



Collaborative Discussion 1 (Project Failures Study)

Course: MSc Computer Science

Module: Software Engineering Project Management

Assignment: Collaborative Discussion 1 (Project Failures Study) – Summary Post

Date: Saturday 19th February 2022

Student ID: 126853

Post:

During these discussion posts, we have identified a series of commonly experienced causes of project failure as well as examples that support these cases.

The document produced by Lehtinen et al. (2014) shows that reasons for software failures can often be categorised into 4 distinct sections, namely People, Methods, Tasks and Environment. The same research paper also states that the cause of software project management can be attributed to management level failures 24% of the time, with the remaining percentage being lack of sufficient testing & generally poor implementation.

Further research and discussions with peers identified that one area that often receives less attention than necessary is the project planning phase. In some cases, a comprehensive list of key objectives is not established at this phase, nor is it discussed with the clients to identify any omissions or misunderstanding of pre-requisites. In some of the examples, such as the Gov.UK Verify Service, this lack of initial foresight meant that the project was destined to fail before it had even begun (National Audit Office, 2019).


References:

Lehtinen, A., Mäntylä, V., Vanhanen, J., Itkonen, J. & Lassenius, C. (2014)
Perceived causes of software project failures – An analysis of their relationships.
Information and Software Technology 56(6): 623–643. DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infsof.2014.01.015>

National Audit Office. (2019) Investigation into Verify. Available From:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/investigation-into-verify/> [Accessed 16th November 2021].

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