

Episode 11. Effects of two styles of WBS, lateral sentence-connecting and vertical parent-child, on the balance of contents and the prevention of “missing items” or “faulty items”

See Figure 1 in Episode 11.

(A) on the left was prepared by a company as the WBS of an XXX software structure. It was not well itemized and needed a revision to make it clearer; however, it was not clear how to revise it.

The author advised the company to rearrange the WBS as shown in (B) to find “missing items” or “unbalanced items.” (B) shows the rearrangement of (A) without any change in the contents.

(B) demonstrates what we could not see in (A). That is, (B) readily shows the unbalance in the parent-child relations, which was not clearly found in (A). For example, it can easily be detected that the position of "6.3 Project Management" under "6. Technical Management System" is wrong.

The above comparison shows that the arrangement in (B) clarifies the parent-child and horizontal relations. This is probably because our eyes are horizontally arranged.

Therefore, the parent-child-type WBS should first be prepared, as shown in (B), and then, if necessary, re-arranged to the horizontal-connection-type of (A) so that it can easily be written out using a word processor.

If possible, however, it would be better to leave it unchanged, as shown in (B), because the parent-child-type produces far fewer mistakes, is easily understood, and is useful for grasping and adjusting the total image of WBS.

Episode 11 Fig.1

