

Getting Your Project “On a Roll”

What does it mean to get your project “on a roll”?

- Momentum: the inertia of movement vs. rest
- An unobstructed vision: you see your way to overcoming the obstacles vs. see more and more obstacles
- ➔ The key: you are creating real-world results, not just putting time on task

When does getting momentum take more than “getting over the hump”?

- An initiative: any project that is going to be disruptive (emotionally, physically, intellectually)
- Deadline pressure: you need to ramp up quickly and efficiently
- “Squeezing it in”: there will be unresolved conflicts with other projects

#1 Thing you need to get ramped up quickly: A “Scheduling Infrastructure”:

systems and routine processes that help you navigate conflicts between projects. Calendar, to-do list, etc. and...

- Daily review/planning (15 minutes/day—clarify priorities)
- Weekly review/planning (30 minutes/week—integrate with longer term and upcoming deadlines)
- Easy, non-disruptive time tracking (to develop realistic predictions)
- ➔ The key: KISS (Keep it Simple, Sweetie!)

This daily and weekly overhead is for pro-active problem-solving:

- You don’t know exactly what problems will come up
- You don’t know much time it will take to resolve conflicts
- You don’t know how easily you will manage motivation*
- ➔ ***You will need to experiment with scheduling, thinking tactics, and motivation tactics to figure out what works for you in this case.***

“The problem of survival is solved anew every day.”

*Managing motivation when you have setbacks or failures

- A setback occurs when you work on a project as planned, but discover it is more difficult than you anticipated. There were unforeseen problems.
➔ Don’t take this personally! This is critical new information.
- Failure occurs when you *don’t* work on the project as planned.
➔ Do take this personally! But also don’t assume you’re wrong. This is a critical moment to introspect *all* emotions involved.
- Handle these constructively, or they will kill your momentum!

This class is an introduction to the [Launch](#) program and the [Thinking Lab](#) course on “Evolving a Scheduling Infrastructure.”