INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO   Distribution   OFFICE   FROM   OFFICE

FOR   Project Team   FROM   A. P. Mayo

                                  JOB OR
DATE   October, 1985   ACCOUNT NO.   BUZ00101

SUBJECT   Shibboleth Project

Let me update you on the Shibboleth Project. We are getting into that on-budget and on-time mode as items out of scope impact on the status less often.

I also wanted get back to you on that matter you ran by me the other day when we did that lunch thing. Its a priority to get something down on paper at this point on the learning curve and plug the decision makers into the loop before they shift into a head-in-the-sand mode. Let's all put our heads together and be sure we're headed in the same direction before we charge off with our heads in the clouds. This deal may accumulate too much baggage and iterate to death with user input while we're facing a drop dead delivery date. Because of the time frame I'm dealing with this project isn't at all leveraged and since I haven't pushed it down the pyramid I could only pull together this quick 'n' dirty plain vanilla overview--nothing fancy, just a set of bullet points to sort of keep the team honest before I put any bells and whistles on it, make it sexy, and tie it up with a bow so we can run it up the flag pole for the techies in case some clueless greenbean who hasn't made the commitment to even get his arms around the basic functionality tries to pigeon hole it while its still up in the air and hasn't even been around the block a few times to see if its going to fly or just get shot down the minute it looks like a done deal the client has gone through labor with, feels ownership for, has completely bought into and is ready to sign off on even with out crossing all the T's and dotting all the I's, though a lot of flashy touchy-feely stuff may be needed before we walk it through for everyone on the critical path, not that we should conduct a full-blown dog and pony show but objectively the exposure on this is so great I can already feel the breeze on my fanny since it could spoil lunches all the way up to world headquarters and be a mega-career-limiting-move even for the sort of self-starting team players we hope to bring on board this project (not that I'm going to wait until all our ducks are in a row: let's get smart

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and pass the baton to some real heavy, hands-on teamplayers
who'll slam a lotta code and put it to bed just as fast as the
decsion makers can hammer out the nuts 'n' bolts of all the fine
print and the grunts lay a foundation by getting their feet wet
and their hands dirty down in the trenches, doing a little green
eyeshade work, running through the numbers, getting in bed with
the movers and shakers A.S.A.P. and documenting in hard copy form
the distilled high level feedback accumulated by physically doing
the leg work, interacting with the end users not just some remote
control overview of the hot spots, but a hands on, real time,
real world analysis.

What this all boils down to is cooking up a boilerplate
approach with a canned package, so we can put out some fires
while it sits on the back burner. I feel the heat from upstairs
but it looks do-able. You've pushed all of my hot buttons, so
lets sit down in a room together and send out for dinner while
we're still lean and hungry to chew over the meat and potatoes
issues. To bottom line this thing, its no piece of cake but we
haven't bitten off more than we can chew as long as the concept
is saleable and everyone is fully chargeable we can expand the
scope to cover any real world contingency. I'm trying to avoid a
no-win situation with a black box solution which turns out to be
a non-issue no-brainer after all is said and done.

We should get cracking on plugging the gaps, make sure
nothing falls through the cracks, take a swing at ballparking
some figures, put some meat on it, give it some backbone, fill it
out, dress it up, put it up on Lotus, skinny it down, get it in
the pipeline, prioritize the to-do list, and tweek it 'til its
squeaky clean. We need to walk through the calculations, run
through the numbers, run it by the QA, run out for sandwiches,
then run it up the flagpole so we can hit the ground running and
have it up and running before the budget runs out. Then we'll
get the others up to speed before the whole show comes together
down the line.

My comfort level is very high so if there's a bug in my
logic you can give me a buzz, get on the horn, ring my office,
get a hold of my secretary, send a telex, DVX a patch to me and
follow through by dex-ing the graphic back-up material. These
parameters may be all wet but I'm willing to get my feet wet as
long as we pool our resources to preclude getting in over our
heads and having to pull the plug on a sink or swim scenario
before we know if this thing will float or even hold water. Then
this will all just be water over the bridge and under the dam.