Re-invention Starts with Datavail's Discovery Process

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Defining the work for very large projects takes enough time that it should be structured as a project itself. This is the purpose of defining a separate discovery project.

Tom Mochal, TechRepublic

A recent article in CIO magazine cites this dismal finding: As many as 50 percent of IT projects fall short. According to the CIO write-up, the main reason this happens is that projects are doomed from the start by "fuzzy goals."

It doesn't need to be that way. Goals, priorities strategies and realistic timelines come into sharp focus through a discovery project.

Discovery is the process of digging deep into the details of what you already have in place, what you need to change, who you're changing for and why your digital initiative will better serve customers and advance your organization.

Discovery clarifies the outcomes you want to achieve, the deliverables that will help you achieve them and the blueprint of what you're building. Done right, discovery mitigates risk.

50%
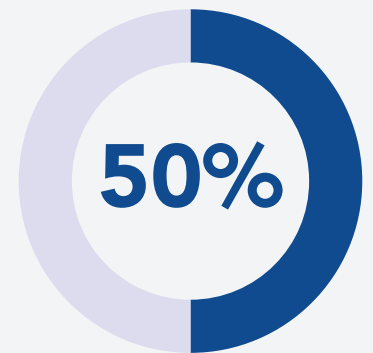
As many as 50% of IT projects fall short

A discovery project with Datavail will help you:

- Manage stakeholder expectations
- Prioritize efforts
- Avoid mid-project changes
- Leverage existing resources
- Reach your objectives
- Lower project costs
- Stay on time and on budget

At Datavail, we know that a deep-dive into project goals will almost always dig up hidden issues you should address. We also know that what stakeholders want is important, and a proper discovery process will uncover needs you might have missed without this vital, investigative step.

These kinds of outcomes stem from proven methodologies that can be adapted to any business and initiative. Datavail's proven approach will put your project on the right path.

The Datavail Discovery Process

Datavail's extensive background with discovery projects has allowed us to develop a reliable approach to discovery. Here's how we do it:

The Envisioning Phase

Understanding your users starts with user research. This helps you envision what the solution will look like based on the personas of your customers and other stakeholders, as well as business scenarios that are likely to crop up. Such insight tethers the entire project back to the original business drivers for your organization's digital transformation initiative.

The Discovery Process

Defines roles and responsibilities:
It identifies a product owner and key user representatives to drive the user experience.

Clarifies your vision:
This may include both short-term and long-term vision statements.

Develops personas:
We'll help you define archetypal users and their activities. You'll understand the goals that users want to achieve, how they are accomplished today, and how they may change in the future.

Reveals challenges:
We'll uncover the key pain points of your stakeholders.

Defines a prioritized backlog:
Working with your product owner, we'll develop a prioritized backlog of features.

Architecture/Infrastructure:
We'll define high-level business, application and integration architectures with infrastructure review and make a recommendation.

At the conclusion of the discovery process a architecture technical vision document will be provided.

Anatomy of a Datavail Discovery Project

Duration	4-6 weeks
Purpose	Identify, define and record project goals, stakeholders and deliverables
Consistent, process-driven delivery	• Best practices • Lessons learned • Proven methodologies • Familiar design tools • Key findings • Utilities-specific industry experience
The right team and time commitments	• Engagement Manager – 20 percent of the time • Solution Architect – half time • Business Consultant – half time • Infrastructure Architect if cloud or hosting solutions are required – half time • Business Analyst – full time