And Audience with The Lazy Project Manager
The Lazy Project Manager and The Art of Productive Laziness’
‘Perhaps the most entertaining and inspiring speaker in the project management world today’
Perhaps why you should ignore me

Peter Taylor
Knowing you
'Progress isn't made by early risers. It's made by lazy men trying to find easier ways to do something.'
The Pareto principle was suggested by management thinker Joseph M. Juran; it was named after the Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto, who observed that 80% of property in Italy was owned by 20% of the Italian population.
The intelligence of laziness

Helmuth Karl Bernhard Graf von Moltke
The focus of laziness

Theory by Miss Anne Elk:
'All brontosaurus are thin at one end, much, much thicker in the middle, and then thin again at the far end. That is the theory that I have and which is mine, and what it is too.'
The focus of laziness

Theory by The Lazy Project Manager

'All projects are thick at one end, much, much thinner in the middle and then thick again at the far end. That is the theory that I have and which is mine, and what it is too.'
Thick at the start...

‘A bad beginning makes a bad ending’ Euripides

- Ahead of the Game
- Manage the Sponsor
- Manage the Creep
- Communication Breakdown
Much, much thinner...

‘A whole is that which has beginning, middle and end’ Aristotle

- All in a Fun Day’s Work
- Breathing Normally
- A lot of ‘Love’ in the Room
- The lights are on (but no-one’s at home)
Breathe Normally
In the event of an emergency, an oxygen mask will drop in front of you from the panel above. Place the mask over your mouth and nose, straighten out the strap, and pull the strap to be sure it is tight on your face. After you are wearing it securely, a tug on the hose will start the oxygen flow. It makes sense to put your own mask on first, before helping others.

Breathe normally…
The art of ‘breathing normally’

- Stay calm in a crisis
- Plan for the crisis
- Breathe normally
- Filter, filter, filter
- Delegate, delegate, delegate
- Prioritise, prioritise, prioritise
Thick again at the far end...

‘The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be only the beginning.’ Ivy Baker Priest

- The Missing Link
Donald Rumsfeld said...
Donald Rumsfeld said...

‘As we know, there are known knowns
There are things we know we know
We also know there are known unknowns
That is to say we know there are some things we do not know
But there are also unknown unknowns
The ones we don't know we don't know’
Insanity

Definition of Insanity

“Insanity means doing the same thing you did in the past … but expecting different results”

Based on Norman L Kerth’s book – Retrospectives
The Project Retrospective

Regardless of what we discover, we understand and truly believe that everyone did the best job they could, given what they knew at the time, their skills and abilities, the resources available, and the situation at hand.

- Ask the 5 Key Questions
  What worked well that we don’t want to forget?
  What should we do differently next time?
  What still puzzles us?
  What do we need to discuss in greater detail?
  What did we learn?
Emotional Seismograph

Time

+ 

-
Emotional Seismograph

Time

+
Emotional Seismograph

Time
Emotional Seismograph

Time
You can cheat!

Yes, you can cheat!

You can skip all the way to chapter which is entitled ‘Quick Tips to Productive Lazy Heaven’.
Perhaps the most entertaining and inspiring speaker in the project management world today.
Who Wants to be a Lazy PM Millionaire?
11 Questions to $1 Million
To start an easy question for $1,000
Question 1
Which is an example of productive laziness?

A. Working for 2 hours and then having a nice cup of coffee

B. Involving yourself where you can have the most impact

C. Letting the project team run itself

D. Dealing with one item on your ‘to do’ list each day
Which is an example of productive laziness?

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Question 2
To get Ahead of the Game you should?

| A | Give up before you start |
| B | Dress casually ready for hard work |
| C | Do everything everyone else asks you to do |
| D | Know the ‘end game’ |
To get Ahead of the Game you should?

A. Give up before you start

B. Dress casually ready for hard work

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11 • $1 Million
10 • $500,000
  9 • $250,000
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  7 • $64,000
  6 • $32,000
  5 • $16,000
  4 • $8,000
  3 • $4,000
  2 • $2,000
  1 • $1,000
Question 3
When meeting your Sponsor for the first time make sure you have?

A. A cup of coffee ready for them
B. You have your CV/Resume ready to show them
C. You know about their past sponsorship experience
D. You have your past project experiences listed out
When meeting your Sponsor for the first time make sure you have?

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What do we mean by ‘eat that frog’?

A. Try French cuisine

B. Avoid the difficult tasks and get on with other ones instead

C. It tests what a PM is willing to do for their project

D. It means don’t put important challenges off, they need to be done
What do we mean by ‘eat that frog’?

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Question 5
What is not true about Communication?

A. Reporting is not communicating
B. Truth is critical
C. Every project should have a communications plan
D. Communication is not a key area for effective project managers
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Question 6
When is the right time to structure the project the way you want it?

A. At the end of the project
B. Throughout the project
C. In the middle of the project
D. At the start of the project
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6  •  $32,000
Question 7
How should a ‘Lazy’ PM work?

A. Hard at the start and the end and effectively in the middle

B. Hard at the start and effectively the rest of the time

C. Hard throughout the project

D. Always in the comfy chair
How should a ‘Lazy’ PM work?

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B. Hard at the start and effectively the rest of the time
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Which is most likely to help you stay calm in a crisis?

A. A good project sponsor
B. A good change control process
C. Advance planning
D. A bit of fun on your projects
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Question 9
The art of breathing normally is?

A. Filter, Prioritise, Plan and Delegate
B. Prioritise, Filter, Plan and Delegate
C. Filter, Plan, Delegate and Prioritise
D. Plan, Filter, Delegate and Prioritise
The art of breathing normally is?

A. Filter, Prioritise, Plan and Delegate
B. Prioritise, Filter, Plan and Delegate
C. Filter, Plan, Delegate and Prioritise
D. Plan, Filter, Delegate and Prioritise
Question 10
What is not true about Project Closure?

A. It is just a matter of completing a project closure report
B. There is a lot to gained from running a Retrospective
C. The project team are more likely to talk honestly at the end
D. It is important to share lessons learned
What is not true about Project Closure?

A. It is just a matter of completing a project closure report
B. There is a lot to gained from running a Retrospective
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And now for $1,000,000
Question 11
A 15 Million
B 10 Million
C 20 Million
D 5 Million
How many Project Managers are there in the World?

A. 15 Million
B. 10 Million
C. 20 Million
D. 5 Million
Congratulations!

$1 Million
$500,000
$250,000
$125,000
$64,000
$32,000
$16,000
$8,000
$4,000
$2,000
$1,000
IT'S ALL IN THE PRESENTATION!
NEW Diamond Shreddies

OLD (Boring)

NEW (Exciting!)
Think We Can’t Make Shreddies Cereal Any Better?

We just did. Recent advances in cereal technology have allowed us to take Shreddies cereal to a whole new level of geometric superiority. One taste and you’ll wonder how you’ve been so square for so long. Welcome to Diamond Shreddies country.

www.diamondshreddies.com
Mmmm... Diamond-ier!

What makes Diamond Shreddies Cereal so hip, so now? They're diamond-ier. They're angular-ier. They're 45 more degrees of good times. Some say they can't taste the difference, and that's because there isn't any! But we're willing to bet that somehow, Diamond Shreddies Cereal will add just that much more sparkle to your mornings.

www.diamondshreddies.com
What are you?
What is a Project Manager?

Definitions of *Project Manager* on the Web:

- A project manager is a professional in the field of project management
- The person with authority to manage a project
- The person responsible for the project
- Individual or body with authority, accountability and responsibility for managing a project to achieve specific objectives
- The individual in charge of the progress and performance of the project on behalf of the project owner
- The individual accountable for all aspects of a project
What is a Project Manager?

Definitions of Project Manager on the Web:

• A person who thrives on a challenge
• A person who defies the 9-5 routine
• A person not afraid of leading
• A person not afraid of risk
• A person who wants to make a difference
• A person who likes people
• A person who manages projects (successfully)
Are you important?

20 Trillion!
Are you important?
When will they understand you?
Famous ‘Historical’ PMs

Science and Art: Leonardo da Vinci
Manufacturing: Henry Ford
Engineering: Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Cultural: Nelson Mandela
Military: Attila the Hun
Famous ‘Historical’ PMs

Leonardo da Vinci ‘Art is never finished, only abandoned...’
Henry Ford ‘I’m looking for men who have an infinite capacity to not know what can’t be done...’
Famous ‘Historical’ PMs

Isambard Kingdom Brunel ‘I am opposed to laying down rules or conditions...’
Nelson Mandela ‘It always seems impossible until its done...’
Attila the Hun ‘.***** attack, kill, invade *****...’
When will ‘we’ be famous?
Projects are Branded ...

... Project Managers are not!
Warning!
The representation of you

- Project Failure
  10.5 million hits
- Project Success
  39.9 million hits
So SMILE
- Sad PM
  1.5 million hits
- Happy PM
  11.4 million hits
So SMILE Be PROUD
What can you do?

Goals

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Be proud to be a PM

Tell people what you do
Have that ‘elevator’ speech ready
Speak at non-PM events
Network outside PM groups
LinkedIn discussions and more
Write – blogs, books, articles, comments
Market project management (and you)
Offer your skills
ALL RISE!
‘Perhaps the most entertaining and inspiring speaker in the project management world today’