

APPLICATION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE IN IT PROJECTS

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This dissertation was submitted to the Department of Civil Engineering of the University .. of Moratuwa in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Business Administration in Project Management.

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2009

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Abstract

Information Technology has changed our lives dramatically over the past. With this enormous dependence on Information Technology the proper management of IT projects has become a critical aspect for many IT projects. Thus many tools and techniques were developed to assist the IT project management easier. Project management software was heavily used in IT projects in the initial stages of IT project management. But with the advent of new project management strategies such as agile methodologies and increased emphasis on cost and schedule compliances more and more organizations and individuals are turning away from the traditional project management software.

The main goal of this research is to find the factors affecting the application of project management software in the context of an IT project. The sample of this research was formed with IT professionals in Sri Lanka who are especially involved with IT project management responsibilities in their respective organizations. Data was gathered through a questionnaire survey distributed to the sample via email and web access.

The main findings of this research show that majority of IT professionals understand the management tasks that can be performed by project management software. It also confirms that IT projects have different aspects which are not addressed by traditional projects and requires. special attention to these aspects. The research is also aimed at discovering user specific and organizational specific factors affecting the use of project management software. The impact of organizational methodologies adopted in IT project management in selection of project management software and the limitations faced by the organizations are discussed in this research. One of the key recommendations of this research is that knowledge of IT project management should be instilled in those who are responsible for such activities. The research also tries to recommend a guideline in selecting project management software for an organization.

Limitations of this research were the small sample space and the limited time duration. Although it was deemed that formal interviews and forum discussions would greatly benefit the purpose of this research, such research methodology could not be performed due to the short time allocated to the research project.

Declaration

"I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university to the best of my knowledge and belief and it does not contain any material previously published, written or orally communicated by another person or myself except where due reference is made in the text. I also hereby give consent for my dissertation, if accepted, to be made available for photocopying and for interlibrary loans, and for the title and summary to be made available to outside organizations"

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The above particulars are correct to the best of my knowledge.

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Acknowledgement

This research dissertation was accomplished with the assistance, ideas, guidance and encouragement received from numerous people.

First, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Asoka Perera, Senior Lecturer of Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa for the encouragement, guidance and support extended throughout the research project with greatest enthusiasm.

I wish to thank Prof. Ananda Jayawardena, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Mr. Kithsiri Samarasinghe, Head of Department of Electronics and Telecommunication for valuable advice given to do this research study in a very practical and methodical way.

I wish to convey my highest appreciation and gratitude towards the IT professionals who contributed to the survey by sacrificing their precious time and energy. Further I would like to convey my special gratitude to all who helped me to gather information for the literature review and to find the contacts for the IT professionals for this research.

A special note of gratitude is reserved to my workplace management and senior management both in Sri Lanka and Sweden at IFS R&D International private limited. Who guided and encouraged me in this project.

Last but not least, I am greatly indebted to my wife and parents for their endless patience, support and encouragement given throughout the research.

Table of Contents

]	Inti	oduction
	1.1	Background
	1.2	Objectives
	1.3	Methodology
	1.4	Main Findings and Significance of study
	1.5	Arrangement of report
2	Lite	erature review
	2.1	Introduction
	2.2	IT Vs Non-IT Projects
	2.3	Why IT Projects fail?
	2.4	Complex software development
	2.5	SDLC & Project Management
	2.5.	
	2.5.	2 The Spiral Lifecycle1
	2.5.	3 Iterative Development
	2.5.	4 Agile Methodologies
	2.6	Tools of Trade2
	2.6.	Why do you need a tool?2
	2.6.	2 Simple tools
	2.6.	The use of Generic/General software tools
	2.6.	4 Classical project management tools Vs. Agile project management tools2
	2.6.	5 Integrated Development tools28
	2.7	Summary20
3	Met	hodology3(

	3.1	Introduction30
	3.2	Framework of the Study
	3.3	Operationalization of Variables31
	3.4	Population of Sample
	3.5	Method of Data Collection and Analysis35
	3.6	Summary35
4	Ana	alysis and Discussion of Results36
	4.1	Introduction
	4.2	Understanding on the importance of PM Software
	4.3	Awareness of management tasks that can be performed through PM Software.37
	4.4	Awareness of IT Project Specific Requirements
	4.5	Key aspects of PM Software specific to IT projects
	4.5.	Multiple Project support Lineses
	4.5.	2 Scope Management mrt.ac.lk 48
	4.5.	Report Generation and Communication49
	4.5.	4 Resource Allocation
	4.5.	5 Metric documentation and Performance indicators
	4.5.	6 Risk Identification and Management
	4.5.	7 Project Schedule Management54
	4.5.	8 Remote teams
	4.5.9	Occollective analysis of Key aspects of PM Software specific to IT projects 56
	4.6	Project Management Software & User incompatibility
	4.6.	Average time taken to create activities/tasks for a small IT project57
	4.6.2	2 Average training time required for the PM software
	4.6.3	3 User interface complexity60

	4.6	.4	The fevel of skill required to use PM software	6
	4.6		Possible demographic variables resulting aversion from use	
	tecl	hnolo	ogy	6:
	4.7	Org	anizational specific requirements in selecting PM software	7
	4.7.	.1	Cost of PM software	7
	4.7.	.2	Use of generic software for management purposes	71
	4.7.	.3	Affects of software development lifecycle/methodology adopted by	y the
	org	aniza	ition	74
	4.7.	.4	The use of in-house developed software or customized software	76
	4.7.	.5	The usage of IDE tools with PM software functionality	77
	4.8	Sum	nmary	78
5	Cor	nelus	ions, Recommendations and Further Research	79
	5.1	Con	clusions University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.	79
	5.1.	. 1	Electronic Theses & Dissertations IT project specific factors affecting the usage of PM software	anc
	limitati		ns of PM software	
	5.1.	2	Knowledge of project management software functionality	80
	5.1.	3	Project management software user incompatibility	80
	5.1.	4	Organizational requirements affecting the selection/usage of IT projects	80
	5.2	Reco	ommendations	81
	5.3	Limi	itations and Areas for Further Research	81
6	Refe	erenc	29	0.7

List of Tables

Table 1 - IT and Non-IT Project Characteristics
Table 2 - Summary of the Chaos study 19959
Table 3 - Advantages and Disadvantages of Waterfall approach
Table 4 - Differences between classical and agile PM software
Table 5 - The operationlization of variables
Table 6 - Frequent usage of PM software
Table 7 - Questions to investigate the awareness of management tasks that can be
performed through PM Software
Table 8 - Descriptive statistics to test the awareness of management tasks that could be
performed by PM software
Table 9 - Frequency analysis of responses received for the usage of PM software for
creating the WBS
Table 10 - Frequency analysis (Project Management in IT Projects are different compared
to other types of projects) versity of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. 42
Table 11 - Questions testing the key aspects of 1T projects
Table 12 - Frequency Table for questions testing key aspects required from PM Software
for IT projects
Table 13 - Descriptive statistics (mean/std. deviation) for questions testing key aspects
required from PM Software for IT projects
Table 14 - Question 9 Descriptive statistics
Table 15 - Descriptive analysis on responses recieved for performance indicator
measurement capabilities of PM software
Table 16 - Risk Management capabilities of PM software
Table 17 - Project schedule management capabilities of PM software
Table 18 - Descriptive analysis of responses to determine support for remote located
teams by PM software
Table 19 - Questions testing the complexity of PM Software user interface
Table 20 - Questions testing the existence of techniques to ease complexity
Table 21 - T test for use of auto completion fields and PM software complexity factors.62
Table 22 - T test for use of web controls and PM software complexity factors63

Table 23 - Questions testing the level of skill required for PM software
Table 24 - One way ANOVA test for age groups and knowledge of PM software
functionality & usage
Table 25 - One way ANOVA test for level of education groups and knowledge of PM
software functionality & usage
Table 26 - Independent sample T-test for Education on project management and
knowledge of PM software functionality & usage
Table 27 - One way ANOVA test for industry experience on project management and
knowledge of PM software functionality & usage
Table 28 - Independent sample T-test for gender and knowledge of PM software
functionality & usage
Table 29 - Cross tabulation of Use of generic software for PM usage and Development
methodology/SDLC73
Table 30 - Frequency analysis of SDLC adopted by the organization74
Table 31 - Frequency analysis of tools support for agile methodologies

List of Figures

Figure 1- Scope Change Failure Causes	10
Figure 2 - Complexity of software development	12
Figure 3 - Waterfall approach to System Development	13
Figure 4 - Spiral Model defined by Boehm	15
Figure 5 - Scrum work flow.	23
Figure 6 - Product backlog in an Excel sheet	
Figure 7 - Iteration burn-down chart in Excel (SCRUM)	26
Figure 8 - Analysis of knowledge in PM software capabilities using Box plot4	ļ [
Figure 9 - Project Management in IT Projects are different compared to other types	
projects responses4	
Figure 10 - Scope management capabilities of PM software used by the respondents4	
Figure 11 - Report Generation and communication capabilities of PM software5	
Figure 12 - Resource allocation capabilities of PM software	. 1
Figure 13- Histogram generated for responses of remote team support from PM software 5	re
Figure 14 - Summarative Descriptive statistics of Key aspects required for IT projects5	
Figure 15 - Bar chart generated for responses of average time taken to enter activities	
using PM software5	
Figure 16 - Bar chart generated for the responses measuring the training time required for	
PM software5	
Figure 17 - statistics for complexity factors of PM software UI6	
Figure 18 - Bar chart generated for question 27 responses (Experience using PN	
software)6	
Figure 19 - Cross tabulation bar chart for the use of office productivity software for	
project management and their effectiveness	
Figure 20 -Visual representation of frequency Table 307	
Figure 21 - Visual representation of reasons for using customized PM software7	
Figure 22 - Visual representation of the existence of PM functionality in RAD tools7	

List of Abbreviations

IT	Information Technology
KPI	Key Performance Index
PLC	Project Life Cycle
PM	Project management
ROI	Return on Investment
SDLC	Systems Development Life Cycle
WBS	Work break Down Structure
XP	Extreme Programming

