The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management

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Abstract - This report is regarding the talk about the importance and trending of IT project management given by En Mohd Khairul Reza Ruslan. He talks mainly about the importance of project management and key points to manage projects in the right way. Other than that, the talk also focuses on project processes, trends in project management and prospects. The aim of this talk is to give exposure to students on project management as it is an important and crucial thing in life for you to succeed. All in all, this report will give you a better understanding and summary of what is important in the talk.

Keywords ---- project, management, importance, trends, process

I. INTRODUCTION

On 1st December 2020, we attended an online talk about The Importance and Trending of IT project management. The talk is conducted online on Webex and is from 10.00 am until 11.30 am. It is handled by School of Computing, UTM and hosted by Dr Goh Eng Su, the senior lecturer. In addition, there are almost 500 first year computer science students and lecturers who participated in this talk. The talk is given by En Mohd Khairul Reza Ruslan, head of project management office Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd. He has almost 22 years of experience in IT project management. This talk provides students an exposure to what project is, how to handle a project, good project management and risk when you are dealing with a project. En Mohd Khairul Reza Ruslan delivered his talk with the help of slides. After the talk ended, he then continued with a Q & A session for students to ask any question regarding the topic. Not just that, he also shared with us his experience in this field and stressed to us how important project management is, not just for industry but in our daily life too.

II. IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. The importance of IT Project Management

Project consists of elements: time, cost, quality, scope, risk and benefit. Project management is by having the knowledge and skills, we use the tools and techniques for the activities in the project to reach the expected and intended output. PRINCE 2 (developed by the UK government) is a methodology of project management. IT project management is important as it carries roles to manage situations, resources

and to make sure that the project is able to achieve the requirements. For example, in the financial sector, project management has to be applied properly to avoid the bank from losing money while in the health sector, a project has to be managed well to ensure the systems that are being delivered are in a good quality within a period of time as it involves human lives. The main point of project management is to assure that the cost, scope, time, risk, benefits and quality is taken seriously as it will affect the intended output and expected outcome. It is also important to tailor the project process by scaling down the process to the bare minimum that is required to ensure that the project management could be applied and instilled from the starting to the closing point.
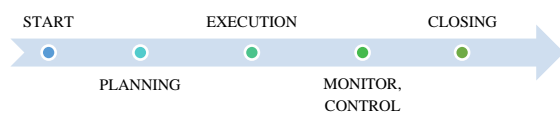

Figure 1: Project Management Process

B. Trending in IT Project Management

The world itself is changing by way of our evolving technologies, social organization, and business environment. There are a few emerging trends in project management in 2020. First is the shifting and globalized gig economy. It is a work market described by the pervasiveness of transient contract or independent work instead of permanent positions. It is very challenging for Project Managers to keep work flowing smoothly when their teams are in different time zones, different continents, and often committed to more projects than just theirs. Next, greater focus on data (Big Data). Now that we can gather a lot of information, we need to discover a utilization for it. With that heap of data, companies expect that it

should be helpful. From understanding customer needs to detailing risks, analyzing data for important insight is a key activity in almost any development project and project managers will need to step into a data analysis role from time to time. We have to be smarter about the way we create project data, use data to estimate, and plan and forecast our projects. Lastly, expanding automation and artificial intelligence. AI algorithms are being utilized to tailor companies' product and services progressively to suit the states of the commercial center. Internally, companies are utilizing AI to automate jobs going from scheduling to data perception. For digital project managers, advancements fueled by AI will help with organizing ventures and apportioning assets for creation. Artificial intelligence-controlled bots can ascertain the best ventures to take on and rapidly and proficiently plan and allot assets continuously.

III. RELEVANT IT CAREERS

Figure 2: Top 10 most in-demand tech jobs

According to CIO, the most relevant IT careers in 2020 is AI Architect, Business intelligence analyst, Cloud Architect, Data (Analyst, Scientist, Engineer), Developer (Web, Software, Mobile), DevOps Engineers, Help desk and Desktop Support, Professionals, Network/Cloud Administrator, Network Security and Systems Administrator.

IV.   Reflection

A.   Amirah Raihanah binti Abdul Rahim

From the talk, it has definitely opened my eyes to how important projects are in our life. All this while, I always thought that project is just something that has to do with our work life. It amazed me how Encik Khairul can relate that getting a degree is also a project. In addition, my goal is to become a quality graduate, not just good in academics but also getting my mind ready to face a new chapter of my working life as a Data Engineer later. This subject has helped me a lot by giving me exposure to industry. Not just that, this talk really taught me to be passionate about everything I am doing to achieve the best results. It has boosted my spirit to become someone who cares about being disciplined with time, delivers the best quality and manages things well. With that, I will try to change to be a better student by doing work with quality and taking things seriously.

B.   Chloe Racquelmae Kennedy

As a data engineering student, I always imagined myself working with my colleagues on a project. Learning detailed information and exploring skills is also what I dreamt of in this course. After listening to this talk, I realized that it is important to have good leadership skills while working on a project with others. Managing a project is not an easy task as it leads and controls the whole process. Therefore, it is crucial for me to always be passionate in my project and be flexible to manage duties under different circumstances. Furthermore, I learnt the importance of planning ahead when conducting any form of tasks so that I would be able to predict the outcome and motivate myself to accomplish it in the time given and provide quality results. Therefore, I need to be disciplined by making sure that I take my projects seriously and always pay attention to the changes in life and learn from it to improve my potential in this industry.

C.   Radin Dafina binti Radin Zulkar Nain

This enlightening talk from Encik Mohd Khairul Reza Ruslan has utterly changed my perspective on how I view things in my life. After hearing the one-hour pleasant talk, I take even the smallest thing that happened in my life as a project that I have to accomplish. Other than that, I also realized that I need to improve my management skills in order to conduct a particular project. Those are things that I have learnt from the talk. I have always aimed to have a very good CGPA and wanted to pursue my profession as a professional Data Engineering after I completed my degree. But truth to be told, in this competitive era, having a good CGPA only is just not enough. We have to master a lot of skills especially project management skill in order for us to become a unique and incomparable from other candidates. This talk has encouraged me to keep polishing my skills to become a high caliber graduate before I step my foot into the industry.

D.   Rasmin Kaur Sandhu

The talk was very eye opening and informative. As a Data Engineering student, the information shared in the talk was very useful to me. It will definitely help in the future was I enter the work market. I realized that good grades are important but soft skills are also important as it is a crucial part in getting a job and surviving in the workplace. I will work harder to enhance my soft skills for a brighter future.

V. Acknowledgement

This report and all of the informative sharing behind it would not have been possible without the exceptional talk from our speaker, Encik Mohd Khairul Reza Ruslan, Head of Project Management Office from Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd. His enthusiasm, knowledge and informative yet exciting talk to detail have been an inspiration for us to complete this report together as a team. Special thanks to our lecturer, Dr Aryati Bakri who gave us this golden opportunity to join this wonderful Industrial Talk on the topic Project Management which is very beneficial for us today and in the future. Finally, heartfelt gratitude to all of our group members. This report would not have been possible without the contribution and collaboration from all of you.

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