

Overview on Project Management

Project Management is a series of methods, frameworks, and tools that are typically owned by Project Managers (obvi), Production Coordinators, Production Managers, and Producers.

There is a lot of nomenclature that's used here (particularly in corporate and DevOps settings).

This language might feel complicated, but it's really stuff you're probably doing anyway:

- Managing Calendars
- Managing Tasks
- Managing Workflow

Project Management is a legit and respectable profession, but the culture surrounding it can feel opaque and career-coach adjacent. Don't be scared!

In Project Management, there are a bunch of traditional approaches that may sound familiar to you. Here's a hierarchical chart of how these things work. There are many other project management methods, but these are the ones that appear frequently in Creative Technology processes – at least, altruistically

- Overall Project Management Methods
 - Agile or Waterfall
 - Frameworks for Implementing an Agile Method (Flexible, Continuous Flow)
 - Scrum or Kanban
 - Sprints
 - Tasks
 - Tools for Managing a Method
 - Kanban *Boards*
 - Task Tracking Tools
- Structures for Implementing a Waterfall Method (Phase Based)
 - Tasks within Phases
 - Tools for Managing a Structure
 - Gantt Charts
 - Milestone Trackers
 - Traditional Calendars



Contextual Example

You can use a series of approaches to project management *within a single project*.

- Gantt chart to manage the overall timeline of a project – this is a *Waterfall* approach to time (e.g., the pre-production phase is fixed timing of 2 months)
- Scrum Framework to manage the tasks, a Scrum approach to manage each sprint (e.g., the pre-production scrum includes the "locations search and locations acquisition" sprints)
- Kanban boards to manage the individual tasks (e.g., Jeff : scout Central Park then do a locations report. Tony : review all of Jeff's locations reports and create a summary for the EP. EP : confirm locations and get Jeff to confirm location acquisitions).

If this all makes sense to you, congratulations, you understand the basic concepts of Project Management.

Task & Project Management Tools

The best way to stay organized is to manage your tasks as well as manage what you own (and what you don't). You can do this using a notebook. If you don't do that already, start with that. A small upgrade from there is a checklist in a notes app. Upgrading from there is a seeming chaotic wasteland with so many products to choose from!



The tools to manage these tasks include the following software / methods :

- Jira
- Trello
- AirTable
- Miro
- Spreadsheets
- Shitty Notebook.

Most of these tools include all of the things you need to manage a project : Kanban boards, Gantt. task mgmt, etc.

Read more about admin and management tools [here](#).

I (Cam) know the vibe here is cynical, but this software is actually pretty great. AirTable is incredible. Trello is a gateway drug. Google's Spreadsheets are more of a DIY but very flexible approach, and most people speak spreadsheet. Practically, I have used spreadsheets for most situations because of that accessibility. Also, some companies manage projects using Google Slides or Keynote decks because it's a presentable format. Seems wild right? In some situations, this is actually very functional!

Methods for organizing tasks and managing projects is kind of like being a photographer. What's the best camera to use? The one you've got right now. What's the best tool for project management? Probably: the one your team is using right now.

Revision #4

Created 2025-05-03 19:21:04 UTC by Cam Vokey

Updated 2025-05-04 19:09:41 UTC by Cam Vokey