Top 5 PMP Nightmares

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Estimates IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT JOB CREATION TO RISE AT A 15% RATE BETWEEN 2014 AND 2024.

Are You Ready To Handle The Worst Nightmares Project Management Pros Face?

Working as a project manager brings plenty of benefits. The BLS estimates that median pay rates hover around $131,000 annually, and you only need a bachelor's degree to get in with an entry-level position. However, finding success as a PMP hinges on combining a wide range of technical, clerical and interpersonal skills. Ongoing training and work toward certifications is critical if you want to climb the employment ladder.

With the right preparation project management can be a rewarding career, but like any job, it comes with its fair share of frustrations. These five PMP nightmares are issues you'll want to be ready to handle when you get the job you're looking for:
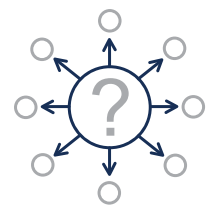
1. Repetitive Mistakes

Process and preparation are kings in the project management sector, but there are plenty of times where bad organisational habits lead to repetitive errors on teams. These issues can be nightmarish to deal with, especially as operational shortcuts can become embedded in culture.

Intentionality is key to excising repetitive mistakes from your operations. Build in ways to eradicate those issues through knowledge transfers, process design and team-building sessions and you'll take steps toward waking up from this nightmare.

2. Unclear Project Expectations

"The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry," isn't a witticism by accident. Even when you have thorough project specification conversations, you still may face initiatives that have unclear specifications. Sometimes, somebody doesn't fully know what they want until they see it.

As a project manager you must be prepared to manage client expectations across the project's life cycle, something that is more feasible as agile methodologies replace waterfall. This shift creates more natural checkpoints to touch base with clients and ensure the project is on track.

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Top 5 PMP Nightmares *(continued)*

3. Untenable Relationships

Some people on a team may refuse to get along and work well together no matter what you do in terms of setting standards for professionalism. This can delay projects and lead to huge communication gaps that ultimately derail efforts.

Relationship management is a critical skill for project managers. Learning different communication styles can help you identify why people aren't working well together and how you can overcome relational gaps.

4. A Lack of Business-Technology Alignment

Technology projects must deliver clear value to an organisation, but many legacy methodologies tend to focus heavily on the tech side of the arrangement. The need to ensure return on investment for every project means you must focus on aligning business and technology goals with every project. An initiative that doesn't have cohesion across these units can quickly become nightmarish.

5. Reverting to Paper Processes

Few things can disrupt a fast-moving project like having to step out and work with paper for a while. Some organisations do still depend on paper in some areas, and the process of integrating paper processes with digital tools can be incredibly tiresome.

This is another area where people skills are key. Being able to help users get away from paper processes that seem comfortable to them and move to digital can help your whole team, and talking with customers or business leaders to adjust around that idea requires careful relationship management.

Preparing to fend off PMP nightmares

There are plenty of causes for nightmares - stress, diet, etc. - and the right preparation before bed can go a long way toward staving off bad dreams. Similarly, there are many underlying reasons why PMP nightmares come into play. Frequent mistakes can be caused by poor knowledge transfer activities and poor business-tech alignment may stem from a lack of cross-discipline collaboration. These are the types of issues that PMPs need to address on a consistent basis.

Training and professional development can help PMPs stay ahead of the emerging trends in the industry and put the preparation into their careers that will help them keep nightmares at bay. Check out our library of PMP courses to see which soft and technical skills you may want to develop through continuing education by visiting LearningTree.se

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