

### NOVEMBER 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

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston Churchill

### CEO Message

In this newsletter I would like to share my views on two important aspects of Agile.



NK Shrivastava, CEO

Our article for the month of November is "Doing Agile vs. Being Agile." I see several teams and organizations "doing agile," but they still don't get the real benefits of agile. These benefits are reduced time to market, sooner and constant delivery of working product, highly motivated empowered teams, and collaboration between teams and customers/stakeholders. This article discusses the difference between "doing" and "being" agile and how teams/organizations can transition from "doing" to "being" agile.

Our featured blog post for the month is on daily scrum meetings, where we discuss how to make them more efficient and meaningful for the teams as well for customers and stakeholders.

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. Join our next FREE [webinar](#) on "Project Challenges and Successes of 2015" on December 2nd at 12:00pm CT.

### Doing Agile Versus Being Agile

When organizations adopt agile practices before fully absorbing related principles and mindset, their teams may struggle with the implementation and achieving results. Understanding these problems and how they affect customers and teams is the first step to making concrete and lasting changes. Focusing on value-driven delivery, preferring customer collaboration to documentation, and allowing the Product Owner and Scrum Master to perform their roles well are three of the many changes that can help teams fully embrace the agile mindset and realize its benefits. In this article, we will share insights about how

organizations can make these shifts and become fully agile. | [Read More](#)



## Focusing the Daily Scrum

Imagine your agile team is lost in the woods and looking for the way out. It's important to know that one team member caught fish for everyone, while another pitched tents, and two others explored the surroundings. However, if the team still doesn't know the way out of the woods, then they are still lost. If this situation sounds like your daily Scrum, you may benefit from some methods to help focus this critical ceremony. The daily Scrum, or standup, is an important ceremony in agile. It is the team's opportunity to meet, discuss accomplishments and the daily plan, and identify critical issues impeding the progress of an iteration, or sprint. It should not last longer than 15 minutes. | [Read More](#)



## Community Engagement

On October 21st, RefineM's CEO NK Shrivastava led the [Southwest Missouri AITP](#) chapter's Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting on project management. This SIG meeting was focused on helping individuals meet their biggest project management or agile challenges.



## 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 November Social Media Spotlight, we're focusing on our [LinkedIn page](#). By connecting with us on LinkedIn, you'll be aware of our most recent, professional content in project management and agile. We look forward to seeing you soon on LinkedIn!



## Project Management Fun Corner

### Essential Agile Processes

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

ProductRoadmap

UserStories

ProductBacklog

SprintBacklog

PlanningSheet

ReleaseBurnupChart

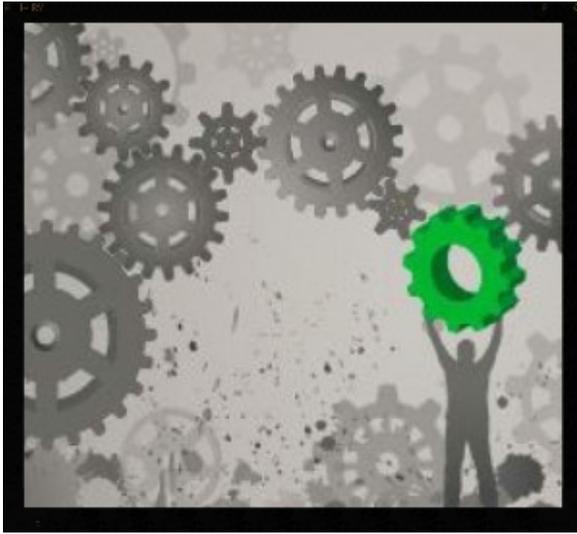
SprintBurndownChart

RiskAdjustedBacklog

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.

[more info](#)

## Featured Training - PMP® Exam Prep

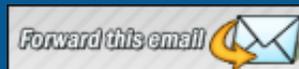
Our personalized course not only covers the full Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (*PMBOK® Guide*) Fifth Edition, it incorporates real-life examples from project experience as well as practice tests. You will learn the most critical parts of each knowledge area, understand where your 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: \$2,250

[more info](#)

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