

# IT Project Delivery: Is it Really so Tough? Let's see the Data!

## Common Perceptions

Everyone knows that delivering an Information Technology (IT) project is tough. In casual conversation, this perception is often expressed in statements such as:

- *"IT has a high failure rate"*
- *"Software implementations almost never reach their 'Go Live' target on time"*
- *"Stabilization is a euphemism for fixing all the mistakes that weren't resolved in implementation"*
- *"Scope gaps and change orders are just a normal part of doing business"*

But are these statements true? How tough is IT Project Delivery, really? Let's see the data!

## A Stream of Studies on IT Project Performance

Many studies – both academic and industry-lead – have sought to measure IT Project Performance.

- **CHAOS Report:** the Standish Group has compiled IT projects for three decades and their recent data shows:
  - **46% of Projects are Challenged:** complete & operational, but over-budget, over-schedule, and offers fewer features than specified.
  - **26% are Failed: cancelled** at some point **or not used** after being implemented
- **Doomed From the Start?** Based on feedback from 600 U.S. Business & IT Executives, Geneca found:
  - **75%** of admitted their projects were either **"always"** or **"usually"** **"doomed"** right from the start.
  - **61%** of the projects **take longer** than anticipated and **57%** are **not considered a success**
  - **80%** admit they spend at least **half their time on rework**, which is the result of **unclear objectives, confusion of roles and responsibilities, and lack of stakeholder involvement.**
- **Large IT Projects Cost Much More than Planned:** McKinsey and University of Oxford studied 5,400 IT projects:
  - **17%** average **shortfall in benefits achieved** vs. the original plan
  - **66%** average **cost overrun** and **33%** average **schedule overrun**
  - **17%** of IT projects perform so poorly that they **threaten the very existence** of the company

## Ouch. IT Projects are VERY Tough. Should We Run Away in Terror?

By no means! However, we need to consider a different approach to delivering IT projects. After all, the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Thanks, Einstein! ([well, maybe](#))

## A Different Approach: Expertise-Based Project Delivery (XPD)

XPD is a proven, research-based approach that has been successfully implemented on 3,000+ projects and \$15B in spend.

- Simplar has been successfully implemented XPD on IT Projects ranging from \$10K to \$100M+
- Users have documented tens of millions in project savings, reduction in delays, and reduced effort in delivery.

**Contact Simplar for a Complimentary Presentation and Review**

Learn more at [www.simplar.com](http://www.simplar.com) or email Jeff Sawyer at [jeff@simplar.com](mailto:jeff@simplar.com)