Feasibility Study

Goals:

Summarize the previous discussed concepts.

Theory Overview:

See lecture notes (Chapters 2 - 8).

The **Feasibility Study** is a document realized by a team of experts before starting a project to indicate if the project deserves to be initiated and for recommending a way of solving it. This document must be argued and must illustrate how the assessment and the proposed solution are obtained on the basis of a rich expertise, after a serious documentation and using a comparative analysis.

During the feasibility study's development, similar techniques are used with the ones utilized in developing an already initiated project's plan. With the difference that the feasibility study doesn't offer a detailed plan of the project, but creates a vision only. Furthermore, the feasibility study is usually constructed in case of innovative or ample projects. From here the difficulty to discover adequate solutions and comparing possible work alternatives.

This means that the first step in developing a feasibility study is the correct understanding of the project's desired results to which is recommended to be applied.

This study must not be developed starting from preconceived ideas and its solutions/assessment must be analyzed from different points of view.

The chosen solutions must be adequate for the organization.

A quality feasibility study cannot be developed through individual work, but presumes the project team consults experts.

There is no standard structure for a feasibility study. An eventual alternative of organizing this document is suggested below:

Project's name
Goals
Motivation
Abstract
- Summary description of the product/service;
- General description of the proposed solution;
- General description of the proposed implementation plan;

Details concerning the proposed solution:
- SWOT analysis;
- Who produces/offers the same thing/services?
- Comparison to other solutions, advantages + disadvantages;
- If there are acquisitions: remarks about the provider (portfolio, integration support);
- Employed technologies: hardware and software compatibility, trainings required;

- Recommended standards;
- Project's integration with other projects/ operations of the company;
- Possible risks: identification, quality analysis/quantitative analysis, general response plans;

Project's impact

- Positive + negative effects on the organization;
- Changes imposed to the organization (temporary arrest of the activity, etc.);

Costs

- Costs categories + estimations

Caution to:

- Acquisition costs - installing (cost/work hours) + monthly taxes for consulting and maintenance;
- Consulting and training costs;

- Costs/efficiency analysis (ROI, „payback period")

Recommendations

References

Working plan:

For one of the applications described previously you have to realize a feasibility study which will defend starting/not-starting the project – a word and a power point document (for a 15 minutes presentation in front of the company's top managers).