



Stage and Software

Similarities in Management of Software
Development and Theatrical Design Projects

- Code Reviews
- The End Game or Tech Rehearsals
- Building a Team

Overview

- An examination of the work that has already been completed
- Goals:
 - Checks for accuracy and operability
 - Compares to the intended goals of the project
 - Confirms integration into other elements

Code Reviews

IDEAS → REQUIREMENTS/SPECIFICATIONS → DESIGN

DESIGN PROCESS DELIVERABLES

SOFTWARE

- Feature List
- Flowcharts/Diagrams
- Pseudocode
- User Interface Mock
Ups

THEATRE

- Physical Models
- Photos
- Renderings
- Drawings

The Design Process

- Chronic Delays vs. “The Show Must Go On”
- Put People in the Same Room

The End Game or Tech Rehearsals

Theatrical Design

- Assuming a “typical” regional theater model
- Lead by Director
- Specialized members:
 - Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Costume Designer, Sound Designer
- This model can apply to many other entertainment fields

Software Engineering

- No industry standard for team structure
- Sample set of Required Team Skills:
 - Data structure development, interaction design, line programming, graphics artists
- Team members likely have multiple relevant skill sets

Building a Team

Theatrical Design

- Adaptability
- Honesty
- Ability to Communicate Effectively
- Good at following through on ideas and tasks

Software Engineering

- Adaptability to Rapid Change
- Modicum of Neatness
- Ability to Tolerate Stressful Situations
- Assertiveness/Force of Character
- Sense of Humor

Ideal Qualities

- People Perform Better When They Are Trying Something New

The Hawthorne Effect

- Project Assignment vs. Coworker Choice
 - Which is more important to project success and team member happiness?

Project Assignment

- Interviews vs. Portfolio Reviews vs. Skills Examinations
- Evaluating Teamwork

Hiring Practices

- Theatrical Designers Rarely On-Site
- Technology trends making software development occur remotely

Managing at a Distance

QUESTIONS?

Full Text of this Capstone Project and
Bibliography can be found at:

www.brianalderman.com/portfolio

Brian Alderman

brian.alderman@alumni.cmu.edu

www.brianalderman.com
