

JULY 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

"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."

- Will Rogers

CEO Message

We all know that some project managers are good and some aren't, but few are great project managers. What makes a project manager great? How can a good project manager become a great project manager? Read our article featured in this newsletter to learn more. I'd love to hear your ideas about great project managers.



NK Shrivastava, CEO

The featured blog post in this month's newsletter is about the duration of a sprint in an agile project. From various perspectives, I believe a 2-week sprint is the best duration. Read this blog post to learn the pros and cons of a 2-week and a 4-week sprint, and decide what will work best for you.

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 and other courses offered in Atlanta, Kansas City, Springfield, and also over the web. Join our next FREE [webinar](#) on "Scaling Agile" on August 05 at 12:00pm CT.

Good to Great Project Managers

What makes a project manager great, and how do project managers transition from good to great? Jim Collins, author of *Built to Last*, wrote *Good to Great* to address the question of how good companies become great. *Good to Great* is an analysis of factors that took seemingly average companies to heights where they outperformed competitors and the market by a wide margin. Collins isolated several differentiating factors, including leadership, team setup, and ability to perform strong self-analysis. In this article, we will examine factors from *Good to Great* and how they can apply to project managers. | [Read More](#)



What is an ideal sprint length?

Agile teams often face a challenge in determining how long their iterations, or sprints, should be. If the sprint is too short, a team can get bogged down with the overhead of prep work for each sprint. They may struggle to deliver working software in the demanding timeframe, especially if they are a maturing team. However, if the sprint is too long, they may end up wasting time, since the extra time often does not add that much more to the result. To provide clarity to this challenge, NK Shrivastava of RefineM started a discussion on LinkedIn's [Agile and Lean Software Development group](#) to collect opinions on the ideal length of sprints. His question was whether 2-week or 4-week sprints are better. | [Read More](#)



Recent News

RefineM's CEO To Present at PMI® Global Congress--North America 2015: RefineM's CEO, NK Shrivastava, recently received the honor of acceptance to present at the Project Management Institute's (PMI) North America Global Congress 2015. The event brings together key experts and influencers in the field of project management to exchange knowledge and ideas. Congress speakers are selected for their passion and expertise, as well as their potential to share how they have achieved success in order to inspire others to action. | [Read More](#)

Social Media Spotlight

Did you know we're on social media? Connect with us and receive exclusive offers and content. We'll keep you updated with the latest news in project management. By connecting with us, you'll be able to participate in RefineM's competitions and giveaways, and you'll be the first to receive discounts and coupons from RefineM.



Project Management Humor

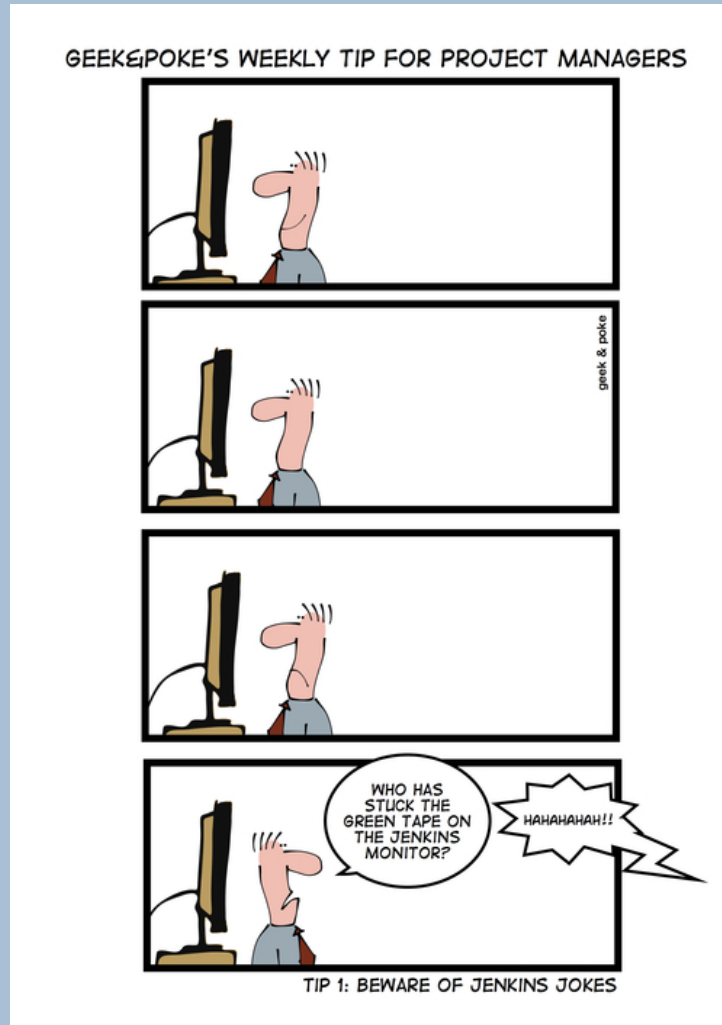


Image by [Geek & Poke](#)

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Featured Product - Essential Gear for Project Managers



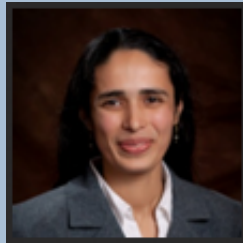
[Essential Gear for Project Managers Level 1](#) is a toolkit for Project Managers and start-up PMOs. It includes only the eight indispensable PM processes needed to successfully execute your project. The kit includes intuitive templates stripped down to the bare essentials as well as a handbook that describes best practices and pitfalls.

BUY NOW

Featured Training - Authentic Leadership

The essence of authentic leadership is based on three pillars: Collaboration, Compassion and Command. The way to bring about the right balance between these three aspects is unique to each leader, because it begins with the leader's own story: The personal journey as well as the professional. Each of us has unique ways of dealing with the leadership dilemma. Although mentors and good role-models are crucial in finding ground as an authentic leader, sustained performance as a leader comes from delving deeper into one's own story. This highly interactive seminar will provide the audience a relaxed environment for every attendee to re-create their own vision of what it means to be a leader and will create a road-map for their own style of authentic leadership. | [More Information](#)

Instructor: [Ulka Shrikande, PMP®](#)



When & Where: August 24th, 8:00am-4:00pm in Springfield, MO

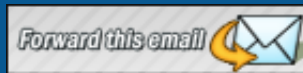
Earn: 7 PDU's/Contact Hours

Cost: \$395 until August 3, \$500 afterwards

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