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Effective Project Management

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Breathe...Let go...Balance ...Feel the stretch ...

You could be wondering what do breathing, balancing & stretching all have to do with Project Management. As Project Managers, we don't have time to take a deep breath, or relax or let go. We have to deliver more for less. We have deadlines to meet, be the first in line with a new product (service), be ahead of our competition. Rush, rush, rush. It is a mantra in everyone's head.

In these tough economic times, everyone has to be cost conscious and waste no time. It is extremely important to be one of the best to survive. There is a lot of tension and stress. As project managers and leaders, we are always the first ones to feel the heat. Knowingly or not, sometimes the tension gets passed on to the project team creating an undesirable atmosphere which is not healthy for the project or the team.

Some project managers however, fair well under stress & keep everything under control while a few others struggle. As leaders, it is our duty to create an atmosphere that brings out the best & be the role models for the team. An experienced, well conditioned project manager knows how to manage such challenging circumstances *effectively*.

In this paper, I will demonstrate how anyone can transform into an Effective Project Manager by following some simple techniques - Awareness, being flexible (mentally), open (to challenges), and stretch (not limiting ourselves to some artificial boundaries that we created for ourselves).

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Experience: I have 20+ years of work experience in telecommunications and IT areas. During these years, I have worked in various capacities. I am currently working as a Sr. Project Manager at Nokia. Other titles I have held in the past include: Manager (Systems Eng.), Systems Engineer, Systems/Business Analyst and Software Engineer.

Industry: I have worked in the Telecommunications industry throughout my career – mostly in the wireless area. I am currently working at Nokia (Irving, Texas) for over 6 years and I have also worked at Nortel, for 13+ years.

Awards & recognitions: I received the chairman's award of excellence in 1995 (the highest honor given by the chairman of the company) for my contribution to help save millions of dollars of operating cost for a major customer.

I have also filed for a patent Application titled "Network Fault Prediction and Proactive Maintenance System (NeFPPS)" in 1998. I received my PMP certification in March 2007.

Education Background: MS & BS in Computer Science and a BS in Mathematics.