Homesteading? Do You Have a Strong Business Strategy and Plan?

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Homesteading? Do you have a plan and a business strategy?

- The decision is inevitable.

- Have you done the research?

- Do you know how to present your findings to key personnel?

- Are you prepared for the risks?

- Do you know what your business needs going forward?

- What do you need to know right now?

- How will you know whether the choice was right?

Homesteading? Do you have a plan and a business strategy?

- How to create and present the business argument for homesteading to management, IT staff and other personnel.

- Fundamental considerations for discussion.

- Essential elements that must be addressed before an obsolescence event.

- What your environment must look like January 1, 2007.

- Questions and a preliminary checklist of must-haves.

- Methods to assess the success of the event.

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Determining level of documentation needed
  - Not everything requires a 100 page report to be considered documented
  - Consider calling documentation 'project artifacts' to separate from the 'printed paper' stigma

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Needs evaluation
  - Key to needs evaluation – listening to what people have to say.
  - Asking the three questions: what are the must haves, highly desirables, and if I could only dream… requests (allow people to dream).
  - This is when you determine what is absolutely necessary or quite favorable and what is a pipe dream.

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Requirements specification
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How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Project plan
  - Define the project
    - Start date
    - Target end date
  - Define the general working times
    - How many budgeted hours are assigned in a given day? 6.5 is typical
    - What is the typical workweek? Monday through Friday? Does the project team work 4 10-hour shifts?
    - How many working days are there in a given month? Typically using 20 with 8 hour days or 24 to 25 with a 6.5 hour day
    - Determine appropriate holidays that would fall during the project and potentially impact the timeline.

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Project plan
  - List the tasks in the project
  - Organize the tasks into phases
    - This is where you subdivide the project and decide benchmarks for completion.
    - This is also where you begin to consider what go/no-go decision points might be appropriate.
  - Schedule the tasks
    - Be reasonable
    - Be realistic
    - Be responsible

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Project plan
  - Set deadlines and constrain tasks
    - Firm up the go/no-go decision points
    - Establish milestones
    - Establish contingencies and dependencies for different tasks and phases

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Project plan
  - Identify risks to the project
    - Defined: the possibility of an event or condition that would have a negative impact on a project, should it occur.
    - Whereas issues are certain to occur and should be factored into the plan anyway.
    - Identifying, analyzing, and addressing project risks so that they do not become problems and cause harm or loss.
    - Assess risk impact
    - Plan contingency and mitigation strategies
    - Make associations: risks with tasks, issues, artifacts, other projects or even other risks
    - Determine which risks need to be approved by whom to ensure accountability and empowerment

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Project plan
  - Identify artifacts needed for the project
    - Vision document
    - Requirements Management Plan
    - Requirements Specification
    - Supplementary Specification
    - Stakeholder Requests
    - Business Case
  - Define the roles needed for the project
  - Publish the project: web, physical posting, file sharing

How to create and present the business argument for homesteading

- Understanding your audience
    - Management – understanding dollars and business impact as well as labor and other non-tangible costs
    - IT Staff – understanding change management, training, and physical infrastructure concerns
    - Company Personnel – understanding change management, training, comfort, benefits and motivational issues

Fundamental Considerations for Discussion

- Postponement versus attrition
- Precedents with other vendors and operating systems
- Internal and external trust
- Worthy applications
- Finances
- Technology
- Liability
- Contingency planning

Essential Elements to Address Before an Obsolescence Event

- Hardware
  - Does your existing hardware meet your current needs?
  - Is your existing hardware expected to meet your projected needs?
  - Does another platform actually offer a solution that might possibly work for you?

Essential Elements to Address Before an Obsolescence Event

- Operating system
  - Does your existing operating system meet your current needs?
  - Is your existing operating system expected to meet your projected needs?
  - Are there significant bugs in the operating system that are problematic in your environment?
  - Does another platform actually offer a solution that might possibly work for you?

Essential Elements to Address Before an Obsolescence Event

- Third-party software
  - Does your existing third-party software meet your current needs?
  - Is your existing third-party software expected to meet your projected needs?
  - Will your existing third-party software vendor support their software beyond the obsolescence date?
  - Does another platform actually offer a solution that might possibly work for you?

Essential Elements to Address Before an Obsolescence Event

- Versions
  - Are there any version compatibility issues that might impact a homesteading/transition decision?
  - Where would you go to look for version compatibility issues?

- Stability
  - Is your current hardware stable?
  - Is your current operating system stable?
  - What are your concerns about the stability of third party software?
  - What are some resources you have found that discuss the stability of these elements?

What your environment must look like January 1, 2007

- Hardware configuration

- Operating system

- Third-party software

- IT staff

- Third-party support

Questions and a preliminary checklist of must-haves

- List of project stakeholders and key personnel

- Project manager or consultant

- List of artifacts needed for the project

- Any analysis or documentation already produced regarding the topic or the condition of the system

Methods to assess the success of the event

- Feedback questionnaires

- Post deployment monitoring

- Water cooler conversations

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