



CASE study

Project Management Simulation — Exactly what I was looking for!

Review by Cory McLaughlin

As a newly-appointed Project Manager I was looking for something to help me begin polishing my craft. I am now, as I have always been, a show me kind of guy.

So, while I did find value in reading and videos, I was desperately looking for an intuitive and interactive simulation where I could practice some of the skills I was learning. I found these types of learning platforms very useful while I was in business school and it was the best way for me to grasp the concepts that I was trying to learn.

I searched google and found **businessXP & GoVenture** — exactly the type of simulation I was looking for. I felt it would be worth a try. So, I arranged to test out the **Project Management** simulation.

My initial thoughts were that this would be like the business simulations I had done in college, and I hoped that I would find them to be as entertaining and useful as those had been.

My first simulation was to act as the PM for a new-to-market Smartwatch project. In this simulation I was made to do tasks such as choosing contractors for specific work, managing a finite budget, creating and maintaining a Gantt Chart, adapting to real-time changes that impacted multiple areas and often created budgetary or scheduling issues. The simulation was always throwing a stick in the spokes forcing decisions that ultimately tested resiliency and change management skills.

Overall, the simulation is not incredibly difficult. It takes some careful decision making and thought, but it was not something you would need a PMP to complete. That was EXACTLY what I was looking for.

I wanted to practice some of the more basic functions of project management, and this was just the place to do that.

Finally, all the decisions you made along the way culminate in the completion of the project. At this time, you will be able to see how closely you kept the project within the budget and schedule. This is a great measure of success and gives some insight into how the decisions of today can have major impacts on the results of tomorrow.

This game is intuitive, and each decision leads to different outcomes. There are 3 scenarios to run through and within those there are many different choices that can be made to offer different outcomes.

Bad results this iteration? Take it again and make different decisions to create different outcomes. The world is your oyster.

I thought this was a great entry-level game for those that are looking to dip their feet into the world of project management. This could also be a fantastic addition to any level of education in terms of project management skills and practical application thereof.



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