



Projects for the “Real World” - some things to bear in mind

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Caveat 1...

- These are reflections from the Staffordshire Team working on the SUNIWE DeL Pilot Project.
- They should not be taken as criticism of any partner in the project
- The project is going very well but much more slowly than we planned!





Caveat 2...

- This is all about project for REAL implementation - not “proof of pudding”



Talking takes time...

- Communicating project aims, scope and development processes can be very hard without face to face meetings.

The flip side is that...

- Time taken to arrange meetings that most project members can attend increases exponentially with the size and geographical spread of the project team
- Meeting with NON-project members will delay things.



Be VERY clear...

- You can never be too explicit about roles and responsibilities in the project team.
- You can never be too explicit about the aims, scope and development process for the project



Bidding requires more work...

Prior to a bid - ensure scope and main aims are realistic.
Ask questions like:

- does the data exist in all partners?
- does sufficient commonality exist to implement the same approach at disparate partners?
- are current systems capable of integrating with the project?
- what is the impact on the processes and procedures of the institution?

Doesn't have to be long-winded or detailed but should identify any project-killers



Skills & Implementation

- Be aware of skills required for the work and if those skills exist in the project partners. If not, need a plan for developing the team members or buying skills in.
- Implementation and handover has to be bulletproof. Extra effort is required to run project outputs in parallel with existing systems to allow testing and then seamless switch over or integration.
- Don't forget the legal stuff!!! DP in particular is a problem, ask you will get conflicting information from the "experts"



The Real World...

- Impact on processes and procedures within partners needs to be assessed and integration with processes planned
- Sufficient weight needs to be behind the project to drive modification of processes and procedures required by the project
- Extra effort needed to ensure the solution is designed to facilitate reuse, use appropriate standards, build on existing solutions, scale well, etc.
- Styling and presentation and branding - can look clunky/default/bespoke during proof of concept BUT need to be correct for production implementation. Do NOT underestimate the work required for this!

