

The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management

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Abstract – This industrial talk provided the insights of projects in the real world, describing the properties of a project such as time, scope, risk and so on. The ideas of portfolio, programme and project were well-explained and the project management was also further discussed. The main purpose of this talk was to introduce the importance and trending of IT project management, where different skills were required in order to make a project successful, for instance project tracking, project planning skills, communication skills, and many others. The examples for the trending of IT were Gig Economy, Big Data, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Keywords – *Project management, importance, trending of IT, skills*

I. INTRODUCTION

An industrial talk titled The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management was conducted through Cisco Webex Meetings from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on 1st December 2020. The speaker was Mohd Khairul Reeza Ruslan, the Head of Project Management Office Commerce Dot Com Sdn. Bhd., who was a graduate from Bachelor of Computer Science (Software Engineering) in University of Malaya (UM). He studied Master of Business Admin in University of South Wales in 2012 and he had held Professional Certifications in project management, PRINCC2 and MOP from United Kingdom (UK) since 2014. During the talk, he had shared insightful information about the project management as well as both of his studying and working experience. He also explained the importance and trending of IT project management and the relevant IT careers in the hope of improving knowledge of the students.

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. There are some reasons which support the importance of IT project management. First, the project will be temporary, which has a starting point and the ending point. Thus, it is important to manage IT projects based on the points. Second, the project is a specific activity to accomplish specific goals. Therefore, it is necessary to manage the project which is focused on specific activity and goals. Lastly, the IT project management that was handled before could be a good example for another project.

B. Trending of IT Project Management

TABLE I. TRENDING OF IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

No.	Project Management Trending	
	Trending	Keyword
1	Shifting, Globalized Gig Economy	Gig Economy
2	Greater Focus on Data	Big Data
3	Automation and Artificial Intelligence	Artificial Intelligence
4	Importance of change management to project success	Change management
5	Method Melding	Melding
6	Advanced project management tools and solutions	Tools and Solutions
7	The impact of emotional intelligence (EQ)	EQ

There are 7 trends of IT Project Management according to the Industrial talk 2. First trend is shifting globalized gig economy. It means that the labor market has been changed to the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work which is flexible. And it became globalized such that team workers could be in different time zone, places. Second trend is a greater focus on data, which is big data. Big data will be used to analyze data by understanding the customer's needs. Third trend is automation and artificial intelligence. AI can help to calculate the best projects by quickly and efficiently schedule and assign resources. Fourth trend is the importance of change management to project success. In this process, we could mitigate, reduce, embrace, and accelerate the changes by adapting and adjusting the processes, workflows and competencies. Fifth trend is method melding. The examples of methods are PRINCE2, Agile, Scrum, and Waterfall, and these methods could be meld such as Wagile (Waterfall+Agile). Sixth trend is advanced project management tools and solutions. For instance, progress and time tracking are advanced project management tools. Lastly, the seventh trend is the impact of emotional intelligence. EQ will increase the business value of Soft skills, which could help on the best judgment for the project and to communicate effectively.

III. RELEVANT IT CAREERS

There are about 21 different types IT career in total. I will be explaining 6 main types in detail. Support specialists, their main job is fixing and figuring out computer network and hardware problems for a company. They can work in different area that needs this kind of help. The requirement of this job is having a bachelor degree in computer science or information system. The second main role of IT industry is the computer programmer. Its main duty is creating new programs or fixing bugs using coding languages, the same requirements as previous job type. The third one is called quality assurance tester. They need to check their software has no errors and is updated to the industry standards. Mostly the programs are games or mobile applications. The requirement is to have a Bachelor's degree in software design, engineering or computer Science. The fourth one is web developer; they design and make the content of a website. Using codes like HTML, CSS, and etc. The requirement for this is relatively low as an associate degree is only needed in Web Development. The fifth is IT technician, their job is to monitor if the program is running properly, and analyze the issues with computer. The sixth is database administrators. Their job is using specialized software to organize and keep track of data, like SQL.

There are also some other jobs, like computer scientist, user experience designer, network engineer and so on. If you want to know more, you can refer to the link in reference.

IV. REFLECTIONS

- Lai Ting Ying:

Since we are entering a new era with the rise of technology, I wish to learn and explore more about it not only for improving my knowledge but also for improving people's lives. For utilising the technology, there would be a lot of processes and challenges that we have to go through, for instance managing a project. Through this industrial talk, I have learnt that IT plays an important role in attaining a good result of the project management. The blend of AI, IoT and big data can help us to achieve better goals due to its efficiency, accuracy and precision in terms of time and data analysis. Risks can be minimised when good decisions are made. We are in the early stage of this revolution, but the advantages we have gained from technology are shown crystal clear in many aspects of our lives. Therefore, it is crucial for us to embrace and make good use of the technology by adapting as well as to adopting the innovations. I will expose myself more to the technology world and learn as many technology skills as I can.

- Song Ji Yoon:

From this industrial talk 2, my goal was to learn the trending of project management because I wanted to follow the trend of project management to have a better managing project. After attending this industrial talk 2, I have learned the present flow of the jobs such as short-term contract and

freelance. And according to these jobs, I realized that I need a high quality of skills to get those jobs with high cost. Lastly, I will explore how to improve my EQ skills that could affect the job opportunities.

- Chen Yiqiu:

In this talk, I have learnt that there are seven trends of IT project management. There are, globalized gig economy, greater focus on data, automation and artificial intelligence, importance of change management to project process success, method melding, advanced project management solution and tools, and the impact of emotional intelligence. Also from this talk, I had a future to looking forward when I graduate from university. I want to be like Mr. Mohd, plan the project like him.

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