

Why IT Projects Fail

There are a number of surveys that identify why IT projects fail:

Center for Project Management Study:

- Mistaking half-baked ideas for projects
- Inadequate due diligence – is the project feasible?
- Poor sponsorship
- Under-skilled project managers
- Failing to deploy a robust project management process
- Not monitoring the vital signs
- Absence of a well managed project portfolio.

Penn State University Study

- Lack of corporate leadership
- Poorly communicated deliverables and goals
- Team-related weaknesses
- Poor project management
- Deviation from schedule or budget
- Notice that there is no mention of technical limits

Research from University of Karlsruhe

- Poor project management
- Uncontrolled “soft factors”
- Absence of change management

An effective Change Management process ensures that proposed changes are assessed, and then accepted or rejected. This helps prevent “scope creep”, whereby unapproved changes can delay a project, increase its cost, and affect quality.

Awareness of Factors Leading to Failure

From this research, a number of factors have an impact on the effectiveness of most IT projects:

- Organizations must deploy a robust project management process
- Soft skills, such as team-building, ability to communicate effectively, problem-solving skills, leadership skills, and analytical thinking are key project management skills.
- Executive sponsors must clearly understand their roles and responsibilities in a project environment and must provide the essential support needed.
- To ensure feasibility, the careful filtering and selection (or rejection) of a project early on will have a positive impact on that project’s future success.

REFERENCES

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