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Why Projects Fail

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WHY PROJECTS FAIL

WHY?





WHY PROJECTS FAIL

A project is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service or result.

A project is **temporary** in that it has a defined beginning and end in time, and therefore, defined scope and resources.

And a project is **unique** in that it is not a routine operation, but a specific set of operations designed to accomplish a singular goal.





WHY PROJECTS FAIL

PROJECT FAILURE IS BASED ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

It didn't work as expected

It cost more than expected

It *took longer* to complete than expected

It resulted in personal or environmental *harm*





AVIATION

Case Studies







HEATHROW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TERMINAL 5

Evening Standard

Terminal disgrace: Poor training and computer failings to blame for T5 chaos as flights fiasco to last into the weekend

13 April 2012

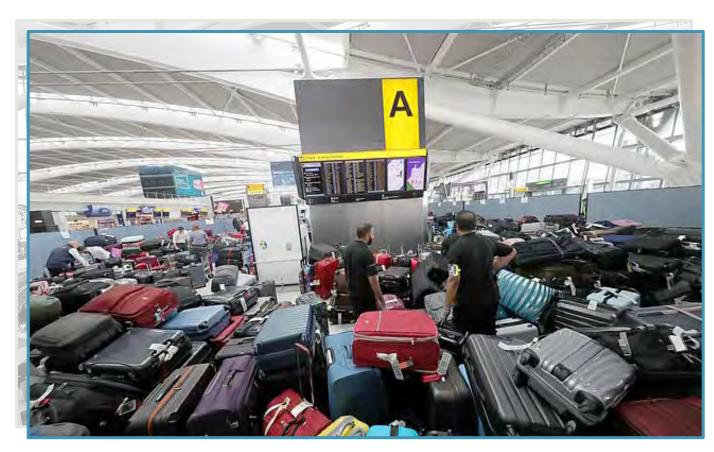
British Airways admitted that the Terminal 5 chaos is set to last into the weekend as the airline put its hands up to a string of blunders.

The carrier is facing a wave of anger from holiday and business passengers who claim the shambolic launch of the £4.3billion facility is 'a national humiliation'.

Some said they were 'ashamed to be British' after fights broke out among passengers as BA announced it was cutting a fifth of its flights.







MISPLACED BAGGAGE & CANCELLED FLIGHTS

Evening Standard

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DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The New York Times

Denver Airport Saw the Future. It Didn't Work.

By Kirk Johnson

Aug. 27, 2005

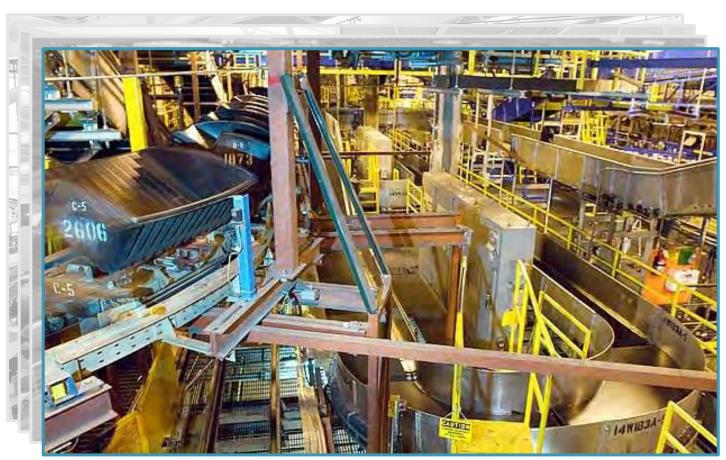
DENVER, Aug. 26 - Ten years ago, the new Denver International Airport marched boldly into the future with a computerized baggage-handling system that immediately became famous for its ability to mangle or misplace a good portion of everything that wandered into its path.

"It wasn't the technology per se, it was a misplaced faith in it," said Richard de Neufville, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and engineering systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor de Neufville said the builders had imagined that their creation would work well even at the busiest boundaries of its capacity. That left no room for the errors and inefficiencies that are inevitable in a complex enterprise.

"The main culprit was hubris," he said.







THE COMPLEX BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM AT DIA

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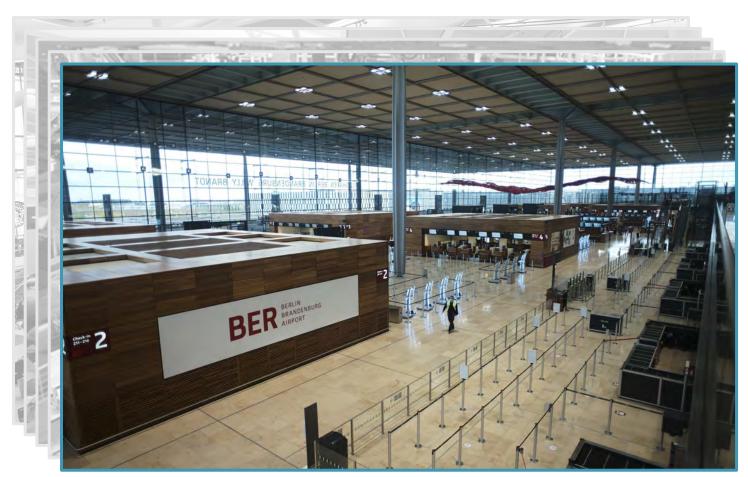
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THE BELEAGURED BERLIN BRANDENBURG AIRPORT



Berlin's new airport finally opens: A story of failure and embarrassment

Date: 31.10.2020

Author: William Noah Glucroft

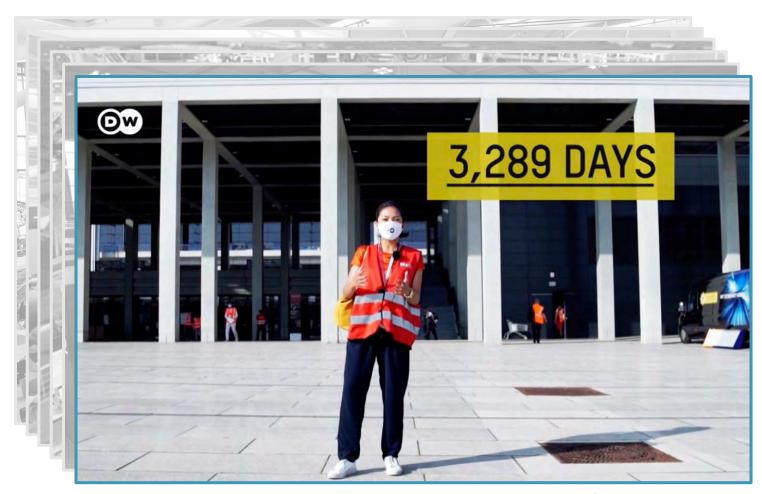
Conception to operation has taken 30 years, with seven missed opening dates. Rather than being a symbol of a revitalized German capital, the new airport has been one of the most glaring public scandals in recent memory.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Airport (BER) was slated to open on June 3, 2012. It wasn't the first time the project missed its deadline, but it was the most memorable.

So great was the anticipation, public broadcaster rbb planned to go live for 24 hours covering it. So great was the disaster thereafter, the German satire site, The Postillon, proposed a new grammatical form for discussing the airport's conditional opening — an event repeatedly kicked down the tarmac never to actually happen.







FINALLY OPENING AFTER MONUMENTAL DELAYS



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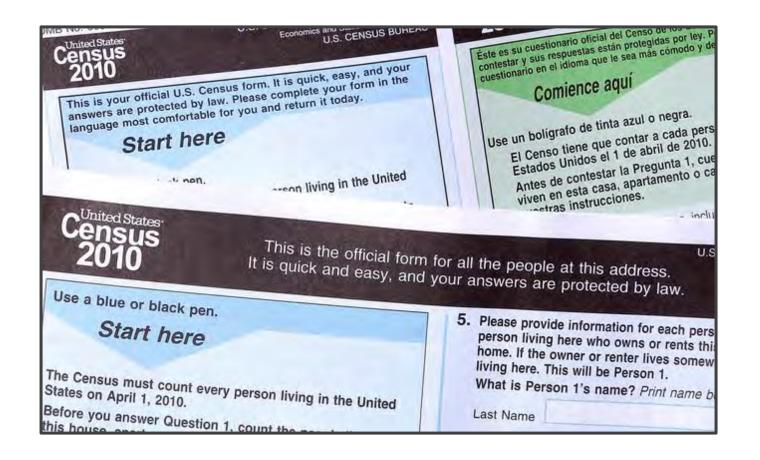
Failures across all types of projects





CASE STUDY

THE 2010 US CENSUS





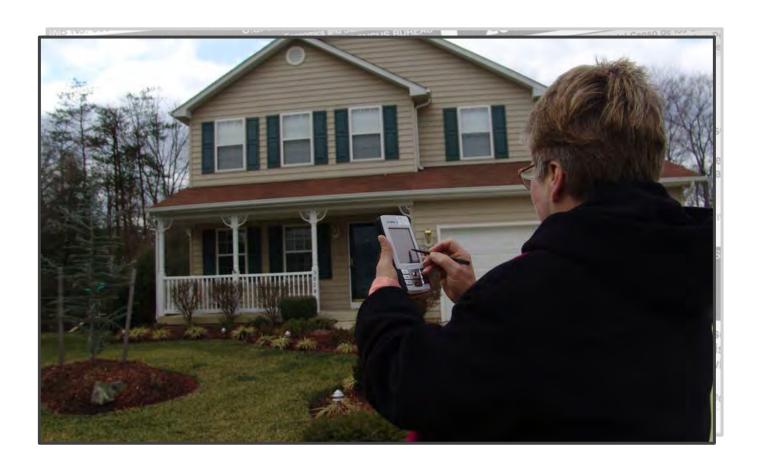


CASE STUDY

THE 2010 US CENSUS

KEY POINTS:

- US Census Bureau aimed to automate with specialized handheld devices
- Project activities fell behind
- Delayed and abbreviated testing revealed significant flaws too late
- Result: reverting to traditional paperbased approach and significant cost overruns of over \$1.7 Billion







SURVEYS ON IT PROJECTS





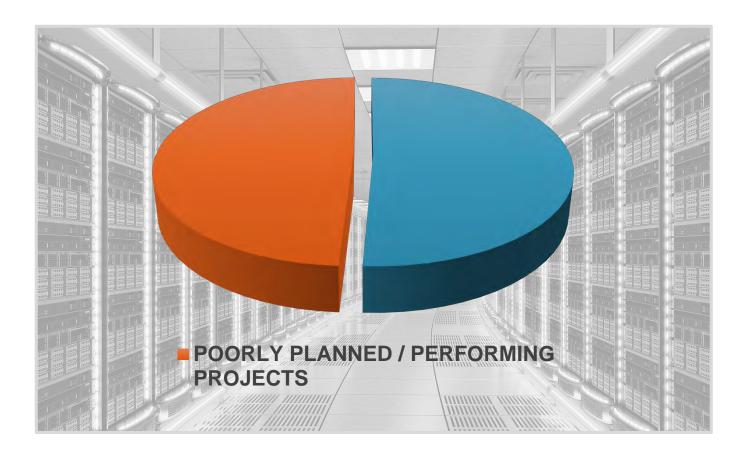


SURVEYS ON

IT PROJECTS

U.S. Government Accountability Office

413 of 840 federally funded IT projects were poorly planned, poorly performing or both





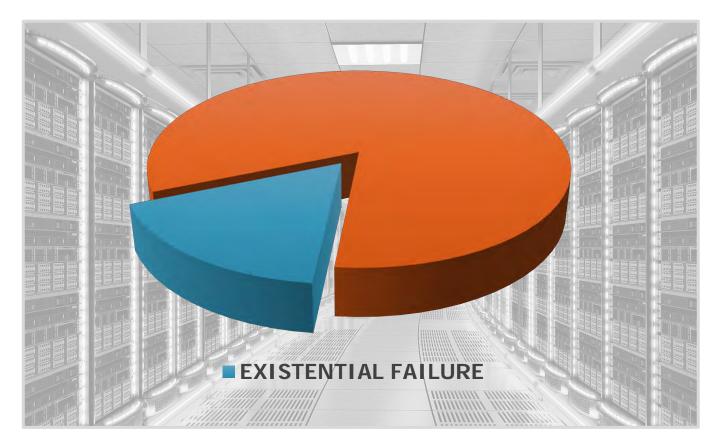


SURVEYS ON

IT PROJECTS

McKinsey & Company and the University of Oxford

- 5000+ projects with budgets > \$15M
- Average of 45% overbudget (\$6.7M)
- Nearly 1 in 5 projects failed so badly that they threatened the continued existence of the company





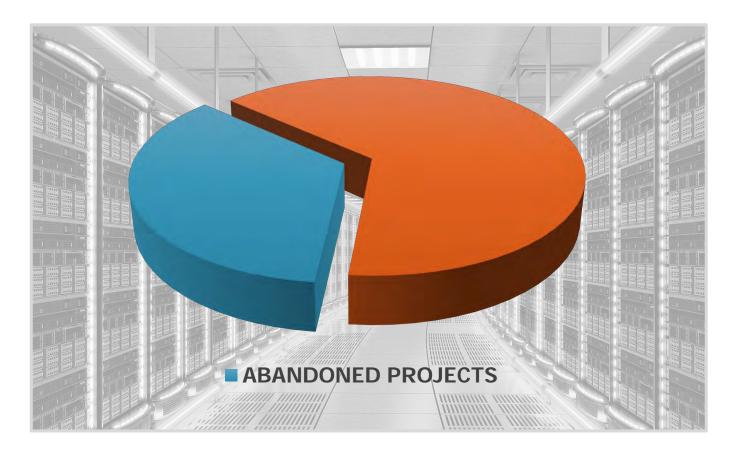


SURVEYS ON

IT PROJECTS

Logica and the Economist Intelligence Unit

- 380 Senior Executives surveyed
- 35% of senior executives had abandoned a major project in the last 3 years
- Business Process Change projects,
 37% failed to deliver results







CASE STUDY

FLINT WATER CRISIS







CASE STUDY

FLINT WATER CRISIS

KEY POINTS:

- The city of Flint, Michigan sought to cut costs by changing the city's water source
- The Dept. of Environmental Quality ignored early warnings of high levels of lead in the water
- Residents of Flint are still dealing with the lead levels over three times the Federal Action limit







Preventing Project Failure





If You Manage Well Your.....

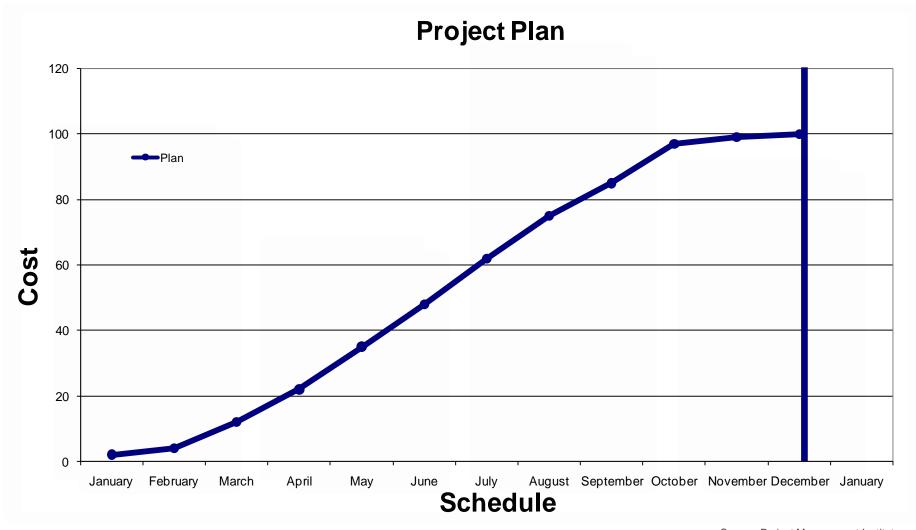
Not True!

Project Cost Schedule Project Success





The Typical Project Plan







And What Is Often Repeated







Its Proven. Measuring 2 Dimensions Is Not Enough



Studies Suggest:

- "30% of capital projects are delivered on-time"
- "Only 15% are on budget"
- "More than 60% of owners surveyed that expect both size and complexity of their projects to continue increasing"

ACCORDING TO:





The Impact Of Not Managing Risk



- J.A. Jones
 - 2.2 Billion in Revenue
 - **#** 14 on ENR Top 400
 - 113 Years In Business
 - "Jones was forced into a cascading economic condition. Several bad projects lead to lower bonding which lead to less work and caused a mass exodus." – Former Top Executive, JA Jones



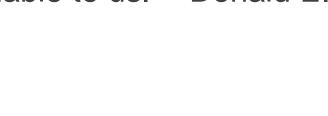


The Impact Of Not Managing Risk



- Dillingham Construction
 - \$ 350 million
 - # 103 on ENR Top 400
 - 45 Years In Business
 - "It only takes a few bad projects to wreak havoc. We had to finance these projects and we got to a debt level that was untenable to us." - Donald E. Sundgren, CEO, Dillingham Construction









Risk Impacts the Entire Project Management Lifecycle

Business Development (RFI, RFP, Team Selection)

Need RM to have competitive advantage

Displaying cost and schedule risk demonstrate project understanding

High value ERM helps choose which projects to bid

Estimating

First time risk is financially quantified

Risk is translated into contingency funds.
However, the specifics are lost.

Risks are identified but not communicated to the PM team.

Engineering & Design

Team manages 3 pillars of risk: Schedule Risk, Cost Risk and Scope Risk

Project Management team is established

Tool selection for all PM is often finalized at this phase

Construction

Most project players are distributed in many organizations bound to one another through contracts

Risk transitions from proactive planning to reactive mitigation

Control plans are the main value and communicating impacts in real-time is critical.

Start-up and O&M

Facility construction is complete.

Contractors seek final sign-off on project completion.

Risk information is most times lost at this point. However, risk information would be highly valuable to the owner who has to maintain the facility.





The Takeaway

- Risks are readily visible from the earliest stage
- There are firewalls between groups when communicating risks
 - Owner to Designer
 - Designer to Estimator
 - Bid & Tender Phase
 - Contractor to Subcontractor
 - Contractor to Owner
- Regardless of whether you have contractually transferred the risk to someone else, the Owner/Client ultimately has to live with the impact.
 - This often determines project success or failure
 - Reputational risk hangs in the balance
 - Future (negotiated) work is in jeopardy





Other Myths To Consider...



Identifying a risk is a sign of failure.



Spreadsheets are the answer.



Exception-based project management deals with risks as they arise.



It's the Risk Manager's job to handle them





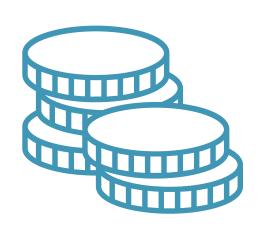
Review







Drivers of Project Failure



Underestimation



Lessons & Concerns



Motivations



1 — UNDERESTIMATION -

Underestimation of *complexity*, *project duration and budget*, and *requirement changes*.

REVIEW OF PRINCIPLES

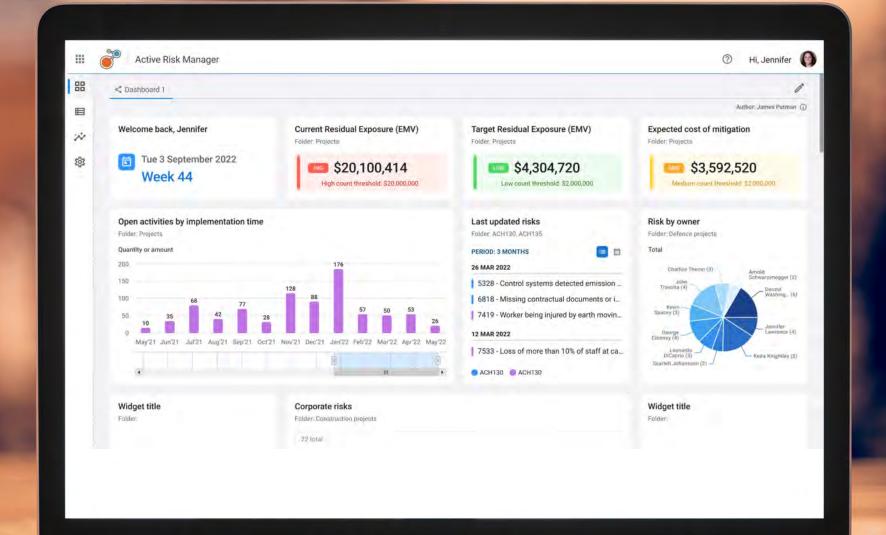




Underestimation – The Solution

- Document Assumptions
- Engage risk management from project kick off
- Ensure visibility to all stakeholders
- Embrace change, but manage it appropriately







2 — LESSONS + CONCERNS

Timely communication of concerns,
a lack of willingness to acknowledge those concerns,
leaving quality inspections until the end of the project,
and not learning from past project experiences.

REVIEW OF PRINCIPLES

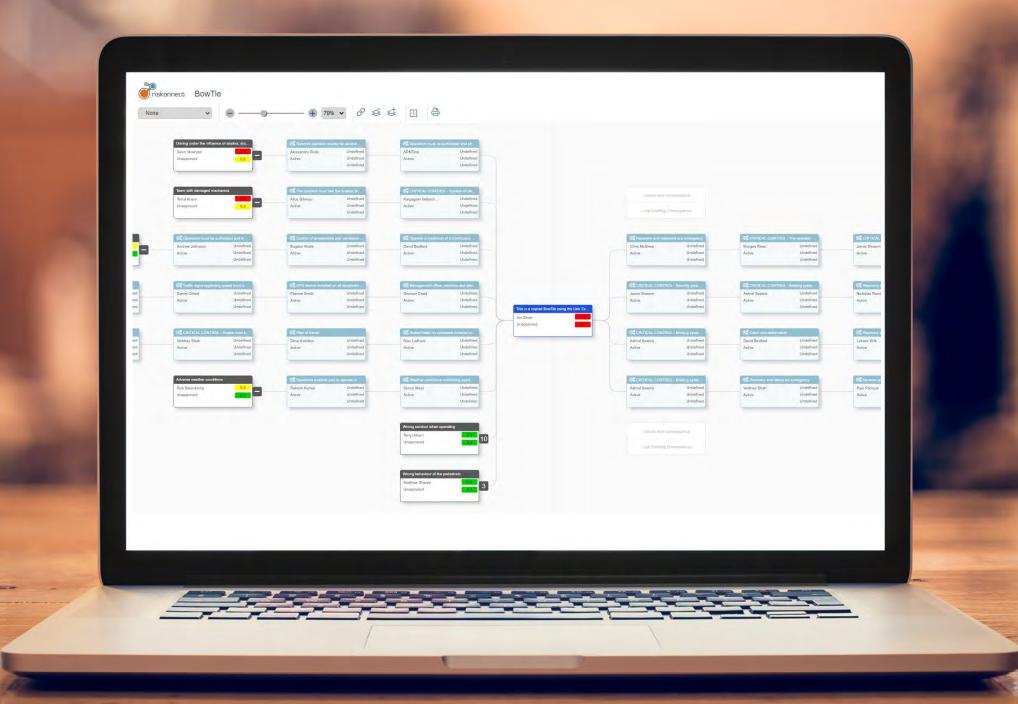




Lessons and Concerns

- Consider historical projects
- Make it easy for risks and opportunities to be recorded
- Much easier in a single place (Risk Under One Roof)
- Escalate risks where appropriate
- Use workshops, BowTie to identify root causes







3 — MOTIVATIONS

Project motivations of select stakeholders, and decisions made in the alignment with those stakeholder interests, but not necessarily the best interest of the end users of the project deliverable.

REVIEW OF PRINCIPLES

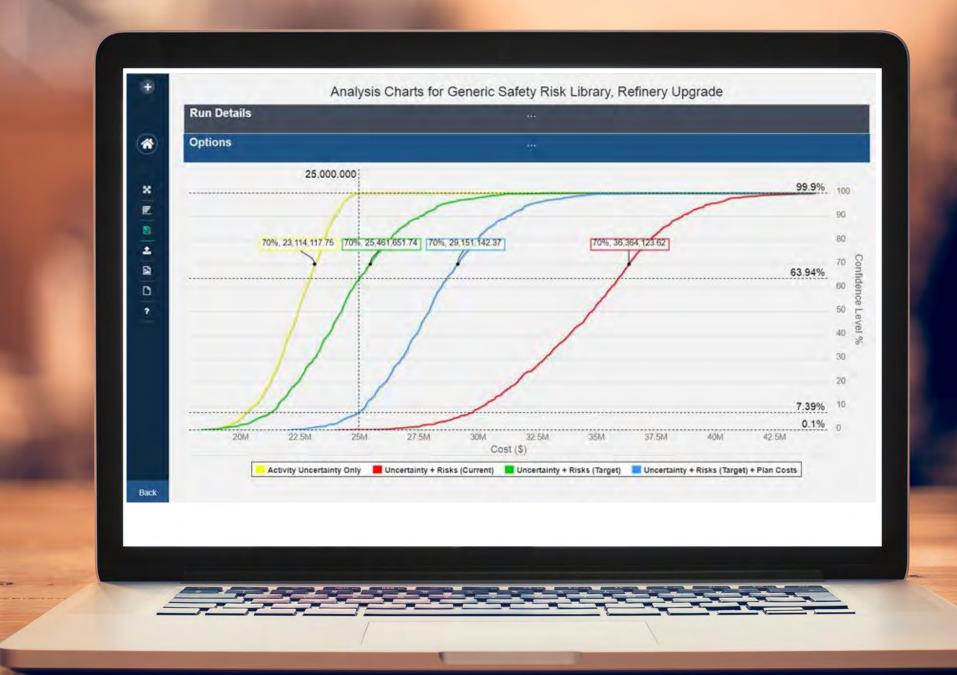




Motivations

- Manage Cost appropriately
- Allow for different viewpoints of the same data
- Encourage and facilitate communication
- Open culture identification of risk is a good thing
- Monte Carlo analysis can give you real data for objective decision making







Questions?



SCOVER





RISKUNDER ONE ROOF

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