall aim or project development direction. Objectives are general descriptions and may be subject to interpretations. Compared to objectives goals should be specific, actionable and, preferably, measurable.
- ❑ Pooling, or element pooling – The process of creating and gathering together groups of alternative elements and solutions.
- ❑ Project – an activity that requires creative development efforts or planning.
- ❑ Project specific rules – Requirements and constraints that must be fulfilled for completion of a project, but are not directly related to CreativityModel Method.
- ❑ Skill – Learned capacity to carry out pre-determined results.
- ❑ Structural storyline, or project’s structure – One of the four project elements. Project’s structure, which is called structural storyline here, consists of parts that together form a broad view of the project. Depending on the nature of the project, these structural parts can be, for example, chapters, acts in a play, a musical phrase or other types of parts of a musical composition, objects on the canvas, or a business project’s milestones, or main events on a schedule, and so on.

Structural storyline works like a navigation aid or a map: its purpose is to form a sequence of the main parts or steps that complete the project. So, when finalized, structural storyline should “tell the story of the project” in broad terms from the beginning to completion. Structural storyline should be developed so that its parts are in accordance with the project’s goals and theme and it helps to complete the project in accordance with the project type. In most instances, therefore, the structural storyline should reflect or be at least influenced by the project type and the relevant rules.

- ❑ Theme – One of the four project elements. Project’s theme is an outline, category, or synopsis that describes briefly what the project is about, reflects the project’s essence and meaning and, if applicable, also provides a summary of the project’s features and benefits. In addition to the entire project, the project’s structural storyline parts and even its components can have a theme. Structural storyline parts and components’ themes must be in accordance with the project’s theme. Components should be established (and removed) in accordance with the project’s goals and theme.

Abstract

CreativityModel Method is a creativity management method that applies to all activities that require creative development efforts or planning.

As part of CreativityModel Method, creativity is defined as thinking activities and mental processes that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions regardless of the project type.

Every individual has the right to determine what is or is not qualitatively appealing in his or her opinion.

Creativity is also influenced by abilities (for example, level of alertness). Such abilities and their influence on creativity are not being addressed in the current version of CreativityModel Method.

Activities that require creative development efforts or planning are called projects here. So, a project can be any kind of personal or professional, business related or non-profit or educational activity small or big, like, for example, writing something (an essay, or poetry, or a memo or anything else), painting a picture or writing music, or designing something, or putting together a business plan or its parts, or a meeting's agenda, or a travel itinerary, or doing research, or working on a company or regional policy making, or working on an IT project, or an activity that is related to performing arts, or working on a Web development or other type of computer application development tasks, or deciding what to give as a gift or what movie to see, or doing online or offline shopping, and so on.

In most instances project's content and elements are influenced by the project's type, the relevant rules, and the requirements set for the project. These aspects of project development are not addressed by CreativityModel Method.

CreativityModel Method usage helps to produce output that is qualitatively different from input so that coherent outcomes are assembled from elements that are created, stored, and accessed in random order or in a coordinated fashion. CreativityModel Method usage helps to achieve improved results effectively and efficiently within its user's individual set of abilities.

Enhanced results can be generated through computer usage, by doing Internet based and other types of research, by using additional sources of information and by working with other people.

CreativityModel Method can be used without any external means of assistance, but this Method is especially well suited for computer usage.

Instead of a computer, CreativityModel Method user can use something else that enables him or her to mark down and store project's content – for example, a pen and a piece of paper, or a blackboard. CreativityModel Method user can also process information personally, without using any external aids at all.

However, computer usage makes it more convenient to duplicate, modify, save and access pools of project elements. Further, when using a computer, CreativityModel Method user can more conveniently work on a project either from start to finish, or over several development cycles. CreativityModel Method user can work on the project parts by starting with fragments and by developing them further as needed. He or she can store the project parts in a coordinated manner or randomly, access only selected parts, and move around and combine project parts as needed.

This type of added flexibility generates more options for completing project elements and development stages. The subsections below address this material in a more detailed manner.

Explanation of the Method's Component Parts and How the Component Parts Interact

General Introduction

Availability of information and ability to compare different alternatives allows to assemble better quality outcomes. However, dealing with large amounts of information and assembly of qualitatively appealing outcomes can be challenging.

Accordingly, a method that helps to develop into a coherent outcome an activity that requires creative development efforts or planning is beneficial in situations, where one or more of the following is true:

- The amount of information is perceived to be large.
- The person working on the project has difficulties with identifying how to start the project, or how to complete the project after it has been started.
- The person working on the project has difficulties with identifying what information to select and what information to discard to complete the project.
- The person working on the project has difficulties with concentrating or memorizing information.

CreativityModel Method usage can be helpful in such situations.

This Method has the following primary component parts:

- Project elements: theme, goals, structure and content components.
- Two project development approaches: Goal Oriented Creative Approach and Choice Supported Creative Approach. Method's users can combine usage of goal oriented or choice supported creativity on as needed bases, but should select one approach as the primary project development approach for the development of the project's structure.
- Project development stages – CreativityModel Method describes the process of developing and completing project elements and connections between and inside the structural elements that form the project's results. This process occurs in stages. The major stages are:
 - The Initial Stage
 - The Production and Connection Stage
 - The Wrap-up Stage

During these stages project elements can be started, developed further and completed in a flexible manner.

The stages form a cycle: in the Wrap-up Stage CreativityModel Method user evaluates his or her work and if the results are not satisfactory, can go back to the Initial Stage to improve the outcome. Similarly, the project content's development processes form a cycle that can be completed on the first try, or after several attempts depending largely on CreativityModel Method user's preferences.

This section contains descriptions of project element creating processes, and the **Explanation of How the Method's User Achieves Results** section contains descriptions of the project development stages.

CreativityModel Method Usage Related Limitations

In CreativityModel Method usage context, creativity is defined as thinking activities and mental processes that are needed for generating qualitatively appealing solutions regardless of the project type. Creativity management is defined as management of creative thinking skills and other mental processes of an individual person or a group of people. That is, creativity management is defined as controlling, arranging and directing usage of the creative thinking skills and other mental processes of an individual person or a group of people.

CreativityModel Method addresses above all creative thinking skills usage. As is mentioned in the **Abstract** section, creativity is also influenced by abilities, that is, physical and mental capacities (for example, cognitive abilities). Such abilities and their influence on creativity are not being addressed in the current version of CreativityModel Method.

CreativityModel Method usage can help to achieve better quality results effectively and efficiently in countless everyday personal and professional areas of life. This Method can also be used for setting and achieving personal and professional development objectives.

CreativityModel Method usage related aspects can be trained, especially, when training is set up so that different areas receive individual attention on as needed bases. However, certain limitations do apply. Here are couple of principles to keep in mind.

- On one hand, CreativityModel Method can help you to achieve relevant results effectively and efficiently within your individual sets of abilities, experience and expertise, including any relevant technical skills.

You can push the boundaries through expanding the abilities, experience and expertise, but there are always boundaries.

CreativityModel Method usage is about producing good quality results within these personal boundaries.

- On the other hand, often it is the case, that it is not so much the potential that a person has, but how he or she uses that potential, that can lead to success in life.

CreativityModel Method usage is about your getting closer to optimizing the potential that you have at any given point in time.

So, people with very different abilities, experience and expertise levels can use CreativityModel Method successfully.

CreativityModel Method usage is not about instant perfection. In most instances in life, the results don't have to be perfect, to be good. No matter who you are, your results are part of your personal development process, and if they keep getting better, that's also valuable.

Project Element Creating Principles

All CreativityModel Method-based projects should have a theme and/or goals, a structure (that is called structural storyline here), and content (that consist of components).

Components are the project's primary building material that form the project's content. Theme, goals and structural storyline are established to support building the project from the components. Accordingly, explanations of and explicit references to the project's theme, goals, and structural storyline as project content development vehicles can be discarded during the Wrap-up Stage, unless they are relevant to understanding the project.

There is a reciprocal dependency between:

- Theme and/or goals
- Structural storyline
- Components

Each of the elements supports the others and can influence and determine the others. All of the above elements must be in accordance with each other, that is, the elements must fit together. This requirement has to be met for the successful completion of a project. However, which elements fit together and how they fit together is largely a matter of individual preferences.

Project elements can be started and developed further in different sequence. Before the Wrap-up Stage all the project elements must be fully developed so that they can be finalized in the Wrap-up Stage.

A project element can be finalized during the same project development session that it was started. Similarly, an element can be started by identifying just fragments or parts of the element, so that the element is developed further at a later time.

For example, if sentences are used to develop elements, then elements can be built so that initially just a word or abbreviated sentence is being written down as a clue. That clue can be immediately or at some later time developed further in one or more development sessions.

Individual preferences, decision-making abilities and logic fuel the production of the project elements. CreativityModel Method user can create and develop project elements using a combination of two project development approaches: Choice Supported Creative Approach and Goal Oriented Creative Approach. In most instances, choice supported and goal oriented creativity usage can be combined throughout the project. However, one of these two approaches should be selected as the primary project development approach for the development of the project's structure.

Regardless of the approach chosen, every CreativityModel Method user applies his or her own preferences, decision-making abilities and logic, whether correctly or incorrectly, when making decisions and choosing between different alternatives. This process is iterative and can be continuous or discontinuous and can take place at regular or irregular intervals until the project is complete.

Establishing Project's Theme

As part of CreativityModel Method, a project's theme is defined as an outline, category, or synopsis that briefly describes what the project is about. It reflects the project's essence and meaning and, if applicable, also provides a summary of the project's features and benefits.

Accordingly, the person or persons who are responsible for the project's development and management can establish the project's theme by briefly describing, characterizing or categorizing the project. That initial description, outline, category, or summary can be changed during the Initial Stage as necessary, but should be finalized by the end of the Initial Stage.

A project may not have goals, but it should have a theme. If a project does not have clearly and precisely established goals, then at least project's theme should be established so that it reflects project's essence and meaning.

Both project's theme and goals can be used for generating structural parts and content components for the project, for tying together project's content and for eliminating unnecessary components. Theme is more applicable when the Choice Supported Creative Approach is being used and goals are more applicable when the Goal Oriented Creative Approach is being used for the development of the project's structure.

In addition to the entire project, the project's structural storyline parts and even components can also have their own individual themes. Structural storyline parts and components themes must be in accordance with the project's theme and goals. Components should be established and removed in accordance with the project's theme and goals.

A project's theme is complete when it meets the above theme definition and, if the goals are established, is in accordance with the project's goals.

Establishing Project's Goals

Project's goals should reflect what the person or persons who are responsible for the project's development and management want to achieve with the project.

CreativityModel Method does not address the qualities of project's goals like clarity, measurability or achievability. Such material is beyond the scope of this Method.

Both project's theme and goals can be used for generating structural parts and content components for the project, to tie together project's content and to eliminate unnecessary components.

Having goals is usually helpful, but it is not always necessary, for successful completion of a project. Having and using project's theme is more applicable when the Choice Supported Creative Approach is being used, and goals are more applicable when the Goal Oriented Creative Approach is being used for the development of project's structure.

If a project has goals, then the goals should be in accordance with the project's theme, and components should be established and removed in accordance with project's goals and theme.

In addition to the entire project, project's structural storyline parts and even components can also have their own individual goals. Structural storyline parts and the components' goals must be in accordance with the project's theme and goals, and the components' goals (if established) should support their respective parts' theme and goals.

If a project has goals, then the goals should be established and finalized during the Initial Stage.

CreativityModel Method user can write down the project's initial goal or goals and, if necessary, change the project's goals during the Initial Stage. If CreativityModel Method user needs to establish goals or theme, or modify or finalize existing goals or theme during the Production and Connection Stage or Wrap-up Stage, the project development process should be moved back to the Initial Stage.

All project's components should be in accordance with the project's goals. Thus, when goals are changed, at least some of the other elements may need to be changed as well. Altering elements may consume time as well as labor. Because of this, it is advisable to start the project by identifying the initial goals that form a starting point, and thereafter, during the Initial Stage think through the role of the goals, and the goals themselves. CreativityModel Method user should work on goals during the Initial Stage until he or she is certain that the goals do indeed reflect what needs to be achieved with the project.

While having goals is optional to a degree, if anything specific needs to be achieved with the project, it is highly recommended to establish goals for the project in addition to having a theme for the project as well. In most instances, the more clearly and precisely goals are established, the better. On the other hand, a project's theme and goals can be anything CreativityModel Method user wants them to be.

If something specific does need to be achieved with the project, then in the absence of clearly established goals for all practical purposes by default the goal may become "Nothing in particular" or "Don't know." In such instances CreativityModel Method user may develop the project first in one direction and then in another direction and thereafter in a third direction, and so on. As a result, CreativityModel Method user may end up working less productively and may have to dedicate more resources such as labor and time to creating elements and trying out different combinations of elements than would otherwise be necessary. (The same may also apply to other people who are affected by the project.) The quality of the outcome will also most likely suffer because under the time pressure, the only goal may eventually become, "Just get it done!" In the end, the less-than-adequate results will reflect the "nothing in particular" goal that was set by default.

This is especially true for business-oriented and organizational projects – but it does not necessarily hold true for projects where artistic qualities of the outcome matter the most.

Different type of projects ranging from artistic to business projects can benefit from CreativityModel Method usage. In most instances, the more business-oriented and/or organizational by nature the project is, the more important role should goals have in the project development process. Similarly, the more artistic a project is, the more acceptable it is to use choice supported creativity and the relevant trial-and-error approach, while putting very little or no emphasis on establishing and using project's goals. The choice supported creativity usage related trial-and-error approach can produce unexpected, high quality results to which (optionally) meaning can

be attributed while the results are being created, or after they have been created. Most business and organizational projects, however, benefit more from goal-oriented approach that helps to prioritize efficiency and effectiveness.

A project's goals are complete when they reflect what the person or persons who are responsible for the project's development want to achieve with the project, and when the goals are in accordance with the project's theme.

Putting Together Project's Structure

Project's structure is called structural storyline here. Structural storyline consists of parts that together form a broad view of the project. Depending on the nature of the project, these structural parts can be, for example, chapters in a book, sections on a website, acts in a play, a musical phrase or other types of parts of a musical composition, objects on the canvas, a business project's milestones, or main events on a schedule, and so on.

Just like project's content components, structural storyline parts are mental compilations of thoughts that have been put into use in project-specific ways, help to further the project and are related to the actions, tangible objects and intangible subject matters that the project deals with.

However, a structural storyline works like a navigation aid or a map: its purpose is to form a sequence of the main parts or steps that complete the project. So, when finalized, structural storyline "tells the story of the project" in broad terms from the beginning to completion. This principle applies to all types of projects, not only to projects that have an actual written storyline.

Like theme and goals but unlike components (that form the project's content), a structural storyline is primarily a project content development vehicle. After being used during the project development process, an explicitly identified structural storyline may be discarded during the project completion stage, unless the structural storyline is relevant to understanding the project and its content after the project has been completed.

A structural storyline can be as simple or as complex as needed. The longer and more complex the project is, the more important the structural storyline becomes and the more important it is to establish theme and goals for structural storyline individual parts.

It is up to CreativityModel Method user to decide whether or not structural storyline parts should be explicitly identified, and how elaborate the structural storyline parts should be. If the CreativityModel Method user does not have any problems with identifying the project's content components and arranging the components as is necessary for project completion, explicit identification of the project's structural parts may be not necessary, especially if there is no need for having an explicitly identified project structure available after the project has been completed. Of course, the project will still have a structure in this case, but the structural storyline parts will simply not be explicitly identified. Nevertheless, if the CreativityModel Method user has trouble with assembling the project's content (that is, the project's components), for project development purposes explicit identification of the structural storyline parts is highly recommended. Further, having an explicitly identified structural storyline can help to increase project's adherence to its goals and/or theme.

So, a well-planned project structure helps to develop project's content, and to increases efficiency and the probability that the desired results are achieved.

Structural Storyline Parts Development Principles

Structural storyline should be developed so that its parts are in accordance with the project's goals and theme and it helps to complete the project in accordance with the project type. In most instances, therefore, the structural storyline reflects or is at least influenced by the project's type and the relevant rules. For example, depending on the project's type, a structural storyline may contain the project's schedule.

In addition to the project's theme and goals, structural storyline individual parts may have their own themes and goals. The latter, if established, must be in accordance with and help to further the project's theme and goals.

Structural storyline parts' creating processes are similar to the components creating processes and, as applicable, are based on usage of combinations of choice supported and goal oriented creativity. That is, project's structure can be developed by combining, as applicable, from start to completion forward moving, and from the goals toward the project starting point backward moving project development approaches.

Similarly to component creating process, pooling can be used for generating project's structural parts. Pooled elements can be arranged in accordance with the project's theme and/or goals. Some such elements may become structural storyline parts, others may become components, and yet others may be discarded entirely, because they do not fit together with the project's theme and/or goals.

Project's structural parts can also be generated in a goal oriented manner, by bridging gaps between the existing structural parts. Project end point and the starting point can form the first structural parts in this process. That is, in this process, the first structural parts can be put together based on project goals as the project completion

point, and the project starting point. The rest of the structural parts are generated by moving back from the goals to the starting point, so that the resulting structural parts form an effective sequence in both ways: for project development purposes from completion to the starting point, and, for the actual project implementation purposes, from start to finish.

Creating Project's Content Components subsection provides additional information on project content component creating processes that are also relevant to structural storyline parts development.

Choice Supported Creative Approach subsection provides more information on pooling, and **Goal Oriented Creative Approach** subsection on goal oriented project development approach.

Project Development Stages subsections address stage-by-stage project development principles.

Structural Storyline Completion Requirements

Once identified and finalized, each structural storyline individual part:

- Must help to further the project's goals and theme and, if established, the part's own goals and theme.
- Should be built so that it can be connected with the next part (if there is one) without creating or leaving gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions in the project.
- Should be built so that it cannot be removed without creating gaps, inconsistencies or contradictions in the project.

If any of the above criteria are not met, the part does not belong in the project.

CreativityModel Method user determines whether or not any gaps, inconsistencies or contradictions exist in his or her opinion. Additionally, every person who in any way evaluates the project may also determine whether or not any gaps, inconsistencies or contradictions exist in his or her opinion.

Accordingly, a project's structural storyline is complete when CreativityModel Method user, after evaluating the structural storyline believes that:

- All of its parts help to further the project's theme and goals.
- All of its parts (except the last part) can be connected to the next part without gaps, inconsistencies or contradictions in the project.
- None of the parts can be removed without creating gaps, inconsistencies or contradictions in the project.

Creating Project Content Components

Components are parts or portions of project's structure and, thus, also project's content. Project's goals, theme and structure are all established for supporting the project content development processes. In a reciprocal manner, project content components should support the project's goals, theme and structure. That is the purpose of having the content.

Components creating process is similar to structural storyline parts creating process. So, most of the information presented in this subsection applies to structural storyline parts as well.

Below is an overview of different component generating and development principles and techniques. Which principles are best suited for your project depends on the creativity approach that you are using for the development of the project's structure. However, choice supported and goal oriented creativity can also be used in combinations. Choice supported creativity can be used within goal oriented structure, and vice versa. Similarly, you can use the component generating and development principles described here in different combinations as well.

Using Choice Supported Creativity for Component Creating

Choice supported creativity is explained in the subsection **Choice Supported Creative Approach**. This subsection contains component creating related information.

Choice supported creativity offers a lot of freedom of movement, but with this freedom comes also the responsibility to express yourself and to make choices that support the formation of the project's outcome. The less you want to – or should – express yourself, the more helpful you may find usage of goal oriented creativity, instead of choice supported creativity.

However, some choice supported creativity related techniques listed here can also be implemented in a structured and less expressive manner, while others both offer more flexibility and require more choices to be made in return.

Using Choice Supported Structure for Component Creating

Using choice supported creativity, you can work in somewhat mechanical manner – if you prefer to do so – by putting together the project's structure and then filling it with the content components.

That is, based on the project's theme you can put together the project's structure and then add components so, that the outcome is coherent and meets any other necessary criteria.

Putting together the project's structure creates gaps between the structural parts.

The smaller are the gaps between the initially established structural parts, the more similarities the component adding process has to goal oriented creativity usage, if you want to keep the initially established structure in place.

The bigger are the gaps between the initially established structural parts, the more flexibility you have with the component creating process.

As needed, you can change or re-order the initially established structural parts while you work on the components, unless the established structural parts or their order is necessary for meeting project-specific rules or requirements.

Theme Based Component Creating

When you use choice based creativity and add components, you probably want to keep in mind the project's theme. That helps to generate project-related content. Further, if the structural parts have their own themes, you may want to keep in mind the themes of the structural parts where the components belong to, or should belong to. Doing so helps to generate coherent outcomes.

Project's theme can be used for generating structural parts and content components for the project, for ordering and tying together project's content and for eliminating unnecessary components.

Pooling Based Component Creating

Pooling is about generating alternatives, so that you can compare them and choose the best solutions. In many instances pooling can – and should – be used together with goal oriented creativity as well. However, choice based creativity leaves more room for flexibility that can make pooling effective.

When you use a computer and suitable software, during a pooling process you can start with fragments, which can be scattered. Next, develop further and organize the fragments, so that you can use them as needed.

During pooling you can generate alternative components spontaneously – whatever comes to mind is right. You can follow any thought processes or ideas and try out different scenarios and possibilities. There are no wrong ideas during the pooling process. The selection process comes later, and theme and goals help to select the most suitable alternatives.

You can also proceed in a more systematic manner.

For example, when writing something, and even for other types of projects, structural storyline parts and components can also be pooled by going from verbs to nouns to adjectives (characteristics), to other nouns related by the characteristics, and so on. Further, usage of similarities and contrast, synonyms and antonyms, and antonyms of the antonyms (opposites of the opposites), can also expand the number and other qualities of the pooled components.

Another source of ideas involves finding answers to questions including who, what, when, where, how, and why.

Structural storyline parts and components are related to actions, tangible objects and intangible subject matters that the project deals with. The above questions (who, what, when, where, how, why) help to discover these actions, tangible objects and intangible subject matters and their characteristics. Actions are identifiable by verbs used; objects and subject matters are identifiable by nouns used; and characteristics are identifiable by words that qualify the actions, objects, and subject matters.

Listing the actions, tangible objects, and intangible subject matters and their characteristics helps to generate an unorganized pool of structural storyline parts and components. Using the theme and goals, the storyline parts and components can then be organized and ordered for successful completion of the project.

Characteristic Based Component Creating

Characteristic based component creating is the most flexible and imaginative version of the choice supported creativity usage options described here. This technique can be used for both new component and structural part creating, and existing component and structural part development purposes.

Expressing Yourself Through Development Directions

A component can be started as a fragment, which can represent one particular feature or one or more parts of a feature. That fragment can be developed further by working on the features of the component.

In the process, as CreativityModel Method user, you can stress above all these features of the component that characterize and help to express your views of the component, that is, are most important in your opinion.

This way, you can develop components in any direction you want.

Characteristic, here, is anything that can be used to describe the component in a perceivable manner.

Thus, among others, if there are any actions that are related to a component, these actions are its characteristics as well, just like other features are.

Similarly, when you add components, you can develop the project's content in any direction that you want through expressing yourself.

Along the way, pretty much any kind of twist or turn is acceptable – as long as you find it acceptable.

In this process, in addition to your experiences and expertise levels, your passion for the subject matters that you work with, your actual real need to express yourself, your ability and willingness to empathize, observation of details, your views, beliefs, values, feelings and emotions, assumptions, perceptions, expectations, taste and even habits all affect your reasoning and the choices that you make, which in turn affect the outcome.

Nearly Simultaneous Structure and Component Creating

Unlike usage of structure for component creating, that is described above (under **Using Choice Supported Structure for Component Creating**), when characteristic based component creating technique is used, project's structure can be established nearly simultaneously with the components, so that the structure becomes apparent only after the project has been completed. That is, project's structure can be, but doesn't necessarily have to be, established before the structure is filled with the components. Structure can also be established dynamically, thinking ahead just couple of steps at the time, and completing the structure with components at the same time.

To put it differently, when you use characteristic based component creating technique, during the project development process you may not know where the project is going and what the end result of it will be like.

This technique requires more skills and well made choices than do other alternatives that are described above. Wrong choices may render the results too "flat," that is, one or two-dimensional, instead of being realistic, or too abstract, incoherent and difficult to follow. That, in turn, is likely to limit the amount of people who will like the end result.

However, if you also have the needed expertise and master the technical side of the project-specific requirements (whatever they are), characteristic based component creating processes can provide excellent means for expressing yourself.

So, the more you want to communicate something specific, identifiable and understandable with your work, the more careful you may want to be with the usage of characteristic based component creating technique.

The more you simply want to express yourself and, perhaps, release your feelings in the process, the more freely you may want to use characteristic based component creating technique.

Using Goal Oriented Creativity for Component Creating

Goal oriented creativity is explained in the subsection **Goal Oriented Creative Approach**. This subsection contains component creating related information.

Goal oriented creativity is about focusing on the objectives every step of the way, and about making sure that the priorities are clarified and followed. "What do we need to achieve here?" is the main question and answers to that question help to generate both project's structure and content components.

Using Goal Oriented Structure for Component Creating

In most cases goal oriented creativity necessitates that individual structural parts have their own goals, that lead to achievement of the project's goals.

When you use choice based creativity, you can generate both structural parts and components in a random order and use the project's theme for ordering the elements.

When you use goal oriented creativity, it is advisable to generate components within the goal oriented structure, so that an existing component determines the one before it. Otherwise, risk of going astray increases.

For example, goals, as project's completion point, determine the component that precedes the goals. Whatever comes right before achieving the goals and is necessary for achievement of the goals, is the previous component. Other components are established in the similar manner.

This process is very focused on goals, one step at the time. However, the more clearly it is specified what needs to be achieved, without limiting the options that can be used for achievement of goals, the more flexibility and alternative options for achievement of goals can be considered. Nevertheless, in some instances how the goals can and cannot be achieved has to be determined as well (on moral grounds, for example, or for side effects related risk reduction purposes).

Research, project related experience and expertise, understanding of the relevant subject matters and empathy are important here.

Pooling can also be used for generating components. Similarly, project's theme can help generate alternative components.

Project participants can use the techniques listed in the subsection Using Choice Supported Creativity for Component Creating. However, every step of the way, the results should lead to achievement of the necessary goals.

Using Project Specific Rules for Component Creating

Project specific rules may impose requirements. Make sure that you have satisfied these requirements by creating components that reflect and satisfy these requirements, and also are related to project's theme and structure. As applicable, use pooling. You can start with fragments and develop further into components the most promising ones.

Exploration of requirements can also provide ideas for project development. For example, if something cannot be done, then what substitutes it, allowing to create the same outcome? What complements the substitutes? If something must be done, how can it be best related to the project's theme?

Components Completion Requirements

In addition to the project's theme and goals and the structural storyline parts' theme and goals, individual components can have their own theme and goals as well. The latter, if established, must be in accordance with and help to further that storyline part's theme and goals that the component is part of.

Components and structural storyline parts evaluation principles are similar. Every component, once finalized:

- Must help to further that structural storyline part's goals and theme that the component is part of
- Should be built so that it can be connected with the next component (if there is one) without creating or leaving gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions in the project
- Should be built so that it cannot be removed without creating gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions in the project

CreativityModel Method user determines whether or not any gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions exist. Additionally, every person who evaluates the project may also determine whether or not any gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions exist.

CreativityModel Method-based project development stages form a cycle. In the Wrap-up Stage CreativityModel Method user evaluates his or her work. If the results are not satisfactory, CreativityModel Method user can go back to the Initial Stage to improve the outcome. Similarly, the development of the project's components (that is, a project's content development) is a cyclical process that can be completed on the first try or after several attempts, largely depending on CreativityModel Method user's needs and preferences.

Explanation of How the Method's User Achieves Results

Project Development Approaches

This CreativityModel Method version contains two main project development approaches, Choice Supported Creative Approach and Goal Oriented Creative Approach. These approaches can be used in any combination necessary throughout the project development process, but as CreativityModel Method user, for each project you should select one of the two as the primary approach for the development of the project's structure.

- If there is no need to set and achieve goals as the project's outcome and completion point or step, and especially if artistic qualities of the outcome are important, you may prefer to use the Choice Supported Creative Approach principles for the development of the project's structure.
- If objectives or goals need to be achieved with the project development processes, you should most likely use the Goal Oriented Creative Approach principles for the development of the project's structure.

So, you should select the approach that is more appropriate in your opinion for the development of project structure.

Choice Supported Creative Approach is expressive in nature and offers a lot of flexibility for putting together the outcome.

The project development process is primarily forward moving by nature, that is, both project planning and implementation of the plan occur from the currently developed or selected structural parts and components forward toward the completion of the project.

Addition of structural parts and components can be largely based on your preferences. That is, you can develop the project further by building its content based on your choices and preferences.

You can do as much or as little planning as you find necessary.

During each project development stage and substage project planning and the implementation of the plan can be separated from each other, or the two can occur practically simultaneously. Similarly, any solution in between separating and merging the project planning and implementation processes can be used as well.

Goal Oriented Creative Approach is about setting and achieving goals and generating qualitatively appealing solutions in the process.

The project development process is backward moving by nature in the project planning stage, so that the movement occurs from the project completion point toward the starting point. Additional project structural parts and components should be generated and added primarily so that they support each other and achievement of project's goals. This makes goal oriented creativity usage a more restrictive process than choice supported creativity usage is.

Implementation of the project plan occurs from the currently developed or selected structural part or component forward toward the completion of the plan.

Choice Supported Creative Approach

Choice Supported Creative Approach is best suited for instances where artistic or otherwise imaginative qualities of the outcome are more important than is achieving specific goals with the project's outcome.

Choice supported creativity usage is about building project's structure and content around its theme. Pooling and comparing different alternatives can help to increase the quality of the outcome of these processes.

At the core are these steps:

- Create one or more sets (pools) of components and, as necessary, also structural parts and theme.
- Develop further and connect the elements in different ways.
- Evaluate the results.
- Choose the combinations that express the project's theme in the best way or the project participants otherwise like the best, and also confirms to any project-specific rules and restrictions that the project participants decide to follow.
- Discard the elements that are not going to be used.

CreativityModel Method user can start the project development process by working on any project element and can move flexibly between the project development stages as needed, using his or her preferences for generating and selecting project's content. Project development stages and completion requirements do apply, but personal preferences influence these aspects of project development, too.

From Randomly Created Fragments to Theme Based Selection of Content

A project can be started in different ways – for example, by first identifying its theme, then parts of its structure and then some or most of the components. Similarly, a project can be started by identifying first just one or more components, or a portion of the structure.

Further, any element can be started as a sketch, a fragment, that is developed further during one or more sessions.

The initially built elements can, but do not necessarily have to be closely related to each other, especially, if they are created during the Initial Stage. Using project's theme and structure, during the Production and Connection Stage and the Wrap-up Stage the necessary components are selected and connected (for example, if writing is involved, sentences and paragraphs are put in the suitable order).

Choice Supported Development Processes

A person who is using choice supported creativity can choose at any project development point how to proceed from that point onward.

This may mean a lot of freedom of movement.

This may also mean that lots of decisions have to be made. Choice supported creativity user does not know ahead of time what all the alternatives are that he or she will deal with.

Results have to be generated, selected and assembled and the relevant decisions have to be made step by step, based on how the choice supported creativity user sees, interprets and perceives each of the situations and the available project elements and the project development alternatives.

- Choice supported creativity user can do a substantial portion of the project planning in the beginning of the project development processes by establishing project's theme and structure. Structure can then be filled with the components so, that the final outcome is bound by the project's theme.
- Project can be developed further using the theme or structure, or both the theme and structure.
- Project's structure can be developed further within the existing structure, or in a new direction.
- Additional components can be added by proceeding logically or emotionally, or by using comparison or contrast, similarities or opposites to the existing components.

- A component can be selected, its characteristics can be evaluated and based on the outcome the component can be connected with other components differently than before.
- Choice supported creativity user can also proceed without prior planning and without establishing an explicit structure for the project, by adding any kinds of structural parts and components, and by developing the project further from any component in any chosen direction.

This process can occur with or without having a theme for the project. Project's theme can be established later, so that it reflects the project's content and meaning. Further, a project may not have an explicitly established theme at all. However, if a coherent outcome is desired, project development stages and the relevant principles should be followed.

Working With Restrictions

CreativityModel Method user's abilities, experience and expertise sets boundaries to what can be achieved.

Research (including Internet-based searches) and working with others can be helpful here.

Similarly, physical and working conditions, tools that are being used or are not, but could be used, and additional external conditions like, for example, time of the day may influence CreativityModel Method user's ability to develop a project further.

Project specific rules may restrict the number of available alternatives. In some instances, such rules are a matters of perception or interpretation.

Habits, values or beliefs may also influence CreativityModel Method user's ability to develop a project further.

It may be up to CreativityModel Method user to change such restrictions.

Further, project's theme and existing structure may put restrictions on which alternatives can be used.

Project's structure and even theme can be changed, but that means that all the already selected components should be reviewed for compatibility with the newly established theme and structure.

Pooling

Pooling, or element pooling is the process of creating and gathering together groups of alternative elements and solutions.

Pooling usually increases the number and the qualitative nature of the available options. Further, pooling can be used without having to make any substantial changes to the project's theme and structure. Thus, pooling can help to find ways around restrictions that apply to a project.

Because Choice Supported Creative Approach is less restrictive than Goal Oriented Creative Approach is, pooling is especially applicable when choice supported creativity is used. However, pooling can be used with goal oriented creativity as well.

Comparison and Criteria

Qualities make sense in comparison, especially, if you have a clearly established criteria for evaluating the alternatives. Clearly established criteria helps you to identify, what it is that you are looking for. If you don't have such criteria, establish it when you do pooling or otherwise have more than one alternative to work with. Even if the criteria that you use is less than perfect, when you deal with alternatives, most likely having it is more helpful than is not having any criteria for comparison. The latter situation can create a feeling of information overload and can be overwhelming.

So, when you can compare different alternatives, you can more easily pick out the best suited options. This principle applies to different aspects of project development.

You can generate alternative elements and compare the alternatives. Further, you can duplicate the entire project's content, so that the duplicated content can be further developed differently from the original content. This step is optional and enables the development of alternative solutions for the entire project. You can create alternative solutions, compare them and use only the solution that best fits your needs.

Moving Vertically For the Sake of Quality

When one element is created after another – for example, when one component is created after another – the project development process is vertically moving. During pooling the development process is horizontally moving, which means that alternatives to the existing elements are being created. This may slow down the pace of project development, but the upside is that it helps to improve the quality of the outcome.

In contrast, if one element is created after another without creating and storing alternative elements, there is little base for evaluating the quality of the outcome. Comparison, on the other hand, can make it easier to determine what components and solutions are preferable, which in turn can help to improve the quality of the outcome.

Focus More on Producing Than On Evaluating

It is advisable not to evaluate the quality and the compatibility of the structural storyline parts and particularly the components while pooling them. The quality of the components, and therefore the final outcome, depend largely on the spontaneity of the element pooling process. Unique solutions can be found by pooling loosely related or even largely unrelated components and then connecting them through the elements characteristics so, that the solution is related to the project's theme. During the Production and Connection Stage and the Wrap-up Stage, the pooled structural storyline parts and components should be connected under a specific theme and/or goals, if goals have been established. Throughout the latter process, meaning is given to solutions containing elements that may have been unrelated initially, but are related by a common theme and/or goals before completing the project.

Accordingly, during each element pooling process, CreativityModel Method user should not worry about how well the pieces fit together. Evaluating the compatibility of the pooled components should be done separately and, in most instances, after the pooling process has been completed.

Find the Balances

Pooling can be used for creating alternative components and other elements. Parts of a project, or an entire project can be duplicated and modified as needed.

The more relations are involved between the alternatives, the more complex does the project development processes get. Computer usage can be helpful in this process.

Whatever is used for storing and working with the alternative sets of elements, CreativityModel Method user should choose the level of complexity that he or she is comfortable with and helps to achieve the needed results at the necessary pace.

Explore and Discover, Express Yourself and Enrich Your Life

So, what should you do with all the choices that you can generate when you are using choice supported creativity?

Explore the subject matters that you deal with.

Discover, what matters.

Express yourself.

Generate pools of alternative elements and from them assemble solutions that convey what you want to say, the way you want to say it.

Sometimes you may know ahead of time what and how you want to say. Only relatively minor testing of different alternatives, rearrangement of components within structural parts and the structural parts themselves may be necessary. At other times, it may be the other way around and pooling can help you to discover what it is that you really want to say with what you do.

Do pooling also for knowing more and experiencing more. Enriching your life, so that you can enrich the life of others.

Goal Oriented Creative Approach

Life is full of situations where achieving something specific is more important than are the artistic qualities of the outcome. Many such situations, personal and professional, require also creativity usage.

Goal oriented creativity does not offer solutions for all such situations. Most of these situations require a combination of goal oriented creativity and choice supported creativity usage. Being able to use the two approaches separately helps to master both of them in different types of combinations as well.

Why Do We Need This?

Choice Supported Creative Approach doesn't work very well when objectives or goals need to be achieved. When you use choice supported creativity, you don't know which path will take you to your project's completion point most effectively and efficiently. You may not even know what your project's completion point is and how you will get there. You may go for a while in one direction with the project development and then in another, and so on, trying and testing different alternatives. Each such project development part means usage of resources – time, energy, and other inputs. This can work well, when artistic qualities matter the most and the needed resources are available, but it can cause substantial trouble when goals need to be achieved effectively and efficiently.

If you try to achieve goals this way, you may be taking the long way round. Perhaps you will achieve your objectives only partially, perhaps not at all, but it is very likely that you will use more resources in the process than is necessary.

Further, usage of choice supported creativity in situations when goal oriented creativity needs to be used may lead to wrong decisions, waste of resources and may lower the quality of the outcome.

People can make the mistake of using choice supported creativity in situations where goal oriented creativity should be used in their personal and professional lives.

In personal life this may lead to talent and opportunities lost, life that is less than fulfilling and may seem not to be going anywhere, or is perceived to be pointless and senseless.

In professional life and especially on the management level misuse of the two creativity approaches described here can affect a larger number of people. The bigger is the person's professional sphere of influence who is using the two approaches incorrectly, the more people are affected by the ripple effects of the negative outcomes.

Project, company and organizational management are all influenced by this phenomenon. In business and organizational life management problems may mean embarrassment, adverse effects on people's career development, and decrease or loss of income. In politics and other public policy areas where people's lives are more literally involved, things may get even worse.

Briefly, when goals are declared, but are not pursued in a goal oriented manner, and instead decisions are made using choice supported creativity principles, trouble ensues. Additional and often unpredictable problems tend to emerge that require substantial amounts of problem fixing related resources and generate other adverse effects.

These patterns seem to be working with high degree of regularity and predictability – like a law of human behavior.

So, we should investigate and address these topics, and learn what we need to learn in order to make better decisions in the future.

Goal Oriented Creativity in a Nutshell

The basic structure of the Goal Oriented Creative Approach is relatively simple. Do the planning by establishing the goals, then, moving backwards, establish that structural part that precedes the goals, then the structural part before that. Add components as applicable. Working this way move to the beginning of the project and establish all the structural parts from completion to the beginning of the project.

Implementation takes place by moving forward from the beginning towards the completion of the project. During the implementation, as applicable, fill the project with the rest of the components, using combinations of goal oriented creativity and choice supported creativity.

So, if Part Z is the final part of the project, where the goals are being achieved, what is our project's Part Y that precedes Part Z? What comes right before achieving the goals and is necessary for achievement of the goals?

What is our Part X that comes before Part Y?

Figure the parts out this way. Do research as necessary, and when applicable get input from the experts and use team efforts. Then implement the plan from the beginning to completion (achievement of goals), that is, from X to Y to Z.

The natural tendency may be to start listing project's structural parts in a random order by figuring out what needs to happen before the goals are achieved, and then order the structural parts from start to completion. Be careful about this – when you proceed this way, you are not using goal oriented creativity. By proceeding this way you may unknowingly go astray and start moving not towards achievement of goals, but towards other objectives that came up during the project planning process. So, make sure that you also do the project planning in the goal oriented manner as well, by figuring out the preceding structural parts one by one.

Goal Oriented But Flexible Creativity Management

For goal setting, and the qualities of the goals, you can use whatever principles you find to be appropriate. Different views exist in this area, which is beyond the scope of the current version of CreativityModel Method. However, if you want to foster creativity, you may want to consider building flexibility into the project's goals.

In a way, Goal Oriented Creative Approach usage makes project development easier. When you have the goals established, it means that you know what you need to achieve. Based on the goals and the project's starting point, you can put together the project's structure that you then fill with the components. That planning part and the structure that you put together help to reach the goals.

That's more-or-less the big picture. However, details make this creative approach more difficult to use.

When you use goal oriented creativity, you need to deal with several complicating factors: other aspects of project management, risk and balancing acts. The best solutions can be found by

- putting together project's structure that is as comprehensive as you deem necessary,
- allocating sufficient resources towards project implementation, and
- leaving as much room for flexibility during the implementation as possible.

These goal oriented creativity usage characteristics are further discussed below.

CreativityModel Method and Project Management

Goal oriented creativity usage is only one aspect of creativity management, and creativity management is only one aspect of project management, which is a much broader concept. For our purposes this means that good quality outcomes usually require that many parts work well together, which in turn requires balancing acts.

CreativityModel Method is a creativity management method. Accordingly, we address CreativityModel Method based creativity management here, and will mention some other aspects of project management below only briefly. This does not diminish the importance of any of the other relevant concepts and aspects. It simply means that additional coverage of them is beyond the scope of the material that is being addressed here.

CreativityModel Method and Planning

The importance and the role of project planning differ depending on whether you decide to use choice supported creativity or goal oriented creativity for putting together the project's structure.

- Choice Supported Creative Approach is about discovering and charting the path as you move forward. You can do as much or as little planning (including research) as you find necessary.
- Goal Oriented Creative Approach is about charting the path that will take you where you want to be, and then following that path from the beginning to the end, adding to the plan and making modifications to it as needed during the implementation of the plan.

So, planning is an important part of Goal Oriented Creative Approach. Goal oriented creativity usage is in essence about knowing where you want to end up and what path is likely to take you there. Planning related

evaluation of alternatives and other preparations can help to increase the probability, that the project's outcome will be achieved effectively and efficiently.

There is a catch, though: thorough preparation does not decrease the importance of good quality implementation of the plan.

Good quality implementation – that is, project development from the starting point towards the completion – often requires flexibility and removal or reduction of the constraints that comprehensive planning tends to impose.

So, why do we need planning at all? After all, planning requires resources, like time and energy. Why not to use all of these resource for the implementation instead?

Planning, Probability and Risk

Goal oriented creativity usage related project planning helps to produce project's structure that can be used as a road map for reaching the project's goals. Thus, a realistic project plan helps to increase the probability of success and to reduce the probability of failure.

However, life is constant motion of more parts than any plan that we can make can cover. So, no plan should be considered as a certainty that project's goals will be achieved.

That is, when you use CreativityModel Method and goal oriented creativity in particular, in most cases you work with probabilities, not with certainty.

So, by doing planning and by putting together project's structure before the implementation, in most instances you can increase the probability of success and reduce the probability of failure.

- Accordingly, the more important the project is and the more important it is to succeed, the more preparation and planning can help.
- Similarly, the more risk adverse the project participants are, the more helpful they may find planning to be.

Risk, here, is the probability of not achieving the goals. Risk can be reduced, but in most instances it cannot be eliminated. That is, no matter how well the planning process is being handled, in most cases at least some levels of risk remains.

On the Importance of Implementation

Planning can help to achieve the project's goals, but implementation is the process that actually delivers the results.

Planning and preparation can increase awareness of what to expect during the implementation.

Project participants ability to handle both the expected and unexpected circumstances and situations determines the actual outcome of the project.

If there is only one way to achieve certain goals, and that one way fails, goals cannot be achieved. If there are more ways than one, probability of success increases.

Accordingly, the better equipped and the more capable are the project participants who handle the implementation, and the more flexibility the participants have regarding how they can achieve the needed goals, the higher is the probability of success.

Flexible Usage of Alternative Goals

In some cases, only one very specific goal is acceptable as the project's goal, or project structural part's goal. Often enough, however, alternative goals, or maybe even a range of goals, are acceptable as well.

Alternative goals may also involve characteristics or aspects of goals. For example, in some instances you may have to decide, whether to pursue an outcome that you consider to be qualitatively superior, even though doing so requires more resources (and, thus, increases the cost), or necessitates changes to the schedule. In other instances you may decide to optimize the outcome for keeping the cost lower, or for keeping the schedule.

Usage of alternative goals offers several advantages:

- If you generate and then consider more than one acceptable alternative, you can choose the best suited option when you need to do so.
- Higher probability of achieving acceptable results for the given investment of resources (time, efforts, and so on). Step by step, you can choose the best suited alternatives.
- Further, when you have alternatives and you don't achieve the most desirable goal, you can aim for the second best option. This means, that the efforts were not wasted and will still produce an acceptable outcome.

So, it is advisable to at least consider what the alternatives to the initially established goals might be, and how the usage of the alternative goals may affect the rest of the project elements.

How Much Planning Should You Do?

As was stated above, project planning helps to produce project's structure that can be used as a road map.

It's good to have a road map.

On the other hand, when you have to achieve goals, it is likely that you also have to deal with limited resources. These resources may involve only your own time and labor, or more than that. Either way, planning consumes resources.

Further, after putting together the project's structure, you can make changes to that structure during the implementation, but every time you do, you should check the changed structure and make sure, that it does take you to the project's completion point as needed, and that you are not moving in some other direction instead. Otherwise, you may lose the advantages that goal oriented creativity provides.

The more comprehensive is the planned structure, the more changes may be required during the implementation.

Checking the changed project's structure requires resources, too.

So, keeping the above in mind, how much planning should you do and how much of the available resources should you spend on planning? How comprehensive should be the project's structure that you put together during the planning process?

In accordance with the goal oriented creativity usage principles that are being addressed here, it is advisable to put together project's **structural parts plan** that

- identifies the project's main structural parts,
- makes clear what the project's goals are, and
- makes clear what the individual structural parts goals are.

Beyond that structural parts plan:

- The more important the project is, the more comprehensive should be the project's structure that is put together during the planning process.
- The more risk adverse are the project participants, the more comprehensive should be the project's structure that is put together during the planning process.
- The more potentially overwhelmingly difficult problems the implementation team is likely to encounter and the less experienced the implementation team members are in the project-specific areas, the more comprehensive should be the project's structure that is put together during the planning process.

Further, it is advisable to allocate as much resources (time, labor, etc) to planning as you can without reducing the quality of the implementation. That is, if you can allocate more resources to planning without taking resources away from the implementation, it is advisable to do so.

Allocate resources to planning up to the point, where additional planning that is being done no longer contributes to the quality of the outcome as much, as the previously done planning did within the same amount of time.

Often that point has to be determined based on individual judgment.

Planning as Insurance

No matter how comprehensive is the project's structure that you put together before the implementation, the more capable are the implementation team members in the project-specific areas, the more advisable it is to leave as much room for implementation flexibility as possible.

Having flexibility during the implementation of the project plan can create additional opportunities for reaching the goals, and allows to take advantage of the new opportunities that may emerge.

Further, the more capable the implementation team members are in the project-specific areas, the more likely it is that implementation flexibility increases the implementation team members project participation related satisfaction, which in turn can contribute to the overall quality of the outcome.

To put it differently, even if you believe that you know how the goals should be achieved, if you trust the implementation team's ability to achieve the needed goals, tell them what needs to be achieved and how they could go about it, but let them decide what the best way to proceed is.

Essentially the same applies, if you yourself are both the person who does the planning and implements the plan. The more you trust your abilities to handle the project-specific development obstacles, the more room you may want to leave for the implementation flexibility even if you put together a comprehensive structure for the project during the planning process.

So, consider the initially planned structure as an insurance.

The more planning is being done and the more detailed the structure is, the more insurance you have. This means that the implementation team members will reach the project's goals with greater certainty.

- If new and better alternatives emerge for reaching the necessary structural points and project's goals than was initially planned, the better alternatives can be used.

To put it differently, as long as the important structural parts goals are being achieved, less important details do not necessarily have to be followed.

- If new and better alternatives do not emerge, the initially planned ways of reaching the goals can be used. That is, the project's structure can be implemented as planned. This way, during the implementation processes, the project participants are not left to wonder what they have to do next.

Of course, this strategy does not work in all situations. There are circumstances, where strict adherence to the specific ways of project implementation is necessary.

Find the Balances

Most of the material that is addressed here necessitates finding balances between complementary aspects of project development. Both choice supported creativity and goal oriented creativity usage require finding balances. Goal oriented creativity usage requires balancing

- how comprehensive should be the project's structure that is put together during the planning process and
- how rigorously should that structure be implemented, with
- how much resources should be allocated to the planning process, and
- how much flexibility should there be during the implementation processes.

Other project management aspects influence the balance finding processes as well.

Depending on the circumstances, increased flexibility may increase risk. Decreased flexibility will most likely not eliminate risk.

Accomplish Your Best

So, what can you do with goal oriented creativity?

Achieve goals seems like an obvious answer, and it is. By using goal oriented creativity you can increase the probability that you will achieve the needed goals, and will generate the results efficiently.

Goal oriented creativity usage helps to identify the resource usage needs. The more comprehensive is the project's structure, the better picture emerges of the actual resource needs.

Goal oriented creativity usage can also help to discover that obtaining a goal is likely to require more resources than you are able or willing to use. Discovering this before making a commitment can save a lot of trouble.

Further, when you use goal oriented creativity, in some instances you may be able to achieve more than you at first thought possible.

In some instances the first reaction may be something like "How will I ever be able to accomplish this?"

When you will put some effort into finding ways to achieve the goals, you may find that there is a way, and perhaps even more than one way, to get the needed results.

Don't settle for the first option that you come across, unless it is the solution that you really need, and don't let having alternatives to confuse you.

Training can help to achieve more and to put together results faster. Train yourself to use both choice supported creativity and goal oriented creativity. For example, train yourself to establish project's structure from goals to the starting point.

Similarly, train yourself to work with the project elements and development stages.

Further, train yourself to find, evaluate and select alternatives. In most cases you are better off if you can choose between two or more options, because that way you can assemble better quality outcomes.

Pay attention and find out what works for you.

Accomplish your best and so, that you benefit both others and yourself.

Project Development Stages

CreativityModel Method describes the process of developing and completing project elements and connections between and inside the structural elements that form the project's results. This process occurs in stages.

CreativityModel Method contains three project development stages:

- The Initial Stage
- The Production and Connection Stage
- The Wrap-up Stage

The Initial Stage

Depending on the creativity management approach that is used for creating the project's structure, CreativityModel Method user can start the project by creating one or more components, or by describing the project (that is, establishing the project's theme), or by establishing the project's goals and structure.

Creativity Management Approaches

When **choice supported creativity** is being used, during the Initial Stage the CreativityModel Method user can develop elements in any order: either theme, or one or more components, or structural storyline parts can be identified first.

That is, all elements and especially components can be created, stored, accessed, and developed in a random order anytime during the Initial Stage.

Furthermore, components can be pooled and located randomly. Primarily during the Production and Connection Stage a project's goals and theme are used to develop such components further and to tie the initially randomly-located components together in a meaningful way.

When **goal oriented creativity** is being used, project's theme and goals should be established before project's structure and content components are put in place.

External Devices

If a computer or other similar device is being used, all elements should be developed so that they are specified on the computer screen and saved as needed. Depending on the project's type the elements could be specified on the computer screen in writing, or by pointing and selecting among the alternatives (and dragging and dropping, if applicable), or by drawing.

An element can be started by identifying just fragments or parts of the element so that the element is finished at a later time. Similarly, an element can be finalized during the same session it was started.

Modifications

During the Initial Stage, all elements can be modified as many times as necessary. For example, CreativityModel Method user can establish some components and a theme and/or goals for the project, then modify some components and thereafter the project's theme and/or goal(s).

This process can be repeated in the same or different sequence as many times as necessary until completion of the Initial Stage. Additionally, during the Initial Stage CreativityModel Method user can at any point choose to develop one of the elements further without at the same time developing other elements as much or at all.

Connecting Elements

Before entering the Production and Connection Stage, structural storyline parts (if explicitly identified) must be established so that these parts form a coherent structure that is in accordance with the project's theme and goals. That is, project's theme and/or goals should be used to tie all the structural storyline parts together with the theme and/or goals in a meaningful way. Existing structural storyline parts can be rearranged as necessary, and new structural storyline parts can be created that help to fill any gaps, so that all the structural storyline parts are complete.

During the Initial Stage CreativityModel Method user should focus on pooling components rather than on evaluating the quality and compatibility of the components.

During the Initial Stage CreativityModel Method user can, but is not obligated, to make connections between and inside the components, so that components become coherent and finalized units that can be evaluated in the Production and Connection Stage. Most of these connections are formed during the Production and Connection Stage.

The Initial Stage Completion Criteria

The Initial Stage is complete if one of the following objectives is reached:

- Theme, goals, structural storyline parts (if explicitly identified), and optionally some components have been established
- Goals, structural storyline parts (if explicitly identified), and optionally some components have been established
- Theme and structural storyline parts (if explicitly identified) and some or most of the components have been established

The Production and Connection Stage

The Production and Connection Stage is used for developing new components as well as for organizing and re-organizing existing components so that they are in accordance with the project's theme, goals, structure and other components. During this Stage, CreativityModel Method user can both pool and evaluate components.

Just like during the Initial Stage, during the Production and Connection Stage new components can be created, stored, accessed, and developed in random sequence and so, that initially they are located in a random order.

Further, during the Production and Connection Stage existing structural storyline parts can be modified or deleted.

Movement of Project Development Focus to the Previous Stage

If CreativityModel Method user needs to create new structural storyline parts during the Production and Connection Stage, the development process is in the Initial Stage and not in the Production and Connection Stage and should be addressed accordingly.

Similarly, if during the Production and Connection Stage CreativityModel Method user needs to modify the project's goals, theme, or order of the existing structural storyline parts, the project's development is back in the Initial Stage.

Stage Development Process

To complete the Production and Connection Stage, project's theme and/or goals should be used to relate all the components to each other in a meaningful way. Existing components can be rearranged as necessary, and other components can be created that help to fill any gaps so that all the components are complete and can be evaluated as described below.

Structural storyline parts and components have to be evaluated at least once during the Production and Connection Stage. Some previously-created structural storyline parts and components may need to be left out to meet the project's goals and theme and to complete the project.

It is advisable to remove the less than compatible structural storyline parts and components from the project during the Production and Connection Stage.

The Production and Connection Stage Completion Criteria

The Production and Connection Stage is complete when the project's goals (if established) and/or theme (if established) are complete, structural storyline parts (if explicitly identified) fit together so that in CreativityModel Method user's opinion they form a coherent structure that fits together with the goals and/or theme, and all structural storyline parts (if explicitly identified) are supported by fully-developed components.

The Wrap-up Stage

The Wrap-up Stage is used for overall checking and evaluation of all the elements and for ensuring that the project is complete. The project's goals, theme, structural storyline, and all the components should be evaluated for completeness and compatibility. The project's structural storyline parts and components should be evaluated in the same way as they were evaluated during the previous project development Stages. So, the Wrap-up Stage is an additional and final evaluation process.

During the Wrap-up Stage, CreativityModel Method user should evaluate components, and can make changes to the existing components and delete them as needed.

During the Wrap-up Stage, just as in the Production and Connection Stage, it is advisable to remove less than fully compatible structural storyline parts and components from the project.

Movement of Project Development Focus to the Previous Stage

If CreativityModel Method user needs to or re-organize existing components or create new components during the Wrap-up Stage, the development process is in the Production and Connection Stage and not in the Wrap-up Stage and should be addressed accordingly.

If during the Wrap-up Stage CreativityModel Method user needs to create new structural storyline parts, or needs to change the order of the existing structural storyline parts, the development process is in the Initial Stage and not in the Wrap-up Stage.

Similarly, if during the Wrap-up Stage CreativityModel Method user needs to modify the project's goals or theme, the project's development is back in the Initial Stage.

The Wrap-up Stage and Project Completion Criteria

A project is complete when CreativityModel Method user believes that the project achieves its goals – if goals were established for the project – and the project's content reflects its theme, the structural storyline is in accordance with the theme and goals, the structural storyline parts and all the components can be connected without gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions, and none of the structural storyline parts or components can be removed without creating gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions.

CreativityModel Method user determines whether or not any gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions exist and the rest of the above conditions have been met. Additionally, every person who evaluates the project may also determine whether or not any gaps, inconsistencies, or contradictions exist and the rest of the above conditions have been met. Different persons who evaluate the project may have differing views regarding any of the qualities of the project.

If the project is not complete to CreativityModel Method user's satisfaction during the Wrap-up Stage, he or she should identify the incomplete elements, return to the Initial Stage, and complete the project.

Pooling and Project Development Stages

Pooling is also addressed in the **Creating Project Content Components** section and **Choice Supported Creative Approach** section.

Pooling, or element pooling is the process of creating and gathering together groups of alternative elements and solutions. Project development stages influence the relevant processes.

Element pooling process applies primarily to components, but also to other elements and can be utilized during the first two stages (Initial Stage and Production and Connection Stage).

All elements and especially components can be created, stored, accessed, and developed in random order anytime during the Initial Stage. Primarily during the Production and Connection Stage project's theme and goals are used for further development of such components and for tying together in a meaningful way the initially randomly-located components.

Pooling processes for structural storyline parts and components can take place more than once and at any time during the first two stages. A project's goals and/or theme pooling should be limited to the Initial Stage. If you need to pool and modify the project's goals and/or theme during the Production and Connection Stage or the Wrap-up Stage, the project development process is back in the Initial Stage.

A project should have a theme that reflects the project's essence and meaning. If there are alternative themes for the project, it is advisable to establish a specific theme before eliminating or narrowing down any components.

If achieving project goals is a priority, and the project has already been started and there are alternative sets of goals, then the goals should be specified before the Initial Stage is completed. After the goals are specified, they can be used for narrowing down the theme, and for defining project's structural storyline parts and components.

Next, alternative structural storylines, if they exist, and alternative structural storyline parts should be evaluated against the specified theme and goals. Thereafter, you can do the same with components.

During the Production and Connection Stage and the Wrap-up Stage, structural storyline parts and components should be modified and eliminated as necessary, so that the selected structural parts and components reflect the theme and, as applicable, help to achieve the project's goals and to complete the project.

Even if there are no alternative goals, themes, or structural storyline parts, these previously created structural storyline parts and components that are not truly necessary may have to be left out of the project.

During the Production and Connection Stage it is advisable to review all the elements after each pooling process in order to avoid having to deal with a chaotic project development processes that can result from having several structural storyline parts containing large number of undeveloped or underdeveloped pooled elements. The latter situation can easily create information overflow and obstruct the development process.

Additional Functionality Units

CreativityModel Method element's creating processes and stages collectively can be defined and viewed as the Main Development Stream. In addition, CreativityModel Method can be enhanced by using Additional Functionality Units, which are methods, computer application objects, or other types of tools that extend or enhance CreativityModel Method or the CreativityModel tools' functionality.

For example, individual CreativityModel Method users can utilize additional methods or tools for creatively developing the elements, for enhancing creativity, or for improving research processes results. Similarly, computer application developers who use CreativityModel Method for application development can create tools that provide creativity-enhancing assistance, or help with searching for relevant material.

Such Additional Functionality Units can be useful, these additional methods and tools are outside of the scope of the current version of CreativityModel Method.