

#### Project Controls Expo – 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 Emirates Stadium, London

**Artificial Intelligence Meets Project Controls** 

#### About the Speaker

## Charlie Sundling

Charlie is currently the CEO, Pipeline Group, Inc., a software technology company based in California. He has more than 25 years of computer science and industrial engineering background. Charlie has a particular focus on human work performance as it relates to complex project execution. In this field he has design many advanced systems, publications and holds related patents.



#### Artificial Intelligence and Project Controls

This presentation explores the development of an advanced computer system used by the US civil nuclear industry to gain better control over the execution of their reactor refueling projects.



## **Case Study**



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# The Syntempo Initiative

Joint research between US civil nuclear operators and Pipeline Software, Inc.



SAN ONOFRE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



DIABLO CANYON, CENTRAL CALIFORNIA



#### Anatomy of a Nuclear Refueling Project

- o Refuel every 18 mos
- o 2,500 people
- o 35,000 activities
- Scheduled to hour/minute
- o 25-30 day schedule
- o \$40M-\$50M budget
- o ~\$3M per day late





#### Delima

We invested millions of dollars in best-in-class project management systems and processes but our refuel project performance has not improved.



Why?



#### Missing Link









#### **Project Execution Communication Cycle**



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#### Unmanageable



#### **Cause and Effect**





#### What Was Needed?

Hire 200 additional project control staff, OR, hire one that could...

- o Monitor 1,000's of activities in parallel
- Follow up with hundreds of workers in parallel
- Analyze the schedule every 30 seconds
- Publish and distribute updated schedule every
  30 seconds to everyone involved in the project

#### Impossible. But could a computer do this?



## Artificial Intelligence:

"The branch of science that pertains to making computers perform the tasks normally requiring human intelligence"





## Hello Dave.

Would you like me to help you manage your project?

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#### **STEP 1: Prepare Facility**



Monitors, kiosks and tablets throughout the facility; offices, meeting rooms, shops, desktops, plant floor, etc.



#### **STEP 2: Discover Team Structure**



"Hello team. Please tell me how you are organized."





#### **STEP 3: Discover Individuals**





"Hello Bob. Please give me your badge number, email, phone, and pager ids. Oh, and where do you usually sit?"



#### STEP 4: Load Schedule & Press "Play"







#### Let the Fun Begin



#### Communicate



#### **Collect Feedback From The Field**





#### **Perform Schedule Analysis**



#### "Hmm. How can we do better?"



#### Do it Again



#### Results

- o Massive reduction in "status chasing"
- o 90% reduction in keyboard time
- o Improved visibility
- o Increased human resource utilization rates
- Bow wave reduction
- Schedule publishing cut by 70%
- Nearly 3 days of slip avoided in a single refuel



#### Q&A



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# Thank you!

cs@gopipeline.com



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