

VIEWPOINTS – JANUARY 2008

On the Tenth Anniversary of PMWT

By Harvey Levine

This month we celebrate the legacy of David Curling. Ten years ago, Dave (PMI Fellow, deceased) launched *PM World Today* (PMWT). His vision was to create a vehicle for sharing. PMWT became a platform for communicating news of our PM community and for publishing items of knowledge and wisdom. He attracted contributors from all parts of the world, all donating effort and knowledge for no other purpose but the sharing. For a decade, PMWT has stood out as an independent voice, and a repository for regular features, such as Max's Musings (courtesy of Max Wideman – a prolific contributor and partner in the PMWT effort).

So strong was the foundation for sharing that Dave created, that with his untimely passing, PMWT would not go away. Now, under the baton of David Pells, PMWT continues to fulfill Dave Curling's vision. The PM community will be forever indebted to these selfless leaders for their vision and sacrifice.

There are two popular views of intellectual property. One is that it is "owned" and legally protected. Access is by fee or membership. An alternate view is that we all benefit from sharing knowledge and building upon the wisdom of others. The visionaries behind PMWT share the second view, as do I. The satisfaction of contributing PM knowledge to the community provides rewards, often in excess of typical remuneration. That is not to say that all intellectual property is to be shared. However, the polar opposite view that all knowledge must be copyright and protected does not sit well with most of our community.

I fondly remember the time, some 30 years ago, when a young Project Management Institute (PMI) served as a vehicle for sharing PM knowledge, building a knowledge base, a place for networking, and a force to promote the emerging PM discipline. Many of us "old-timers" have now withdrawn support for PMI because their style has changed from a professional organization model to a "business" model, consumed with making money, owning intellectual property and litigating against dissenters or those who wish to share their knowledge with PMI but also retain rights to use their own material in their own work.

I take the trouble of pointing out this polar opposite model so that the value of PMWT and PM Forum can be seen more clearly. We have, in these two vehicles, a free and independent mechanism to continue the vision of the early PMI leaders, and the vision of Dave Curling and his colleagues, in seeking those with valuable knowledge and providing a communication base. Here, on the contrary, individual views are not "pre-tested" for acceptability and opposing views are clearly invited. Sharing, whether opinions or knowledge, is the by-word.

So, at this 10th anniversary of PMWT, we again thank Dave Curling for his courage and his wisdom and ask those who share his vision to continue to support his legacy.



Harvey A. Levine
PMI Fellow and past Chair
PM Ambassador
PM Forum Advisory Board

About the Author:

**Harvey A. Levine***PM Ambassador**PMI Fellow**PMForum Global Advisor*

Mr. **Harvey Levine**, PM Ambassador, PMI Fellow, is a well-known project management (PM) author, consultant, and authority on the subjects of PM software, technology, earned value, project portfolio management and general PM practices. He has nearly 45 years of PM experience, including 24 years with the General Electric Company. Since 1986, Harvey is a Principal with The Project Knowledge Group, a PM consultancy based in New York and California that specializes in building PM competencies and providing guidance, training and services related to PM software selection, evaluation & implementation. He is also a leading advocate and mentor in the expanding field of Project Portfolio Management. One of the leading consultants to the PM software industry in the USA, he has provided advice and services to many of the leading vendors in this field. Harvey has also been recognized as a PM software industry watchdog, and a PM software "guru" for his knowledge, understanding, and insights regarding both vendor and user issues. Mr. Levine is the author of three books: "*Project Portfolio Management: A Practical Guide to Selecting Projects, Managing Portfolios, and Maximizing Benefits*" (recently published by Jossey-Bass); "*Practical Project Management: Tips, Tactics, and Tools*" (John Wiley & Sons 2002); and "*Project Management using Microcomputers*" (Osborne/McGraw-Hill 1986). Former editor of the PM Software Forum in PMI's *Project Management Network* magazine for 13 years, he has published over 240 articles and whitepapers on PM in the past 15 years. Mr. Levine served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) during 1985-86, received PMI's Distinguished Contribution to Project Management award in 1989, and was elected a Fellow of PMI in 1998. He is a Global Advisor for PMForum and **PM World Today**. Additional information about Harvey Levine can be found at

<http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#3>