

Technical Project Management

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Agenda

- Why I hate Project Management...
- 7 Must have skills
- Technical Abilities
- What is RAID?
- Tools
- Certifications
- Conclusion and Questions



"KIDS! This stop is on the CRITICAL PATH and is scheduled to take exactly 43 minutes! ~ So no slack time!"

What is a Project?

- “A project is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service, or result. The temporary nature of projects indicates a definite beginning and end”.



What is a Not Project Management?

- According to Kerzner (2006), many, most project managers misunderstand project management as following:
 - “Project management is the art of creating the illusion that any outcome is the result of a series of predetermined, deliberate acts when, in fact, it was dumb luck.”



What is Project Management?

- *“Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities in order to meet the project requirements. This application of knowledge requires the effective management of appropriate processes”*



Why I hate it...

- Boring
- Exact
- 9 out of 10 times it is correct...
- Slows folks down
- Brings teams back to reality
- I really don't hate it, it is the right thing to do!
 - And how to get things done!

Must have Skills: 1

- Highly Organized and a good multi-threader
 - Remember, multi-tasking is impossible
 - Unless you have more than one brain

Must have Skills: 2

- Take Charge and Know How to Lead



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Must have Skills: 3

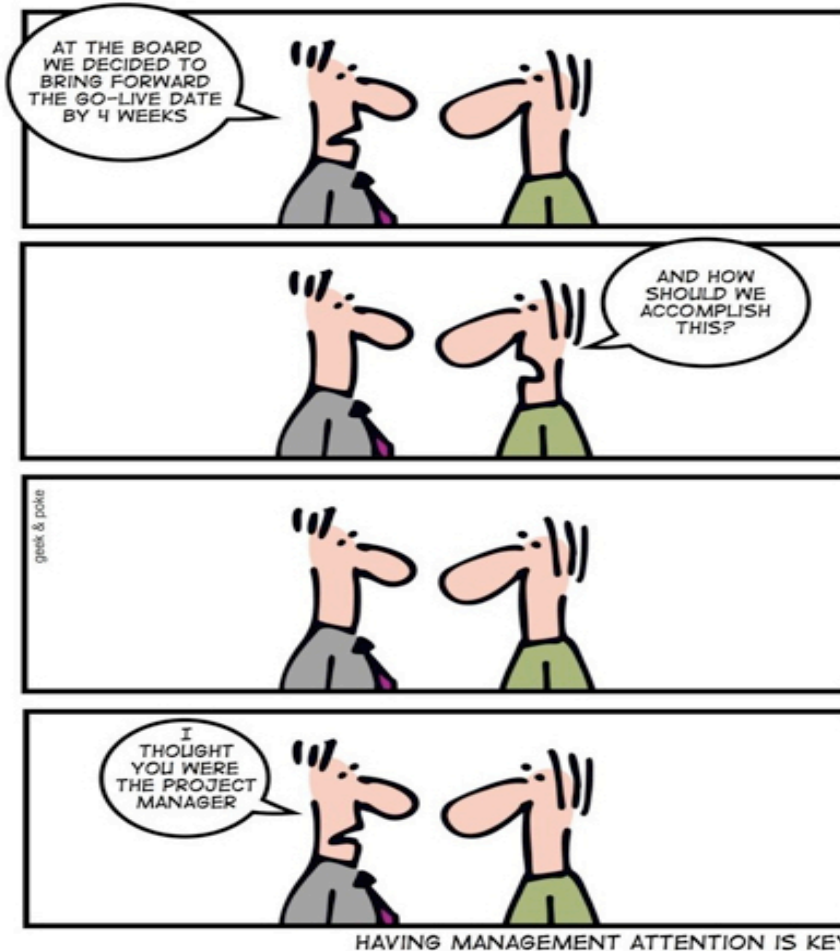
- Be an Effective Communicator



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Must have Skills: 4

- Know How and When to Negotiate



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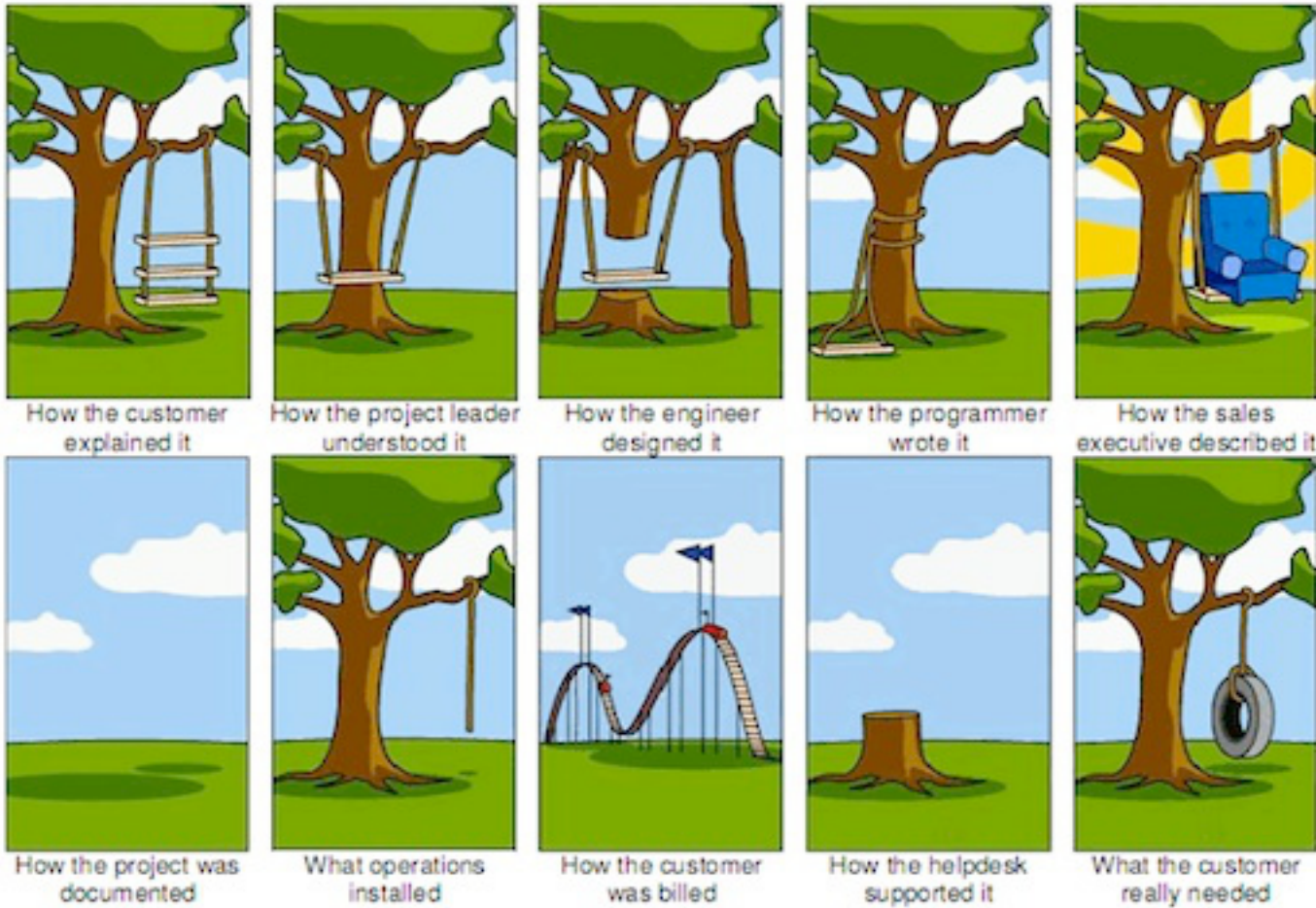
Must have Skills: 5

- Be Detail Oriented



Must have Skills: 6

- Recognize and Solve Problems Quickly



Must have Skills: 7

- Possess the Necessary Technical Skills
 - If not, find them



What About Technical Abilities?

- Budget Preparation and Finance
 - Keeping the project on track with finances
 - Avoiding added costs
 - Keeping Management alerted on status



What About Technical Abilities?

- Work Schedules Software
- Ellis? Your “PM Tools” Guy!



What About Technical Abilities?

- Technical Reports
 - Functional Testing
 - Stress Testing
 - Load Testing
 - And everything in between

What About Technical Abilities?

- Project Evaluation
 - Be a “Realist”



So What is RAID?

- Risks
 - What happens if the project fails?
 - Jobs
 - \$\$\$
 - Reputation
 - Future of organization



So What is RAID?

- Assumptions
 - What do you assume is true?
 - What do you assume is false?
 - What are the givens?
 - What can change?



“I call my invention ‘The Wheel,’ but so far I’ve been unable to attract any venture capital.”

36 F O R B E S ■ November 1, 2004

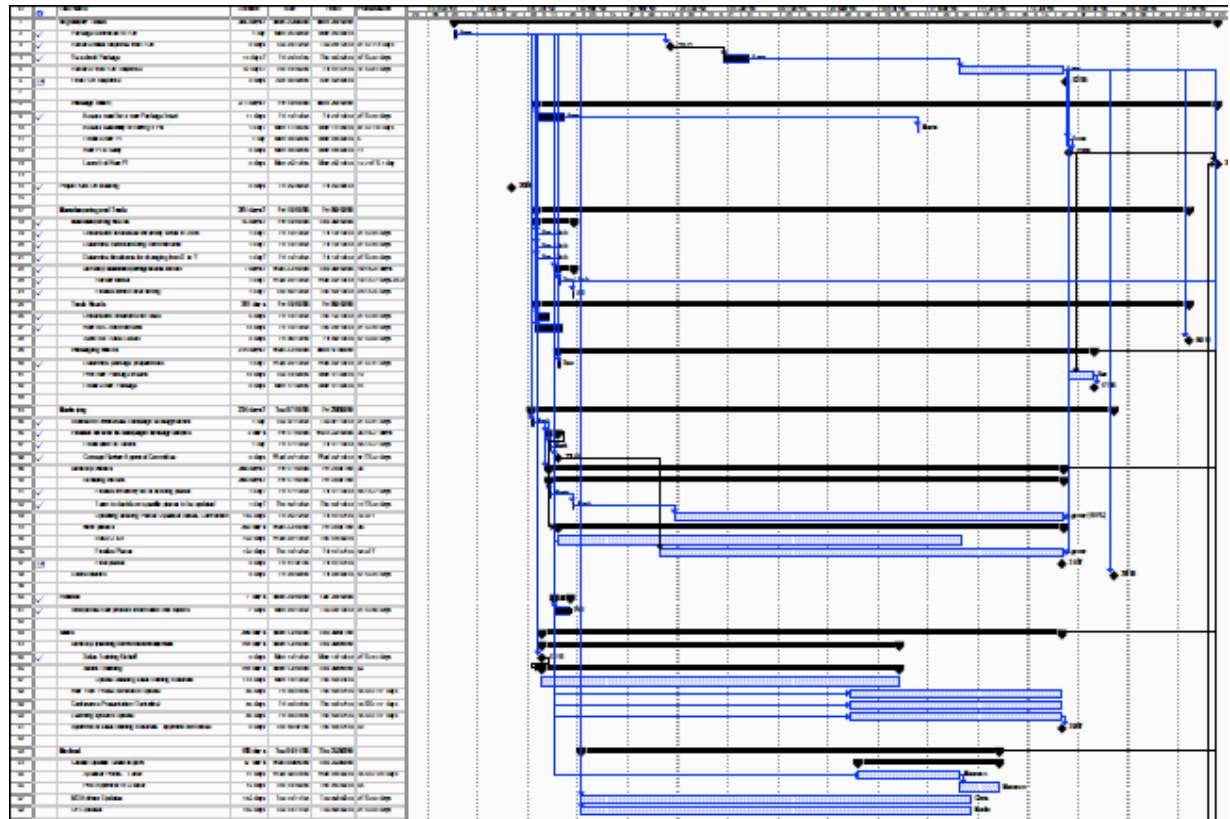
So What is RAID?

- Issues
 - Known issues
 - Unknown issues
 - What could happen
 - What is the environment
 - Politics



So What is RAID?

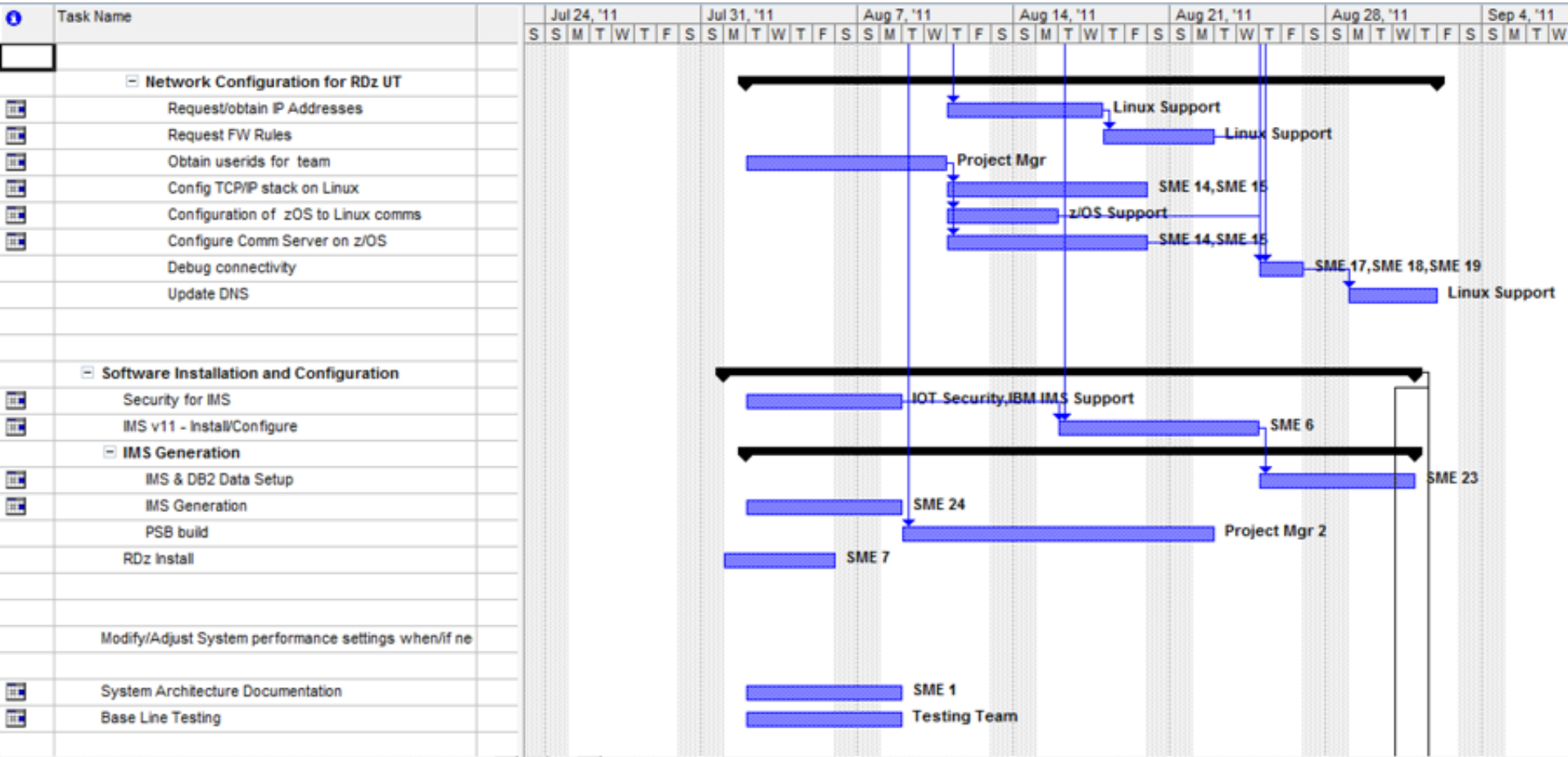
- Dependencies
 - Predecessors
 - Successors
 - People
 - Funding
 - Equipment



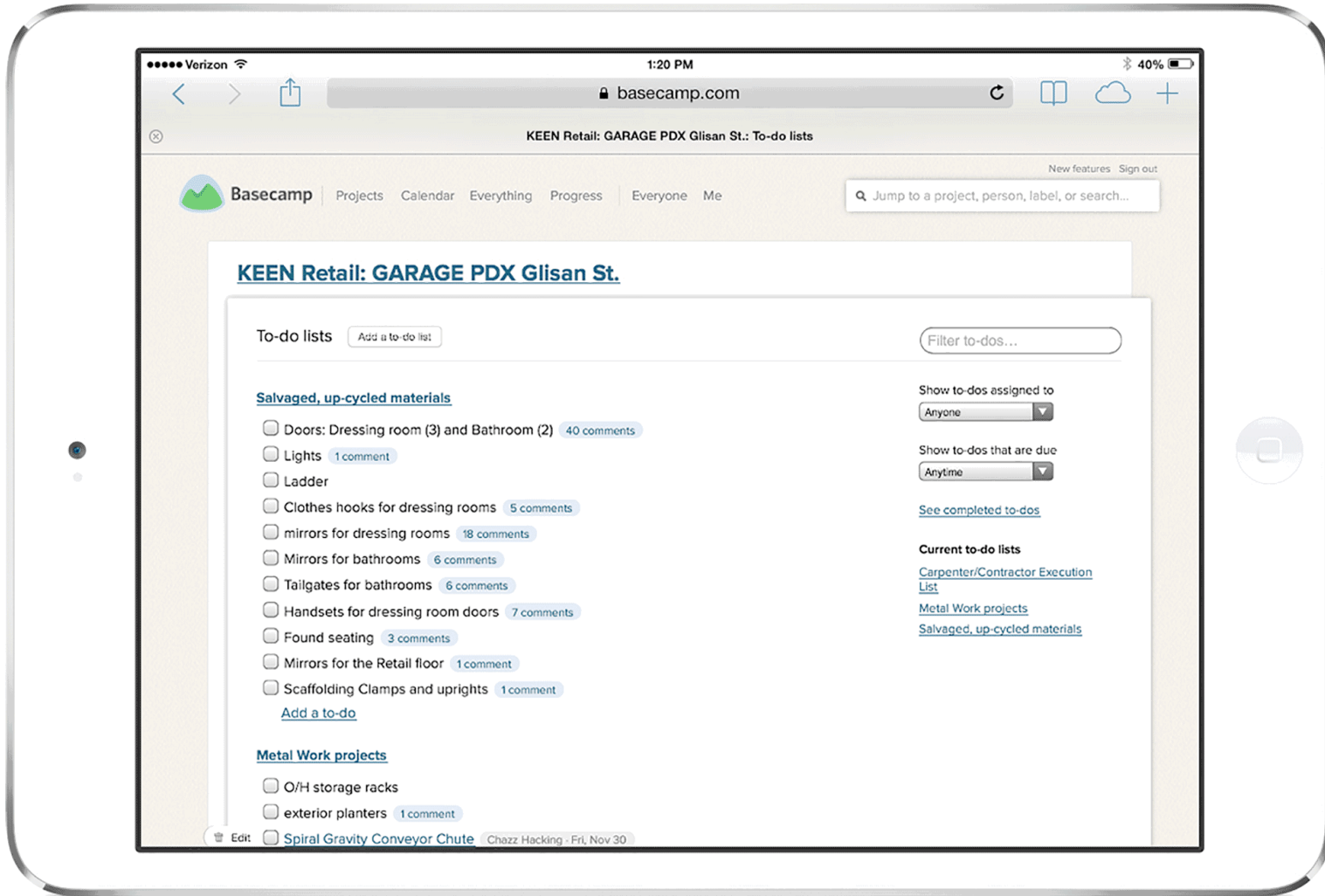
Even with the best intentions and strategy, a wrong turn can quickly demolish months of work



Besides the 'traditional' tools like MS Project there are 'free' or low cost alternatives available



Many project managers favor BaseCamp



Bitrix24 is free for up to 12 users, it is cloud based 'teamworking'



+ CREATE ▼

My Tasks

+ NEW TASK

Ongoing ² **Assisting** **Set by me** **Following** **All** **Projects** **Reports**

I'm responsible, showing tasks **IN PROGRESS** ▼ by **ALL** ▼ View **LIST** ▼

2 Tasks: [2 not viewed](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name			↑Deadline	Created by	Score	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Invite new employees				Ellis Holman	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fill in profile data				Ellis Holman	<input type="text"/>	

For all **APPLY**

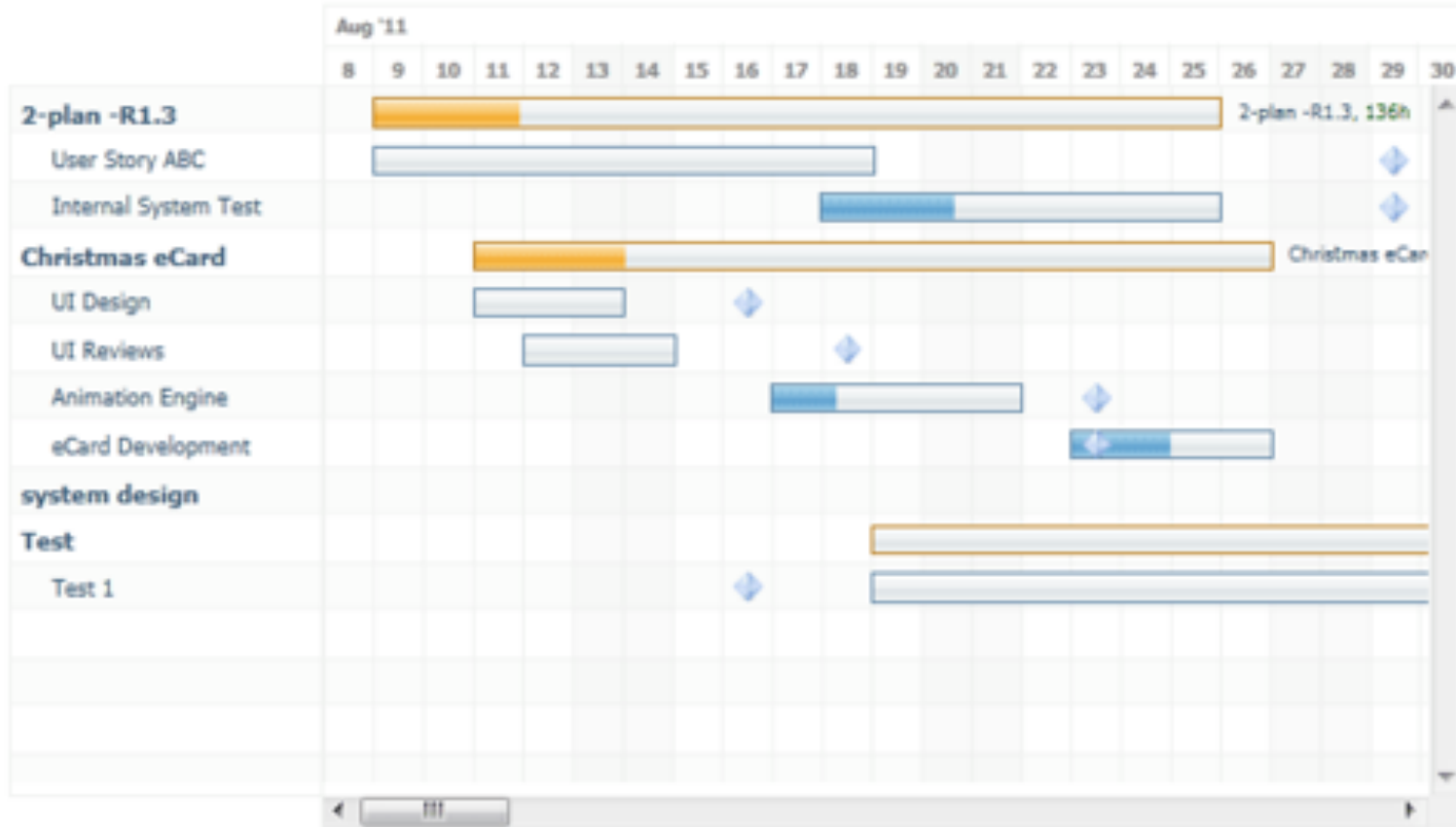
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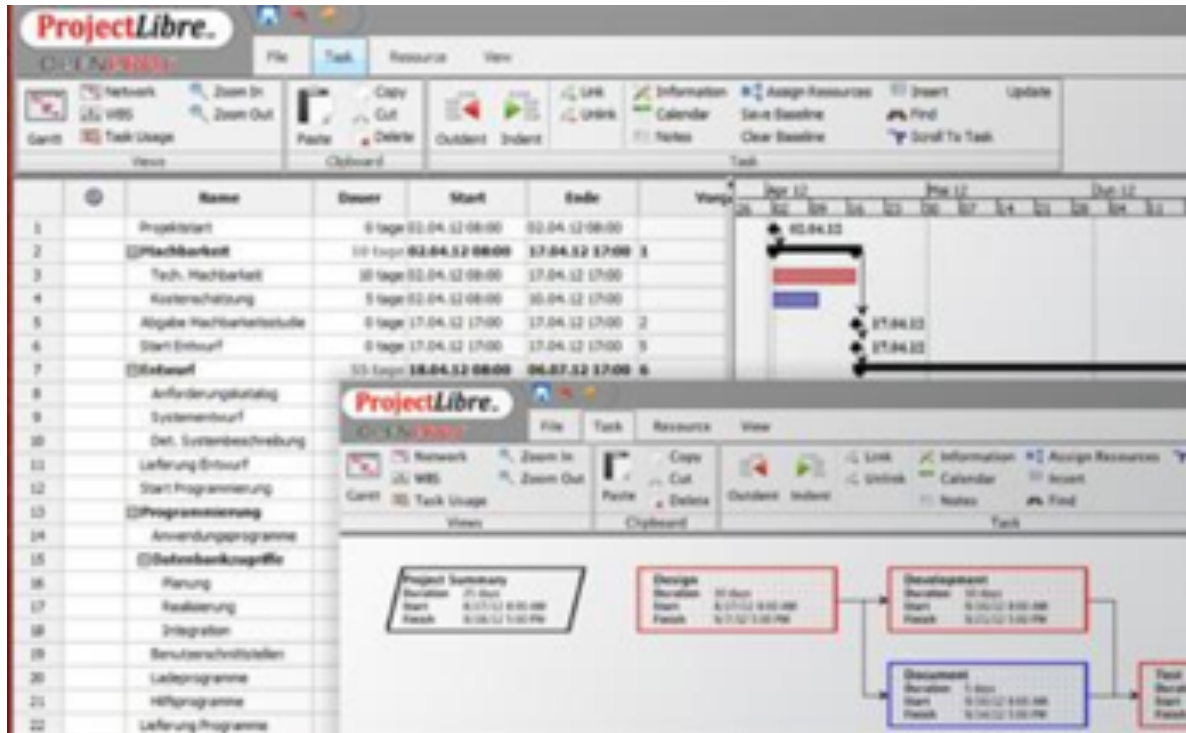
2-plan Desktop Free Project Management Software

Gantt



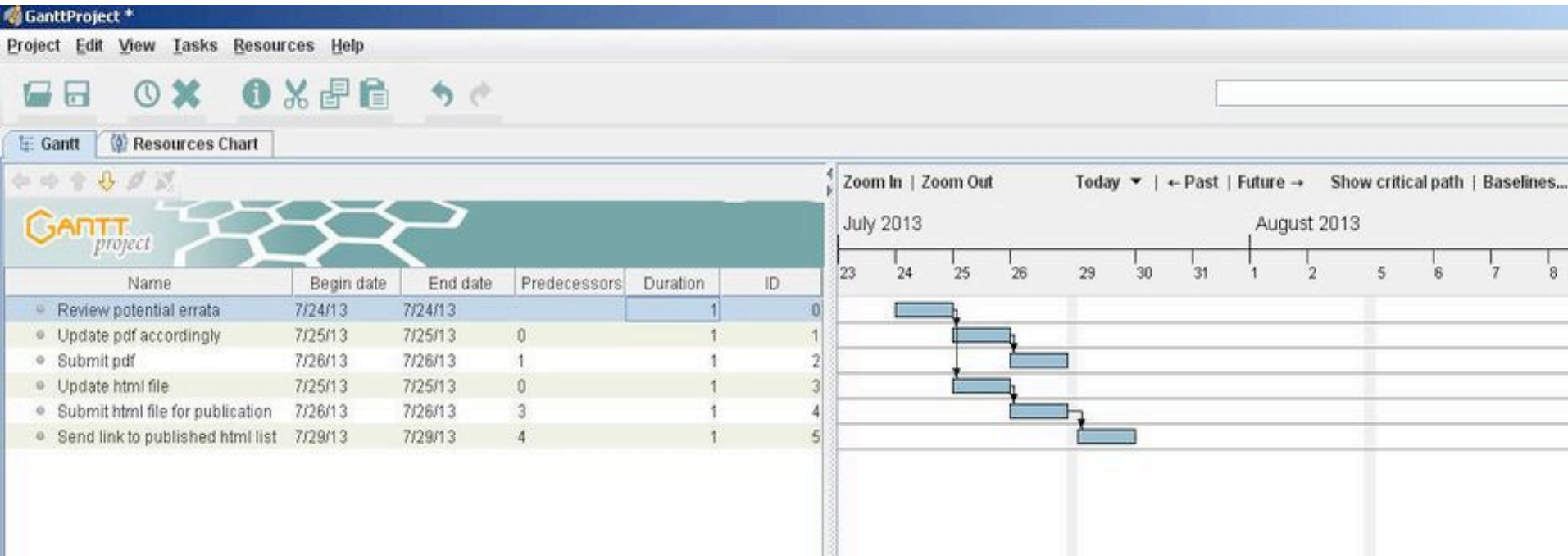
Alternative to MS Project also available on platforms other than desktop

ProjectLibre (previously known as OpenProj) is open source project management software that openly bills itself as a replacement for MS Project



- Compatibility with Microsoft Project 2010
- Gantt Chart
- PERT Chart
- Network Diagram
- Earned Value Costing

GanttProject's is simple and can be configured to open MS Project files



- Simple, but with features such as, todo list and calendaring
- Dependencies are created similar to MS Project

Sources

- **BaseCamp:** <https://basecamp.com/>
- **Bitrix:** <http://www.bitrixsoft.com/support/training/>
- **2-Plan:** <http://2-plan.com/>
- **ProjectLibre:** <http://www.projectlibre.org/>
- **GanttProject:** <http://www.ganttproject.biz/>

Top Project Management Certifications

Table 1: Job Board Survey Results

	Dice	Indeed	LinkedIn	SimplyHired	TechCareers
CAPM	227	519	5,679	861	135
CompTIA Project+	0	15	7	81	3
CPM	10	152	56	120	59
MPM	1	80	19	207	48
PMP	1,567	14,858	5,627	35,607	1,467

Questions??



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Conclusions...

- The World needs great Project Managers
- Great Project Managers are worth their weight in gold!
- Great Project Managers will save your company MONEY!
- Let them work their MAGIC!
- Make sure you have one for all major efforts
- Look at certifications for training
- Use the Tools!

