

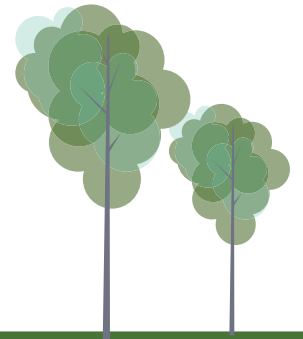
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# HURDLES

EVERY PROJECT MANAGER MUST CLEAR

# CONTENTS

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Life At A Glance
- 3** Dealing With Workers Who Just Won't Get Along
- 4** Handling The Disappearing Executive
- 5** Addressing The Never-Ending Project Specification Phase
- 6** Conclusion





# INTRODUCTION

Everyday life can throw a great deal of challenges in a project manager's path. The job role requires incredible organization and effectively puts an individual on an island where he must perform at their best or be exposed to considerable scrutiny.

In many ways, being a project manager is like being a captain on a ship. A ship's captain is the authority on board.

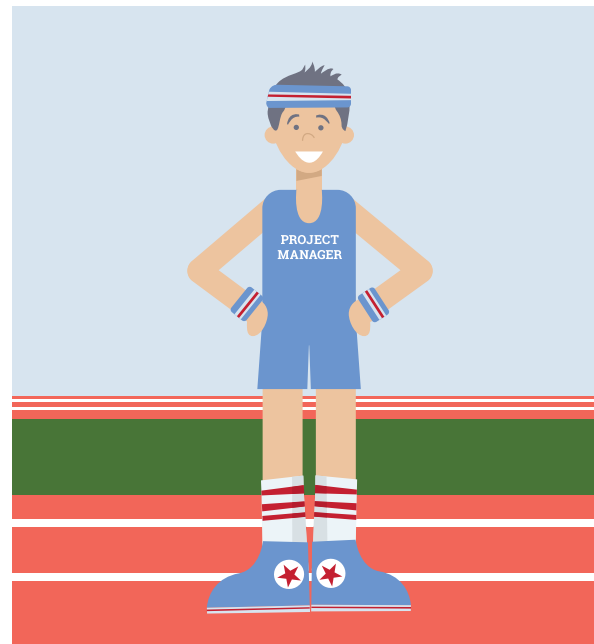
He needs to know everything that happens on the ship and be prepared to handle just about any problem. The responsibility is extreme, and it's also lonely up top.

Like a ship's captain, a project manager provides full oversight and control over a project, and the job must be completed with care.

**Still interested? Let's take a look at what you can expect.**

# LIFE AT A GLANCE

A project manager's day-to-day existence is made up of a blend of such tasks as:



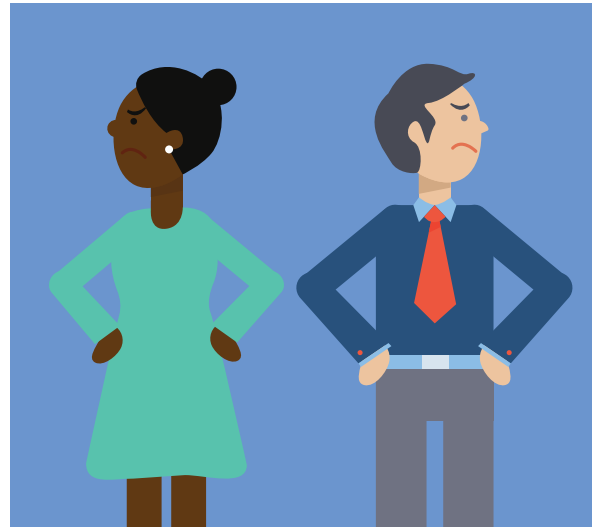
- **Running team meetings.**
- **Diffusing interpersonal conflicts.**
- **Scheduling key tasks.**
- **Managing changes.**
- **Keeping upper-level stakeholders informed of progress.**
- **Solving problems ranging from interpersonal to technical.**
- **Serving as the hub for everything that happens on a team.**

These everyday tasks leave project managers with plenty to think about, with three real-life problems standing out as potential disruptions.

# 1 Dealing With Workers Who **JUST WON'T GET ALONG**



You create a perfect project layout to keep everything on schedule and give just enough flex room for problems that may arise.

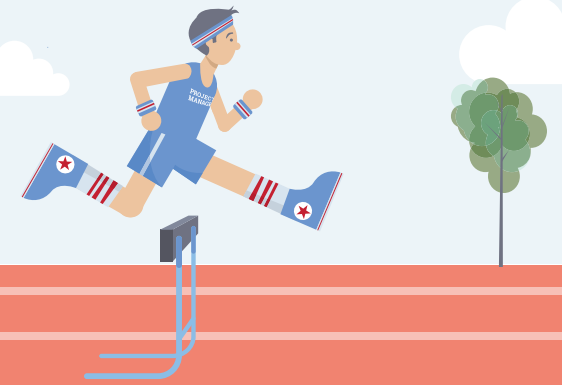


Then two people refuse to get along and work with one another in a productive way. You can't control it, but the results include:

- **Tense meetings.**
- **A tendency to avoid collaboration.**
- **Political games being played as workers try to get their agendas across.**

Interpersonal conflicts can derail even the best laid plans, and aspiring project managers must prepare to diffuse these conflicts in a healthy way that can bring a team together.

## 2 HANDLING THE DISAPPEARING EXECUTIVE



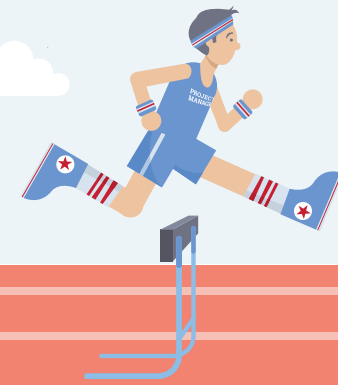
As a project manager, you focus on communication across all of your teams to ensure everybody knows what to expect across the entire project. Your boss, however, pops in at the beginning of a project, tells you what you need to do, then disappears and is too busy to collaborate with you along the way.

You may still be expected to communicate, and the executive may still want to pop in at moments and give new orders – even if he contradicts earlier project goals.

Executives can introduce unpredictability into your projects, **making flexibility, patience and communication skills essential for project managers.**



# 3 ADDRESSING THE NEVER-ENDING PROJECT SPECIFICATION PHASE



Decisiveness is essential for project managers, but the people you work for may not have the same ability to identify exactly what they want.

Getting people to commit to the specifications for a project can be a nightmare as you:

- **Wait for them to check with their bosses.**
- **Deal with them changing their minds over and over again.**
- **Struggle to get them to communicate goals in clear, actionable ways.**

All of this can stall project kick-off times, making it more difficult for you to manage resources. Prepare for these problems by setting clear expectations about timelines, learning to get a feel for how different people make decisions and understanding how **you can guide conversations to a productive end.**





# CONCLUSION

The wide range of tasks that come up in an average day for a project manager make having a wide breadth of skills absolutely essential, as common competencies include:

- **Mastering dedicated project management tools.**
- **Understanding business process frameworks and how they can apply to different projects.**
- **Learning regulatory standards and ensuring projects comply at all times.**
- **Being able to communicate with a wide range of personality types.**

Developing these skills can be key, as project managers must be prepared for worst-case scenarios to unfold.

Everyday project management challenges become especially daunting if managers struggle to stay on top of core tasks. Training and skills development can give aspiring project managers an opportunity to not only develop the soft skills they need to diffuse these specific scenarios, but also helps them develop the competencies to work faster and more intelligently so they have the time to deal with problems properly.





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