“When I realized that there were no fully PMI-compliant process templates available on the web, I decided to make it my task to map these 49 processes in MindManager, and make them available to interested project management professionals.”

Markus Kopko, Founder and owner of the project management platform MP4PM.club

The Results

- BETTER EXAM PREPARATION
  Understand complex subjects for better practical applications

- GUIDED PROJECT MANAGEMENT
  Maps and templates in compliance with the PMBoK Guide

- CREATIVO PROJECT PLANNING
  Structured and actionable brainstorming sessions to plan projects

- INNOVATIVE STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT
  Easy project stakeholder engagement using SmartRules™
About Markus Kopko

Markus Kopko is a certified project management professional (PMP) and a passionate MindManager user. On his website, MP4PM.club (Mind Mapping for Project Managers), he not only shares his knowledge with like-minded individuals, but also supports them with templates and maps on the ten knowledge areas and 49 processes of the PMBoK Guides (Project Management Body of Knowledge). Interested project managers can join the MP4PM Club, getting access to a variety of templates and guidelines. In addition to his PMP certification, Markus is also SCRUM Master (PSM), certified mind mapping expert (Biggerplate), and was recently involved in the development of the PMBoK Guide 7th Edition.

The Challenge

Markus has worked as a project manager for many years. He always adopts the newest methods, and extensively studies what software solutions could support modern project management techniques. From the beginning, he found mind mapping to be a very suitable method. It was at this time, almost 20 years ago, that he came across MindManager. “Needless to say, I tested a variety of tools. But the philosophy of MindManager seems to best suit my needs,” says Kopko.

Visual clarity is important in a project management tool, along with the flexibility and the ability to create varying forms of representation. Markus is convinced that the structured planning and implementation of projects is a critical factor to success in project management.

As a result, Markus started training as a PMP at the Project Management Institute (PMI) in 2015. During this certification process, already working extensively with MindManager, he began researching helpful tools and templates based on what we saw in the PMBoK Guide.

The Solution

After going through this research process, Markus decided to capture and prepare the PMP training and exam preparation content using MindManager. As a result, he expected not only faster and better learning, but also a successful exam.

Markus’s training guide was based closely on the PMBoK Guide. It included ten different knowledge areas and 49 associated processes, all of which are reflected in MindManager map templates. “You have to internalize and understand these project processes to master them,” remembers Kopko.

Having personally benefited from this way of working and this form of representation, Markus believed that the MindManager maps could help others as well. So, he came up with the idea to share the maps with like-minded project management professionals through a web platform.

“I find PMI’s philosophy on project management very helpful, but I know how difficult it is to implement on a daily basis. This is particularly true when it comes to ensuring that all project members are on the same page. As such, it’s very helpful to have access to the guide and matching, reliable PM templates at all times,” says Kopko.

The Result

Though Markus’ website only went live at the beginning of 2020, his community already has more than 80 members. So far, Markus is quite pleased. “That’s not too bad for a specialized niche like this one,” he says.

MP4PM.club offers members several ways to share their expertise. “They receive maps and templates, as well as information about the most helpful PM tools. They can also access guides explaining, step by step for each process, the best way to put instructions from the PMBoK Guide into practice. In addition, the members can access tools that are typical for online communities, such as a moderated forum and, for example, specific user groups to directly exchange information.”

As an example of how this process looks, Markus refers specifically to stakeholder management. As per PMBoK, stakeholder management comprises four different steps: identifying the stakeholders, planning stakeholder engagement, managing stakeholder engagement, and monitoring stakeholder engagement. Markus has developed a map-based quadrant matrix that provides project managers a good basis for engaging stakeholders. It includes all required components and subitems, and ensures that nothing is ignored.

Currently, Markus is considering how to integrate MindManager’s new Co-editing feature into his MP4PM concept. He envisions working with co-editing maps in an online-workshop and, developing these maps with the community. He also has new ideas for stakeholder management that will leverage MindManager’s new SmartRules feature.

“I think it’s great how MindManager allows you to transfer PMBoK’s theoretical approaches into practical and actionable maps. In that way, they offer both accurate and practical project management guidance for every PMP and causal PM.”

Markus Kopko,
Founder and owner of the project management platform MP4PM

SmartRules allows me to set rules and filter dynamically using various tags. This simplifies work immensely as I only have to assign the tags once, and am then able to always provide stakeholders with the most current information with minimum effort.”

“In the near future, there will also be topic-specific self-learning courses available on MP4PM (on the work breakdown structure, for example). These will differ from existing courses by their practical relevance, as well as their integration and strong focus on mind mapping,” explains Kopko.

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