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# Why do construction workers wear tool belts?

* Facilitate convenience based on: frequency of use, speed of access, familiarity
* Retention (so we don’t lose it, so each tool has a “home” and we know where to find it)
* Safety (so tools aren’t left out where they can get in the way and be tripped over
* Fashion (some people just look better with tools on, right?)

# How can a toolbelt metaphor relating “logical tools” of project management to the physical tools of construction become helpful for an “everyday” IT-worker?

Well, as of May of 2019, approximately 300,000 Google search hits on the terms [“Project Management” and “tool belt”](https://www.google.com/search?q=%22project+management%22+%22tool+belt%22) and 40,000 on the terms [“Project Management” “tool belt” “IT”](https://www.google.com/search?q=%22project+management%22+%22tool+belt%22+%22IT%22) seem to indicate that there are at least some people that find this an appropriate metaphor.

For many of the same reasons as why to have a physical toolbelt, creating a tangible version of a project management toolbelt (written, hand drawn diagram with labels, physical version relating real tools to logical project management tools, etc) can help you have a more convenient experience as a professional in remembering that you have tools (or logical steps) that can help solve ill-structured, real world problems.

# How can this metaphor be used to gauge personal growth and learning?

If you’ll take the time to capture, describe, draw, build, etc. what you currently have in your “tool belt”, you’ll find it much easier to identify when new tool is added, when you haven’t used a tool in a long time, when you start to use a tool in a different way than when you first learned it, etc.

For example, we learned the Critical Path Analysis technique. Is that new to you? Was it just a new way to repackage ideas, patterns, and principles that you already deal with on an everyday basis? Have you put it into practice on a project yet? Have you caught yourself thinking about time management in a slightly different way since we learned about it? Do you have a broadened vocabulary for talking to other professionals in your field now? How often do you anticipate using the full technique versus parts, pieces, principles, and/or concepts from the technique? How could you mix and match some of the elements of this approach with other time management concepts?