What Makes a Successful GIS Project Implementation

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What makes a Successful Project?
Are you building the right thing?

+ Are you building it the right way?

= Project Success
Vision, Value and Objectives
The real reason for the project

- What is the business reason for this project?
- How will the organization benefit
- Prioritize based on overall impact
- Obtain “buy-in” from executive leadership through project team members
Stay Focused on What is Important
Why do you need it...What business value does it bring...

- What are the top 3 features that MUST be in this system
- Over 50% of features are hardly USED!!!!

Standish Group Study 2016
Engagement Strategy

• Who are the key stakeholders for this project
• How do you get them to “buy-in”, especially from executive leadership
• How do you communicate with them
• Tempo of project should direct your communication style
  - Daily standups
  - Weekly updates (how do you deliver? Email, blog, report, in-person?)
• Across teams - up and down the chain
• Understand when to say NO
User Involvement
Focus on their workflows

Create Public facing maps and apps
Open Data
Story Maps
Crowdsourcing

Show status of my facilities (on any device)

Show the potential for solar energy
Solar and Wind Energy
Solar Potential
Massachusetts
Philippines
Good People
The key ingredient for project success

- Requires people with the right technical skills
- Team members in the correct roles
- Clear ownership and authority
- Decision makers
- Will align to your methodology
Plan for success - Smart Planning

- Planning is a team sport
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities
- Define a methodology and establish a project rhythm
- Avoid unrealistic schedules
- Process for monitoring team performance
- Risk management plan
Requirements, Requirements, Requirements
The most important part of a project

- Model business workflow
- Move from general to specific
- WHAT not HOW
- Not a long list....
- Provide Traceability

Source: requirementstechniques.wordpress.com
Use an Evolutionary Approach
Build the most important things first

Product Backlog

Requirements
- Who is it for?
- What is the result?
- Why is it needed?

User Story #1
User Story #2
User Story #3

Sprint Plan/Backlog

As a <type of user>, I need <feature/function> so that <business value>

Sprint Cycle <30 Days

Daily Review

Tasks

Working Increment
Plan for Change
It will happen....impact on scope, schedule and budget

New Team Lead

Need a Mobile App as well

Green vs Red

Different icons

Move to new OS

Add these fields

Update the data daily rather than monthly

That’s not our workflow!

New Release date

Organizational Change

New database design

Staff Resistant to change
Training and User Support

- Users make or break system success
- Users must understand the value of change to adopt change
- Balance training and organizational impact
- Chose an approach that focuses on workflows not functions
Successful GIS Projects

1. Vision, value and objectives
2. Stay focused on what’s important
3. Engagement strategy
4. User involvement
5. Good people
6. Plan for success - smart planning
7. Requirements, requirements, requirements
8. Evolutionary approach
9. Plan for change
10. Training and user support
Successful GIS Projects

- Are you building the right thing?
  - Vision, value and objectives
  - Stay focused on what’s important
  - Engagement strategy
  - User involvement
  - Good people

- Are you building it the right way?
  - Plan for success - smart planning
  - Requirements, requirements, requirements
  - Evolutionary approach
  - Plan for change
  - Training and user support
Additional Resources

• *Software Requirements (2nd Edition)* by Karl Wiegers, Microsoft Press, 2003

• *Agile and Iterative Development: A Managers Guide* by Craig Larman, 2004

• *The One-Page Project Manager: Communicate and Manage Any Project With a Single Sheet of Paper* by Clark A Campbell, 2006

• *Applying UML and Patterns (2nd Edition)* by Craig Larman, Prentice-Hall, 2001

• *Use Case Driven Object Modeling with UML* by Doug Rosenberg and Matt Stephens, Apress, 2008

• *Agile Development with ICONIX Process* by Doug Rosenberg, Matt Stephens, and Mark Collins, Apress, 2005

  • iconixsw.com

• *Software Project Survival Guide* by Steve McConnell, Microsoft Press, 1997

• *Writing Effective Use Cases* by Alistair Cockburn, Addison-Wesley, 2001

• *The Standish Group* - standishgroup.com
Additional Resources

http://www.scaledagileframework.com/

http://alistair.cockburn.us/

http://www.iconixsw.com/

http://www.webmapsolutions.com/category/location-technology-for-all

http://blogs.esri.com/esri/

http://www.pmi.org/default.aspx

http://www.thoughtworks.com/insights
Please Take Our Survey on the **Esri Events App**!

Download the Esri Events app and find your event

Select the session you attended

Scroll down to find the survey

Complete Answers and Select “Submit”
Thanks

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