# Information Systems Development

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# System Development Life Cycle Overview

- The systems development life cycle (SDLC) is the process of determining how
  - an information system (IS) can support business needs,
  - designing the system,
  - building it,
  - and delivering it to users.
- Creating high-quality information system is complex.
- IT projects have a failure rate of 30-70%.
  - Many projects fail due to lack of understanding of organizational goals and integration.
- Primary Objective
  - Create value for the organization, not just a wonderful system.

#### Systems Analyst

- Key role in IS development projects.
- Works closely with project team members.
- Applies technology to solve business problems.
- Acts as change agents, designing systems and training users.

#### Systems Analyst Skills

- Technical: Understand technical environment and integrate solutions.
- Business: Apply IT to business processes for real value.
- Analytical: Solve problems at project and organizational levels.
- Interpersonal: Communicate effectively with various stakeholders.
- Management: Manage people, pressure, and risks.
- **Ethical:** Deal fairly and maintain confidentiality.

#### SDLC Phases

- Planning: Define project scope and objectives.
- Analysis: Understand business needs and requirements.
- Design: Create system architecture and design.
- Implementation: Build, test, and deliver the system.

#### Planning Phase

- Understand why an IS should be built and how to build it.
- Identify the system's business value during project initiation.
- System request summarizes business need and value.
  - Business Need: The business-related reason(s) for initiating the system
  - Business Requirements: The new or enhanced business capabilities that the system will provide
  - Business Value: The benefits that the system will create for the organization
  - Special Issues or Constraints: Issues that pertain to the approval committee's decision

#### Planning Phase - Feasibility Analysis

- Guides decision on whether to proceed with the project.
- Identifies important project risks.
- Examines:
  - **▶ Technical Feasibility:** Can we build it
  - **Economic Feasibility:** Will it provide business value
  - Organizational Feasibility: Will it be used

#### Technical Feasibility

- Assess if the system can be designed, developed, and installed.
- Risks include:
  - Familiarity with the application and technology.
  - Project size.
  - Compatibility with existing technology.

## Economic Feasibility

- Perform cost-benefit analysis.
- Determine financial worthiness by identifying costs/benefits, assigning values, and calculating future cash flows.

## Organizational Feasibility

- Assess system acceptance and integration into operations.
- Factors include:
  - Strategic alignment with business strategy.
  - Stakeholder analysis (project champion, management, users).

#### **Analysis Phase**

- Answers the questions of
  - who will use the system,
  - what the system will do,
  - where and when it will be used.
- Develop analysis strategy (study as-is system, design to-be system).
- Gather requirements (interviews, workshops, questionnaires).
- Create system proposal (analyses, system concept, requirements, models).
- Present proposal to project sponsor and key decision makers.

#### Design Phase

- Decides how the system will operate.
- Determine design strategy (in-house development, outsourcing, prewritten software).
- Develop architecture design, interface design, database and file specifications.
- Create detailed design
- Deliverable: System specification.
- Reexamine and revise feasibility analysis and project plan.

#### Implementation Phase

- System is built or purchased and installed.
- System construction and testing.
- System installation (old system off, new system on).
- Conversion approaches and user training.
- Establish support plan (post-implementation review, identify changes).

#### References

Systems Analysis and Design, 8th Edition by Alan Dennis, Barbara Haley
Wixom, and Roberta M. Roth. Published by John Wiley & Sons, 2021