

# University of Maryland Project Management Symposium

NEXT SESSION

# State of Project Portfolio Management in Practice

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This session will be recorded.



State of Project Portfolio Management in Practice

Dr. Te Wu (PfMP, PgMP, PMP, PMI-RMP)









- Current State of Project Portfolio Management
- Purpose of this Study
- Survey Overview
- Preliminary Results 10 Key Findings
- Summary of Findings
- What's Coming





# Current State

- The state of project portfolio management is evolving.
- While "financial" portfolio management theories has been established in the 1950s, "project" portfolio management is more recent (around 2000).
- Today, there are about 2,000 PfMP credential holders.
- The future of portfolio management is uncertain!





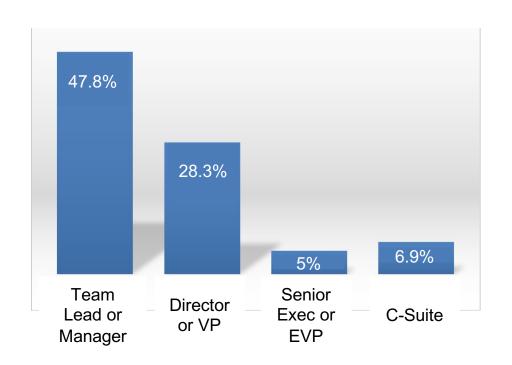


# **Landscape Study**

- 1. Portfolio management practices can differ widely among practitioners and between theories and applications.
- 2. Most study assumes optimal scenarios in which rarely exist in practice.
- 3. Portfolio management's impact and value in the minds of senior executives are limited because of these gaps.

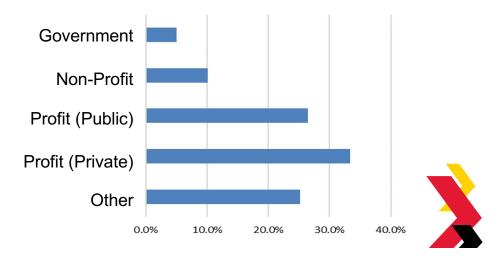


### **Respondent Profile**



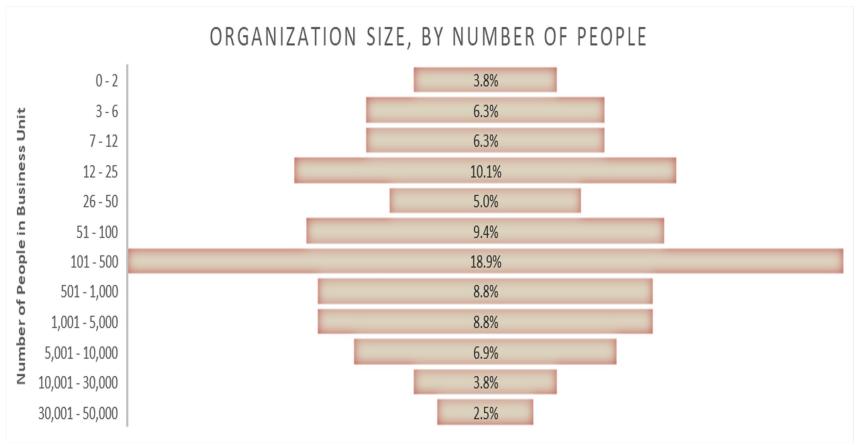






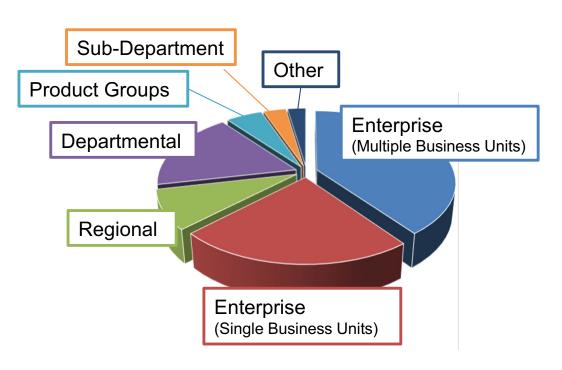








### Most Portfolios are Enterprise Level



Portfolios can exist at various levels across organizations

- 1. ~63% of the portfolios reside at the enterprise level.
- ~18% of portfolios reside at a departmental level (e.g. IT, Product, etc.)
- 3. ~9% are organized regionally
- 4. ~5% are organized departmental

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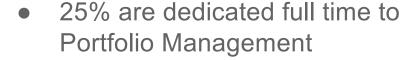




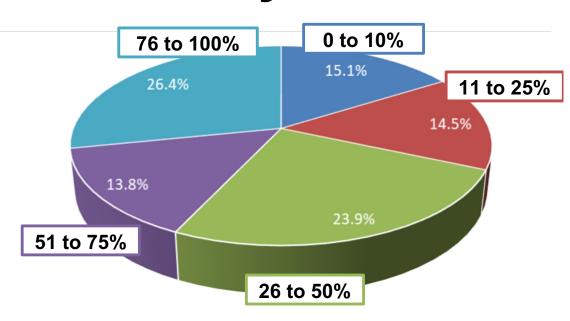


### Usually NOT a full-time duty

Most portfolio managers have other responsibilities, other than portfolio management.



 53% spend less than half of their time on Portfolio Management



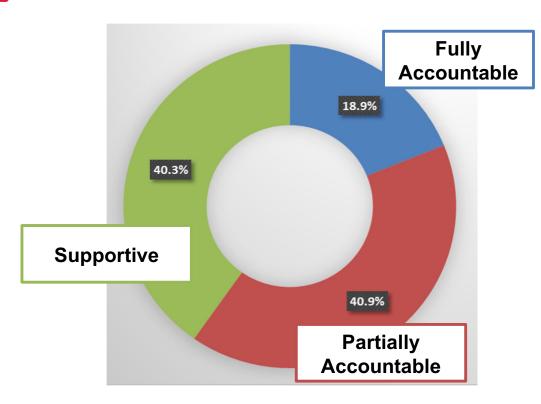
**Insight**: The level of engagement on managing portfolio varies greatly among organizations.







### Managers do not "own" the portfolios



Insight: Portfolio managers have various level of accountabilities for their portfolios:

- A clear majority, or 80%, have semi-accountability or play supportive roles
- About 19% have full
   accountability for both the process
   and performance of their portfolios







# Primary Purpose is Usually Strategic Realization of Goals or Governance

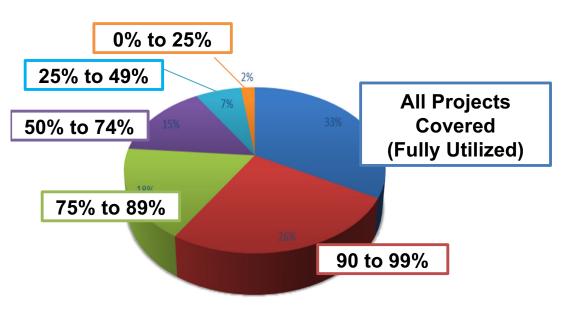
<b>Business Objective</b>	% Highest Importance	PfM Business Objective Importance
Strategic realization of goals	48%	4.18
Governance / decision making	31%	3.95
Resource allocation	16%	3.66
Risk management	16%	3.53
Synergy among projects, programs, portfolios	16%	3.48





## Usually Most Projects are Included...But!

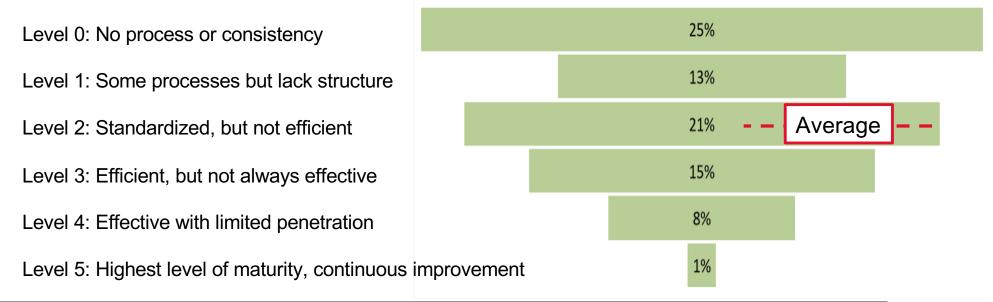
What Percent of Projects are Covered By Portfolio Management?



 Big surprise, even in organizations that instituted portfolio management, only 33% fully utilize this capability.



# Portfolio Mgmt Maturity is Weak... Only 9% are Effective or Fully Mature!



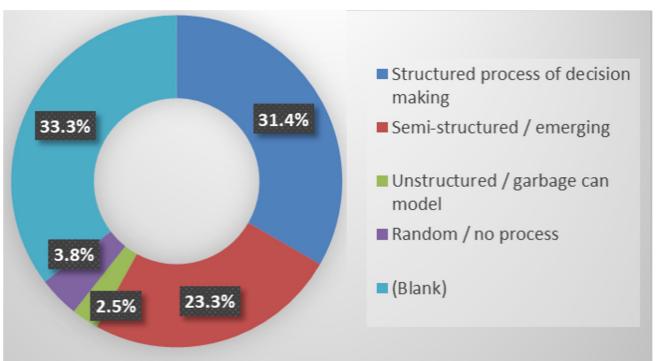
Insight: The numbers clearly describe the situation. ...

We have a long way to go – to make portfolio management more effective!





# On a small majority have a Structured Process to Add/Delete Components



- Adding/Deleting component to portfolio is perhaps the most essential process.
   Yet...
- Insight: Only a small majority, 55% have either a structured or semi-structured process of adding/deleting components





## Most Blend Internal Improvements and External Customer/Client Delivery

Most organization portfolios manage both internal and external concerns.

- Only 7% solely of external facing components
- Only 10% solely of internal facing components
- All other portfolios contain a variety of components

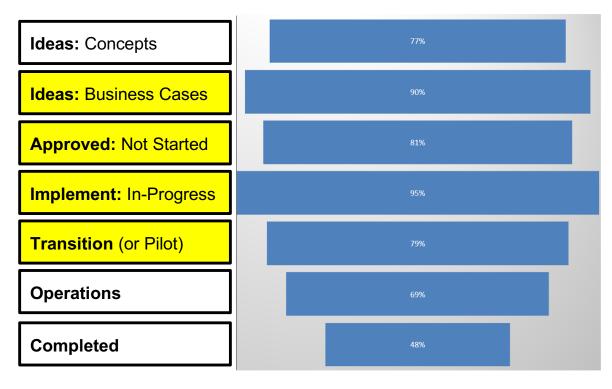
#### Examining the majority of the components in a portfolio

- 32% of components are external facing (e.g., client / consulting engagements)
- 16% of components are market facing (e.g. products designed for customers)
- 51% of components are internal, or for organizational improvements





# And Most Track *Development* from Ideation to Transition; Fewer Track *Operations* or *Closure*



**Insights.** Common phases in portfolio management includes ideation, approval, implementation, and transition.

69% of respondents have Operation as a part of their portfolio life cycle.

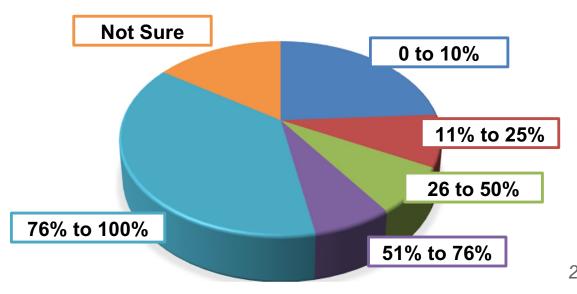
Even fewer, or 48% of respondents have completed components that are still managed as a part of the portfolio





### Most of the time, Portfolio Managers fund 50% or more of Projects, because...

What Percent of Components Funded by Portfolio Manager?



- Nearly 25% of components are fully funded by portfolio managers.
- More than 15% of components are funded exclusive outside the portfolio manager's budget.
- About 15% are partially funded by portfolio managers and partially from other source.

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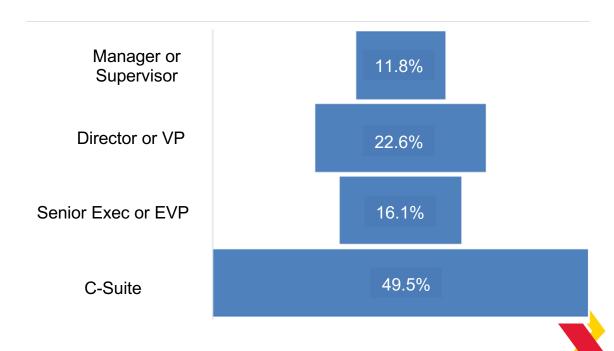


# Most Portfolios are Governed at the Executive Level

Governance is still an emerging area.

Nearly 50% are governed at the C-level of organizations.

Perhaps not surprisingly, governance leans toward the upper echelon of the sponsoring organization.







### **Summary of Findings**

- Portfolio Purpose Benefits and Control!
  - Primary Purpose is Usually Strategic Realization of Goals or Governance of work
  - Most Portfolios are Enterprise Level and Governed at the Executive Level
  - o Blends Internal Improvements and External Customer/Client Delivery.

#### Portfolios Managers – Not the Main Job!

- Usually it is NOT a full-time duty for the manager
- Most of the time, Portfolio Managers fund 50% or more of Projects
- But 80% of Portfolio Managers are partially or not accountable for processes and results

#### Portfolio Management Processes – Long Way to Go..

- There is usually a Structured Process to Add/Delete Components
- Most Projects are Included to Track Development from Ideation to Transition
- Some Track Operations or Closure
- Portfolio Management Maturity is Generally Weak...Only 9% are Effective or Fully Mature...
- We have a long way to go!



The Job Needs a Professional!







# What's Coming

- Technology advances digital transformation and Al revolution has already changed how we view the importance of data and its analytics
- Agile portfolio management this has shifted from being a novelty to the mainstream
- Linkages between strategy, business architecture,
   and portfolio management need to be tighter



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# What's Coming (Continued)

- Value and Benefits Realizations Greater emphasis and re-envisioning value, such as ESG (environmental, social, and governance)
- Greater clarity and distinction between project, program, portfolio and other types of work – Enable organizations to apply the most appropriate approach









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