

APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

The objective of RefineM's monthly newsletter is to provide you with the knowledge and resources to take your project management capability to the next level.



IN THIS ISSUE...

Article - Five Habits of Highly Successful Project Managers

Blog - Essential Agile Processes Part 6: Sprint Burndown Chart

Recent News

Community Engagement

Project Management Humor

Featured Product - Essential Gear for Project Managers

Featured Training - Do More With Less: Deliver Projects Successfully With Only 8 PM Processes

PM QUOTE

"Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work in hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus."

- Alexander Graham Bell

CEO Message

Do you wonder why some project managers succeed more than others, even though they have similar educational backgrounds, certifications, and experience levels? A few distinct qualities set successful



NK Shrivastava, CEO

managers apart and these are discussed in our article titled, *The Five Habits of Highly Effective Project Managers*. Applying these qualities to your work will help you transform into a highly successful project manager and also help others do the same.

This month's blog post is about the sprint burn down chart, another key aspect of agile projects. Many teams do not use sprint burn down charts and miss out on the benefits that the chart provides. This blog post will give guidance on how to implement sprint burn down charts in your own team.

We're also excited to announce that we released our first [ebook](#) this month. If you don't already have your copy, download it now and learn about the *Top 5 Challenges in Agile* and how they can be overcome.

Enjoy reading all the other sections in this issue, and don't forget to visit the [training page](#) to learn about the courses offered in Atlanta GA, Charlotte NC, Overland Park KS, Springfield MO, and also over the web. Join our next FREE [webinar](#) on "Agile Certifications" on May 6th, at 12:00pm CT.

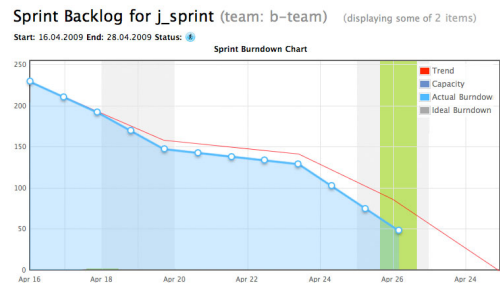
Five Habits of Highly Successful Project Managers

Project managers need to stay up with trends and new skillsets in order to remain highly effective. Many times, they ignore the importance of developing strong habits. Based on Stephen Covey's landmark book, [The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People](#), we recommend five habits for project managers to become, and remain, highly effective. Project managers can apply all of these habits, as well as others that also apply to the profession. | [Read More](#)



Essential Agile Processes Part 6: Sprint Burndown Chart

This is the sixth post in our Essential Agile Processes series. We have previously covered the sprint capacity planning sheet, product roadmap, product backlog, user stories, and the iteration / sprint backlog. We now move to the sprint burndown chart. The sprint burndown chart is a key tool to monitor the progress of your team during a sprint. The chart measures remaining work against time. The sprint burndown chart's primary purpose is to show whether the team will be able to complete the sprint work. Beyond this primary purpose, the sprint burndown chart can also expose the reality of how your team is performing. | [Read More](#)



Recent News

RefineM CEO Obtains Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) Certification: We are pleased to announce that RefineM's CEO, NK Shrivastava, has obtained the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) Program Consultant certification (SPC). SAFe provides the tools and key concepts of agile for the enterprise level and large teams, including agile programs, program portfolio management, agile architecture, and leadership. | [Read More](#)

Community Engagement



Photos from left to right: On March 18th, 2015, NK Shrivastava CEO of RefineM presented to the [Southwest Missouri AITP](#) monthly meeting over lunch on Do More With Less. On March 26th, 2015, RefineM sponsored the [KC Agile User Group](#) meeting, with NK Shrivastava presenting. Not pictured: NK Shrivastava gave a lecture on Agile to a project management class at [Avila University](#) in Kansas City.

Project Management Humor

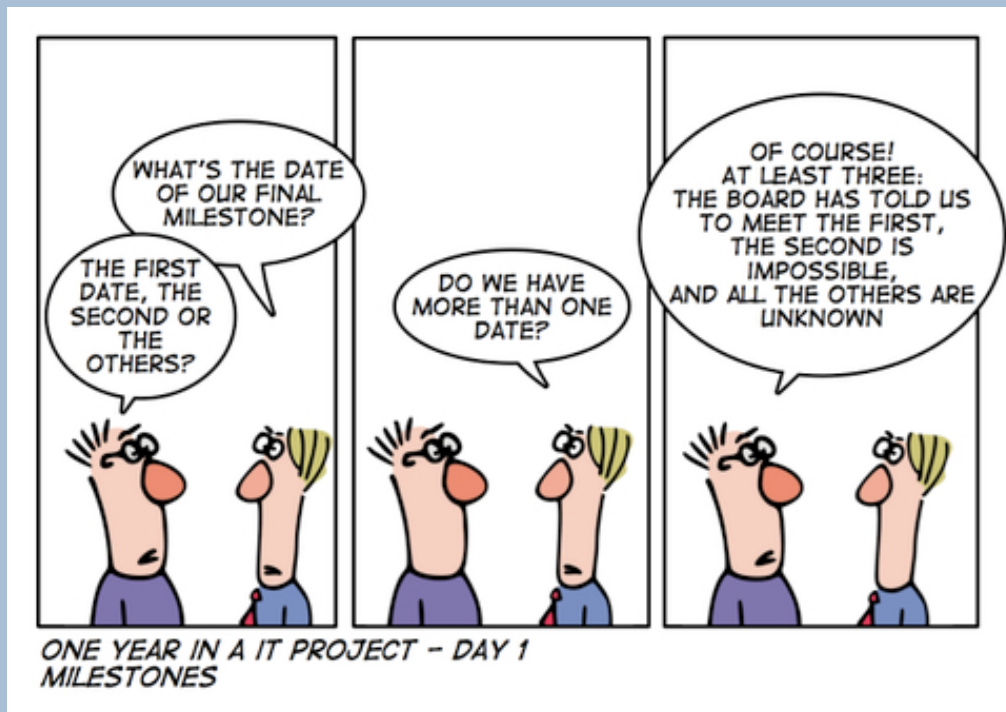


Image by [Geek & Poke](#)

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 - Do More With Less: Deliver Projects Successfully With Only 8 PM Processes

For many project managers, finding the path to project success can be like navigating a complex maze-full of wrong turns and dead ends. This is particularly the case for new PMs, PMs who are managing projects without guidance from an established Project Management Office (PMO), or new PMOs. This course provides you a guide to help get you up and out of the maze and on the right path. Anyone interested in the idea of accomplishing more on a project with fewer and simpler processes should attend this training. Project managers, assistant project managers, and those in a PMO are also encouraged to attend. | [More Information](#)

When & Where: May 1st, 9:00am-1:00pm in Springfield MO and
August 27th, 8:30am-4:30pm in Atlanta GA

Earn: 4-8 PDUs/Contact Hours

Cost: Varies by location

Sign Up ▶

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