

MARCH 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.



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PM QUOTE

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

- Benjamin Franklin

CEO Message

Have you ever wondered if there's an easier way to implement *PMBOK® Guide* for your projects? Our article this month instructs you on just that: a tiered approach, so small, simple projects are less difficult to manage than large, complex ones.



NK Shrivastava, CEO

This month's blog post is about sprint capacity planning, another key aspect of agile projects. Capacity planning is often ignored or administered incorrectly. When used appropriately, it results in predictable velocity and success in achieving sprint goals.

We are also offering a 50% discount on [Essential Gear for Project Managers](#), a toolkit that every PM and PMO needs to deliver projects efficiently. See promotion details near the end of this email. This promotion ends on March 31, 2015.

Enjoy reading all the other sections in this issue, and don't forget to visit the [training](#) page to learn about our courses offered in Atlanta, Charlotte, Kansas City, Springfield, and also over the web. Join our next FREE [webinar](#), "The Four Faces of Leadership" on March 19 at 2:30pm CT.

A Tiered Approach to Implement the PMBOK® Guide

Last year, we conducted a [survey of over 60 project managers](#) and found that nearly 75 percent of respondents felt that project management is becoming more difficult (PM Survey, 2014). With the perceived difficulty of project management increasing, how do organizations decide what project management processes to execute on any given project? A common struggle is "finding the sweet spot," where the resources devoted to project management are enough to provide the greatest value toward successful project delivery but not so much that they needlessly consume resources and time. In this article, we propose 3 different tiered structures models for varying degrees of project complexities. | [Read More](#)



Essential Agile Processes Part 5: Sprint Capacity Planning Sheet

As we have seen in project management, resource allocation is a critical process. Even the best-planned projects can't be carried out if there are not enough people to do the project activities, or if they are too busy. The Agile methodology places high value in teams delivering working software at the end of each sprint, collaborating closely with the customer, and managing their own output. To accomplish these goals, the team needs to have an accurate and honest assessment of its own capability. Furthermore, the team needs to measure its capability based on reality and not ideal scenarios or guesses. Without this knowledge, the team is very likely to fall short of sprint goals, which can affect morale and credibility if repeated. | [Read More](#)



Recent News

Training Partnerships: This year, RefineM has entered into training partnerships with two Project Management Institute (PMI) chapters to promote our training. RefineM has entered into training agreements with both PMI Southwest Missouri and PMI Atlanta. The results of these training partnerships include a [four-day Project Management Professional \(PMP\)® Exam Prep Boot Camp](#) in Springfield, MO and several training courses in Atlanta, GA viewable on [PMI Atlanta's training calendar](#). We are excited to enter into these partnerships to bring our training to different areas and enhance member value for members of these chapters. | [Read More](#)

New Website Announcement: RefineM is pleased to announce the launch of a new website design. Upon first notice, users will notice the new design is stylish, streamlined, and more user friendly. Within the past several months, RefineM employees have worked hard to implement a design that is aesthetically pleasing, easy to navigate, and greater aligned with our mission. We hope you will enjoy discovering the features on our new website. | [Read More](#)

Community Engagement



From left to right in the photo: NK Shrivastava, CEO of RefineM, led the Project Management Special Interest Group at [Southwest Missouri AITP](#) in Springfield Missouri on February 17th, 2015. RefineM attended the 1-Year Anniversary event for [1 Million Cups](#) in Springfield Missouri on February 25th, 2015. As a sponsor, RefineM also attended and participated in the [KC PMI Chapter Dinner Meeting](#) in Overland Park Kansas on March 9th, 2015.

Project Management Humor

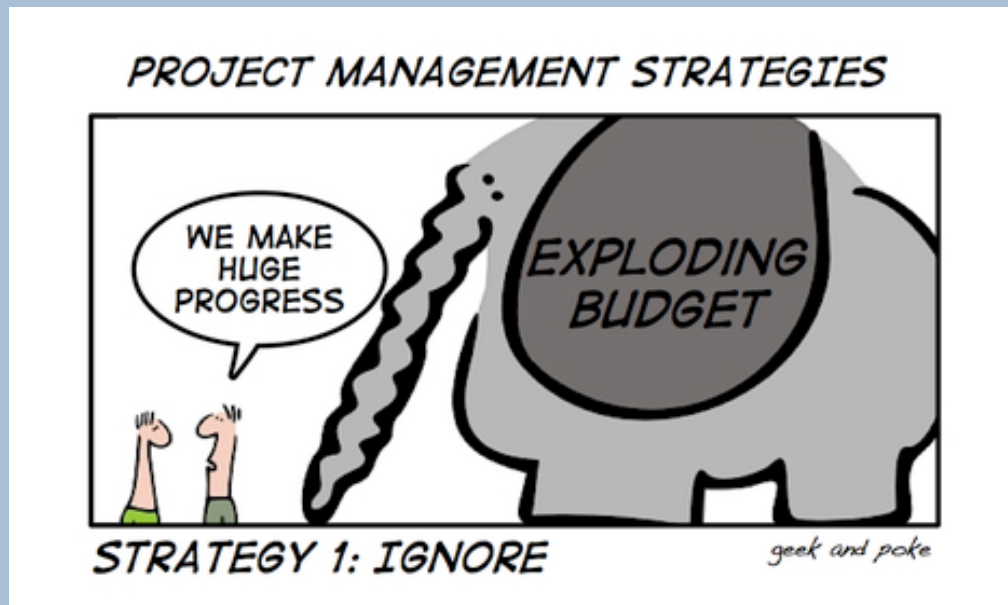


Image by [Geek & Poke](#)

Featured Product: Essential Gear for Project Managers

SAVE
50%

Essential Gear for Project Managers Level 1

Our toolkit will save you valuable time on your projects and optimize your project delivery. During the entire month of March, this toolkit is 50% off. To use this coupon, enter the following code at checkout:



MARCH50

Offer valid from 03/01/2015 through 03/31/2015. Valid for the first 50 customers only. 1 coupon allowed per customer. Please contact us with any questions.

Featured Training: PMI-ACP® Exam Prep

RefineM's Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)® Exam Prep Course includes the key skills and knowledge areas of Agile to help you prepare for the exam. Through this course, you will be better prepared to take the PMI-ACP® exam and to utilize Agile principles, tools and techniques. You will leave with more resources to pass the exam and start your Agile journey. The course covers Agile concepts such as Scrum, XP and Kanban, and includes a number of individual/group exercises to reinforce concepts. If you want to obtain your PMI-ACP® certification but need help with contact hours or preparing for the exam, then this course is for you. | [More Information](#)

Date & Time: Varies by location

Where: Atlanta GA; Overland Park KS; Charlotte NC; and Online

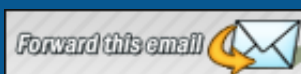
Earn: 21 PDUs/Contact Hours

Cost: Varies by location

Sign Up ▶

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