

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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



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Project Management Quote

"If you define the problem correctly, you almost have the solution."

- Steve Jobs

CEO Message

Do you struggle with estimating project work for your agile projects? Agile teams particularly struggle with estimating the work required to complete user stories, as user stories evolve. Our featured article



NK Shrivastava, CEO

in this newsletter discusses the challenges of agile estimation and techniques that can be used to create reasonably good estimates for agile projects as the user stories evolve.

Our featured blog post provides information about the changes of earning PDUs for PMI's certifications. This post is especially relevant as the new PDU method becomes effective starting December 1, 2015.

Enjoy reading all the other sections in this issue, and don't forget to visit the [training page](#) to learn about our upcoming PMP® Exam Prep course, agile courses, and other courses offered in Atlanta, Kansas City, Springfield, and over the web. Join our next FREE [webinar](#) on "Project Challenges and Successes of 2015" on December 2, 2015 at 12:00pm CT.

Getting Agile Teams Started With Estimation

Estimates can be a contentious topic among project teams, even in agile. Many developers and project team members are reluctant to provide estimates because they don't have enough information to come up with much more than a guess, but that guess ends up becoming a commitment. When work ends up taking longer than estimated, the team has to work overtime to make up the difference, resulting in lower morale and rushed work. | [Read More](#)



What Do I Need to Know About PDU Changes?

Starting in December 2015, the Project Management Institute (PMI) is changing its Continuing Certification Requirements program, or CCR. Anyone who wants to renew a certification will have to change the way they collect and record PDUs, or Professional Development Units. This post summarizes the changes so you can prepare to align your professional development to the new standards. If you have questions about what PDUs are, you can refer to our blog post, [All About PDUs: What You Need to Know About Professional Development Units.](#) | [Read More](#)



Recent News

From October 11-13 the CEO of RefineM, NK Shrivastava, attended and presented at Project Management Institute's (PMI®) Global Congress North America (GCNA) 2015 in Orlando, Florida. This Shrivastava's third year presenting at Global Congress. Each year at Global Congress, project managers from all over North America and beyond gather together to learn from multiple industry leaders in project management. | [Read More](#)

Community Engagement

Within the past month, RefineM has been out and about with three specific communities as a sponsor: the [MAM Manufacturing Summit](#) in Springfield, MO on September 16, [tech IT out](#) in Springfield, MO on September 17, and the [KC PMI Chapter Professional Development Days \(PDD\)](#) in Overland Park, KS on October 5-6. We were happy to be a sponsor of these three great groups and connect with like-minded individuals and organizations.

Social Media Spotlight

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

For our October Social Media Spotlight, check out our [Facebook page](#) with recent photos from tech IT out 2015 in Springfield, MO, the KC PMI Chapter Professional Development Days (PDD) in Overland Park, KS, and PMI's Global Congress in Orlando, FL.



Project Management Fun Corner

Eight Powerful Project Management Processes

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

- ProjectCharter
- StakeholderAnalysis
- WorkBreakdownStructure
- ResourceAllocation
- ProjectSchedule
- CommunicationPlan
- RiskRegister
- PerformanceReporting

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.

[more info](#)

Featured Training - PMP® Exam Prep

Our personalized course not only covers the full Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (*PMBOK® Guide*) Fifth Edition, it incorporates real-life examples from project experience as well as practice tests. You will learn the most critical parts of each knowledge area, understand where your own knowledge gaps lie, and receive the individual attention you need to close these gaps. Whether you are planning to take the test before it changes on January 11, 2016 or after, this course will help you prepare to pass the test on the first attempt.

When and Where: December 7-10, 8:30am-4:30pm in Springfield, MO

Earn: 35 PDUs/Contact Hours

Cost: \$1,795 until November 16, \$2,250 afterwards

[more info](#)

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