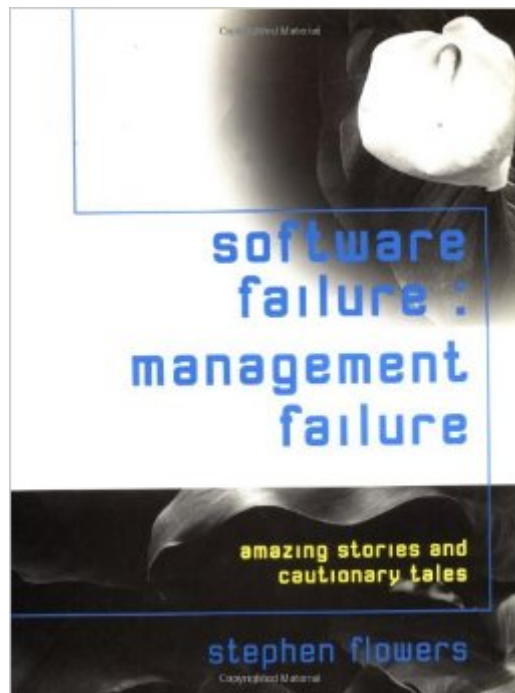


The book was found

Software Failure: Management Failure: Amazing Stories And Cautionary Tales (Wiley Series In Software Engineering Practice)



Synopsis

It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure Bill Gates Good judgement is usually the result of experience. And experience is frequently the result of bad judgement. But to learn from the experience of others requires those who have the experience to share the knowledge with those who follow Barry LePatner Many millions are wasted every year on building, extending and fixing information systems that either do not perform as expected, do not work at all or are abandoned before they are implemented. Details of the events that contribute are too often shrouded in non-disclosure contracts and confidentiality agreements, the causes of errors never to be aired and analysed by those in a position to prevent similar blunders in future.

Newspaper reports of spectacular fiascos provide as much hard evidence as most are likely to hear, but what proportion of substandard and unwieldy IS developments come into being and continue in use simply because they are not so flawed as to be totally useless? The purpose of this book is to bring together material about a number of significant information systems which did not perform as originally envisaged and to provide a coherent account of the surrounding events. The author identifies major causal events and draws from them management lessons. In case after case critical factors point out strategic, organizational or resource problems rather than technical bugs. The value of comparing these woeful tales is to become aware of the way that organizations can become locked in a cycle of failure, condemned to repeat the mistakes of others. Read and be warned! Learn from the experiences of? The Performing Right Society The Confirm Development Socrates Reservation System California's DMV The London Ambulance Service Denver Airports? Baggage System TAURUS at the London Stock Exchange The Pineapple Group B of A Masternet The IRS and, unfortunately, more?

Book Information

Series: Wiley Series in Software Engineering Practice

Paperback: 210 pages

Publisher: Wiley; 1 edition (December 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0471951137

ISBN-13: 978-0471951131

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,236,036 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing & Engineering > Quality Control #1273 in Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science > Systems Analysis & Design #3660 in Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Software Design & Engineering

Customer Reviews

The gist of this fascinating book is that so-called software failures are really failures of the business environment, not the coders. In not one of the case studies are the software developers to blame. The culprit is always bigger-picture management, who are often trying to use a computer system to fix a broken business practice. So far I haven't read the entire book, but the author does not seem to think practices such as CMM or Software Process Improvement will really help. The entire system, not just the computer components, must be evaluated holistically. Software must be used only where it will really help. Trying to automate a broken business practice will only result in a broken automated system.

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