Technology Procurements: Common Derailments and How to Avoid Them

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Roadmap

- Types of technology procurements
- Key procurement considerations
- Avoiding derailments



Types of Technology Procurements

• Full spectrum:





Technology Procurement Takeaways

- Technology has a disruptive impact on procurements
- Technology is pervasive
- Balance is fundamental
- No one-size fits all



Key Procurement Considerations

- Procurement model: low bid vs. best value
- Solicit feedback:
 - Alternative bids/value engineering proposals
 - Vendors are smart
- Sole source
- Be nice to your procurement department



Avoiding Derailments

- Technical specifications
- Project management
- Service level agreements (SLAs)
- Data privacy
- Standard contract terms; IP example



Technical Specifications

- Technical specifications are contract documents:
 - Harmonize with terms and conditions to avoid ambiguity
 - Engage your lawyers early
- Include flexibility:
 - Consider both (i) non-functional/business
 requirements, and (ii) specific functional requirements
 - Be prepared for changes
 - technology ≠ wine



Project Management

- Strong project management is crucial to success:
 - Establish a project team
 - Identify decision makers and champions
 - Secure and maintain internal buy-in and support
- Develop a realistic schedule:
 - Major and minor milestones
 - The project team has day jobs
 - Be prepared for change and be reasonable
 - Testing and acceptance process



Service Level Agreements

• Objective metrics to measure performance:

SLA	Measurement	Requirement	Measurement Period	Service Credit
Availability	Trip Planner available for use in compliance with specifications	99.9%	Per month	5% of monthly fees





SLA Goals and Considerations

- Incentivize for good performance and compensate for poor performance
 - Credits are not penalties
 - Credits are (probably) not sufficient compensation
- Focus on important issues because SLAs can be costly
- Calibrate SLAs to actual needs:
 - 99.999% = 26.30 seconds per month
 - 99.99% = 4.38 minutes per month
 - 99.9% = 43.83 minutes per month (1.44 minutes per day)
- Exclusive vs. non-exclusive and chronic failures



Data Privacy

- New sources and uses of data
- Significant added value
- Significant potential risk



Mitigating Risk: Vendor Management

- Vendor management begins before the procurement process:
 - Project due diligence
- Vendor management continues during the procurement process:
 - Privacy by design
 - Security by design
 - Procurement due diligence



Mitigating Risk: Vendor Contract Considerations

- Compliance with proactive efforts
- Data collection and handling practices
- Securing data rights and data ownership
- Data breach response obligations
- Allocation of financial risk
- Transition services
- Subcontracting



Standard Contract Provisions

- Existing terms and conditions must be updated to address technology:
 - Confidentiality
 - Information security
 - Data privacy
 - Representations and warranties
 - Term and termination; transition

- Intellectual property
- Warranty support
- Testing and acceptance
- Indemnification
- Limits of liability



IP Example: Original Considerations

- Why own developed intellectual property:
 - Commercialize the technology itself
 - Potentially increase valuation in an acquisition
 - Enforcement of infringing use/block competitors
 - Bankruptcy protection
 - Total freedom (at a price)



IP Example: Traditional License

• The alternative to owning is licensing, but traditional models created vendor lock-in:





IP Example: New Approach

- Open architecture:
 - Add, upgrade, and swap functionally equivalent components without custom development
 - Open standards for interoperability
 - Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
 - Modular programming



IP Example: Open Architecture





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IP Example: Self-Sustaining

- Create a self-sustaining ecosystem that survives vendors
- Ideal source distribution of technology:







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