Mid-West/Great Lakes ARC/INFO Users Group Conference

GIS Implementation

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Plan

The biggest mistake in GIS implementation is to just do it. Without a plan it will be impossible to achieve the most benefit from the technology.

Applications Drive the Design

The business functions that will be automated will define the GIS design. From the business functions you can identiy the data needs, hardware and software requirements, application development, staff and training and organization including data and resource sharing.

GIS Implementation Design

- Planning is a must
- Document what is currently available
- Catalog what is required
- Make recommendations for the future
- Insure capability between departments
- Develop Database Design
- Examine Software Solutions
- Analyze Qualified Conversion Services

Implementation Plan Phase I

The implemenetation plan is made up of a series of tasks and activities. These include:

- Project Setup
- Defining User Requirements
- Developing a Conceptual Design
    - Database
    - Applications
    - Software Configuration
    - System Configuration
- Preparing a Cost Benefit Analysis
- Defining the schedule and budget.

Implementation Phase II Plan

- System Selection
- Development Contractor Selection
- Database Design
- Conversion Specifications
- Conversion Pilot

- Application Development
- Acceptance Testing
- Training

Implementation Phase III Plan

Once the pilot has been accepted full production for data conversion and application devleopment can begin. This phase may extend over a period of years and probably needs to be broken into increments to meet budget constraints and staff ability to implement change.

Project Management

Throughout the implementation process it is critical to have strong project management practices. This will keep the projct on schedule and within budget. It will allow changes to be made without damaging the projects outcome. Without it the organization may achieve some success with the GIS implmentation but it will almost always cost more in time and budget to reach the orginal objectives.

Two reasons projects fail

- Lack of clear specifications
- Scope creep

Implementation Considerations

- Planning is a must
- Convert only features you will maintain
- Problems will occur
- Train your users
- Show early success with a pilot area
- Share resources with other departments

Conclusions

- Plan.
- The goal is to create a team.
- Keep everyone focused on the plan.
- Have a plan for managing change.