



ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



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Solutions for a New Economy

It was a politically unifying moment—and one that revealed how badly we have lost our way as a nation, not to mention how far our national economic and political institutions are from providing the leadership that we, and the world, now need.

PERSONAL COMPUTING

Desktops, laptops, and mobile devices provide the interface between your employees and your clients. They are essential aspects of your company, and an optimized personal computing environment means happy employees, productive processes, and maximized security. Investments in your computer infrastructure can yield big dividends, while failing to pay attention to your computer infrastructure can result in frustrations and bog down your business.

Exploring open source software opportunities.

Many researchers have investigated the nature and characteristics of open source software (OSS) projects and their developer communities. In this position paper, after examining some success factors, we discuss potential limits on the replicability and portability of OSS engineering processes. Based on this analysis, we propose a research agenda to better understand the current nature of the processes and thus the strengths and the limitations.

The success of OSS projects has been mostly attributed to the speed of development and the reliability, portability, and scalability of the resulting software. In turn, these qualities are attributed to three main issues, namely the fact that developers are usually also users of the software, the public availability of the source code, and the fact that developers are members of a community of developers.

First, OSS projects often originate from a personal need. Such needs attract the attention of other user-developers and inspire them to contribute to the project. This approach to software offers some real benefits in the design process.

The main implication of the three characteristics described above is that OSS software engineering processes have evolved to develop software that meets developers' needs. On the other hand, OSS, with its reliance on self-interested developers, may be less well suited for developing applications that address problems that developers tend not to face. We see very good OSS tools for software development and good end-user tools for issues faced by developers (e.g., email, word processing), for example, but would expect to see few OSS applications for problems developers rarely face (e.g., accounting, textual analysis)

Finally, we are interested in the role the support community (e.g., people involved in writing support documentation) play in projects developed for non-developers. Their role is considered not relevant in most OSS projects, but it can reveal fundamental in developing software that will not be used by developers.

Principles for Project Management Success

Before you can even plan the project, you must get it approved by stakeholders and sponsors. So, you're sort of a salesman. Then you must plan it, schedule it, budget it, all within the confines of what has been approved. Next, you need to assemble a team to accomplish those tasks, and you must monitor their progress and report back on it to the project executives. And on and on it goes! We haven't even mentioned the tools you'll use to manage all the project variables.

It helps if you can break down these many components into a dozen key project management principles. That's just what we're going to do, and even better, we'll explain how you can use them when you're managing a project to better ensure a successful end.



What first-time IT managers really need to know.

We asked 5 accomplished managers the things they would've done differently at the onset of their careers

Effective management is an important part of any business. When people are put in a position to manage others it is usually reflective of their performance, work ethic and acumen for leading and helping others both directly and indirectly.

The first time you become a manager, it can be both a positive and overwhelming experience. Management is not easy, as it requires many skills including areas that generally get better with experience like communication, coaching, motivating and listening.

But everyone needs to start somewhere and there some important steps that can make the transition a bit smoother. To help first-time managers start strong and thrive as their responsibilities grow, here are seven tips to keep in mind on day one.

1. Understand the business

You need to be prepared to address questions from your direct reports that take into account the broader landscape of the company.

2. Prioritize your one-on-one check-ins

Individual time with your direct reports is critical towards their success and overall career development.

“Becoming a new IT manager means you must actively take the reins”

3. Stay in the trenches

It's likely that you were asked to be a manager, because you were great at doing whatever your discipline demanded. You worked hard and achieved a certain level of success as a result.

4. YOU are the example

Through the good times and bad, who are people going to look to when they need inspiration or an example for how to act? The answer is simple: you. You are now the example that others need to follow.

5. Understand the importance of delegation

You are going to find early on that you want to be involved in everything your team is working on. The challenge here is that you cannot be everywhere at once. You need to create an environment where you are actively relying on others to help carry projects.

6. Find a mentor

One of the first steps you should take is to find a mentor that you can go to when you have questions or need support.

7. Be consistent

If you constantly flip-flop on decisions or how you make decisions, your team will start to lose trust in your ability to strategically lead.



Technology Solutions for Non-Profits

Non-profit organizations each have their unique technology and process requirements yet face financial pressures that commercial entities lack. For that reason, they require IT solutions that are as cost-effective as possible while being robust enough to handle their day to day operations..

A Virtual CIO provides the benefits of a Chief Information Officer without the associated salary cost. Included in these services are annual IT budgeting and forecasting consulting, helping non-profits plan their IT spends efficiently.

We help non-profits get major discounts or free hardware and software. Since they have different guidelines and rules than regular tech suppliers we help your organization pick and pay for the devices and applications on a custom timeline. Once acquired, we help you roll out the new technology and implement it within your organization.

We can help your organization proactively manage technology upgrades and changes to ensure efficient rollouts with minimal losses of productivity.

Managed services allow organizations to outsource their technology operations to the experts, reducing the need for dedicated IT staff. Our services include infrastructure and application management, bilingual helpdesk support, asset management and the administration of desktop and mobile devices.

EYE ON IT Current Industry Trends

If you've been following the news on exciting tech trends like artificial intelligence, then you're probably aware that emerging technologies are changing the way we work and interact with others. In fact, with things like machine learning and touch commerce becoming increasingly popular across every industry from banking to healthcare, technology is revolutionizing the way we do business and making high-tech approaches an integral part of our lives.

SOFTWARE Monthly Picks

QuickBooks Online from Intuit is one of the most popular small business accounting solutions on the market – and our pick for the best business accounting software overall. It's easy to use and loaded with features, including several that can save you time. The company estimates that, on average, it saves its users 40 hours each month on accounting tasks



This Month's Q&A Technology Tips

Q: What is PACS?

A: PACS is an acronym that stands for Picture Archiving and Communication System. PACS revolutionized the field of radiology, which now consists of all digital, computer-generated images as opposed to the analog film of yesteryear. Analog film took up space and time for filing and retrieval and storage, and were prone to being lost or misfiled. PACS therefore saves precious time and money, and reduces the liability caused by filing errors and lost films.

PACS is primarily responsible for the inception of virtual radiology, as images can now be viewed from across town, or even from around the world. Additionally, PACS acts as a digital filing system to store patients' images in an organized way which enables records to be retrieved with ease as needed for future reference..

