

PMI NEWSLETTER

Willamette Valley Chapter Leadership Team

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Message From Our President:

Technology taking over....

Like organizational restructuring, technology can seem to be an uncontrollable factor, with a momentum of its own, unstoppable, something we are all subject to.

We feel compelled to use technology just because everyone else is using it. If everyone else is using some new gadget, we feel we have to do it, too, or risk becoming "out of the loop". In some cases, we find ourselves using some new technology because we can, not because we need to. Or on the other hand, some of us, can't seem to keep up with the latest advances. How many of us have cell phones where we don't have a clue about 90% of its features?

While technology's bells and whistles are intended to "save time", often they can waste enormous amounts of time and make us feel over-worked. We make draft copies look as good as published documents; our meeting notes are professional looking reports. Standards rise, expectations rise, and soon we are expected to make memos look like minor masterpieces. The urge to use the latest technology for absolutely everything can backfire.

Because we live in a technological age, we tend to assume that technology can improve everything. Donald A. Norman at the University of California contrasts the human-centered view of the world with the technology-centered way of looking at life:

People Are...

- * Vague
- * Disorganized
- * Distractable
- * Emotional
- * Illogical

Machines Are...

- * Precise
- * Orderly
- * Undistractable
- * Unemotional
- * Logical

All this is quite correct in its way, but it puts value on a technical way of doing things and discounts the human way of behaving; When you frame the same categories in a different way, the comparison looks like this:

People Are...

- * Creative
- * Compliant (flexible)
- * Attentive to change

- * Resourceful
- * Decisions are flexible because they are based upon qualitative as well as quantitative assessment, modified by the special circumstances and context.

Machines Are...

- * Dumb
- * Rigid
- * Insensitive to change
- * Unimaginative
- * Decisions are consistent because they are based upon quantitative evaluation of numerically specified, context-free variables.

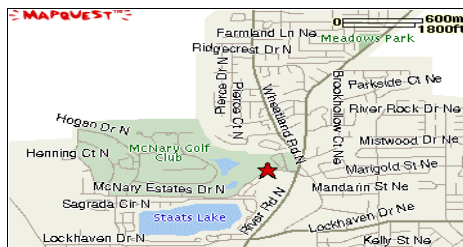
Same categories, different value systems. A technology-centered view of the world, ignoring the human-centered view, often hijacks projects causing dissatisfied customers who feel they are at the mercy of technology. We need to balance our projects uses of the latest technology for absolutely everything, with the human-centered view to get real benefits.

*Julie Mallord, President
Willamette Valley Chapter*

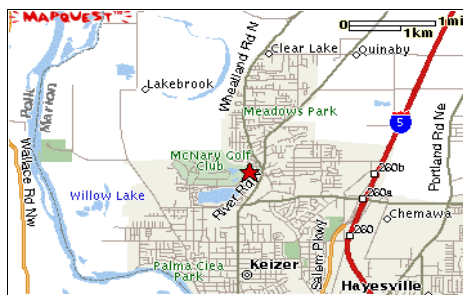
Directions to Luncheon Meeting Location:

From Downtown Salem:

Proceed north on High Street. This street will change its name to Broadway. Continue north. As you enter Keizer the road changes to River Road. Continue north to McNary Estates Dr. Turn left at the signal and proceed to the restaurant.



From I-5: Leave the freeway at exit 260-A coming from the north or exit 260 coming from the south. Turn west toward Keizer. Follow Lockhaven to River Road and turn right (north). Proceed to McNary Estates Drive. Turn left at signal and proceed to the restaurant.



Requests:

1. Please send your email address to pmiwv@open.org in order to receive timely messages regarding upcoming opportunities., and
2. If you no longer wish to have a paper version of our newsletter mailed to you please let us know at pmiwv@open.org so we can use our financial resources and time wisely.

July 19th Program:



Tools For Making Effective Group Decisions

Lee Parker will be our guest speaker for the July PMI Program.

Lee has had varied careers as a trainer, teacher, social worker, program manager and executive manager. She is an adjunct instructor at Western Baptist College.

Her presentation will provide us with insights into the world of effective decision making.

Effective group decisions require advanced planning and the application of the appropriate tools to fit the need.

What are the criteria for making an acceptable decision? How will the decision be made?

Lee will introduce tools and techniques to make effective group decisions.

Time tested information includes "Decide How To Decide" and what are the Levels of Consensus everyone needs to know before the decision process begins. Which tool to use and how to use it will get you on track for improving group decisions



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The next lunch meeting is:
Friday July 19.
(The third Friday of the month at Noon)
Location: McNary Restaurant
Time: 12 - 1 PM.



July 2002						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

A look at the Project Management Professional certification

Jun 24, 2002

Dana Norton - TechRepublic <http://www.techrepublic.com>

TechRepublic, Inc. TECHREPUBLIC NETNOTE E-NEWSLETTER for June 24 & 26, 2002

Hiring a project manager with the PMP certification might help your shop's projects become a success. We'll tell you more about the PMP and what it can bring to your shop

<http://www.techrepublic.com/article.jhtml?id=r00620020624nor01.htm&fromtm=e101-3>

When should an experienced manager seek a PMP certification?

<http://www.techrepublic.com/article.jhtml?id=r00620020626nor01.htm&fromtm=e043>

Training Opportunities

Microsoft Project software and pursue the Microsoft Project MOUS certification.

eProject Experts is set to begin delivering its courses via the Internet. The next available series of our popular "Using Microsoft Project" classes will begin in July, 2002. All classes are instructor led in real-time and interactive with the students.

This class will be delivered in four, two-hour sessions. There are two major reasons for spreading the instruction over this two-week period. First, most prospective students can fit 2-hour increments into their weekly schedule with minimal disruption. Second, it provides ample time to work through the exercises given to allow students to practice the newly learned material.

Instruction material is downloaded by the student in preparation for each session and is used for reference during and after the class. eProject Experts will recommend third party books for additional reference but they are not mandatory for the course.

The eProject Experts instructor will respond to phone calls and emails during the time between instruction sessions to answer student questions.

We are extending the special **\$100** price to our Yahoo group members for the "Using Microsoft Project" eLearning class through July, 2002. Any member who is currently registered or registers prior to the class is eligible to attend the class for \$100 (regular price of \$495).



Registration Deadline: July 8th

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eProjectExperts/join>

STEPS IS ANNOUNCING THESE UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...

? OPMCP Cohort #20 (September 9—December 12, 2002)

? Fast Start in Project Management (August 12—14, 2002)

See <http://statetraining.das.state.or.us> for full details and registration

Would you like fries with that burger?

June, 2002 Issue of PMTalk Magazine

This month's PMTalk article: "Pin The Tail On The Donkey; Blindfolding PM's, Fast Food Ordering and Overruns"

Find out how the art of fast food ordering has influenced the process of defining business needs and requirements. See <http://www.4pm.com> for full related articles.)

