Building an IT Project is Like Building a House—Why You Need the Right Trades (and a Foreman!)

Imagine you're building your dream home. You've hired the best people for the job: electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and painters. You wouldn't expect a plumber to install your home's wiring or an electrician to fix your pipes, right?

Well, IT projects work the same way! Just like construction, IT has different specialized trades, and when you ask the wrong person to do the wrong job, you're going to get some funny looks. Even worse, if no one is keeping track of all the moving parts—what's been done, what's left to do, and how things are supposed to be built—the whole project could turn into a mess. That's where Knowledge Management (KM) comes in.

Let's meet the crew!

Meet the IT Construction Crew

The Plumber (Network Engineer) – Keeps Data Flowing

Just like a plumber ensures water flows properly through your home's pipes, a Network Engineer makes sure data flows smoothly through your company's network. They set up routers, configure Wi-Fi, and keep systems connected.

🛠 Ask them to write software? That's like asking your plumber to install a chandelier. You'll get a confused look and maybe a few choice words.

The Electrician (Software Developer) – Wires the Brains of the System

An electrician brings power to your house, making sure the lights turn on and your appliances work. A Software Developer does the same thing for IT by writing the code that powers your applications.

🛠 Ask them to configure a firewall? That's like asking an electrician to fix a clogged toilet. Good luck with that.

The Carpenter (Hardware Engineer) – Builds the Foundation

Carpenters construct the framework of your home, ensuring it's sturdy and durable. A Hardware Engineer builds the physical foundation of IT—servers, computers, and data centers that keep everything running.

🛠 Ask them to design a website? That's like handing a carpenter a paintbrush and asking them to decorate your living room. Sure, they can try… but you probably won't like the results.

The Painter (UI/UX Designer) – Makes It Look and Feel Right

A painter adds the finishing touches to your home, making sure it looks great. In IT, a UI/UX Designer makes sure applications and websites are visually appealing and user-friendly.

🛠 Ask them to build a database? That's like asking a painter to install your plumbing. Just because they know color theory doesn't mean they know pipe fittings.

The Foreman (Knowledge Manager) – Keeps the Whole Project on Track

Now, imagine if no one wrote down the blueprints, tracked which walls had been built, or kept a record of where the pipes and electrical wires were. Every worker would have to guess what to do next, leading to costly mistakes and a chaotic job site.

That's exactly what happens in IT without Knowledge Management (KM). The KM Specialist is the Foreman—the one who:
   •   Keeps documentation up to date so people don't have to figure things out from scratch.
   •   Makes sure past solutions and best practices are saved so teams don't repeat mistakes.
   •   Ensures knowledge is passed down to new team members, just like a construction foreman teaches apprentices.

Without the KM Foreman, IT projects turn into a disaster—just like a house with no blueprints!

Why IT Teams Aren't Avoiding Work—They Just Have Specialties

If an electrician tells you, "I don't do plumbing," you don't assume they're lazy—you just know it's not their job. IT works the same way. When a developer says, "I don't configure networks," they're not dodging work; they just know that's the network engineer's job.

And when a Knowledge Manager insists on documenting everything, they're not being a control freak—they're making sure the next people working on the system don't have to "tear down the walls" just to find out where the pipes are.

The Moral of the Story: IT Needs All Trades Working Together

Just like a house, an IT project requires specialists working together with clear plans and documentation. Each person plays a key role, and without a good Knowledge Management Foreman, the whole system could fall apart.

So next time you need IT work done, ask yourself:
Am I asking the plumber to install my chandelier?
If so, you might need to call the right trade—or check the blueprints before the whole thing collapses!