

Introduction

In my initial post, I claimed inadequate testing, project complexity and project environment are the most common causes of project failure citing the European Space Agency Ariane 5 rocket disaster and Boeing 737-Max projects as examples of projects that have failed due to inadequate testing and project complexity.

After contributing to other students' discussion posts and receiving feedback from my peers I am still of the belief that inadequate testing, project complexity and project environment are the most common causes of project failure.

Mario's Peer Response

I agree with Mario that companies could benefit significantly from a more structured approach to testing such as those discussed in the book a structured approach to systems testing (Perry, 1983). Where I would disagree with Mario's response is where he said the funding allocated to testing is not an issue as budgets allocated for testing are between 25% and 90% of the total cost of a project. This large range suggests that this is not always the case as 25% is not enough for testing a highly complex project.

Anda's Peer Response

Before Anda's response I had not considered how other human related factors such as team dynamics and trust contribute to project failures. Being Autistic, I probably would not be able to spot if the team dynamics were problematic so I don't know how much value good team dynamics add to a project.

I agree with Anda that Project Complexity and Project Environment are closely intertwined as there is a lot of overlap between the two.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while there are a lot of different reasons why a project can fail the three most common reasons usually fall into the following three categories; testing, complexity and environment.

References

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