

13 Dec 2017

Dream: Plan: Experience



Traps

This is the third article which is a summary of Book 1 Chapter 4 which covers the topic of 'Traps'.

Once you have settled on a dream and selected the appropriate planning technique, take care you do not fall into the insidious traps that could befall the unwary. Beware you do not find yourself down a '[rabbit hole](#)'.

So what is a trap?

Definition:

- 1) Something (often something deceptively attractive) that catches you unawares

A trap is a rather insidious device often put in place by a person or persons who wish to take advantage of someone else. The person setting the trap will benefit from it whilst dealing a harmful effect to the individual that falls foul of the trap.

So when trying to turn a dream into a beneficial experience, what traps should you be looking for and hence avoid becoming disillusioned and ending up with a dream that turns into either a fantasy or a nightmare?

To recap

How many planning genres are there?

The answer is 2.

What are they?

- 1) Top-down method aka strategic planning
- 2) Bottom-up approach aka IT project planning

Are there any traps?

The answer is yes!

- 1) Top-down method - 'paralysis by analysis'
- 2) Bottom-up approach - 'a death by a thousand cuts'

Top-down method trap - 'paralysis by analysis'

What does this mean?

Spending far too much time over analysing or even architecting parts of the plan.

This is due to:

- 1) Duplication of effort - duplicating steps:
 - 1.1) Multiple brainstorming sessions
 - 1.2) Requirements gathering
- 2) Redundant deliverables - not noticing similarities
 - 2.1) Misunderstood words such as Vision, Purpose
 - 2.2) Developing multiple matrices such as Decision, Priority
- 3) Non sequitor steps - steps out of sequence
 - 3.1) Strategies before objectives
 - 3.2) SWOT or TOWS analysis on strategies
 - 3.3) Developing data before knowledge

Bottom-up approach trap - 'a death by a thousand cuts'

What does this mean?

Spending far too much time prototyping over and over again.

This is due to:

- 1) The lack of integration with the strategic plan - these include:
 - 1.1) Poorly defined objectives - IT try to develop their own
 - 1.2) Incomplete business knowledge - Unknown business language
- 2) Implicit strategic plan meta-models
 - 2.1) No information model
 - 2.2) No business priority process models
 - 2.3) No business knowledge model
- 3) Misunderstanding what a fact is, namely:
 - 3.1) Data = processed information
 - 3.2) Data flows
 - 3.3) Databases developed using normalisation, semantic modelling or object orientation

So you think you know how to plan but do you know how to avoid the traps?

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