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Improve Project Success Rates with Better Leadership

by Dr. Karen McGraw

July 23, 2009 —Large, mission-critical projects demand more than effective project management skills to ensure the project success. Project leadership plays vitally important role in meeting established goals and objectives.

Factual and anecdotal evidence confirms that IT investments are inherently risky. On average, about 70% of all IT related projects fail to meet their on-time, on-budget objectives or to produce the expected business results. In one KPMG survey, 67% of the companies who participated said that their program/project management function was in need of improvement. Why? A number of leading factors for project failure were suggested by the survey, including the "usual suspects": unreasonable project timelines, poorly defined requirements, poor scope management, and unclear project objectives. Granted, all of these factors can play a role in [project success](#). But are they the cause or project failure, or just a symptom of some larger issue?

The article by Dr. Karen McGraw discusses that the root cause for many of these common failure points is really the ability to lead projects, not just manage them. The full article by Dr. Karen McGraw is available [\[here\]](#).

A vertical advertisement for Sprint. At the top right is the Sprint logo. The main text reads: "One number. One voicemail. Wonderful." Below this, in smaller text, it says: "Turn your desk and mobile phones into one with Sprint Mobile Integration." At the bottom, there is a dark button with the text "Learn more" and a right-pointing arrow.

A horizontal advertisement for Sprint. On the left, the text reads: "One number. One voicemail. Wonderful." Below this, in smaller text, it says: "Turn your desk and mobile phones into one with Sprint Mobile Integration." On the right side, there is a dark button with the text "Learn more" and a right-pointing arrow. The Sprint logo is located at the top right of the advertisement.