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Business / Project Owner Assessment

What makes a good owner?

After executing many projects, I have determined that success and failure are based mostly on who you define as the owner and how good they are as an owner. Here is what I have found about owners that make the difference.

1.) Defines the real business problem and finds the right solution

Bad: The objective of the project continued to shift over the life of the initiative.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: The real business problem was defined and the initiative address a major of the objectives as defined.
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2.) Effectively communicates the definition of success

Bad: No definition of success was defined nor communicated.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Early in the project a clear definition of success is communicated and maintained consistently throughout the project by all stakeholders.
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3.) Supports Project Manager and Project Team in their interactions with other parts of the organization

Bad: Left it up to the project manager to deal with cross-departmental issues.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Acts as a role model for other business owners and team members as to how to interact with other departments
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4.) Acts as “energy source” for the project and effectively builds sustained sponsorship

Bad: Not actively engaged in the project and commitment to the project never filter down into the organization.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Clearly and persuasively get other groups and individuals involved in promoting and driving the project changes down thru their part of the organization.
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5.) No surprises for Leadership

Bad: No sustained benefits are realized only resulting in disruption to operations.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Sustained benefits are realized at the level or above expectations and disruption to the business was minimized.
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6.) Minimizes churn in scope and requirement definition

Bad: Business requirements are never clearly defined nor agreed upon by stakeholders.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Business requirements are established early and remain constant during the lifecycle of the project.
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7.) Makes effective use of the organizations time and resources

Bad: Adherence to Portfolio & Program Management Process & Reporting Requirements	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Maximizes the use of project resources during the period they are assigned. Meetings are focused on effective agendas, discussions are controlled, desired outcomes are clearly defined, and decisions are recorded.
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8.) Adherence to Portfolio & Program Management Process & Reporting Requirements

Bad: Execution of the project outside of the visibility and process of the Portfolio & Program Management.	Not so much	n/a	Some	Good: Actively engages the Portfolio & Program Management and/or the Project Management Team. Keeps the Portfolio & Program Management informed as to the status of the project. Leverages Portfolio & Program Management standards and processes as defined. Captures valuable Lessons Learned that improve the Portfolio & Program Management process.
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