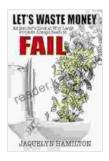
## Let's Waste Money: An Insider's Look at Why Large Projects Seem to Fail



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Large projects are often seen as a necessary evil. They're necessary because they can help us achieve our goals, but they're often seen as evil because they can be so expensive and time-consuming. And, unfortunately, many large projects fail. In fact, a study by the Standish Group found that only 29% of large projects are completed on time and within budget.

So, what's the problem? Why do so many large projects fail? There are many factors that can contribute to project failure, but some of the most common include:

- Poor planning
- Lack of communication

- Unrealistic expectations
- Lack of accountability
- Changes in scope

In this book, I'll take a closer look at these factors and other common causes of project failure. I'll also provide some tips on how to avoid these pitfalls and increase your chances of success.

#### **Poor Planning**

One of the most common causes of project failure is poor planning. This can include:

- Not having a clear definition of the project's goals
- Not having a realistic timeline
- Not having a clear budget
- Not having a plan for communication
- Not having a plan for risk management

When a project is poorly planned, it's more likely to run into problems down the road. This can lead to delays, cost overruns, and even project failure.

#### Lack of Communication

Another common cause of project failure is lack of communication. This can include:

Not communicating the project's goals to all stakeholders

- Not communicating the project's timeline to all stakeholders
- Not communicating the project's budget to all stakeholders
- Not communicating changes in the project's scope to all stakeholders
- Not communicating problems or risks to all stakeholders

When there is a lack of communication on a project, it's more likely to run into problems. This can lead to misunderstandings, conflict, and even project failure.

#### **Unrealistic Expectations**

Another common cause of project failure is unrealistic expectations. This can include:

- Expecting the project to be completed on time and within budget without any problems
- Expecting the project to be completed without any changes in scope
- Expecting the project to be completed without any risks

When expectations are unrealistic, it's more likely that the project will fail. This can lead to disappointment, frustration, and even conflict.

#### Lack of Accountability

Another common cause of project failure is lack of accountability. This can include:

- Not holding the project manager accountable for the project's success
- Not holding the project team accountable for their responsibilities

Not holding stakeholders accountable for their input

When there is a lack of accountability on a project, it's more likely to run into problems. This can lead to finger-pointing, blame, and even project failure.

#### **Changes in Scope**

Another common cause of project failure is changes in scope. This can include:

- Adding new features to the project after it has started
- Removing features from the project after it has started
- Changing the timeline of the project after it has started
- Changing the budget of the project after it has started

When the scope of a project changes, it's more likely to run into problems. This can lead to delays, cost overruns, and even project failure.

#### How to Avoid Project Failure

Now that we've looked at some of the most common causes of project failure, let's take a look at some tips on how to avoid these pitfalls and increase your chances of success.

- Plan your project carefully
- Communicate effectively with all stakeholders
- Set realistic expectations
- Hold everyone accountable

Be flexible and adaptable

By following these tips, you can increase your chances of success on your next project.

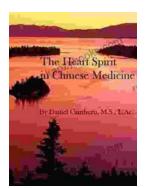
Large projects can be a daunting undertaking, but they don't have to be a failure. By understanding the common causes of project failure and taking steps to avoid them, you can increase your chances of success. So, if you



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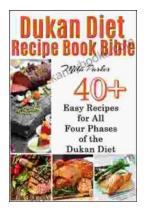
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