IT Projects - Measuring and Maximizing Return on Investment (ROI)

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# Conclusions

- ROI measurements can help IT managers validate and prioritize projects
- Maximizing ROI occurs when you consider all costs and all benefits
- Project approval is achieved by matching project type with an organization's technology adoption profile

### What is Return on Investment (ROI)?

- ROI is commonly expressed as a percentage derived from dividing revenue by investment
- ROI is an estimate of the financial benefit (the "return") on money spent (the "investment") on a particular project

### Why is ROI important?

- Evaluate competing projects
- Provide metrics for business case
- Measure managerial effectiveness



### **Costs and Benefits**

Costs (Investment)

Direct Costs

Indirect Costs

Known, expected costs

Less identifiable, usually distributed costs



### **Costs and Benefits**

Benefits (Revenue)

Hard Benefits

Easier to measure and quantify in actual dollars

#### Soft Benefits

Harder to quantify in actual dollars even if they can be measured



# **Cost Calculation Factors**

#### **Direct** Costs

- Acquisition
- Development
- Operation and maintenance
- Implementation
- Training
- Staffing
- Conversion

#### Indirect Costs

- Utilities
- Rent
- Communications
- Management

## **Benefit Calculation Factors**

#### Hard Benefits

#### Soft Benefits

- Increased revenue
- Reduced expenses

- Customer and employee satisfaction
- Improved decision-making

# **IT Project Types**

#### Invention

Focus on creating new processes, products, markets

#### Improvement

Focus on efficiency

### **Improvement Projects**

#### Example:



The acquisition and implementation of a new off-the-shelf application to improve contracts management

## **Improvement Projects**

#### Example:



The acquisition and rollout of desktop printers

## **Invention Projects**

Example:



The development and implementation of an e-business initiative to manage grants processing





Early Adopters

Number of Organizations

Late Adopters

Technology Adoption

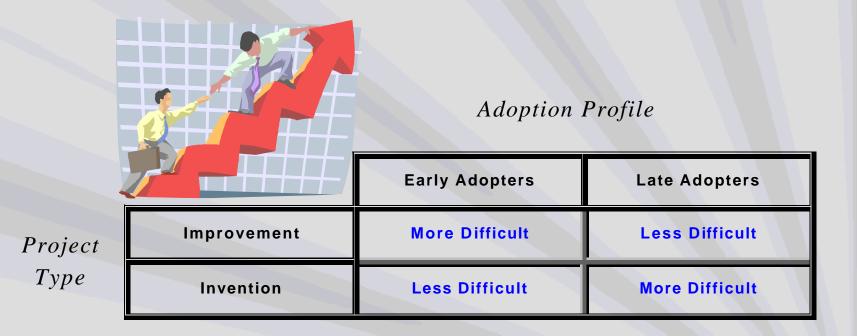
# **Early Adopters**

- Aggressive (high risk)
- Focus on creating new processes, products and markets
- Emphasize soft benefits

# **Late Adopters**

- Cautious (low risk)
- Focus on efficiency
- Emphasize hard benefits

# **Project Approval**



PBS 2001 Technology Conference

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### Project Approval Effectively Communicating ROI

- Explain costs and benefits clearly

- Hard benefits first, soft benefits second

- Numbers, numbers, numbers!

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### **ROI** Mailing List

### http://mailman.cpb.org/mailman/listinfo/roi

