**The Unhappy Stakeholder**

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As the Project Manager for this initiative, I am responsible for upgrading the network and laptop equipment for our organization, which includes 150 employees across 48 states in the United States. This project involves updating laptop systems and installing new routers along with 2-3 switches at each site. The success of this project depends on meticulous planning and informed decisions regarding hardware selection and deployment. This paper outlines a project management plan detailing the phases of implementation, cost considerations, and justifications for hardware selection to meet stakeholder expectations and organizational goals.

**Project Management Plan**

To ensure an efficient upgrade across all sites, the project is divided into key phases. The first phase, **Planning and Research**, involves gathering data from each location to understand their unique requirements and network infrastructure. This includes conducting site surveys and engaging with stakeholders to clarify expectations.

The second phase, **Procurement**, focuses on selecting the appropriate hardware while staying within budget. The team will evaluate various models of laptops, routers, and switches to ensure optimal performance, cost efficiency, and compatibility. Decisions will be made on whether to standardize equipment or customize it based on specific site needs. Negotiation with suppliers also comes in handy here, to get the best bang for our buck when we start ordering.

**Implementation** is the third phase, where new equipment is deployed across all sites. This requires close coordination with local IT staff to manage the installation and configuration of the hardware. Sites will be prioritized to minimize disruptions, and initial testing will ensure all equipment functions properly.

**Interdependencies and Risks**

The project involves several interdependencies that require careful coordination. Risks such as delivery delays, hardware compatibility issues, or unexpected technical challenges could arise. To mitigate these risks, contingency plans will be developed, including backup hardware options and multiple suppliers to prevent delays. Regular communication with stakeholders and site managers will be key to addressing issues promptly.

**Hardware Selection Justification**

Choosing the right hardware is essential for project success. Laptops will be selected based on processing power, battery life, durability, and software compatibility to ensure a consistent user experience. Routers and switches will be chosen for their ability to handle current network loads and provide future scalability. Standardizing equipment where possible will simplify maintenance and reduce costs, while customization will be considered for sites with unique needs.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, this project requires a structured plan covering all phases, from planning to implementation and risk management. By carefully considering costs, understanding task interdependencies, identifying risks, and selecting appropriate hardware, the plan aims to deliver a robust network infrastructure that meets organizational needs and enhances productivity.

**References**

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