

Leadership

In a perfect world the project manager works with others to build a schedule, organize the project team, manage the project progress, and implement the project plan to successful completion. Simply having good management skills ensures that the project proceeds in an orderly fashion to meet project objectives.

On most projects, a high degree of uncertainty is often encountered. If difficulties arise between team members and project objectives general management may not be enough. Strong leadership is required.

Successfully managing a project requires both excellent management skills and Leadership Skills.

Management by a Walking Around

One simple technique is to simply walk around the office and touch base with the project team. Project managers show leadership by being aware of project developments, anticipating potential problems, providing encouragement and reinforcing project objectives. Walking around and communicating with team members allows the project manager to identify and resolve conflicts as well as stay in touch with the project as a whole.

Leading by Example

The project manager can demonstrate leadership through her/his own behavior. Project team members will model their own behavior according to what they see the project leaders doing. Actions speak louder than words.

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Leadership is a set of skills that you can learn and polish through study and practice.

Take the time to research the topic in the library or online.

Study people you work with who you consider strong leaders.

Practice the skills.