

2. Clarifies for all staff and management the long range strategy and plans of the organization such as the PPO, and avoids fear, resistance, and confusion.
3. Permits the organization to take advantage of appropriate technologies at appropriate times to improve business and products/services. Facilitates planned technological change in place of reactive and typically overdue change.
4. Maximizes the investment of limited financial and personnel resources in planned and prioritized developments.
5. Minimizes panic and wasteful reactions to unforeseen events and demands. Greatly increases preparadeness.
6. Provides a logical and controlled context for life cycle system and application upgrade.

The last point above mentions life cycle management of an informatics program. This is highly recommended to the PPO as an important management tool tied to strategic plans for informatics. Reasons for this recommendation include the following elements:

- (a) Permits a long range strategic plan for informatics to incorporate system and application upgrade for obsolescence as well as other factors such as demand growth, need for new technologies, etc. Termination of a life cycle is another justification for budgeted change, which frequently in a proper planning environment will be synchronized with the introduction of other desired improvements.
- (b) Aids the organization in maximizing technological opportunities by permitting evaluation of newer techniques on a regular cyclical basis. The