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”.

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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!

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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
Must have Skills: 4

- Know How and When to Negotiate

AT THE BOARD WE DECIDED TO BRING FORWARD THE GO-LIVE DATE BY 4 WEEKS

AND HOW SHOULD WE ACCOMPLISH THIS?

THOUGHT YOU WERE THE PROJECT MANAGER

HAVING MANAGEMENT ATTENTION IS KEY

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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?
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

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

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2-plan Desktop Free Project Management Software

Alternative to MS Project also available on platforms other than desktop

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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

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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

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</table>
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!