Peer Response 1

Dear Zukiswa,

Thank you for your valuable entry to this discussion. You have effectively covered the some of the most common examples to software engineering project failures, including providing relevant examples. I particularly enjoyed how you drew examples from your professional experience and connected these back to known major failures in the industry. Your post particularly highlights the different kinds of failures a project might experience. It may be delivered successfully, on-time, with all requirements seemingly met, however, if user adoption is not achieved, the project has ultimately failed. Although the example not directly relevant, Douthwaite et al. (2001) highlight the importance of key stakeholders to participate in innovation development early, especially as complexity increases, and maximising the completeness of the first release as much as possible to foster a continuous, successful adoption process.

An additional build on your discussion that I would consider and explore further is the role of effective leadership in facilitating adoption, and ultimately the success of software engineering projects. For example, Ali et al. (2020) demonstrate that humble leadership traits encourage psychological empowerment and innovative work behaviours in employees, which ultimately contribute to a successful outcome. It is worth exploring how effective leadership including its associated traits can lead to both failures and successes.

References:

Ali, M., Zhang, L., Shah, S.J., Khan, S. & Shah, A.M. (2020) Impact of humble leadership on project success: the mediating role of psychological empowerment and innovative work behavior. *Leadership & organization development journal*, *41*(3): 349-367.

Douthwaite, B., Keatinge, J.D.H. & Park, J.R. (2001) Why promising technologies fail: the neglected role of user innovation during adoption. *Research policy*, *30*(5): 819-836.