IDENTIFYING KEY RISKS IN SOFTWARE PROJECT
MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
IN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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December 2007
IDENTIFYING KEY RISKS IN SOFTWARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

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This Dissertation was submitted to the Department of Computer Science & Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Business Administration.

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December 2007
Declaration

I certify that this dissertation does not incorporate, without acknowledgement, any material previously submitted for a degree in any university and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

................................. Date: .................................

Pinchadevage Nilantha Saman Jayathilake

.................................

Dr. Sanath Jayasena – Project Supervisor
Abstract

Software development projects still fail to be delivered on time, within budget, and with desired quality. One area of concentration in software project management that has developed to solve these problems is risk management, which attempts to assess and then control the risks that precipitate them.

The objectives of this research are to identify key risks in software project management and to identify the most widely used risk identification methods. The probability of occurrence of risk events and their impact on project deliverables and success are considered for this.

The research methodology is to arrive at a conceptual model, operationalize the model and to collect data for quantitative analysis. Data analysis is used to determine key risks in software project management. Percentage comparison analysis method is used to determine most widely used risk identification methods in Sri Lanka. A survey was carried out to collect data from large and medium scale software development companies in Sri Lanka.

Based on the analysis, it appears that requirement/scope and client/stakeholders are the main internal risk sources in software project management. “Software project’s scope is not firm and keeps expanding” is identified as the key risk item. “Use the past experience” is the most widely used risk identification method in Sri Lanka. The scope of this research is limited to only selective internal risk sources in software projects.
Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me to reach this level. Conducting a master’s research requires a considerable amount of effort that includes a variety of tasks which can never be accomplished alone. Many contributions were made by different personals to make this dissertation a success.

First I wish to express my sincere thanks to my project supervisor Dr. Sanath Jayasena for his advices, suggestions, support and generously sharing his time and knowledge. I always remain grateful to him.

Secondly I greatly appreciate Prof. Malik Ransinghe, Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa and Prof. Niranjan Gunawardena for their knowledge and expertise shared in fruitful discussions that guided me to accomplish this task.

I also want to express my gratitude to Mrs. Vishaka Nanayakkara, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa and the academic and non academic staff members for their support in various ways.

I also want to mention Virtusa (Pvt.) Ltd, where I have been working for last seven years, for inspiring me to explore the world of knowledge. Special thanks are also sent to all my colleagues including Gihan, Hilmi, Kushan and Thusith for their assistance and support

Lastly, I wish to express my sincere thanks to my father, late mother, my loving wife Shanika and the two children Kanishka and Sithumi for providing me a nice environment at home. Without their support I would never have completed this research.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who supported me directly and indirectly to accomplish this task.
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