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understanding business analysis

System Development Life Cycles

# Describe the Value of Business Analysis for a Business

Business analysis is invaluable for business. Its importance cannot be understated. Business analysis is the process of analyzing tasks and events to help a business understand itself and make important decisions. These decisions can help improve efficiency, reduce costs, and improve customer satisfaction.

It’s crucial to make sure you do business analysis and make it part of the software development life cycle

Businesses need to be able to react to what goes on around them. Business analysis helps businesses react and make necessary changes to their goods. By analyzing, a business understands what it’s doing right and wrong. By neglecting analysis, a business may never realize the mistakes it is making. These mistakes can lead to the downfall of the business. You only get stronger by noticing your mistakes and working hard to improve.

Other challenges include meeting the needs and expectations of customers, meeting the needs of the business itself, and understanding how to handle tasks most effectively. If analysis is not properly executed, these challenges can feel like a brick wall to the business. Proper analysis turns these challenges into hurdles, easily jumped over with a little effort.

# A Business Process Improvement

If I was an IT professional, I believe a way to improve efficiency would be to make options clearer for the customer and to give the customer more freedom.

To explain, let’s jump away from IT for a moment to something simpler. At McDonald’s, for example, I can’t count how many times I’ve had to send a burger back to the kitchen because it contained cheese when I asked for no cheese. On the opposite end, I love Harvey’s because the burger comes plain by default. Then, you simply request which toppings you want and how much of each. In this case, Harvey’s would never have to worry about burgers being sent back to the kitchen due to incorrect orders, improving efficiency. McDonald’s, meanwhile, loses time and money from the rejected burgers.

In an IT setting, the same applies. If appropriate, each service or product should start basic. From there, the customer can request what should be added to make it right. Before purchasing, a final check can be done to ensure the product or services matches the full picture the customer has in mind. This would reduce the amount of products having to be shipped back to the business, improving efficiency. Customers should know exactly what they are getting.

# Conducting Business Analysis to Improve Efficiency

For business analysis, many factors have to be considered to ensure IT projects contribute to the efficiency of a business.

To maximize efficiency, many tools can be utilized. These include flowcharts, documentation, diagrams, and software. However, it’s also important that each team member shares a common understanding and shares the same vision. These apply to all the different kinds of analysis done, whether it is requirements analysis, enterprise analysis, and solutions analysis.

By maximizing efficiency, the business can easily find and remove problems. Removing these problems affects the efficiency of the business as a whole. That allows the company to focus on what matters most.

# What is BABOK?

BABOK is the *Business Analysis Body of Knowledge*. The BABOK contains 6 areas of knowledge. They are business analysis planning and monitoring, elicitation, requirements management and communication, enterprise analysis, requirements analysis, and solution assessment and validation

Business analysis planning and monitoring is the process of planning out other business analysis tasks. This area helps the business understand how to perform each task. By understanding how to perform each task, businesses can complete projects quicker and cheaper, all without a sacrifice in quality.

Elicitation is all about gathering requirements, as well as understanding how each will impact operations. Requirements may come from customers and stakeholders. For businesses such as hospitals, failing to meet the needs of a patient can at worst can cause the death of that patient. This makes elicitation an important area for any project. Requirements are requirements.

Requirements management and communication is where the project team considers how to clearly communicate their project requirements to stakeholders. Stakeholders are people who have a presence in the project, but may not exactly be part of the project team. It’s important for the project team to communicate with stakeholders to make sure the team is doing what it needs to do. Without communication, a project can fail to match expectations and needs of stakeholders as well as customers.

Enterprise Analysis is a kind of analysis where the needs of the business are defined and organized. This helps a project team understand the problems they may face and the importance of each. From there, certain problems and needs can be prioritized. Enterprise analysis makes the project run more smoothly and helps the team stay on track.

Requirements analysis is performed after requirements are gathered from the Elicitation process. Each requirement is analyzed to gather an understanding on how to tackle it.

Solution assessment and validation is used to assess solutions. The solutions assessed can be solutions from the past or solutions in mind. By assessing solutions, shortcomings are addressed. A solution that sounds perfectly fine on paper can actually cause disaster. Multiple solutions for one problem may be assessed to determine the best one to implement.

# The Purpose of Elicitation

The purpose of elicitation is to gather requirements. The requirements are used to ensure a business project meets the needs of customers and stakeholders.

Consider a situation where a patient is in a hospital and requires special care to survive. The hospital needs to gather critical information about the patient, such as allergies and physical conditions to watch out for. The information is used to make requirements for a potential medicine or solution. If the hospital’s solution does not meet the requirements, they may have just lost a life.

That’s why elicitation is important. Taking the time to properly plan the elicitation process is necessary for all requirements to be properly gathered and assessed. By rushing through, a requirement can be missed or misunderstood. A clear idea of each requirement is crucial to not only meet the requirements of customers and stakeholders, but to exceed their expectations as well. Never assume. Requirements are to be taken seriously.

# References

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