Your guide to the PRINCE2® 2017 Update
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Why update PRINCE2?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What are the main updates?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New Manual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum PRINCE2 and Scaleability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Transitioning from PRINCE2 2009 to 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Staying registered and AXELOS Membership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

In January 2017 AXELOS, the owners of the PRINCE2 method, announced the arrival of updated PRINCE2 guidance and examinations. The new version was released to the public in May and Tanner James is now providing PRINCE2 2017 update sessions and full Foundation & Practitioner Courses.

The update has been developed in close consultation and collaboration with industry experts, coaches, trainers, consultants, and academics across different industries and countries.

Tanner James’ very own Executive Chairman, John Howarth, was part of the Global Advisory Board and Official Reference Group for the update.

Tanner James has put together this e-book to help you understand why the update came about, what’s changed, and what it will mean for you and your organisation going forward.

ABOUT TANNER JAMES

Founded in 1994, Tanner James brought PRINCE2 to Australia and since then has trained over fifteen thousand participants from the Government and private sectors.

We deliver a range of PRINCE2, MSP® and other AXELOS products in-house and publicly. Our offerings are unique providing attendees with flexible attendance and tools to be able to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom when they get back to the workplace. To find out more click here.
WHY UPDATE PRINCE2?

While PRINCE2 was still relevant and there was nothing fundamentally wrong with it, the global PRINCE2 community felt that the product needed to be enhanced and AXELOS listened. The majority of the updates were related to feedback suggesting:

- Tailoring was not visible enough
- There was insufficient guidance on organizations adopting PRINCE2
- The Change theme launched straight into configuration management
- More emphasis could have been placed on practical considerations
- It was overly biased toward process
- There was not enough focus on pre and post project activities, e.g. benefits
- Logical concepts to the Plans theme were found elsewhere in the guide
- The risk theme was not as aligned to MoR® as it should have been.

These concerns have been addressed in what we think is a considerable improvement. The emphasis on tailoring and practical application particularly are areas that we think will be significant in helping Australian Government Departments and Agencies see success in their projects and programmes and see better returns on their investment in their change portfolio.

The update responds to the demands of today’s working environment. An increase in expectations from stakeholders and a working culture of flexibility and agility are becoming commonplace in today’s business world and this update gives PRINCE2 a greater level of practicality in its guidance and more pragmatic flexibility in this changing environment.
WHAT ARE THE MAIN UPDATES?

TAILORING

One of the biggest and most exciting changes in this update covers tailoring.

Most significantly the tailoring section of the manual has been moved from the back end of the manual to the front. This ensures tailoring isn’t relegated to an afterthought in the way the method is implemented and used.

The PRINCE2 2017 manual explicitly says:

"IF YOU ARE NOT TAILORING, YOU ARE NOT USING PRINCE2."

The new manual features extensive guidance on tailoring, organisational adoption, and application in practice. It explains exactly how the method can be tailored for agile projects and makes reference to PRINCE2 Agile, simple projects, projects in a programme, and projects involving commercial suppliers.

The philosophy and practice of tailoring is a thread that now runs throughout the method and training courses make it clear that PRINCE2 must be tailored to create an organisation’s project management framework, and that framework must also be tailored to suit each individual project.

WANT TO FIND OUT A BIT MORE ABOUT TAILORING?
Read John Howarth’s blogs on the tailoring in the PRINCE2 2017 Update:

Avoid elaborate bureaucracy: how to tailor PRINCE2

Bureaucrats beware: if you aren’t tailoring PRINCE2, you aren’t using PRINCE2
THE NEW MANUAL

If you’re familiar with the AXELOS guides you’ll notice the new manual. It is bright with colourful tables and diagrams following the direction of the recent PRINCE2 Agile manual and a departure from the monochromatic, mundane appearance of previous guides.

► The manual’s use for practical application

A great feature in the new manual is the revised call-out boxes that more clearly distinguish between examinable content and case study examples as well as hints and tips for use of the guide. The Definitions, Key Messages and Information boxes denote examinable content. While the Tips and Example boxes shown throughout the manual are non-examinable they are helpful resources for practicing PRINCE2 Practitioners, re-enforcing the focus on practical use of the manual and method.

► The new chapter layout

The revised chapter layout ensures relevant guidance is easy to find when you need it. It breaks each Theme down into what is meant by the theme, the key requirements for implementing the theme in PRINCE2®, further guidance (including tailoring), and techniques which might be useful in application of the theme.

► More information on the new manual

AXELOS is offering a free download the Content summary and Chapter 4, Tailoring and adopting PRINCE2, of Managing Successful Projects with PRINCE2® (2017 Edition). It can be found here.

You can get the detailed “changes to the manual” document directly from AXELOS here.
MINIMUM PRINCE2 AND SCALEABILITY

The new manual provides guidance on scaling PRINCE2 including:

- Required elements and those that don’t need to be applied entirely depending on the size of the project.
- Identifying the minimum requirement for a PRINCE2 project and selecting the PRINCE2 elements that best suit the project.

EXAMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Exam</th>
<th>Practitioner Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of questions reduced from 75 (including trial questions) to 60 with no trial questions.</td>
<td>Number of questions reduced from 80 to 68.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam duration stays at one hour.</td>
<td>Exam duration stays at two and a half hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass mark changed from 50% to 55%.</td>
<td>Pass mark changed from 44 to 38 (approximately 55%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative questions removed and number of list and missing word questions reduced, i.e. more standard questions.</td>
<td>Multiple response and assertion reason questions removed. Reduced scenario material.</td>
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DOES THE THOUGHT OF EXAMS FREAK YOU OUT?

Tanner James offers flexible exams to let you decide when you’re ready to sit your exam. Find out more about flexible exams here.
TRANSITIONING FROM PRINCE2 2009 TO 2017

IF YOU DO NOT HOLD A PRINCE2 QUALIFICATION

Book on a Foundation course and you will learn PRINCE2 in the new 2017 version. Simple as that.

IF YOU DO HOLD A PRINCE2 QUALIFICATION

► If you only hold PRINCE2 (2009) Foundation status

The Foundation qualification does not expire, but if you intend to become a practitioner and you are foundation qualified in the 2009 version you have a couple of options:

● Attain PRINCE2 2009 Practitioner certification.

Tanner James will be running (2009) Practitioner courses in the next few months according to demand. If you attain PRINCE2 2009 Practitioner before 31 December 2017 your registration will remain current for five years at the end of which you will have the same options to remain current as those listed below for existing PRINCE2 (2009) Registered Practitioners

● Attain PRINCE2 2017 Practitioner certification.

You will need to update yourself on the 2017 changes to PRINCE2 (our workshop “A detailed look at the PRINCE2 2017 Update” is perfect for this). Then you will need to prepare for and pass the PRINCE2 2017 Practitioner exam. Tanner James recommends that your preparation includes attendance at a PRINCE2 2017 Practitioner course. Your PRINCE2 2017 Practitioner registration will then remain current for three years.

PART OF A PMO OR A MANAGER OF YOUR ORGANISATIONS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY?

We offer all of these options run specifically for your team in-house using case studies based on your organisations current projects.

Also, click here to find out about our workshop designed specifically to help Framework Owners and PMO roles understand and transition to the 2017 Update.
If you hold PRINCE2 (2009) Practitioner status

The PRINCE2 (2009) Registered Practitioner qualification is valid for five years from the date of qualification or re-registration.

If you are currently a registered PRINCE2 (2009) Practitioner your registration remains valid for five years. The shorter re-registration exam has been removed by AXELOS as of 1 July 2017. Registered PRINCE2 (2009) Practitioners, who require re-registration will then have a choice of two ways by which to demonstrate their competence. These are:

- By passing the PRINCE2 (2017) Practitioner exam prior to the expiry of their current registration; or
- By participation in the AXELOS PRINCE2 Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme to demonstrate their on-going professional involvement and maintenance of competency.

Attainment of PRINCE2 2017 Registered Practitioner status remains current for three years following which currency of registration is maintained by resiting the Practitioner exam or by having been an active participant in the AXELOS CPD Programme (keep reading to find out more).
As mentioned, after passing the 2017 Practitioner exam there are two ways for Practitioners to stay registered.

One is by resiting the whole Practitioner exam again at the end of the three year period; there is no re-registration exam anymore.

The other way to stay registered is through AXELOS Membership and continuing professional development (CPD).

To maintain your PRINCE2 registration through AXELOS membership you must:

- Join within three months of passing your exam. (AXELOS has recently announced that candidates who sit a PRINCE2 2017 exam are eligible to claim one year’s PRINCE2 Membership free of charge. Following the first year you will need to continue your membership at your cost which is currently priced at £50 plus VAT per annum.)

- You will be awarded a digital badge when you sign up to the membership. You will then need to maintain your digital badge by recording 20 CPD points each year. These are awarded for activities such as; training courses, self study, blog writing, attending events

AXELOS membership isn’t just a great way to keep your certification up-to-date through professional development. Membership also includes useful resources such as; white papers, webinars, exam support and other practical content.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AXELOS MEMBERSHIP CLICK HERE
Tanner James Executive Chairman, John Howarth, was part of the Global Advisory Board and the official reference group for the PRINCE2 2017 update.

John will take you through a detailed 1/2 day workshop discussing the PRINCE2 2017 Update giving you the opportunity to dive into what it really means for you in your workplace. You will be able to ask specific questions from an expert as well as getting a detailed run through on the changes.

John will take you through a detailed session discussing the PRINCE2 2017 Update from the perspective of the organisation, covering the following topics:

- Features of the 2017 update that are important for framework owners and PMOs including:
  - Tailoring
  - Minimum PRINCE2
  - Practical application for different environments and delivery approaches
  - Organisational adoption
- Organisational transition for departments and agencies already using PRINCE2.
- Q&A Session.