



Job Situation

Offices, meeting rooms. Computer, phone and fax. Teamwork and one-on-one. Reporting to Senior executives. Deadline pressures. On call for overtime.

Weekly Hours of Work

45

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$4,600

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$280

Duties

Administer project budget and staff. Plan and schedule design work. Consult with clients. Direct and facilitate design team. Liaise with other department heads. Write reports for management.

Prospects

Senior management. Consulting. Self-employment.

Job Title

Project Manager Software Designer

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2173

Job Description

This is one of those days that can happen to a software design project and if it weren't so close to the deadline you would use your authority as project manager to send everyone home to chill out. Instead, you are trying to round up the co-ordinators and section leaders to tell them what they probably already know—it's going to be a long weekend at work. The project is very close to completion and if you stop now, you'll never get back in the groove fast enough to make the deadline.

This project has experienced a lot of problems and it's been a rough initiation for you but you know, and senior management knows, that it's not your fault. The project will come in on time, which is much to your credit, all things considered. Normally, as manager, you would have hired or assigned the section leaders and co-ordinators, but you were hired to replace someone who took an unexpected leave of absence—maybe that should have tipped you off. Everyone else was already in place.

The co-ordinator for the programming sections is driving the programmers crazy. It's supposed to be the other way around. The person is riding them constantly and hanging over their shoulders and they are making mistakes, which is making them more crazy. An ace in all other respects, the co-ordinator just doesn't have the people skills for the job and it's too late in the game for a replacement. You talk to the programmers personally, explaining your difficulty with the deadline and offering them a bonus.

Apart from the programming sections having a collective nervous breakdown, everything is fine. The other sections are on schedule, or ahead, marketing is ready to run with the product, and the budget is tidy. If you can get through the next few days without any further psychodramas, you will sleep for a week, then consider your next move from a luxurious five star location somewhere far from your office.

