Database Project Plan Essay

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Introduction

The purpose of the implementation plan is to outline the project development process for creating a software-tracking database for a college, following the six project management phases as described in the Project Management Handbook by Wouter Baars (2006). I aim to showcase a solid understanding of project management concepts. Over the course of this essay, we will discuss the six project management phases and work through each one as we work through a hypothetical project.

The Six Phases of Project Development

Each phase is concerned with different issues regarding the project's life cycle. The initiation phase is where the idea for the project is brainstormed, with the goal of determining the project's feasibility. The definition phase involves understanding the logistics of the project and its various potential requirements as definitively as possible. The design phase is where all the early low-fidelity prototyping gets done. The development phase takes the design prototypes from the previous phase and creates higher-fidelity prototypes that are at least semi-operational. Next is the implementation phase, where all the design and development culminates into a singular fully functioning product. This phase concludes with the resulting product being evaluated according to its designs and launching. Finally, the follow-up phase is where all the post launch maintenance and other supporting occurs to keep the project running smoothly.

Initiation

This hypothetical project asks that we develop a database to track various information regarding the software used at a college all according to certain specifications. The project's scope is to create a comprehensive database that includes information about the type of software, software developer, software version, licensing agreements, the departments currently using the software, the computers in the department on which the software is installed, and finally the date the software was installed on that computer. It is also of note that the database will be used and maintained by the college's IT department for software management.

Definition

The Definition phase of the project is a critical stage where we engage with department heads and IT staff to thoroughly gather and document the specific requirements of the software-tracking database. This phase is all about understanding the needs and expectations of the college and its stakeholders. Baars states that "it is very important that all parties that are involved in the project are able to collaborate during the definition phase, particularly the end users who will be using the project result" (2006, p. 4). For this reason, we will be certain to work hand in hand with the college's IT staff in order to make sure that everything works properly and exactly how they want it to.

Design

This is the phase where we communicate with the college's IT staff to gather and document the specific requirements of the software-tracking database. It is all about understanding the needs and expectations of the college and its stakeholders then putting it on a whiteboard and creating a rough sketch of the final product. The design phase is crucial for

translating project requirements into a well-structured and technically sound solution that serves as the blueprint for the subsequent phases. Once we settle on a solid design for the database prototype, being sure to include every specification, then we can move on to the development phase.

Development

Now that we have a blueprint for the software-tracking database system, the focus shifts from planning and design to the actual creation of the database system itself. This critical phase involves translating the design specifications into a functional and robust software solution. The database tables are created, relationships are established, and data migration from the existing sources is executed meticulously. Simultaneously, the front-end user interface is developed, ensuring that it aligns seamlessly with the design and usability requirements. Everything must be in place and ready to ship for those that will carry out the implementation in the following phase (Baars, 2006, p. 6).

Implementation

The implementation phase of this project is the pivotal stage where all the planning and design efforts translate into the actual development and deployment of the software-tracking database. During this phase, the designed database schema is brought to life, and the user interface is developed to ensure efficient data entry and retrieval. Baars states that “at the end of the implementation phase, the result is evaluated according to the list of requirements that was created in the definition phase” (2006, p. 7). This evaluation involves rigorous testing to identify and address any issues as quickly as possible.

Follow-Up

The follow-up phase represents the culmination of the software-tracking database project, where the focus shifts from the development to ongoing maintenance and optimization. In this phase, monitoring mechanisms are put into place to ensure the database's performance and security remain robust. Regular maintenance routines, including software updates and data backups, are established to prevent system failures and data from being lost. The college's IT staff are provided with extensive training on how to best utilize the new database and then the project team is dismantled.

Conclusion

This essay's aim to walk you through a comprehensive overview of the project development process for creating a software-tracking database for a college, following the six project management phases outlined by Wouter Baars has come to its conclusion. We began with the initiation phase, defining the project's scope and purpose. Then, in the definition phase, we engaged with stakeholders to gather specific requirements. The design phase involved translating these requirements into a well-structured blueprint. Moving on to the development phase, we transformed the design into a functional database system. In the crucial implementation phase, the database was deployed and rigorously tested, ensuring that it met the initial requirements. Finally, the follow-up phase highlighted the importance of ongoing maintenance, monitoring, and training to ensure the long-term success of the project.

References

Baars, W. (2006, July). *Project Management Handbook Version 1.1*. Projectmanagement-training.net – Training and courses for project leaders and project teams. https://www.projectmanagement-training.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/book_project_management.pdf