Viewing this week’s lecture informed me about the necessary strengths to be a good project leader. The main four strengths that were mentioned were good communication, ability and flexibility to deal with ambiguity of requests and the project, being familiar with the project team, and influence tactics. The nature of a project leaders’ responsibilities can also take the form of being tradition and nontraditional. Traditional roles usually entail technical understanding, leadership over the team, and coordinating within the project while nontraditional roles call for the project leader to be a good cheerleader for the team, politician to represent the team and the project to sponsors, ambassador to sponsors and other people, and being able to take risks. The success and adeptness of a project leader should be measured in part by how well they meet these criteria and how well they can integrate these roles into the workspace.

What is still interesting to me is that much of these qualities of traditional and nontraditional roles are either natural to someone or completely foreign. For example, a leader may be extremely familiar technically with what the project is concerned with but might not have any people skills whatsoever. In my view, it seems that both areas have glaring necessary places in the workplace and it is hard to see how a project team would work well without them.