

IT Project Success – The Computing Holy Grail

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Abstract

Successful implementation of IT projects has been proven to be a critical success factor for many organisations, yet research completed by the Standish group in 2002 showed that only 34% of IT projects are successful [1].

This research project analyses the results of a UK project success rate study that has taken place into 163 IT projects completed since January 2005. It has found that within the UK the current success rate is 44%. Through analysis of the projects obtained, it has been possible to statistically establish the key characteristics of projects that make them more likely to achieve success. Projects that identified using an incremental software development model provided a success rate of 77%.

This paper gives an appreciation of failure and success which helps to ensure the lessons from both are learnt to enable greater project success in the future.