



PROJECTABILITY

ViewPoints

Projectability's monthly newsletter

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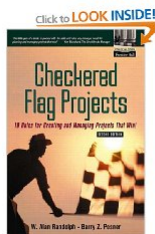
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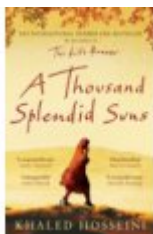
Project Reading



[Checkered Flag Projects:](#)

As a race fan I was drawn to this book by the cover. It espouses 10 simple rules for winning Projects. It is brief and to the point and provides powerful examples that can significantly increase the chances of project success.

Reading for Pleasure



[A Thousand Splendid Suns](#)

was voted book of the year by "The Times" newspaper.

I found it both captivating and rewarding as it gives a glimpse into another world and paints vivid pictures of Afghanistan, both the beauty and the cruelty of its history and society.

Dear Dominic,

Welcome to our first newsletter, I hope you will find the content we are providing informative and thought provoking.



In this issue we focus upon the item that is dominating the news whilst also focusing upon Project Maturity. We also offer you a shortcut to help you use Microsoft Project more effectively whilst also suggesting some reading for both business and pleasure.

You are receiving this newsletter as you are someone I have corresponded with by email in the past. If you do not wish to receive further copies of this newsletter the unsubscribe option at the bottom of this email has been tested and proven to work!

If you know of anyone who would find what we have to say of interest you are more than welcome to forward this email.

Happy Planning - Dominic

Global Economic Turmoil - looking for the positives

For the past few months financial matters have dominated the headlines like never before. Taking a leaf out of the risk management principle that where there are risks there are also opportunities here are three ideas on how these circumstances are likely to make the discipline of project management of even greater value and importance to organisations looking to thrive rather than just survive.

Scrutiny: Accountability and compliance are likely to be a more prevalent part of working life as a result of the fallout from the failure of governance and regulation in the financial sector. Being able to illustrate how valuable capital is being effectively employed and how you are complying with corporate standards and procedures is likely to become a requirement you will be unable to avoid. Hopefully you are already recording and documenting your processes and procedures. Being able to demonstrate the discipline and rigour you employ will be an example to others and a further validation of the merits of effective project working.

Profitability: Turnover is vanity, profit is sanity. In a world where the bottom line is going to be focused upon with even greater interest, accounting for costs and apportioning them appropriately is likely to be a key factor in achieving profitability. Having a sound understanding of where you are spending your money and what value it is delivering will be a key determinant.

If you are not already producing detailed cost plans and budgets for your projects that take into account all cost components the likelihood is that you will be required to do so before too long. We have noticed an increasing focus on proper project costings amongst our customers over the past

It is, along with *The Grapes of Wrath*, one of the few books where I have been so absorbed by the story that I have been dismayed at what befalls one of the central characters.

Despite that it is well worth a read and destined to be a contemporary classic.

two years. Having an appreciation of the true cost of pursuing a project will both validate the business case and also focus stakeholders on the true cost of the project and the need to monitor and control all cost elements to ensure that value is achieved.

Being able to illustrate the value added and profitability of your projects could have a significant bearing on any decision involving cutbacks or restructuring being made by senior management.

Deadlines: Project Management has been growing in popularity in recent years for several reasons but one of the most pressing has been the relentless pace of change and the need to achieve ever tighter and more demanding deadlines. This relentless phenomenon shows no signs of slowing and if anything the current economic climate will mean it is even more relevant as organisations seek to improve margins and to realise competitive advantage in the market place. Planning, monitoring and controlling projects effectively is crucial to achieving demanding deadlines - if you are already working this way you will have a head-start on the competition. However avoid being complacent, you will need to be looking to improve in all areas to maintain and ideally extend your competitive advantage.

2009 looks like being an interesting year - I hope these ideas give you the confidence to press on regardless. *"True success is overcoming the fear of being unsuccessful."* **PAUL SEENEY**

Maturity - it's as relevant to projects as it is wine and cheese!

The Forrester Research group in a survey identified that 67% of IT oriented organisations in the United States have a PMO (Project Management Office) established and that more than half of them adopted a PMO between 2000 and 2003. The benefits of adopting a PMO are many but typically a key driver in the adoption of a PMO will be a desire from the organisation for project performance improvement and consistency. The PMO function can be a champion for the effective adoption of a recognised project methodology or processes.

You may have heard of the SEI (Software Engineering Institute) CMM (Capability Maturity Model), sorry for all the acronyms in this article. It identifies 5 levels of maturity for the management of projects.

For the majority of organisations their current level of maturity is likely to be somewhere between levels 1 & 2. Being critical where do you think your organisation ranks in this list?

Bear in mind that of those organisations that actively pursue CMM accreditation only 28.5% achieve level 3 or above, only 9.1% achieve level 4 and just 3.7% achieve level 5. This suggests that 61.5% or nearly two thirds of those pursuing CMM accreditation are at levels 1 or 2 and that is for organisations that have a policy of working to improve their performance. Imagine the situation for organisations that are not considering such policies?

Even if you are not engaged in software development there are benefits to be derived from adopting a more disciplined approach to how your organisation pursues projects. Companies without a PMO function typically experience a 74% failure rate on their projects. If you think this sort of investment is expensive count the cost of failure and then think again.

If you are interested in improving your organisations Project Management effectiveness please [contact](#) us to arrange an initial assessment and report.

CTRL+ - Handy Microsoft Project Keyboard Shortcuts



Keyboard shortcuts are a useful way to improve your efficiency in using Microsoft Project. Each month we will highlight one of the shortcuts available and the benefits of using it.

This month CTRL+F3 - this shortcut applies the All Tasks or All Resources Filter depending upon what class of information you are looking at. If you have filtered your project and then make a change the filter is not re-applied and sometimes you can forget that a filter has been applied. Using this shortcut will show you all the information in your schedule.

If you have enjoyed this newsletter please feel free to pass it on to a friend or colleague using the Forward email option at the foot of this email. We will be keeping an eye on just how far this newsletter gets and hope to publicise just how far ViewPoints has gotten around the globe in future editions.

In the next newsletter we will be focusing upon some of the benefits of the Project Server EPM solution. Until then I wish you and your projects the very best.

Dominic Moss

Principal Consultant- Projectability

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