

Will AI 'terminate' project management, 30 June 2022

Presented by Peter Taylor

Question Asked	Question Answered
I think RPA will be very successful for Project Management to resolve some of those repeatable tasks, but i do struggle to see how AI will evolve with the data stored in most PPM systems not being truly accurate	Very true, data is key - although I think AI will evolve rapidly to overcome many data issues through human intervention - that said, one way in which we can prepare for AI is to address existing data issues
I agree, with project management there is a difference between run activities (BAU tasks) and investment projects/innovative projects, I feel that AI will choose the RUN over invest because those tasks "need" to happen, but those investment projects will reduce the run activities to generate a more efficient workplace	I am not sure I am in agreement with this, as ever, businesses will find the appropriate balance
Do you think AI will be better fit with PMO, to understand lessons learnt, resourcing, financial costs etc, to help assist with demand management and benefits realisation?	Yes I think that the PMO will benefit enormously from AI 'assistance' and 'guidance' - my own PMO is undertaking a number of AI 'pilots' to assess what can be used in the first wave
How do you think the battle of "housekeeping" data will affect our journey with AI?	As the above question - it is a challenge, and bad (bad) data will seriously impact the speed at which AI can be adopted and provide real value
Are there any good examples of any AI platform working in practice?	perflo.co and semblyai.com are two examples (not project specific - teams and team communication) - also I have worked with https://sharktower.com/
APM Body of Knowledge 7th Edition, pages 103 and 105 - there is by definition no such thing as stakeholder 'management' it is about engagement and influence	All such 'management' is a combination between 'engagement and influence' and 'planning'
Need to differentiate and distinguish between project management (a function) and Delivery - what the team 'do'...	True - but I always say, project manager is a verb and not a noun
Large Institutions are a form of AI - with an AGENDA that does not have humanity but profit as its driver. To ignore the warnings of the `World's top science about the threats presented by AI is irresponsible?	Personally, I see opportunity in AI and Project Management

Has Peter heard of Kurzweil's 'Singularity'?	Yes, and I quote him in my book - Once the Singularity has been reached, Kurzweil says that machine intelligence will be infinitely more powerful than all human intelligence combined
Google " Open Letter to Artificial Intelligence - by Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, Bill Gates and dozens of AI Experts - Is Peter aware of this?	Yes and, as with all new and powerful developments a clear balance needs to be considered - In January 2015, Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, and dozens of artificial intelligence experts signed an open letter on artificial intelligence calling for research on the societal impacts of AI. The letter affirmed that society can reap great potential benefits from artificial intelligence, but called for concrete research on how to prevent certain potential "pitfalls": artificial intelligence has the potential to eradicate disease and poverty, but researchers must not create something which cannot be controlled..The four-paragraph letter, titled "Research Priorities for Robust and Beneficial Artificial Intelligence: An Open Letter", lays out detailed research priorities in an accompanying twelve-page document.
I assume AI needs to learn to be true AI otherwise its just a computer program. Will AI make mistakes and cause project issues whilst learning?	No doubt but the iteration of learning and correcting should be significantly faster - and this is why I speak of the 'digital dance' as the critical factor for successful adoption of AI
How do project professionals develop their skills at the start of their careers if AI will take over the smaller, less complex projects?	There will still be many opportunities in 'projects as projects' and in partnering with AI in project management - but it will demand a significant change in the education offered, the training given and the certification/testing the results
what kind of tools are available in the market to facilitate AI in project management	See question above for some examples - but a simple search offers up many more - and my book lists a number of ways people can try out for free
how would a resilience to pandemic be embedded in pm let alone AI?	Big question and I am not sure it would - it is a once in a generation impactor
because technology is 'sexy' doesn't AI risk taking PM back to the bad old process obsessed days where people didn't figure in project management?	Absolutely the opposite - I think it will enable and empower project managers to focus much more on the people - and projects have always been about people and project management is sexy... https://thelazyprojectmanager.com/blog/f/sexy-project-management?blogcategory=sexy
Are AI and the projectisation of work pulling in the same or opposite directions?	The same I believe

I love the idea of AI freeing project managers to focus on leading	Totally
On the news a Google engineer said the AI he was working with became sentient. He was fired. The engineer was an expert in evaluating such matters. Do you feel this may be a problem for humanity?	Well it was a big news story - the latest that I can find on this is 'The Google engineer who claimed the company's AI had become "sentient" has explained how he came to believe it. Blake Lemoine, who is currently on leave from the search giant, said that the system had become his "friend" and that his claim it has a soul was motivated by his religious beliefs.'
Would a sentient AI be a product, that can be patented and owned by a company or is that slavery?	Wow amazing question but way beyond my thoughts processes
Is Robbie really an AI? It is just a set of instructions. AI in my mind can create and develop its own processes and hence code. It has the ability to learn and build on its learning. A simple vac can't do that. Sorry.	Well true - more of a robotic process - but used to provide some 'fun' in the presentation
Anyone can do PM, but I suspect a very low successful delivery if that is perused. Experience and human communication and ability to firefight at a drop of a hat cannot be replaced	I don't disagree
Is AI the leader or is it augmented humans that will take over? The WEF is telling us humans with augmented brain chips is the way to go by 2030 ???????	As above - the partnership model is what I consider the most likely outcome
Should the focus be on "refocus" or "develop" rather than "terminate"? might make someone less bored ??	'Terminate' was used as an attraction or challenge - you might say 'eliminate' instead but it is a re-development of the PM world I think (and sorry that you got bored)
how do we harness or work with AI rather than be overwhelmed by it?	This is really the essence of my book and the move to the digital partnership
Sorry, but how reliable are these projections and struggling to understand how these projections may have been worked out?	Well how accurate they are or aren't I could not say (not sure anyone can until after the event) -but AI is definitely coming

<p>Project Management is a Process and it's not always $2+2=4$? So, how can the automated AI replace the PM role?</p>	<p>It won't - see all the above</p>
<p>Can you please give a practical example of how AI could change project scheduling?</p>	<p>Not in any specific detail beyond being the 'overseer' to change impacts and running simulations</p>
<p>AI's are bad at understanding what things *mean*. Does this make them the ultimate competent but unconscious agent, and therefore more liable to run into danger (e.g. drive the bus into the ditch where a human would stop)?</p>	<p>There will be safeguards against this I am sure - back to the correct formation of the 'digital dance'</p>