

CS4508

In-class Assessed Exercise

Thursday February 4th 2016

Time: 50 minutes

Answer all questions: 50 marks

Research the following IT project failures:

- A. The BBC Digital Media Initiative project, cancelled May 2013.
- B. The US Air Force ERP project (ECSS Expeditionary Combat Support System) cancelled in 2012.

Questions:

*There are many aspects to a project failure including politics, management process, and financial constraints. Here we are concerned with the **technical** aspects, and aspects that are specific to **software system engineering**.*

- 1) Give a brief outline of what each project was meant to achieve. [10 marks]
 - 2) Discuss the two most important **software system engineering** causes that contributed to each of the project failures. [20 marks]
 - 3) What, if any, different technical choice would you have made if you were in charge of the software system engineering for each project (one important suggestion for each project will suffice). [10 marks]
 - 4) Find another example of a recent software project failure, and discuss how much a better software system engineering process would have helped in avoiding the failure. [10 marks]
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