Info 3333 Group Project Individual Reflection

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Introduction

Every successful project needs to have a precise scope, which determines which work needs to be done in the project, and which one is not. . As such, this reflection will focus on the project scope explicitly, as a main aspect of project management in the ColesWorth project.

In IT project development practices, the selection of a good project management approach is extremely important, as it can effectively increase the workers’ efficiency. Thus, the group has chosen XP as our project management approach for its benefits.

·         Description of work produced / implementation

The project scope is the backbone of a project, as it defines what should be done and what shouldn’t in the whole project. We firstly created a frame for our project scope, then adjusted it based on further customer requirement. As we chose the XP approach, we selected the agile way to define a project scope, which includes gathering user stories by communicating with clients, producing requirements, and putting them into our scope. An outstanding benefit by using XP is, since XP is an agile method, that turned the scope into a flexible constraint, which neglects most negatives from scope creeping if a non-agile methodology is chosen.

When a client gives his requirement, we convert it into a user story, for better analyzing, then we turn the requirement into our requirement list, and finally integrates it into our project scope. The Out-of-scope tags are defined after consultant with customers.

The final deliverables are decided, after careful analyse and extensively communication with the client.

·         Comparison to different project management approach (Iterative Waterfall if XP, XP if Iterative or pure Waterfall).

For Group Processes, what approach did your group take for its own processes? How else could this have been managed?

o    Compare and contrast the way the work was produced to what it would look like under other project management approaches

o    This information should include:

§  Description of how the aspect would be implemented in the other project management approach

§  The advantages/ disadvantages of one approach over the other

§  If they do NOT differ, discuss why this would be the case

In our practice, we selected XP as our development methodology. XP is a project management approach that is based on frequent iteration and extensive vustomer approach. XP is built on an agile framework, and thus better suits for current IT projects, as most IT projects are prone to the risk of higher failure rate, due to lack of communication and understanding.

Comparing with traditional waterfall workflow, the project scope will be

XP is the most prominent of several agile software development methodologies and a management approach that require frequent iteration and heavily end-user (Customer) base approach. Also, it is a software development approach based on values of simplicity, communication, feedback, and courage. XP is more suitable for complete programming projects. As we do know, our approach is iterative. Instead of having an amount of sequential stages it runs the same lifecycle time after time until the final product is created. And it is too flexible, that is, it cannot be controlled and monitored easily. In another side, although it can be indeed going to develop a more comfortable service than other approaches does, it will not make our product original, that is, customers will not be attractive by our product. Hence, XP is not the proper choice for our project. For comparing with traditional waterfall: The traditional waterfall model is similar to the iterative one, since they both are sequential design processes in which progress is seen as flowing steadily downwards through each phase. And it is easy to manage due to the rigidity of the model, makes sure each phase has specific deliverables and a review process. But it is indeed not flexible because it limits the effectiveness of testing and increases the cost of risk management. Once an application is in the testing stage, it is very difficult to go back and change something that was not well thought out in the concept stage. For our approach, it provides feedback paths from every phase to its preceding phases. In another side, for the scope part, we cannot discover easily some new functions or features, since we will not get feedback in time from previous phase.

·         Reflection

o    Honest and critical evaluation of how the project management aspect was implemented in your project

o    This should include:

§  Strengths of your implementation

§  Areas you can identify for improvement

§  Advantages you found in using this project management approach with reference to your aspect (this should be based on your personal experience, NOT just list generic benefits)

§  Disadvantages you found in using this project management approach with reference to your aspect (this should be based on your personal experience, again NOT just generic detriments)

Now looking back on the whole the project development, our project keeps going in the correct direction since we discussed the scope again over again to look for some proper deliverables to update our system. Once we found a new risk that will affect our project is implemented successfully, we will request an update to check whether this kind of case is involved in our scope, if not, put the new one into the scope. Sometimes, we were just thinking about what will happen if we chose XP approach. Once XP is used, anything will be solved directly as we can get a solution from feedback path, and it is out of style actually. Well, it is my first time to meet this kind of huge project, since I just have done some small projects. And everyone in my group is pretty good, because we always met a problem together once something unexpected happen. Everyone will try their best to make contributions. We are devoted to help company earn more profits and find the suitable and proper features for our product by following our perfect Project Success Criteria.

Conclusion

In an IT project, the correct definition of scope and a proper project management approach can be critical to its success. Thus, In our group project, the group chose XP as management approach for its agile framework, and carefully refined the project scope based on communication to deliver the plan which best suits customer’s need.

references

* Fekete, A., & Hasan, R. (n.d.). INFO3333 Semester 1, 2019 Module 3 Lecture: Scope Management [PDF]. The University of Sydney School of IT. The University of Sydney Info 3333 slides
* Mary Lotz on July 5, 2018, Waterfall vs. Agile: Which is the Right Development Methodology for Your Project?, <https://www.seguetech.com/waterfall-vs-agile-methodology/>