

The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management

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Abstract—Project Management is an important subject that needs more emphasis, especially for students when conducting a big project. The School of Computing in UTM has organized an industrial talk that explains in depth about the importance of project management. The objective of this industrial talk is to convey what a project is, the significance of project management, effective project management with PRINCE2, and the acknowledgements of managing projects. The talk also gave insights and overviews for the career choices in the field of project management that could be pursued by the vast majority in the near future.

I. INTRODUCTION

On 1st December 2020, an industrial talk entitled ‘The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management’ was held on Cisco Webex, organized by the Technology of Information Systems (SECP1513) from UTM. The speaker of the talk was Mr. Mohd Khairul Reeza Ruslan, the current Head of Project Management Office Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd. Before his current role, Mr. Khairul has worked in many companies including RHB Bank, Bank Muamalat, and plenty others. With that being said, he has been in the industry for nearly 22 years, with professional certificates in portfolio management and projects in the control environment. In this talk, Mr. Khairul explained the importance, trends, and acknowledgements of project management. It is important for us to understand what is meant by a project, as it is temporary and distinctive, and it aims to reach specific goals.

II. IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. The Importance of IT Project Management

Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to project activities to meet the project requirements. The application of project management varies from one industry to another because each industry has their own targets.

PRINCE2 is a methodology created by the United Kingdom government regarding project management. Meanwhile, there is also Project Management Professional (PMP) which was created in the United States of America, and Quality Management Framework (QMF) which is used by Standard Chartered. According to PRINCE2, a few projects that contribute to a bigger target is called a programme, meanwhile a few programmes that contribute to one big target is called a portfolio. Figure 1 shows the method used in Prince2.

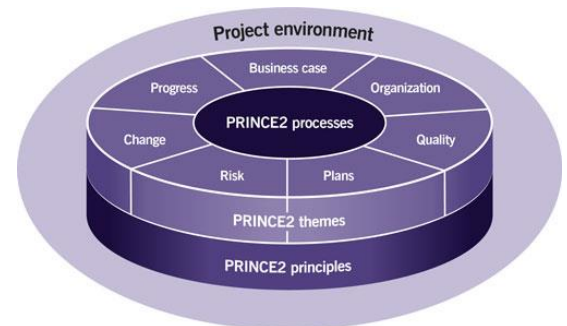


Fig. 1. PRINCE2 method which included the PRINCE2 processes, themes and principles under the project environment [1]

The processes in project management are starting up, initiation or planning, execution, monitor & control, and closing. The initiation or planning phase is where the project manager starts to define the project and write the baseline plan of the project [2]. Next, execution is when the implementation of the project plan begins, then in monitoring & control, the project manager is responsible to make sure the project is developing according to the schedule. Lastly in closing, the project is produced and approved by the client.

Although there are many processes in project management, the project manager can tailor the processes so that it scales down to the bare minimum that is required, which will help in reducing the cost and time.

B. Trending of IT Project Management

Nowadays, there are several project management trends. The first one will be a shifting and globalized gig economy. This is because a labor market defines short-term contracts instead of permanent employment, which will keep the work going efficiently. Moreover, having a greater focus on data. In almost any development project, these data are used to understand customer needs to detail risks, and analyze essential insights. Besides that, automation and artificial intelligence. This is because AI will help choose the best projects to maximize profit and the lowest risk. Furthermore, the importance of change management. This change management is a person who could stay flexible for every change and adapt it to adjust their workflows. Besides, method melding. This is a method that is a combination of delivery methods to suit a project. Moreover, advanced project management tools and solutions. These tools are used to develop a project, even people staying in different countries, for example, having a conference meeting online during this

pandemic time to discuss a project. Lastly, the impact of emotional intelligence. This is because IQ can get you hired, but EQ can get you promoted. EQ is critical in everything because this reflects your ability to achieve success in your future.

III. RELEVANT IT CAREERS

1. IT specialist

An IT specialist is responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of IT systems [3]

2. Network administrator

A network administrator is responsible for keeping an organization's computer network up-to-date and operating as intended

3. Senior project manager

Senior manager is responsible for planning and directing the work of a group of individuals. They monitor their work and take corrective actions when necessary.

4. IT director [4]

IT directors ensure that internal technology operations run effectively and smoothly, although beyond that job descriptions can vary wildly.

IV. REFLECTIONS

Throughout the talk, we have obtained knowledge about project management. We learned that in aiming for the best in project management, we must consider a few aspects before conducting a project. Our dream is to complete this degree program successfully with our targeted CGPA. Therefore, this talk taught us that we need to control our emotions, be more confident, and to aim high, such as a first-class degree. The speaker advised us to score well beginning from our first semester. In that case, we have to plan ahead in order to score well in all our semesters and become a good manager so that we can improve our potential in industry. We also need to improve our time management because it will help us in our future career.

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