THE ART OF PROBLEM SOLVING IN IT PROJECTS

Dr. D.Rajasekar[1], Mr.S.Arunkumar[2], Arun V[3]

[1]Professor, [2]Assistant Professor, [3]Second Year MBA Student.

Computer projects or IT projects can be classified into academic projects, testing projects and real- time projects. Always, the developers do face the hurdles in all the above three. These hurdles impede the successful development and implementation of IT projects. However it is highly impossible to anticipate each and every hurdle. Some projects will have unique characteristics that throws up hurdles which have not been previously encountered. Meanwhile, a good project management is required to maintain a high level awareness of encountering hurdles and how to overcome them. The hurdle can present a severe strain for the beginners who should realize that they will appear at the worst possible time in the project life cycle and it can affect the project deadlines.

The arguments for investing in the identification and the management of the IT project hurdles are:

1. Suggestion for the improved IT potential application and the development process should be givena serious consideration

2. All IT insulation's need to use an effective, efficient process in designing, developing and implementing application project. Otherwise project hurdles create more problems which require greater need for hurdle management.

3. There is a need of investment to record the solutions of previous hurdles faced by the project and its solution. It gives a lot of relief to the developers who are currently doing that projects. The major project hurdles are:

   ▪ **Imposing an arbitrary project deadlines**. Deadlines should be based on understanding of what is required to be done and what are the necessary efforts need to produce the anticipated

deliverables . In general, project completion dates should be based on business needs and not unreasonable.

- **Losing key people at the critical stage.** This is one of the major hurdles in the project development. Generally this is viewed as a personal concern of the team leader and therefore it is ignored. The information about project can be stored by giving a backup person. Still it is difficult to provide backup reason for several key members. This has to be balanced by sharing the information at all level.

- **Technology changes and new arrivals**. The rapid development in changing technology lead to serious threats for the project success. Understanding a new technology itself is the biggest hurdle for the project development team. Even though the developers are trained with the new

technology, the attempts at correction will be based on assumption rather than knowledge.

- **Old Technology**-developing the project using old programming language leads to difficulties in the long run. So it's better to use the latest technology right from the beginning**Lack of knowledge in project planning**. A lot of time and effort is devoted to develop the project plan. Planning must be done before the project initiates. Devoting time to prepare well documented project plan is quite important. The plan may push the project towards its destination even though it faces a lot of hurdles enroute.

- **Incomplete requirement and specification** .In general the requirement and specification may not be given by the client properly. Further the requirements given by one team may not be the same for another team (from the client's

side).

- **Project ownership**: This is most important for all the project developers - everyone involved in the project to take active responsibility to contribute its success. The owner may be the project sponsor or project manager or senior manager who does not have a direct role on the project. Still the person need to be closely engaged with the project throughout the life cycle.

- **Project standards are not developed properly .**The project standards are the part of development methodology, which provides project with control and consistency. At the same time, too much control will slow down the project. Delivering the high quality of project without project standards leads to problems in completing the project.

- **Underestimating the requirements**: When the

project moves to the production stage the development team must be clear on the hardware requirement to run the software. Getting the proper hardware to the client and making them to capitalize is a major hurdle in the project. If the people go with existing hardware the response time will undoubtfully become an issue. At some point of implementation this should be anticipated.

- **Freshers on the project:** Every project manager would like to have highly qualified and experienced people to work with them but it does not happen in reality. As there is always a mix of skilled and unskilled people in the project team, the project manager should start planning how to make an effective use of the staff. The success of the project will ultimately depend on the level of skills as well as experience and commitment of the project team.

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- **Change in the requirement**: The requirement may change during mid-way of the project. Sometimes the project requirement and specification may change when the management changes. Here the project manager has to take a call, because sometimes this hurdle may crash the project itself.

- **Poor testing**: Inadequate and incomplete testing at both technical and business level is a key hurdle. In addition, the output of all testing must be carefully reviewed by the client in the business unit for updates at suitable times.

- **Non defining roles and responsibilities**: The role should be as well defined as possible and the person identified for each role must be willing to accept the responsibility.Lack of accepting the role in the project development team, may affect the flow of process

Solutions for developing and maintaining a hurdle catalog: The catalog will solve many problems .It improves the quality of development .The catalog is a repository tree for the organization. In addition to capturing the items , the repository should include some detail about potential difficult stemming from the hurdles and have alternate solutions.

Conclusion

Best IT project management produces best IT application projects. Taking time to consider, record and address the IT project hurdles will ensure strength of the project management. Organization should not be wary of the project hurdles rather they should be as contributing to best results for the project