The focus of this collaborative discussion was to identify the three most common causes for software project failure. The general argument made across various posts was that the three most common causes for project failure are poor leadership and governance, poor communication, and a lack of focus on quality assurance (i.e. testing). Various case studies were presented as justification for these causes, with the associated impacts ranging from large financial losses (either due to development failure or bugs in the software, namely in the case of the UK's online tax credit system), to the collapse of a billion-dollar company (Villar, 2022).

While I argued the reasons were a poor task backlog, poor cooperation between employees, and a lack of attention given to testing, a good point was made by Millward (2022), who argued that perhaps the real problem for software project failure is more related to the scale and complexity of a project, as opposed to the three reasons given. This does appear to be a possibility- in their work, Rezvani & Khosravi (2019), found that system complexity and organisational complexity can be contributing factors to software project failures in larger, more complex projects. Research is being done on how to better guarantee the success of large scale software projects, with Jørgensen (2018) finding that agile development methods are ideal for managing the complexity associated with large projects. Perhaps this is the direction that academic discussion needs to take on the topic, as this field continues to reach new heights.

**References**

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