

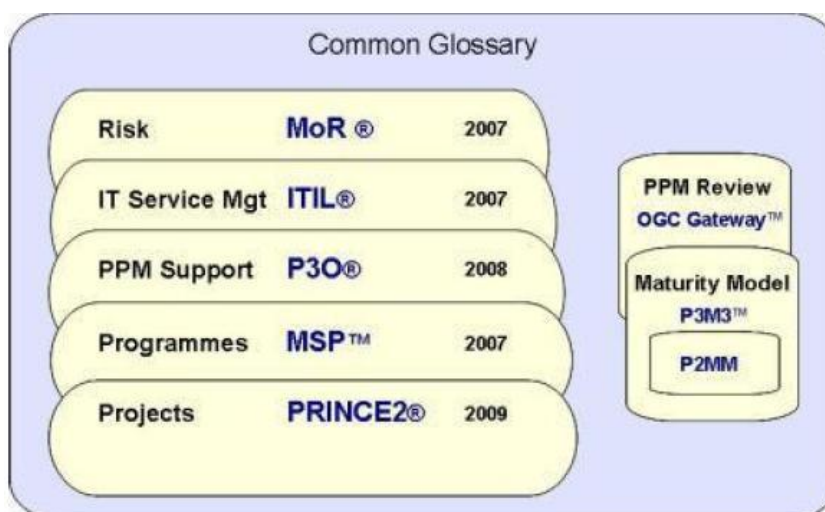
The Latest Update of PRINCE2 is Launched on 16 June 2009

These notes were originally published by 'Focus on Training'

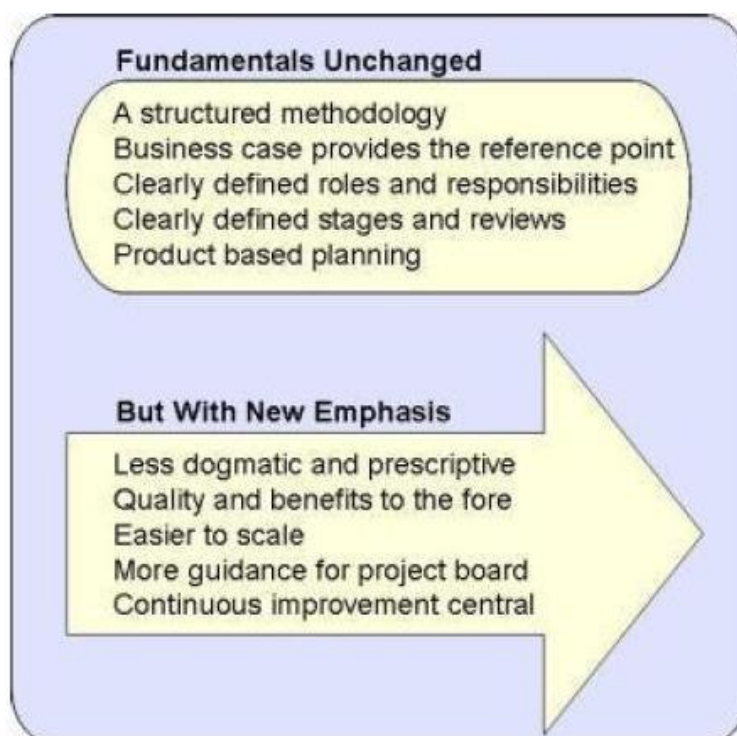
1. Why, What and When?

The "refresh" of PRINCE2 is part of a regular programme of review and updating which has been ongoing since PRINCE first emerged in the mid 1990s.

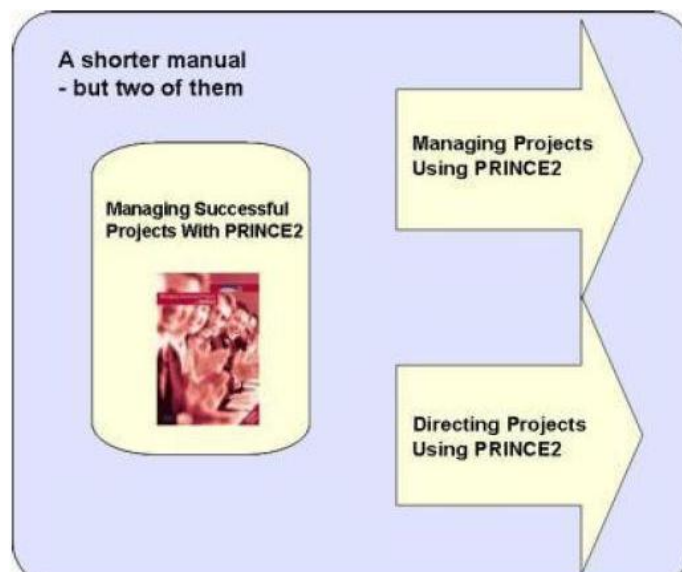
PRINCE2 is a core component within a family of "Best Practice" guidance which has been developed by the OGC. Other elements of this guidance such as ITIL have been issued or refreshed over the past 3 years. With the re-launch of PRINCE2 there is an opportunity to achieve tighter alignment of these methodologies - and to ensure greater commonality of terminology.



The re-launch is the culmination of a long consultation process with people who know and work with PRINCE2. An attempt was made to distil those aspects of PRINCE2 which were perceived to be essential (eg the product based approach). Alongside this were considered a number of "dislikes" (eg manual too big) and "change requests" (eg integration with MSP).



An early objective was to make the guidance "easier to digest" and less bureaucratic. The official manual has been reduced in size - in part by creating a second volume which is aimed at those with the role of supervising projects. The volume "Managing Successful Projects with PRINCE2" covers all the knowledge necessary to become a PRINCE2 project manager (it's the only manual required for Foundation and Practitioner certification).



The official launch of the new publications is on the **16 June 2009** and there will be phased introduction of the new training and exams over the following **3 months**.

2. PRINCE2 Methodology - What's New?

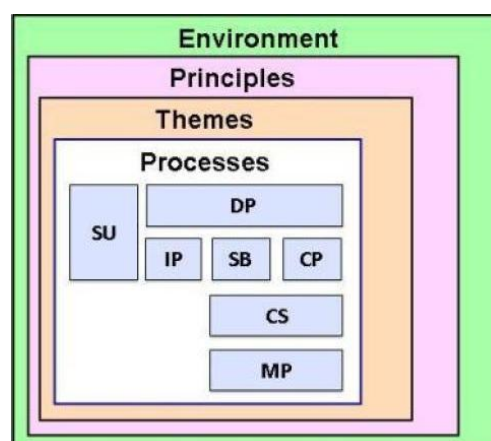
It really is a case of evolution and not revolution. The main influences relate to placing PRINCE2 projects in a broader business context - and removing some of the more obscure and prescriptive terminology which created the impression of bureaucracy.

The headlines in numbers are:

- 7 Processes (previously 8)
- 0 Sub Processes (previously 45)
- 7 Themes (previously 8 Components)
- 7 Principles (previously 0)
- 0 Techniques (previously 3)
- 27 Management Products (previously 36)
- 2 Manuals (previously 1)

PRINCE2 STRUCTURE - Embedded in a Broader Context

The core process methodology of PRINCE2 is now put at the heart of a broader and more generic management and business context.



The "Themes" are the renamed "Components" and are those generic project management disciplines which are important to PRINCE2.

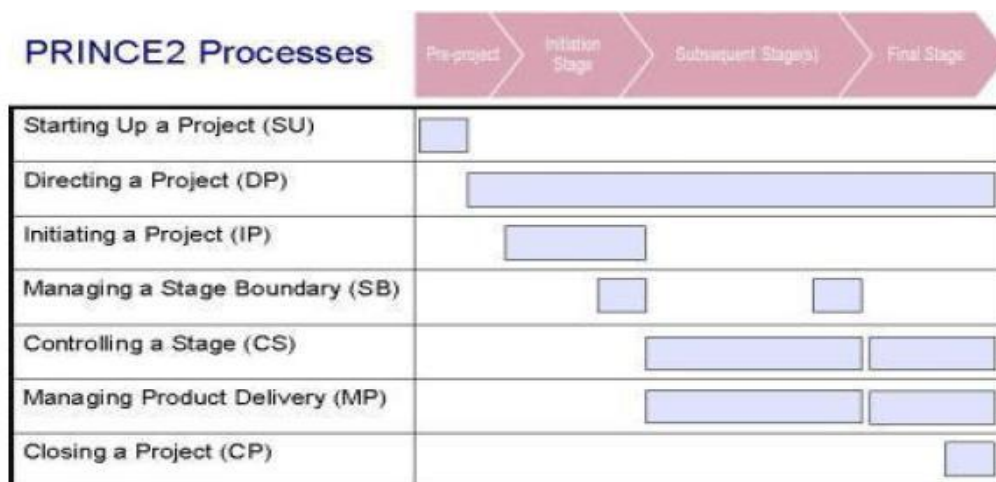
The "Principles" represent the approaches and behaviours adopted by those who implement successful PRINCE2 projects. It's an effort to counter the situation where people follow the letter but not the spirit of PRINCE2 (PINO - Prince In Name Only).

The "Environment" seeks to link individual PRINCE2 project into the broader organisational landscape described in OGC guidance such as the PRINCE2 Maturity Model and P30. It also acknowledges the need to adapt the Themes and Processes to meet the context of a given project.

PRINCE2 PROCESSES - Tidied Up

The one Process that has been dropped is "Planning". This might seem like a major mistake for a Best Practice project management methodology but it's a good decision. Planning (and specifically product based planning) remains a major element of PRINCE2. It is well covered in other sections of the guidance and its removal as a "process" does not mark any significant change.

The removal of the sub processes with names such as "CS9" will come as a relief to those exam candidates without a good memory. The philosophy here is that the terminology does not need to be so prescriptive - and it will be part of the project manager's role to define more or fewer activities depending on the nature of the project.



PRINCE2 THEMES - Replace Components

The change in name is intended to acknowledge that these are not an exhaustive set of tools and approaches which will collectively provide you with all you need to be a good project manager. There are other important areas such as scheduling, communication, motivation, negotiation, conflict management, and cost accounting which have never featured centrally within PRINCE2. However the "Themes" are project management tools and approaches which have very specific meaning and importance within PRINCE2.

"Configuration" is the one item which has been removed from this list. Configuration management has not disappeared but is now covered under the "Change" heading. The terminology is also now more consistent with use of "configuration management" within other best practice guidance.

PRINCE2 ~~Components~~ Themes

Business Case	Is the project desirable, viable and achievable?
Organisation	The structure of accountability and responsibilities
Quality	Create and verify products that are fit for purpose
Plans	What, when, how, where, by whom – and for how much?
Risk	Identify, assess and control uncertainty
Change	Identify, assess and control changes to objectives
Progress	Evaluate actual achievements with planned and forecast

Directing Projects using PRINCE2

It is well known that a major reason for the under performance of projects (PRINCE2 or otherwise) is the failure of senior project owners to provide appropriate direction, support and control.

The second new manual will act as a handbook for senior managers and project board members, describing how to oversee projects being managed using PRINCE2. It will also help those working within a programme and project support office by clarifying project governance and senior management responsibilities.

3. Training Courses & Certification

As with the changes to the methodology itself, the changes to the training and qualification structure affect detail rather than the bigger picture. The hierarchy of Foundation and Practitioner Certificates remains.

The new exams will be based on only one of the 2 new official manuals - "Managing Projects Using PRINCE2". If there is demand then it is possible that an additional qualification based on "Directing Projects Using PRINCE2" will be introduced.

The new exams will start to be available in June 2009 though there will be a transition period of at least 3 months before exams based on the 2005 version of PRINCE2 are withdrawn. Perhaps the most important point for those contemplating PRINCE2 certification is that the Practitioner exam is perceived to have become too easy and this will be addressed when the PRINCE2 2009 exams are launched!

Qualification Structure (based on preliminary information)

1. Foundation Certificate

This level is aiming to measure whether a candidate would be able to act as an informed member of a project management team using the PRINCE2 method within a project environment supporting PRINCE2.

The Foundation exam is a one hour, closed book, multiple choice paper. There will be 80 questions (75 currently) and the opportunity for 76 marks. 38 marks are required to pass. The format of answer sheets is changing slightly to facilitate automated marking.

2. Practitioner Certificate

This level is aiming to measure whether a candidate could apply PRINCE2 to the running and managing of a non-complex project within an environment supporting PRINCE2.

The Practitioner exam is a 2.5 hour exam (currently 3 hour) with graduated multiple choice questions based on a project scenario (candidates are allowed access to the PRINCE2 manual). There will be 9 questions per paper each worth 12 marks. The pass mark will be determined based on the experience of pilot examinations yet to be completed.

3. Re-Registration

In order to retain certification as a registered PRINCE2 Practitioner it will remain a requirement to sit a reregistration exam 3 to 5 years from the date of your Practitioner exam. The introduction of PRINCE2 2009 does not accelerate the requirement for re-registration but the exam will be based on the new manual.

Validity of Qualifications

Investment in training on previous PRINCE2 versions will not be lost as it is still a valid and productive methodology for the management of projects. Users of the 2005 version are under no obligation to update - other than when it comes to re-registration.

Definitive Information

You are advised to visit the official PRINCE2 website to ensure that you have access to the latest information from the organisation responsible for PRINCE2 certification.

<http://www.prince-officialsite.com/>

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