

# Inception of AI into Project Management

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Need to Embrace Strategic Program  
Management more than ever !

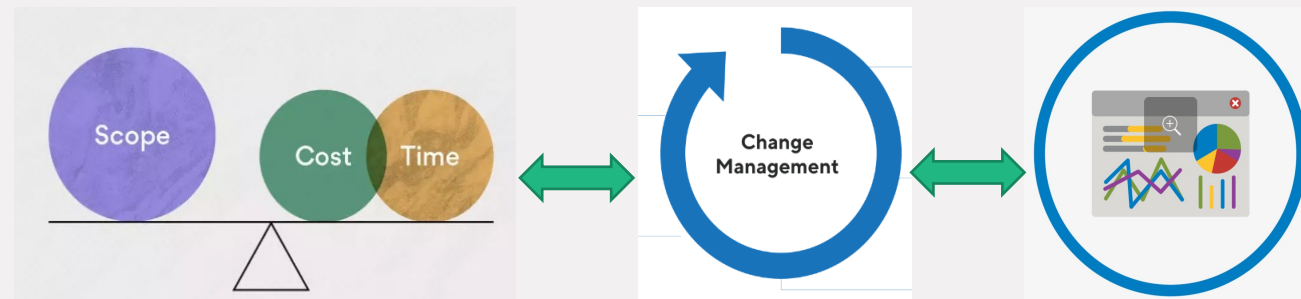
*Sharad Kumar, PMP  
Senior Program Manager at OpenText, Ex-Nokia  
Bangalore, India*

# *Where are we?*

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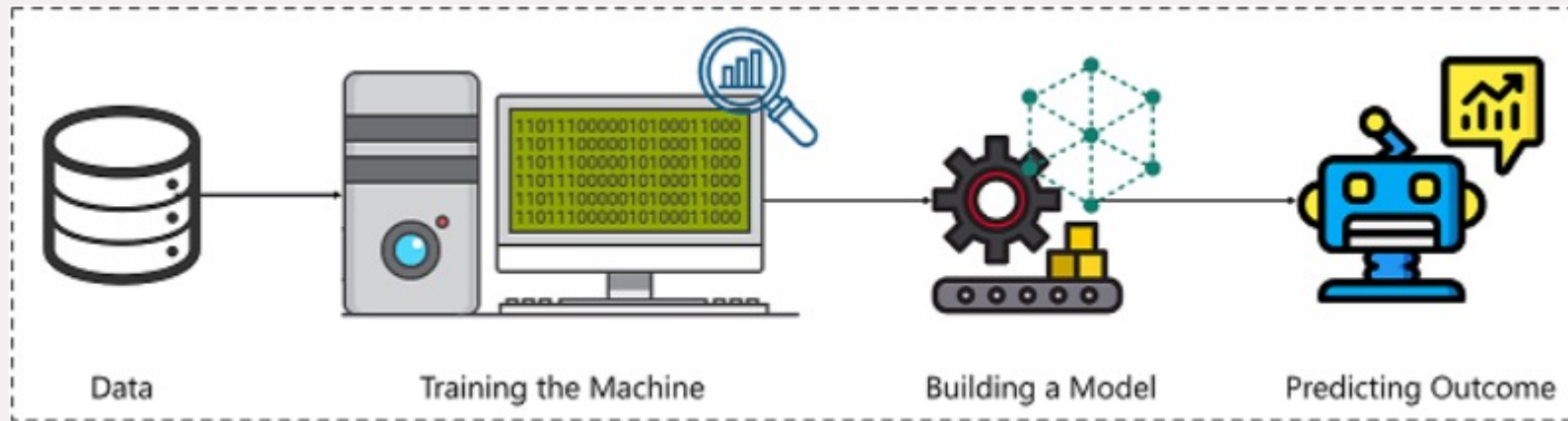
In this fast and fluid technology evolution era, projects feel pressure to deliver committed benefit to the organizations –

- Frequent Change in business requirements
- Reduced time to market



# *Artificial Intelligence – a parallel dimension !*

AI will bring value add in terms of getting knowledge and insight from primary and secondary project data and then with the help of sophisticated algorithms ...it will help to uncover the risk and challenges for a particular project or program.



# *Project Management today and path forward*

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With technological advancement things will change for example –

- Project selection and prioritization: AI integrated systems and databases in place based on NPV, IRR.
- Support for the PMO : advanced tools and technique backed by AI.
- Improved, faster project definition, planning, and reporting: data analytics to see the visuals on KPIs.
- Virtual project assistants: On the fly support on standard queries e.g. chatbot.
- Advanced testing systems and software: from DevOps to DevSecOps and more CI/CD capable product development lifecycle.

# *Strategic Program Management*

AI and technology to bring more data driven insights but its important to look at projects and programs form more integrated way –

- Alignment to business priority
- Interconnects in portfolio level offering.

As a PM we should apply strategic program management technique to harness such benefits for our organization, under strategic program management the projects become actionable arm of your overall strategy.



# *Need of the hour !*

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While all this creates a modern system where a project management can happen, Project manager of the future needs to cultivate strong soft skills, leadership capabilities, strategic thinking, and business acumen.

- Delivery of the expected benefits and their alignment with strategic goals.
- Good understanding of these technologies.
- Increase focus on human interactions while identifying technology skill deficits in their people early and work to address them.
- Apart from focusing on project deliverables PM should focus on creating high performing teams.

# *Case Study : AI based Project Management*

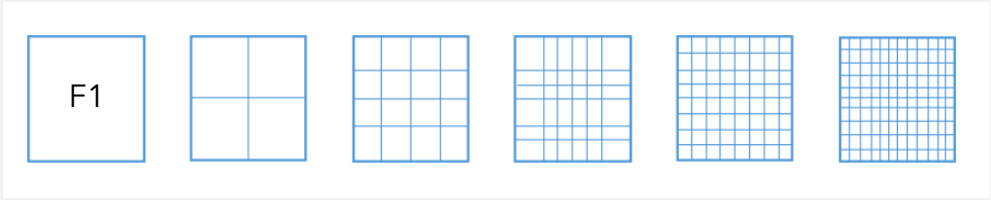
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Strategy Defined -> Agile Delivery -> Quality -> Performance/Functional test -> Release and Operations

Many Techniques : Story Point Estimation, Control Chart, Release Burn Down .....rough estimation !

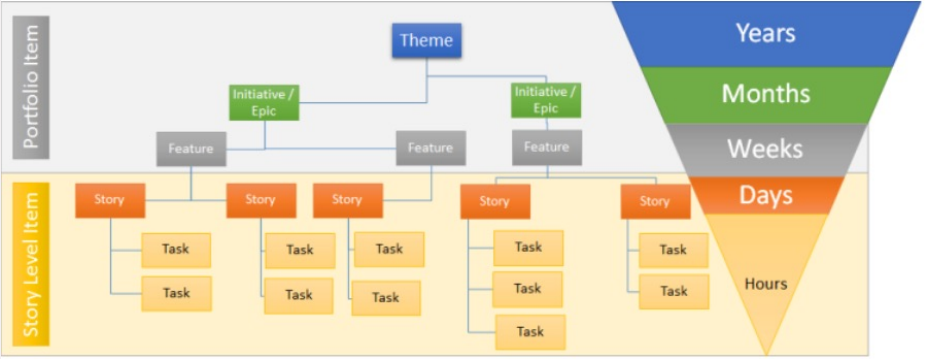
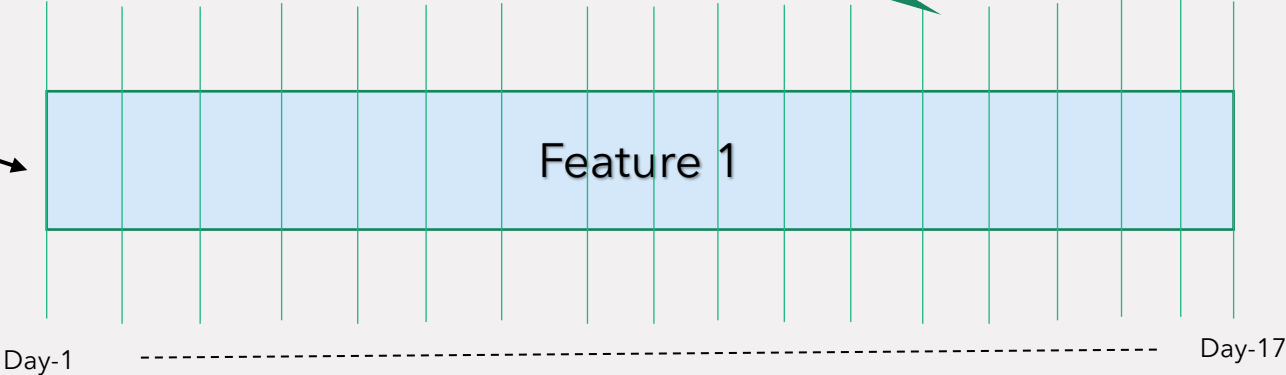
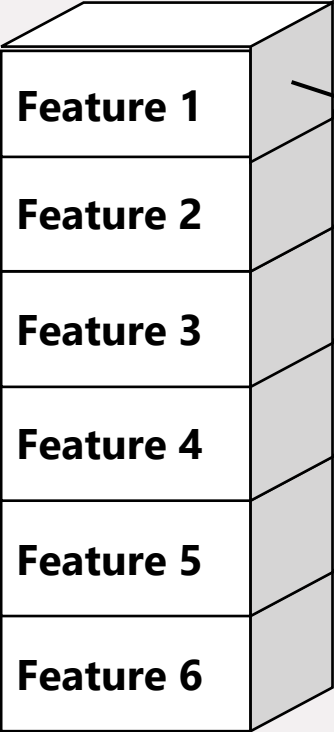
- ✓ Backlog is having set of features, user stories.
- ✓ Features can have Predicted End Date – Optimistic and Pessimistic Range
- ✓ Delivery time risk – H, M, L

You have AI powered algorithm which every day calculates feature end date and risk is incorporated and date will be adjusted accordingly.



# Data Modelling

User story - task, sub-task, quality, defect, commits, run, test



Product Backlog

# Contd.

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- US -> Phase, Done, Tasks.
- Quality – USL, LSL, Scatter Diagram.
- Defect – Priority of bugs Blocker, Critical, Major with RCA/EDA analysis attached to it.
- Commits – no of commits with exceptions flagged by Sonar, Klockwork and other DevOps tools.
- Runs – CI/CD pipeline with automated deployment in sandbox, smoke test followed by regression.
- Tests – Unit Test, Feature Test

Historical Features – how long it took to close based on multiple variables.

Elastic DB – system has saved entries in past at each day level.

Slice and dice the data point – reconstruct in ML algorithm.

Reconstruct a function – Feature footprint.

**How AI is trained to predict the future, not 100% correct .....but can be trained with quality data.**

# *Impact of AI in Project Management*

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- ✓ Automation of Project Management Tasks
- ✓ Predictive Analytics
- ✓ Making Data-Driven Decisions
- ✓ Improved Resource Planning and Optimization
- ✓ Enhanced Collaboration with Team Members and Stakeholders
- ✓ Benefits of AI in Project Management
  - Improved budgeting and resource allocation
  - Enhanced resource planning and optimization
  - Improved collaboration with team members and stakeholders
  - Reduced risk of delays and cost overruns
  - Automation of tasks for improved efficiency

# *Conclusion*

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- Industries will move towards AI driven systems and would also operate in hybrid environment.
- Use AI as a competitive advantage to execute faster on data.
- Use AI to complement strategic goals for organizations.
- Cultivate leadership skills, business acumen and strategic thinking in PM.