

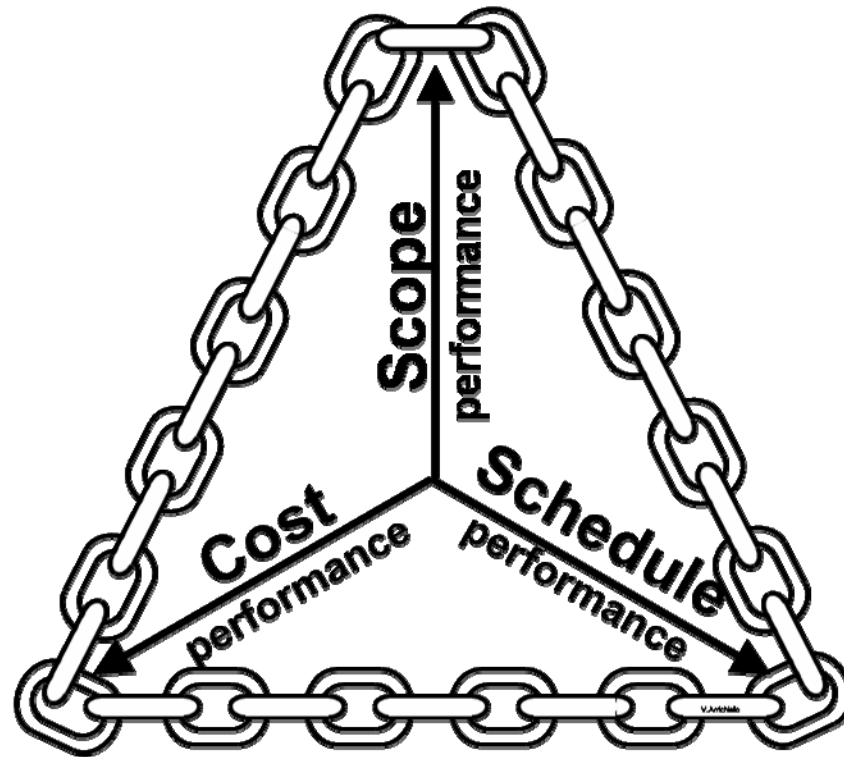
# The “IRON TRIANGLE”

*by Vincenzo Arrichiello*

The relationship between project **cost**, **schedule**, and **scope** is well known to project managers, and is commonly referred to as the “**iron triangle**,” reflecting the fact that [a] project manager can often **modify the value of one** of these parameters, **but only at the expense of the other two**.

SPECIAL REPORT CMU/SEI-2008-SR-034, "A Survey of Systems Engineering Effectiveness - Initial Results", Joseph P. Elm, Dennis R. Goldenson, Khaled El Emam, Nicole Donatelli, Angelica Neisa, NDIA SE Effectiveness Committee, Carnegie Mellon University, Software Engineering Institute, Acquisition Support Program, December 2008

# the “IRON TRIANGLE”



**If the focus is on Cost  
and Schedule alone, the  
Scope gets “*squeezed*”**

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