

Flash on the Beach 2007

Show and tell, 2007-12-07

HOW WE CAN DO PROJECTS BETTER

Lessons from the best





HOW WE CAN DO PROJECTS BETTER

Engineering Management Tips From the Flash Pros

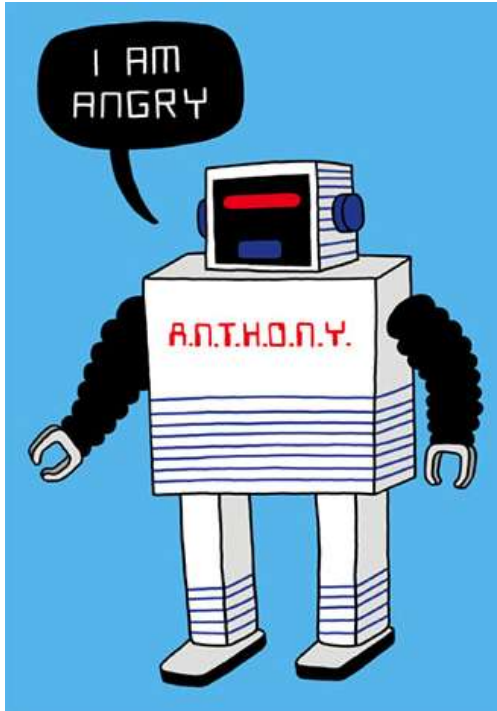
Expectation: Rule of 3

Conception: On ideas

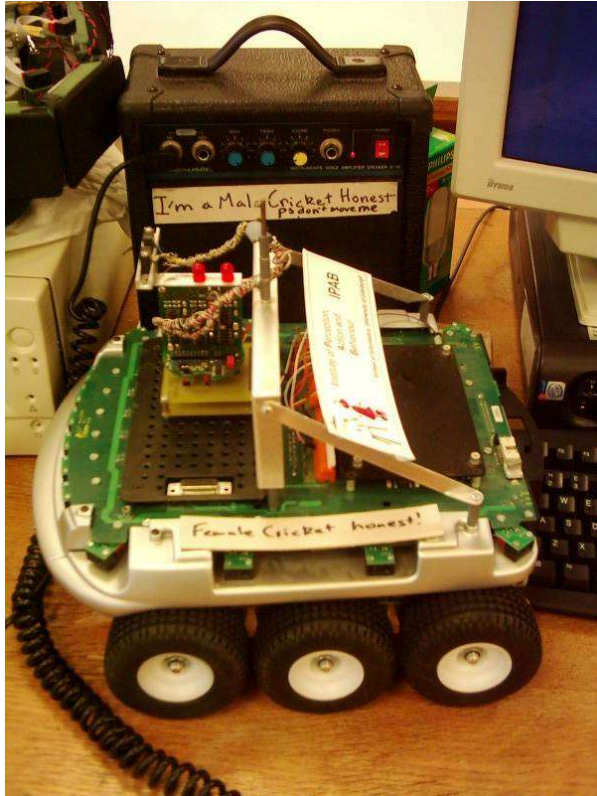
Planning: Scope Creep

Time Planning: Mythical Man Month

Implementation: Gatekeepers



LESSONS FROM THE HOSS:
THE TWO OF THREE RULE
Dealing with Expectation



HOSS:

IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A WEBSITE
YOU CAN HAVE THREE THINGS

SPEED OF BUILD

QUALITY OF BUILD

EXPENSE OF BUILD



HOSS:

SO YOU CAN HAVE A:

Expensive, Quickly built, good site

Or a slow build, cheap, good site

Or lastly a crap ,quickly built site





HOSS:

SINCE I DON'T LIKE BUILDING CRAP
SITES YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM THESE:

Quickly built, expensive, good site
Or a slowly build, cheap, good site





HOSS:

Anyone looking for a Quickly built, cheap,
good site

“best find someone else to drive into the
ground and exploit”

*This part is paraphrased I remember the
original being a little more explicit*



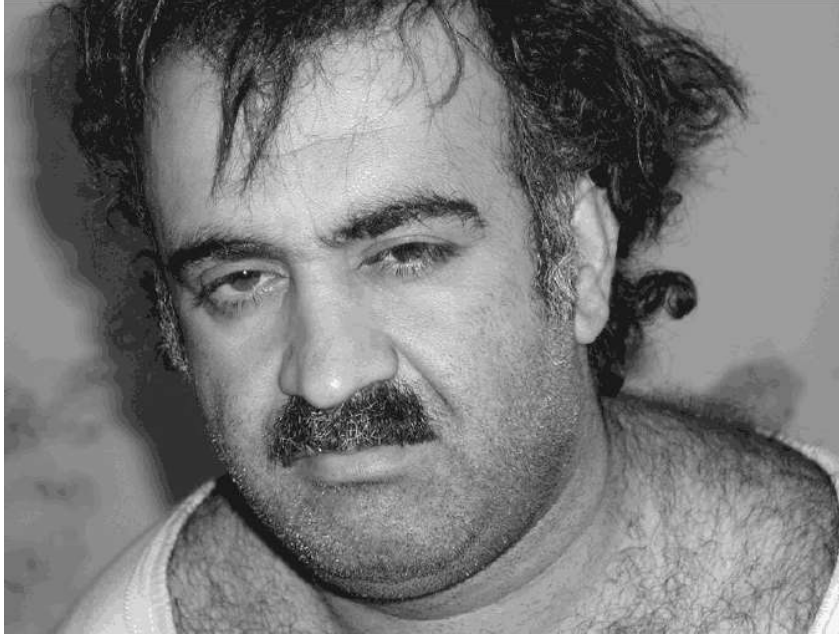


On Ideas:

Conception of a Project

Muck in, Muck out

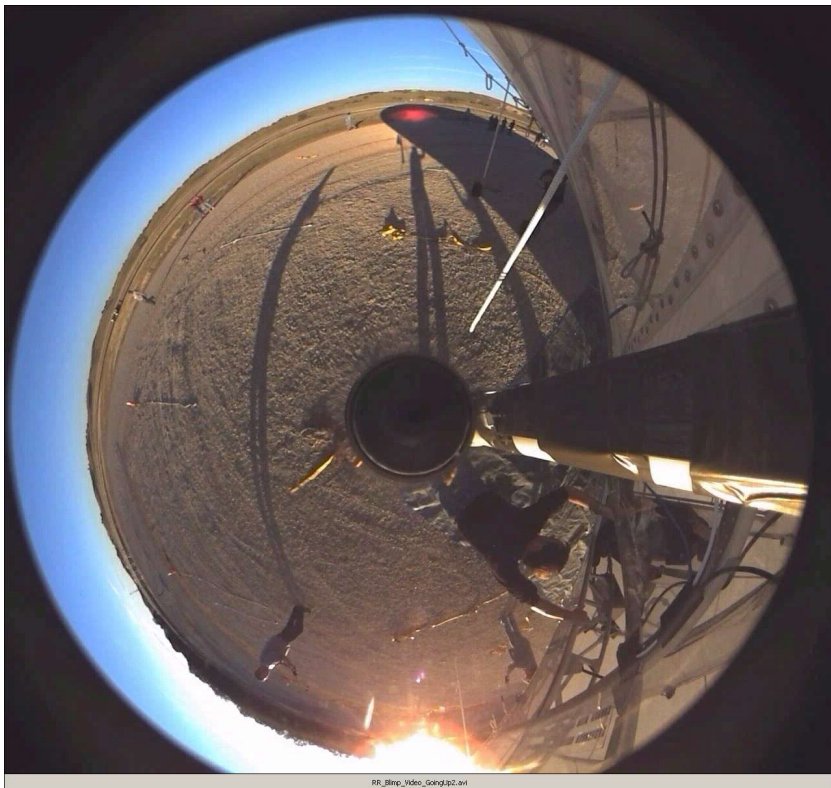




Simple rule 1

You can't polish a turd





also the wiser rule 2

You can't train a horse to hold sword

what is meant:

It is true ideas all are valid

But only proper context elevates their status to
Good ideas





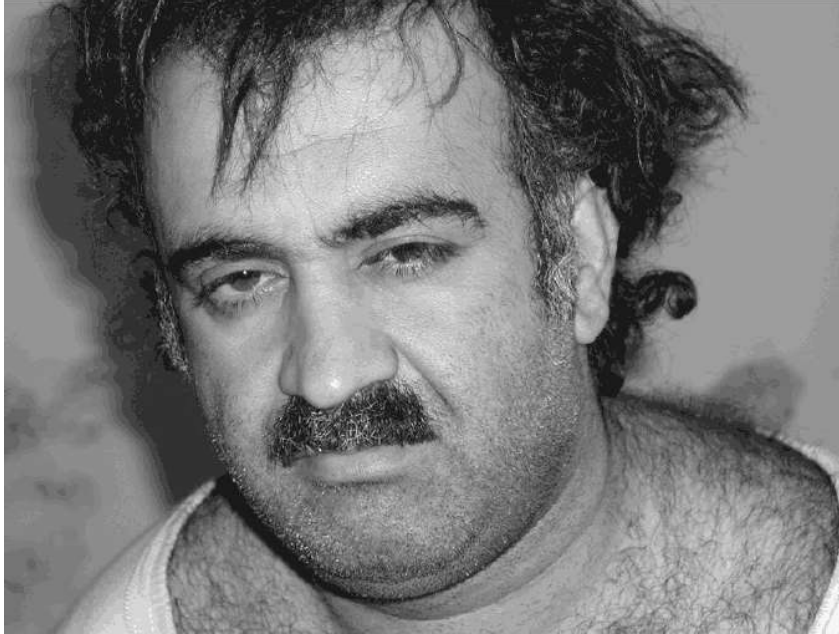
LESSONS FROM MICHEAL :

(HOSS'S TECH HEAD)

SCOPE CREEP...

On the importance of Specification

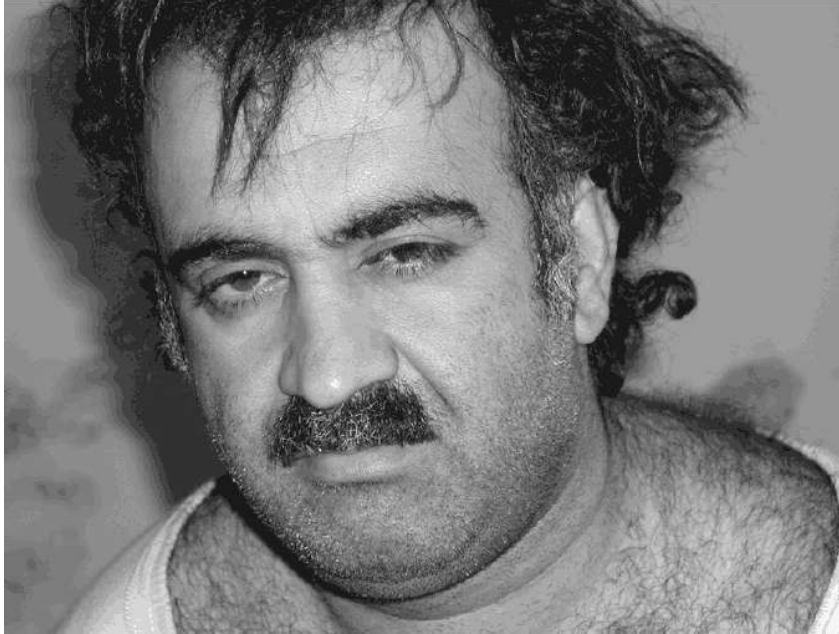




Scope creep is the unplanned additions,
without budget additions

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scope_creep





Compensated additions are not scope creep

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scope_creep





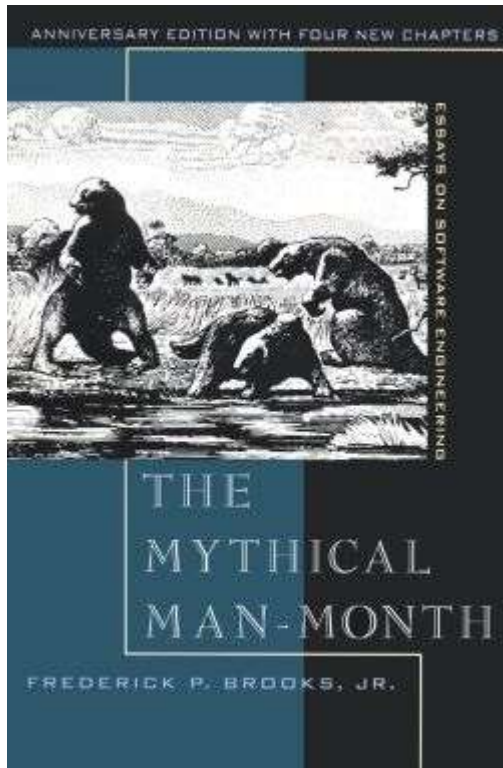
Scope creep is ALWAYS A RISK

Most mega projects have bad scope creep

Be vigilant!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scope_creep





LESSONS FROM GRANT:
THE MYTHICAL MAN MONTH
Time Planning

Only 2 points of many covered ...



DRAFT

CHRISTMAS CARD PROPOSAL
comments please

Any danger this could be taken as of fensive to women?

IMPORTANT: Animals pulling sleigh should be product of equal opportunities employment policies, not all one species.

Stable not compliant with housing code - where is disabled access?

The snow looks 'hideously white'

Have we done a risk assessment?

Do we need a WELSH version?

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Three wise men can't be all men

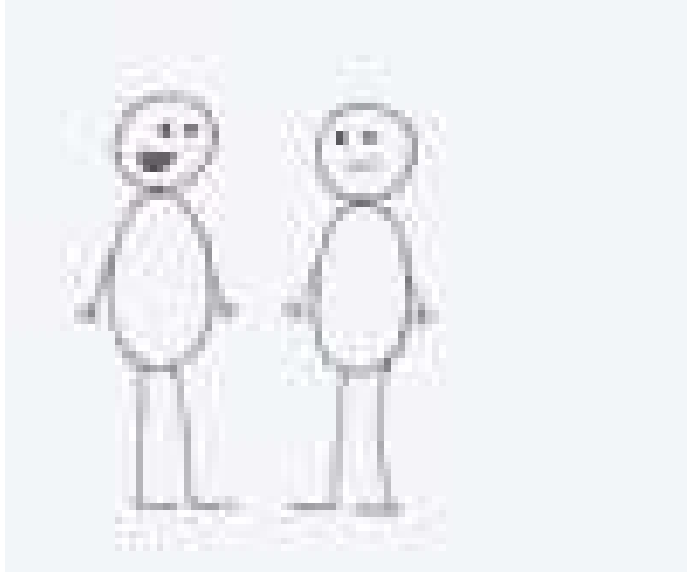
Sheep should look more diverse!

Too alcoholic-looking: we need an additive-free beverage

Are the Mince pies vegetarian, Halal and Kosher? How about some Cloutie dumplings?

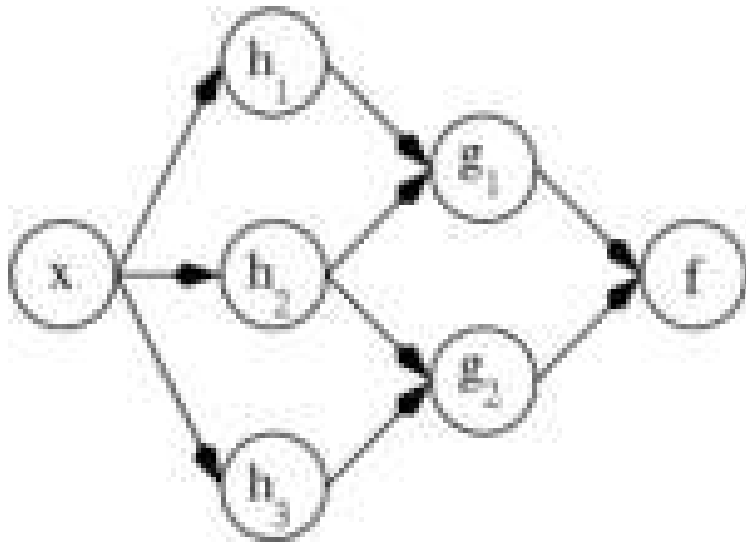
1) The Mythical Man-Month

Assigning more programmers to a project running behind schedule will make it even later.

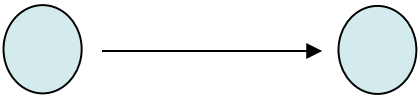


2) Implementers may be hired only after the architecture of the system has been completed

prematurely-hired implementers may have nothing to do



LESSONS FROM ANTHONY:
GATEKEEPERS
Implementation and Efficiencies





GATEKEEPERS are

Lack of Training

Dodgy Restrictive Standards

Middle men

Interface People

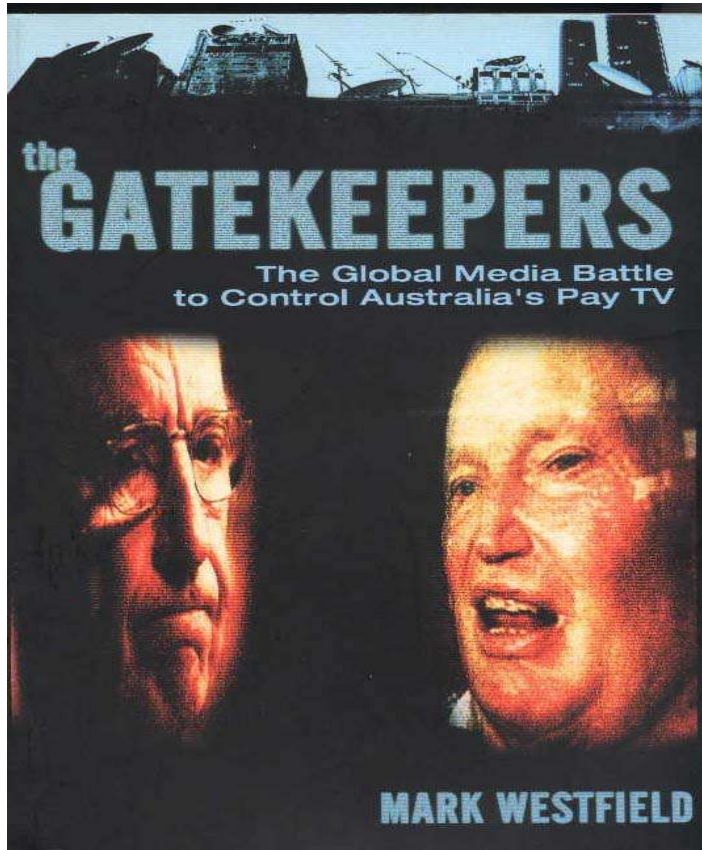
Proprietary Base Tools

Excessive Reviewing

...

every extra step in the web build





GATEKEEPERS

make it harder to see Creative vision

complicate simple tasks

increase costs

cause forced mistakes

cause Chinese whispers

...

Basically are bad

everyone has them

Try to remove them where possible



HOW WE CAN DO PROJECTS BETTER

Expectation: Rule of 3

Expect project to be slow, expensive or rubbish

Planning: Scope Creep

Watch out for unplanned additions

Time Planning: Mythical Man Month

More men don't always get the job done faster

Implementation: Gatekeepers

reduce complexity of all production processes

