

# Building a Powerful Project Leadership Team

*A two-day workshop to launch your project on a path to success*

## **This course is different:**

- **Practical** — We focus on learning by super-charging your real-world project
- **Substantial** — We facilitate deeper understanding between your business sponsors and technical teams
- **Sustainable** — We train your project leadership team to support each other in creating a culture of collaboration
- **Useful** — We guide your team in developing a communication plan for the team to present to executive sponsors
- **Effective** — Practice simple techniques for dislodging dysfunctional habits.
- **Innovative** — We facilitate from two perspectives, so that geeks and non-geeks feel represented in the conversation

## **Who should attend:**

The leadership team of a project.

- Project managers
- Project sponsors
- Technical leads
- Other functional leaders

## **Quick facts:**

- Duration: **2 days**
- Class size: **3-12**
- Location: **On site**
- Follow-up coaching: **Included**
- Instructors: **1 geek + 1 non-geek**

## **Don't let poor relationships undermine your project.**

An estimated \$80 billion a year is lost to failed technology projects in the U.S., and studies show that the root causes of project failure are found in breakdowns in human relationships. Even the most expertly engineered process can't succeed in the face of poor communication, misaligned expectations, and mutual mistrust.

## **Your project needs a good communication plan.**

Communication is the bedrock on which successful projects are built, but most teams fail to plan for how to keep all their stakeholders in-the-loop and on-board through the ups and downs of complicated technical projects. Breakdowns in communication are the "canary in the coal mine" for project health; they should be detected and repaired long before they result in missed deadlines, runaway budgets or shoddy quality.

## **Your project leadership team can create a culture of success.**

This course will show you how to:

<b>Forecast accurately</b>	<i>by</i>	Creating a common language for geeks and non-geeks to plan collaboratively
<b>Propel projects forward</b>	<i>by</i>	Establishing a communication plan for the team to follow
<b>Save time and money</b>	<i>by</i>	Reversing the cycle of mistrust, avoidance and blame
<b>Create better products</b>	<i>by</i>	Getting geeks and non-geeks to be in the same conversation
<b>Prevent project failure</b>	<i>by</i>	Monitoring, measuring and restoring project health

# Leading Geeks

education + consulting

Contact: Paul Glen | paul@LeadingGeeks.com | 310-694-0450

## Course Agenda

### Phase 1: Pre-course assessment

The course is driven by the needs of a real-world project, so two weeks before the face-to-face workshop, participants fill out a survey that serves to:

- Guide the customization of course content
- Establish baselines for how participants see themselves, their project, their roles and each other.

### Phase 2: Workshop

Day 1	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the importance of relationships for project success and the central role of emotions in managing relationships.</li><li>• Practice techniques for deactivating destructive assumptions.</li></ul>
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experience the differences between geek and non-geek cultures and personality styles.</li><li>• Practice techniques for bridging those differences.</li><li>• Establish principles for good relationships in the specific project.</li></ul>
Day 2	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice essential techniques for establishing and maintaining relationships on tech projects.</li><li>• Draft a communication plan to instill good relationships practices in the entire team</li></ul>
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan the ongoing monitoring of project health.</li><li>• Explore techniques for repairing problems before they become serious threats to project success.</li></ul>

### Phase 3: Follow-up support and coaching

Three weeks after the completion of the workshop, we conduct a remote session to review the state of the project and the leadership team, offer coaching on issues that have arisen, and renewing the team's commitment to maintaining productive leadership relationships.

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## About the Leading Geeks Company

We help organizations unlock the value of technical people. Our work includes:

- Improving technical leadership, recognizing that leading geeks is different
- Transforming the tricky relationship between technology and business groups
- Redirecting troubled projects, with attention to repairing critical relationships

Since 1999, we have empowered leaders to leverage the people who provide technology. Today, the Leading Geeks Company is a growing and diverse network of professionals dedicated to transforming how technology and the people who deliver it contribute to their organizations.

### The Faculty

**Paul Glen** (geek) has 20 years experience working with technical teams and leaders. He is best known as the author of the award-winning book, "Leading Geeks" and as a long time columnist for Computerworld.

He has delivered almost two hundred keynote presentations and workshops on three continents and consulted for numerous companies on issues related to managing technical organizations, projects and individuals.

He has an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of management and a BA in computer science from Cornell University.

**Maria McManus** (non-geek) has almost 20 years experience working as a product sponsor with technical teams as a VP of Product Development at iVillage and Director of User Experience at Disney's Internet and Media Group.

She is a graduate of Brown University with a degree in English.