**CHAOS Report Key Findings**

The Original CHAOS report was published in 1994 and it discusses about the major factors controlling the success and failure of Projects in the IT industry. In the consequent paragraphs of this report we are going to discuss the key findings of the Original CHAOS report. For this study the Standish group assumed three types of Project resolution i.e. Successful Projects(16.2%) are those which are completed on-time, with the original budget and the initially specified function’s/feature; Challenged Projects(52.7%) are the ones that do complete but with increased cost/time or lesser features than originally mentioned and the ones that do not make it to the end are considered as the Failed Projects(31.1%) .

The main challenges while developing a Project are : Restarts (restarting the project all over after first start, could be multiple), Time Over-run(restarts are main cause), Cost Over-run(unclear objectives), Content Deficiency(lesser number of features in the end product) .

The top factor attributing to a successful Project is User Involvement because the User for which the product is being developed has participation from the initial stages, it will help the developers to steer the Project in the right direction by providing real time feedback ensuring Customer Satisfaction and improves the quality of the Project. However, in case of Challenged/Failed Projects the delivered product is unable to suffice user specifications/requirements and the end product contains less number of features than initially specified. Another major factor in my opinion which is the cause of a failed project is Unclear Statement of the requirements or objectives, as the requirements define the structure and boundaries of the Project. Absence of which will cause delays because developers will remain disoriented throughout the project leading to multiple iterations, resulting in sloppy work and inferior product quality. Furthermore, Executive Management Support also plays an important role in Project Completion as they will assure constant funding, makes sure the Project is running at right pace, and will help in resolving (if any) conflicts between the parties involved in the Project development. Without the involvement of the Executive Management the Project will remain unsupervised resulting in the fallout of the Project. According to PMBOK’s 5 Phases of Project Management, Planning is the Second Phase of the Project development. It includes setting right expectations and several small goals or milestones along the path in Project Development. One of the other factors of a Project failure is lack of technical skills in the Engineer as either there could be a new technology introduction wherein the Engineers would not be trained or the Engineers are neither competent nor motivated enough to work on the required technology.

In conclusion all the above discussed factors determine the success and failure of a Project and if these conditions are optimally utilized, we can ensure the success of the Project.