



AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

Providing you with the knowledge and resources to take your project management capability to the next level.



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PM QUOTE

"Do not repeat the tactics which have gained you one victory, but let your methods be regulated by the infinite variety of circumstances."

- Sun Tzu

CEO Message

Decision making is an important aspect of steering a project towards success. Making poor decisions or not making decisions at all can lead to projects going off track. Bringing a derailed project back on track is much harder than preventing the derailment in the first place. The article featured in this newsletter discusses decision making by project managers. I would love to hear your ideas about challenges that you face in making decisions or the successes that you have experienced with decision making both at the individual and group level.



NK Shrivastava, CEO

This month's blog post returns to the basics of project management, explained in our [project management toolkit](#) that emphasizes simplifying project management by following 8 key processes.

Enjoy reading all the other sections in this issue, and don't forget to visit the [training page](#) to learn about the PMP® Exam Prep course, Agile courses, and other courses offered in the Atlanta, Kansas City, and Springfield regions, as well as online courses. Join our next FREE [webinar](#) on "Top 5 Challenges in Agile" on September 2nd at 12:00pm CT.

Making Better Project Decisions

On any project, the project manager and team will face critical decisions at some point. At the individual level, project managers have to face decisions such as alerting stakeholders about

potential risks and recommending schedule changes based on performance reports. At the group level, scope changes, budget increases, and other major decisions require the use of group decision-making techniques. In addition, setting criteria and gathering data are also more important. Managing decisions at both the individual and group levels is an essential role of a project manager. | [Read More](#)



Returning to the Basics of Project Management

We have seen many times that successful project delivery comes less from having all the bells and whistles and more from effectively executing key processes. In previous posts, we have presented a [series of eight project management processes](#) that greatly increase the chance of project success on small- to medium-sized when executed properly. We have also presented [ways to achieve similar results for smaller or larger projects](#), with a lesser or greater degree of complexity, number of full-time team members, and duration. These results are possible through using a tiered approach to project management rigor. | [Read More](#)



Community Engagement

On July 21st, two employees of RefineM attended the [KC PMI Chapter](#) sponsorship meeting in Overland Park, KS. At this meeting, sponsors came together to discuss aspects of partnering with the KC PMI Chapter and ways to improve the relationships between sponsors and the Chapter. We enjoyed getting to know other sponsors of the Chapter and are excited to continue our sponsorship into 2016.

On July 23rd at the eFactory in downtown Springfield, MO, [417 Magazine](#) announced their launch of [Biz 417](#). RefineM employees joined in on the celebration, and we are looking forward to see how this new magazine targeted toward business leaders and entrepreneurs will benefit our local community and our local economy.

Social Media Spotlight

Starting this month, we will highlight one aspect of our social media networks to provide you with more opportunities to connect with us and other project management professionals.

Our August Social Media Spotlight is a scavenger hunt! [Follow us on Facebook](#), and find the 3 questions posted. (Hint: Answers can be found on our website.) The first person to [email us](#) with

all 3 correct answers will win a \$10 Amazon gift card!

Follow us and join the hunt!



Project Management Fun Corner

Agile

X T C P P B S J E H D B R R N
O C N E Y T A C B T A P E E A
I W K I A R R C I O R Q L N B
B Z Z N R M H W K O Z Y E W N
J M D S T P L F B L R N A O A
V U E W D H S G M O O B S T K
P S C R U M Q Z T C D G E C U
W Y L P E C G S R R G C H U O
N X O L B U R N D O W N Z D U
E V I T C E P S O R T E R O P
G G W L S P A M D A O R V R A
A Q F U L R B Z L C X K S P A
I M I T R U L M N H B P L D E
P Y L B R N P C J P F A L V A
G D V D X J U Q I L T I S B V

AGILE	BACKLOG	BURNDOWN
KANBAN	PRODUCTOWNER	RELEASE
RETROSPECTIVE	ROADMAP	SCRUM
SPRINT	STANDUP	USERSTORY

Created by [Puzzlemaker](#) at [DiscoveryEducation.com](#)

Featured Product - Essential Gear for Project Managers

[Essential Gear for Project Managers Level 1](#) is a toolkit for Project Managers and start-up PMOs. It includes only the eight indispensable PM processes needed to successfully execute



your project. The kit includes intuitive templates stripped down to the bare essentials as well as a handbook that describes best practices and pitfalls.

BUY NOW

Featured Training - Ace Your PMP® Exam Final Review

This PMP® review course can help you take your exam preparation to the final level. The course covers critical exam topics and allows plenty of time for attendees to ask questions and get clarifications. Don't worry if you have any questions after the review course and before the exam, as the instructor will be available to answer your questions via email or phone. Our goal is to help you pass the PMP® exam.

This course is geared toward anyone who wants to pass the PMP® certification exam. Past attendees of RefineM's PMP® Exam prep courses who have reported back to us have had a 100% success rate in passing the exam. | [More Information](#)

When & Where: September 10th, 9:00am-1:00pm Central Time

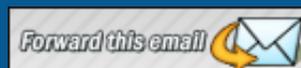
Earn: 4 PDUs/Contact Hours

Cost: \$195 until August 20th, \$250 afterwards

Sign Up ▶

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