



Software project planning

Why you should engage Elkera to help plan your software project

Are you underestimating software project planning risks?

It is widely accepted that 50% or more of software projects seriously under deliver and that many projects fail completely. Possibly, only around 30% of projects are rated as successful.

Any business manager should be alarmed by those figures. There is something seriously wrong in the software world. Something has to change in the way many businesses approach software projects.

Business software is not a normal product. Rarely, if ever, can you just install it and start using it effectively. Business software is part of a system of processes and workflows that involve your staff and customers. The software, and your business processes and workflows must be aligned.

It requires skill and experience to navigate the many risks and issues involved in software planning.

Small and medium enterprises who do not regularly undertake software projects may not have project experts on staff. You may be tempted to rely on in-house personnel to plan your project. Perhaps the risks don't seem real, or the costs of an outside expert seem too high, or you are concerned about finding the right expert. Those concerns are common but using non-experts for software project planning is one of the biggest risk factors. It is a false economy.

Without expert planning assistance, there is a high risk that:

- The root causes of business problems and your business goals may not be clearly defined.
- Current, sub-optimal business processes may not be objectively reviewed and optimised to maximise benefits, and to minimise the complexity and cost of a new system.
- All necessary stakeholders may not be consulted, frustrating their work or forgoing benefits.
- Requirements may not be aligned to business needs, leading to waste and lost opportunities.
- Incorrect assumptions may be made about the use of particular products and technologies, leading to selection of the wrong solution.
- Your requirements may not be comprehensive, accurate, clear and testable.

Failing to navigate those risks creates a high risk of dissatisfied users, wasted costs, forgone business benefits, or complete project failure.

How Elkera can help you to avoid the risks and maximise project benefits

Elkera's experienced consultant has more than 20 years of experience planning and managing complex software projects. Elkera will guide you through all critical planning steps. You will be able to clearly define the problems to be solved and your goals, develop a business case, analyse and optimise business processes, elicit and define requirements, and manage procurement.

Elkera adopts an agile, incremental approach to software project planning that is tailored to the specific needs of each project. For medium to large projects, Elkera recommends a preliminary planning assessment, via a mini project, to assess the scope and state of the project, and to enable Elkera to provide a firm proposal for the first stage of the planning work

The preliminary planning assessment is a low cost, low risk way to establish the foundations of your business case, assess the way forward and let you be sure that you have selected the right expert.

Your investment in expert planning will greatly reduce project risks and help you maximise the return on investment (ROI) for your project.

The Indicative cost and ROI comparison diagram on the next page shows the stark difference you can expect with Elkera's expert planning, compared to reliance on inexperienced personnel.

To find out more about how Elkera can help, please call Peter Meyer at Elkera on 0418 980 220 to arrange an introductory, free 30-minute consultation to discuss your needs and Elkera's service. Confidentiality is assured.

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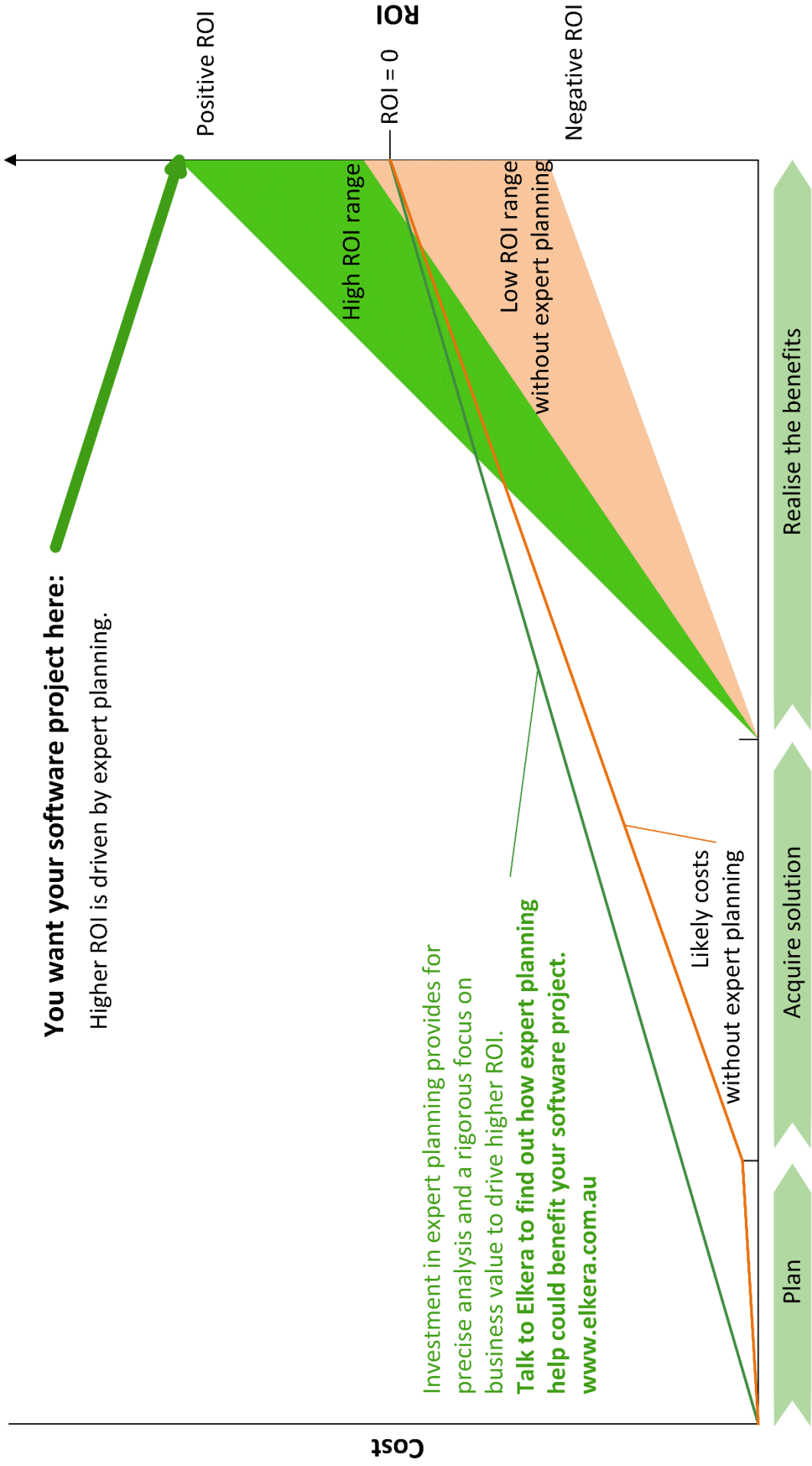
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Indicative cost and ROI comparison for software projects planned with or without expert help

You want your software project here:

Higher ROI is driven by expert planning.



Investment in expert planning provides for precise analysis and a rigorous focus on business value to drive higher ROI.

Talk to Elkera to find out how expert planning help could benefit your software project.

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