Question of the day

What was the most important factor in causing your team project to either succeed or fail?

Critical Success Factors in Software Projects

John Reel
IEEE Software
May/June 1999

10 signs of IS project failure

- Project managers don’t understand users’ needs
- The project’s scope is ill-defined
- Project changes are managed poorly
- The chosen technology changes
- Business needs change

10 signs of IS project failure

- Deadlines are unrealistic
- Users are resistant
- Sponsorship is lost
- The project lacks people with appropriate skills
- Managers ignore best practices and lessons learned

Five Essential Factors

- Start on the right foot
- Maintain momentum
- Track progress
- Make smart decisions
- Institutionalize post-mortem analyses

Start on the right foot

- Set realistic objectives and expectations – for everyone
- Build the right team
- Give the team what they think they need
Maintain the momentum

- Attrition – keep it low
- Quality – monitor it early on and establish an expectation of excellence
- Management – manage the product more than the people

Track progress

- Have a schedule and milestones
- Figure out where you are in your schedule

Make Smart decisions

- Don’t reinvent the wheel
- Pick fundamental technology
- Anticipate changes and insulate yourself from them
- Avoid extra complexity

Post-mortem analysis

- Learn from your mistakes
- Six steps for a post-mortem
  - Declare the intent at the beginning
  - Select the participants
  - Gather data
  - Conduct review
  - Present results
  - Adopt recommendations

TTYP - CIS540 team projects

- What went right?
- What went wrong?
- What should have been predictable?
- What should have been avoidable?
- What would you do next time?