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# IMPLEMENTING THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## Chapter Summary

Developing a computer system takes place in stages – the system development lifecycle (SDLC) was discussed in **Chapter 10**. The main role of the IS specialist is system analysis and design and a number of SA&D techniques were explained in **Chapter 11**. The key remaining activities/stages that have to be undertaken by the project team are:

- ◆ Project planning. The project manager (see **Chapter 3**) must plan the project. The techniques of PERT and Gantt charts can be used for planning and progress monitoring.
- ◆ Production (or procurement) of software. This may be achieved by: a bought-in system, using an application generator or programming.
- ◆ Testing. The project team must make sure that the software works, is robust and fulfils the user requirements. Testing cannot guarantee these qualities but we can at least provide some assurance that the software is fit for purpose.
- ◆ Implementation. Once the system is ready (or we think it is ready) it has to *go live*. This requires careful preparation – a failed implementation of a *mission critical* IS can have serious consequences for the organization.
- ◆ Maintenance. Once live, the IS will have to be maintained and enhanced. Maintenance is vital but time consuming and costly.

Eventually, the IS reaches the end of its useful life and we start the SDLC again on a replacement system.

