

Why Project Management?

Why do you need Project Management?

You heard me. Why do you think you need project manager types and the baggage (schedules, rules, whatnot) they bring with them?

If there is any urban myth more prevalent than the 'it's only a small project we don't need a project manager*', I am not sure what it is (probably the runner up is the 'kidney theft scam' which a number of my friends totally believe in).

There is no single answer, but it can be summed up by three simple points.

First, it keeps projects from wallowing.

Go ahead. Look it up on Wikipedia. I dare you.

Wallowing.

'The tendency for projects to sit at a particular phase and not move. Generally this tends to be the second or third phase, after management has kicked it off but before anything really important happens, like code.'

One of the most important things a project manager can do is to keep a project moving. I know everyone says scope creep is the worst (and it is a big problem), but wallowing and the consequent stoppage are even worse.

Pick a PM who can keep you moving even when the mud is axle deep.

Second, a PM can seriously restrict Scope Creep.

Ah, scope creep. Scourge of the galaxy.

It happens so easily. The users see a need, the development group aims to please and so does not really fight it. After all, it is more work for them and in most corporations money flows to the people who are doing the most work (hours wise).

The only one to hold feet to the fire is a good project manager. Because the project manager realizes that what is important is not necessarily holding the line on this project. It is on enforcing the concept that figuring up front exactly how far each project should go is the only way to ensure that all

projects will be completed on time. And online project completion is important to the company as a whole.

Third, uniformity.

A project manager ensures that every project is not a new foray into the world of structured projects.

Every project needs structure. Otherwise it is just a mob action. A project manager should provide that.

And even though every project has it's differences, it should follow the same basic structure.

And soon people begin to rely on that structure, to expect it, and to follow it, without a ton of bullying.

It's easy to say 'we don't need a project manager'. But it's another thing to run projects and bring them in on time and on budget without one because a good project manager brings a different set of skills to the table than a developer or analyst or customer, and in the end, that skill set proves to be vitally important to how smoothly and successfully your projects run.

Want more info on Project Management? Or how **SCS** can help your company with it's project management issues? [Click Here](#).