

# How AI can help project managers improve project performance: Part 2 <sup>1</sup>

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The work of project managers is challenging because they must juggle many varied responsibilities. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new tool that creates many opportunities for project managers to improve their performance and that of the teams they manage.

AI helps project managers improve project performance by:

- Freeing project managers to focus on sensitive tasks that require tact and diplomacy, such as issue escalations and stakeholder negotiations.
- Automating documentation tasks, which often receive insufficient attention because they are boring, to reduce effort without sacrificing quality.
- Identifying patterns to illuminate risks for mitigation before they become expensive realities.
- Performing more extensive technology research than the team has the capacity to conduct.
- Forecasting budget and schedule variances early enough that interventions can be successful.
- Reducing uncertainty in effort estimates to produce more accurate schedule and cost projections.

View AI not as a replacement for human leadership but as an augmentative force—enhancing, rather than supplanting human judgment, creativity, collaboration, and ethical responsibility.

AI presents a fantastic opportunity for project managers to lead both the transformation of the project profession and the digital transformation of their industries.

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The work of project managers can be described in many ways. This article examines how project managers can leverage AI to enhance their performance, particularly in terms of speed and accuracy, across the following aspects of their role:

1. Creating documents
2. Managing scope
3. Estimating and monitoring the schedule
4. Managing the budget
5. Supervising resources
6. Simplifying procurement
7. Managing risks
8. Overseeing communication
9. Engaging stakeholders
10. Achieving quality

This month's article examines the last five topics. To read last month's article, click [here](#).

## Simplifying procurement

Since all projects acquire products and services from multiple vendors, project managers collaborate with procurement specialists to manage the procurement process.

The challenges associated with managing procurement include the elapsed time and effort required to:

- Perform the RFP process.
- Negotiate contracts.
- Navigate the procurement process.

AI can help simplify procurement by reducing the effort to:

- Draft RFP and contract documents.
- Research prospective vendor track record.
- Compare and rank vendor proposals.

## Managing risks

All projects anticipate that multiple risks will materialize and require mitigation. Project managers lead the effort to identify and reduce risks.

The challenges associated with managing risks include:

- Failing to identify risks thoroughly.
- The effort required to plan and estimate risk mitigations is significant.
- The distraction of responding to risks that have turned into reality.

AI can help manage risks by reducing the effort to:

- Identify potential risks more comprehensively.
- Develop multiple mitigation strategies and compare them to determine the most effective approach.
- Document issues, related risks and their potential impacts as they arise.

## Overseeing communication

Projects are more successful when they regularly communicate their progress and any issues that arise. Project managers oversee the communication program.

The challenges associated with managing communication include:

- Effort to develop and distribute communication artifacts.
- The cost and elapsed time required to produce video communication artifacts.

AI can help manage communication by reducing the effort to:

- Writing drafts of communication artifacts, such as emails, newsletters, podcast scripts, and presentations.
- Creating draft videos based on text scripts.

## Engaging stakeholders

Stakeholders surround every project. Engaging with them to ensure the project addresses their requirements is part of the work that project managers undertake.

The challenges associated with engaging stakeholders include significant effort to:

- Achieve consensus on scope, issues and priorities.
- Conduct a reasonably complete communication plan.

AI can help engage stakeholders by reducing the effort to:

- Draft communication artifacts.
- Creating graphics for communication artifacts.

## Achieving quality

The acceptance of project deliverables demands a reasonable level of quality. Project managers lead the effort to ensure sufficient quality.

The challenges associated with achieving quality include:

- Facilitating a consensus on the definition of adequate quality.
- Effort to perform and monitor quality control and quality assurance work.

AI can help achieve quality by:

- Researching appropriate quality definitions for the project and avoiding platitudes.
- Automating quality-related tasks.

AI creates numerous opportunities for project managers to enhance their performance and that of the teams they manage, ultimately delivering projects more successfully.

## About the Author



### **Yogi Schulz**

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**Yogi Schulz** has over 40 years of experience in Information Technology across various industries. Yogi works extensively in the petroleum industry, selecting and implementing financial, production revenue accounting, land & contracts, and geotechnical systems. He manages projects arising from changes in business requirements, leveraging technology opportunities, and mergers and acquisitions. His specialties include IT strategy, web strategy, and systems project management.

Mr. Schulz regularly speaks to industry groups and writes a regular column for [IT World Canada](#) and [Engineering.com](#). He has written for Microsoft.com and the Calgary Herald. His writing focuses on project management and IT developments of interest to management. Mr. Schulz served as a member of the Board of Directors of the PPDM Association for twenty years until 2015. Learn more at <https://www.corvelle.com/>. He can be contacted at [yogischulz@corvelle.com](mailto:yogischulz@corvelle.com)

His new book, co-authored by Jocelyn Schulz Lapointe, is "[A Project Sponsor's Warp-Speed Guide: Improving Project Performance](#)."