

# Your Project Management Coach



# Your Project Management Coach

**Best Practices for Managing Projects** in the Real World

Bonnie Biafore Teresa Stover



#### Your Project Management Coach: Best Practices for Managing Projects in the Real World

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### **About the Authors**

**Bonnie Biafore** is an only child, so learning to play well with others did not come until much later in life. However, she has always been an unrepentant organizing fool, which is obvious to anyone who examines the storage bins in her garage with their neatly segregated collections of nuts, bolts, screws, fuses, and other items of home maintenance.

Bonnie earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master of Science in Structural Engineering, but neither of those fields quite did the trick. Through a number of fortunate coincidences, Bonnie ended up managing projects, which, with training and experience, turned out to be an appropriate and satisfying career for her. Project management helped her social skills immensely and fulfills her desire to get things done and keep things organized. In 2003, she earned a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute.

When she isn't managing projects for clients, Bonnie writes about project management, personal finance, investing, and technology. She applies her incorrigible sense of humor to writing about those dry subjects in such a way that people might actually want to read about them.

Bonnie is the author of more than 20 books, including *Successful Project Management*, *Project 2010: The Missing Manual*, and several other awardwinning books. When she isn't working, she hikes in the mountains with her dogs, cooks ethnic food, and works out. She is also wrapping up work on her first novel. You can learn more at her website, www.bonniebiafore.com or email Bonnie at bonnie.biafore@gmail.com.

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**Teresa Stover** can't think without a pen or keyboard in hand and can't function without a task list, complete with work estimates and schedule. As supervisor of a technical publications department for a Silicon Valley startup in the late 1980s, Teresa came face to face with the art and science of project management. Desperate to know who needed to be working on what on any given day, she discovered Gantt and PERT charts and has never looked back.

Since then, Teresa has worked more than 20 years as a technical communication and project management consultant for software, manufacturing, business, and education. She specializes in project management for entrepreneurial startups, nonprofit organizations, and content development endeavors. Her clients have included Apple Computer, National Semiconductor, Boeing, MetLife, and the Puyallup School District. Her work passions are clarity, organization, and process.

Teresa conducts workshops on project management, business, and writing topics and has authored 15 books, including *Microsoft Project 2010 Inside Out*. Other recent achievements include recognition for her work in instructional design, web content, and nonprofit organizational development.

Teresa lives in southern Oregon with her husband, Craig, and her German Shepherd, Draco. With this book finished, she hopes for new opportunities for exploration and experience, conversation and creativity. She also plans to volunteer more for her favorite cause — Josephine Community Libraries, a nongovernmental organization that runs the member-supported, volunteer-run local public library system.

For more, visit Teresa's website, www.stoverwriting.com. Teresa welcomes emails from readers sent to teresa@stoverwriting.com.

### **About the Technical Editor**

**Bob McGannon**, currently based in Canberra, Australia, is an author, speaker, trainer, and consultant and is the owner of three project management–related businesses in the United States and Australia. He has 27 years of project management and information technology management experience and has delivered project management services in eight different countries.

Bob is certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute. He is also a certified Prince2 Practitioner, a certified IBM Corporation Project Executive, a certified DMR-P project management mentor for the Boeing Aircraft Corporation, and a Certified Master Project Coach by the International Institute of Project Coaching.

Bob is the author of a blog entitled Intelligent Disobedience that can be accessed at mindavation.com/IDBlog/. He also can be heard on the In My Judgment weekly podcast which can be accessed at www.mindavation.com.

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It is hard to find the words appropriate to thank Bob McGannon, whose official role for this book was technical editor. He provided many of the helpful techniques you'll find in this book. He regaled us with project management stories and helped set the "Let's not take ourselves too seriously" tone for the book. Best of all, he brought us back on track when we strayed from reality with his signature "Whoa, Nellie!" comments.

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