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The Lazy Blogger

by Peter Taylor, The Lazy Project Manager; PMO Director at Siemens PLM Software

You have reached your destination

These days I use a satellite navigation system in my car. Not all of the time though since it is not built in to the old Saab but has to be stuck on the windscreen and connected to the power from the lighter socket. So '2006' I know but that is the way it is.

But it is a comfort and I do enjoy the calm, unruffled and dispassionate advice that she hands out to me by voice and by graphical display.

I say 'she' of course since I have selected the voice of 'Carol'. My wife on the other hand has selected 'Ken' the Australian for some bizarre reason. Each to their own.

The old days of map reading and general direction guidance was an instant recipe for marital strife since neither the driver nor the guide would ever agree on the need for information, the speed of supply of this information, the accuracy of the information or anything really. A simple trip to new location for a convivial lunch with relatives or the delivery of a small child to the house of one of his new friends could escalate the likelihood of divorce proceedings being initiated as easy as match ignites dynamite.

These days it is so much better. 'Carol' (let's assume that I am driving) asks me where I want to be, and when, and then brakes the route down in to small work packages and off we go. The great thing is that when 'Carol' is wrong (I do occasionally obviously know better than her – and her satellite friend) and I drive past the turning she asked me politely to take she quietly acknowledges my superior intelligence with the phrase 'recalculating' and then gives me the right directions. She can be wrong many times but just appreciates the lessons learned and recalculates. I am told that 'Ken' does this as well.

Conversely the mere hint that I might not manage to take that sharp left that was announced to me a massive 25 metres before the actual turning by my human navigator can result in three weeks of subsequent marital silence.

So it is clear to me that a calm and assured leader is that gets you from 'A' to 'B' in the most effective way. Not that I am suggesting that a good project manager should endlessly 'recalculate' in accordance to every whim of his project team. No of course not. But they should be unflustered and remain clear on the objective, leaving 'A' is never a problem, reaching 'B' can be so.

Now, great as my 'Sat Nav' can be it has one huge drawback. If I follow the instructions once to find my 'B' I will most likely not be able to find it a second time through my own devices. I will need 'Carol' the second time as well, and the third.

Following instructions blindly teaches you nothing. The real art of project management is to form a project team and empower that project team to deliver.

The Lazy Project Manager

Productive Laziness



If you have to be available 100% of the time to micro-manage and deliver guidance to each tiny project step then you will never get to 'B' (at least not within any budget that has been signed off).

A very good cause

Sometimes even The Lazy Project Manager leaves his comfy chair and ventures out in to the big wide world and when he does he will be travelling by land, or air or sea and this gives him a lot of time to think (and write).

The Lazy Project Manager has produced an eBook 'The Lazy Blogger' and the above is just one of the 30 short stories that are in the book. The Lazy Blogger is all about travelling and project management (25,000 words).

This is a self-published eBook (pdf) only and all profits will go to Cancer Research (£3 per book is guaranteed to go to the charity).

If you enjoyed The Lazy Project Manager (or even if you didn't) perhaps you could consider buying The Lazy Blogger in aid of this great charity.

Buy The Lazy Blogger for £3.50 here (approximately \$5.44 US): [I want to support Cancer Research](#) or here <http://www.thelazyprojectmanager.com>.

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The Lazy Project Manager thanks you for your kind support of Cancer Research.

About the Author

Despite his title of 'The Lazy Project Manager', Peter Taylor is in fact a dynamic and commercially astute professional who has achieved notable success in project management, program management and the professional development of project managers: Currently as Director of a PMO at Siemens PLM Software, a global supplier of product lifecycle management solutions.

He is an accomplished communicator and leader; always adopting a proactive and business-focused approach, and he is a professional speaker with City Speakers International.

He is also the author of '*The Lazy Project Manager*' book (Infinite Ideas 2009) – for more information - www.thelazyprojectmanager.com. You can subscribe to a series of free podcasts on iTunes (The Lazy Project Manager).

