

Successful Project Management in Today's World

Facing the Challenges of the Declining Economy, New Technology, and Changing Methodologies
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As an IT PMO manager, I am challenged with hiring project managers to lead major initiatives intended to grow and retain revenue, create business operations efficiencies, and revitalize our company. Project managers are expected to deliver these critical initiatives with 1) little on-boarding guidance, 2) project team members fearing job cuts, and 3) aggressive due dates and budgets.

After reviewing an abundance of candidate resumes and conducting candidate interviews for hours on end, I ask myself – what makes a successful PM in today's world. Are there certain “types”, particular skill sets - technical or soft skills that make one candidate more successful than another? Are there some that have the natural ability to perform this function well? Is that ability transferable to all industries, technologies, and methodologies? If so, how do I identify them amongst the project managers on the market?

This compelling topic will be covered by exploring perspectives of successful project management based on insights of project managers working in various industries and utilizing various delivery methodologies. Interviews and questionnaires will be conducted with stakeholders and management of all levels to determine requirements and expectations for project managers. Project team members will also be asked to provide perspectives on their needs as they focus on delivering more functionality using new technologies and methodologies.

Ultimately, this study will result in a guide for the project management community and hiring managers on the education, skill sets, and experiences that mold and develop the most successful project managers.

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