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DOKTORANDDAGEN 17-12-2018

# A 10-MINUTE INTRO TO GANTT CHARTS

Quote from Wikiquote

# WHATEVER WE DO MUST BE IN ACCORD WITH HUMAN NATURE. WE CANNOT DRIVE PEOPLE; WE MUST DIRECT THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

Henry L. Gantt (1910)

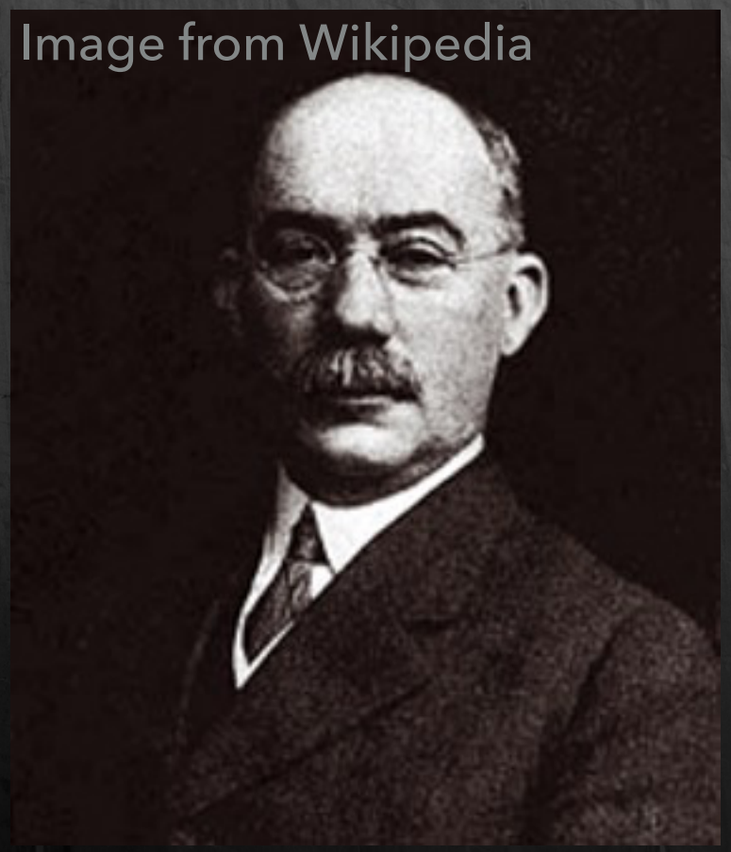
# SO WHAT?

## WE SEEM TO WORK IN A CONSTANT STATE OF EMERGENCY WHERE THE DEADLINE IS EITHER ALREADY PASSED, TOO CLOSE, OR COMPLETELY MADE UP

A. Disgruntled Particle Physicist

**“HAI VOLUTO LA BICICLETTA? ORA PEDALA.”**
**= DID YOU WANT A BIKE? NOW YOU HAVE TO PEDAL.**

*Italian wisdom*



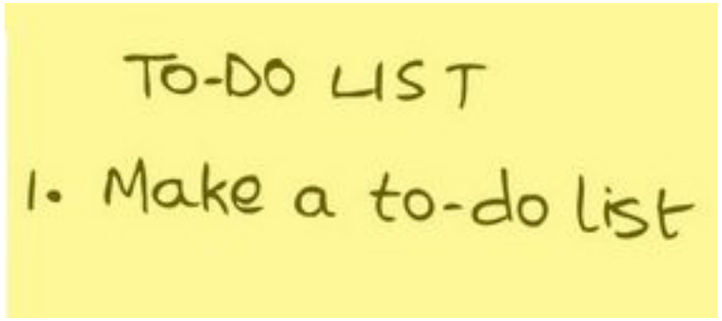

Henry L. Gantt (1861 - 1919)

**SORRY, I DON’T HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU**

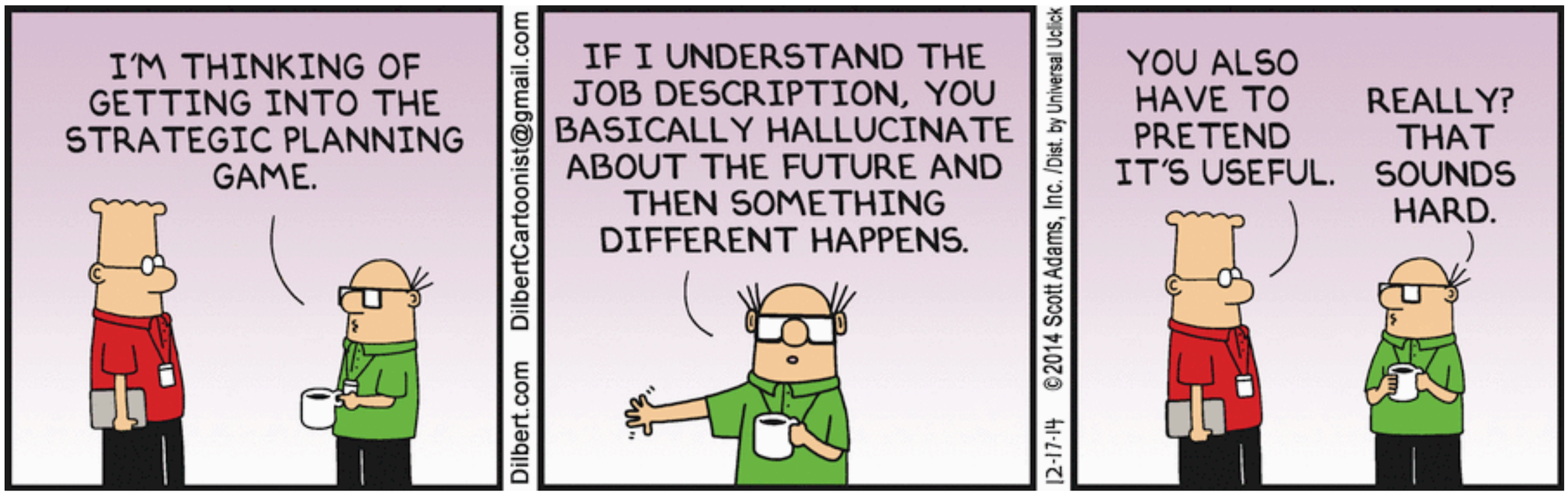
UNLESS YOU ARE A PHD STUDENT, AND IN THAT CASE YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON YOUR LEARNING AND THESIS RATHER THAN EXTERNAL DEADLINES

“SEEK FREEDOM AND BECOME CAPTIVE OF YOUR DESIRES. SEEK DISCIPLINE AND FIND YOUR LIBERTY.” _FRANK HERBERT_

# GANTT CHARTS: TAKING A STEP BACK




There is nothing magic to organizational tools




The important thing is to be able to estimate time and commitments **correctly and cautiously**

**See also:**

- **Hyperbolic discounting:** https://medium.com/behavior-design/hyperbolic-discounting-aefb7acec46e
- **Dell’Orso’s Rule on Scheduling:** *When given an estimate of time to completion: First: double the estimate. Second, change to the next larger unit of time.*

# GANTT CHARTS: WHY AND HOW

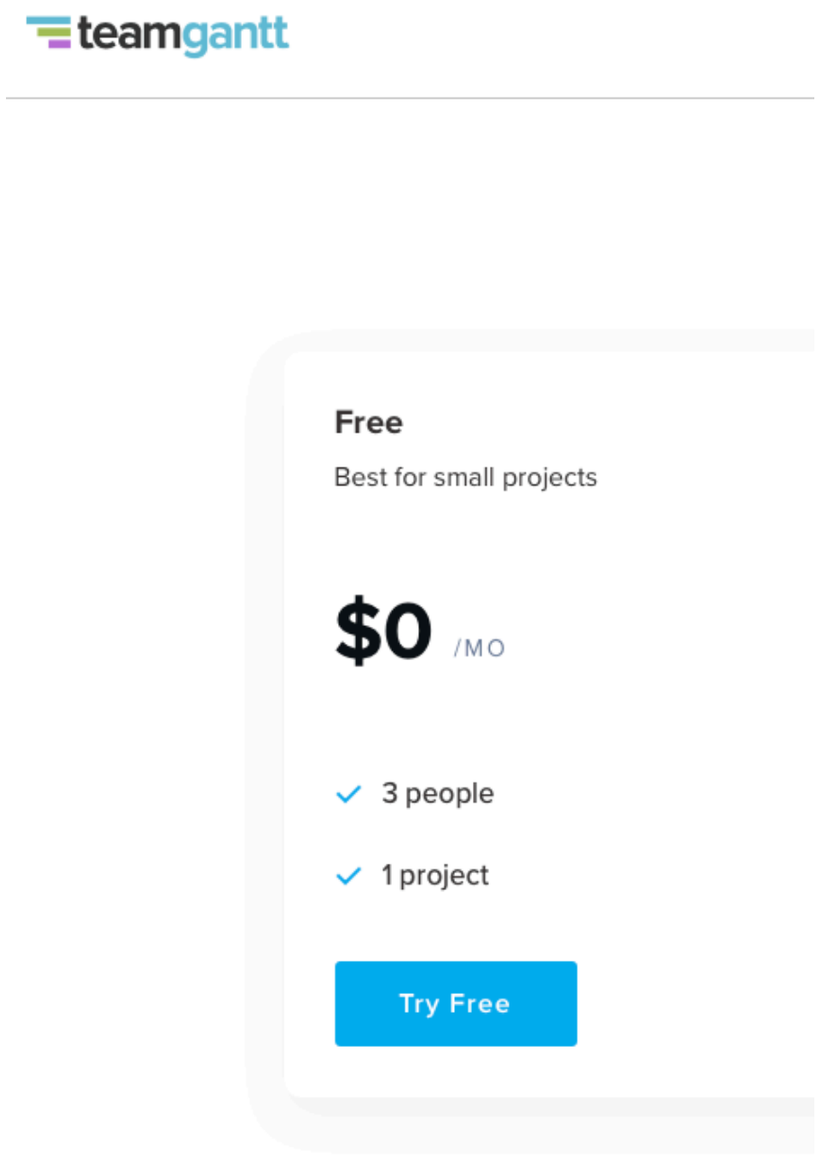
## When is a Gantt chart useful?

- When you want to break your problem down in smaller pieces
  - If you want to go overboard: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work_breakdown_structure
- When you have a fairly complex project ahead and its sub-tasks depend on each other
- When you're not the only one in control of your project

## What do you need to make a Gantt chart?

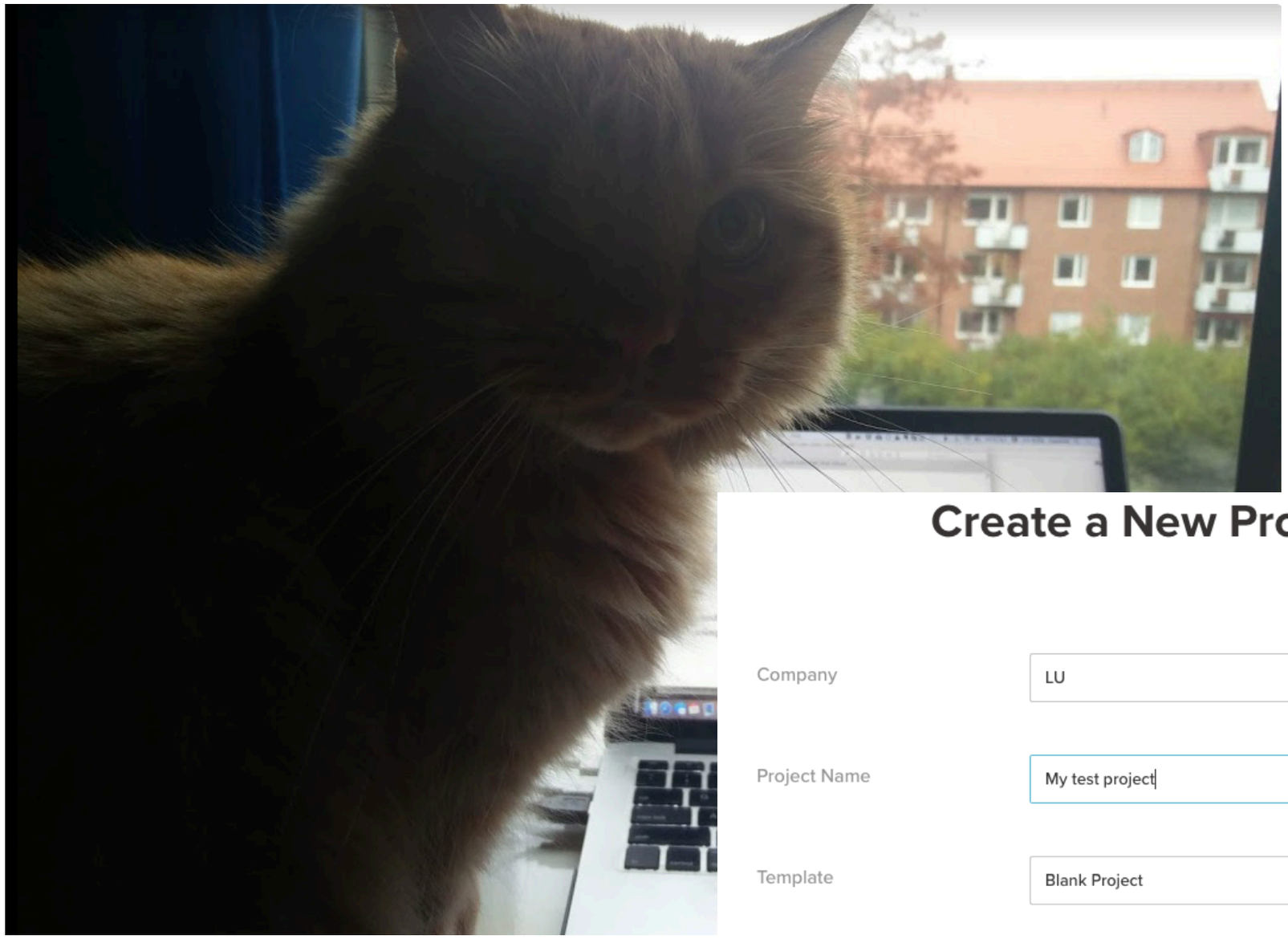
- A project
- A reasonable idea of how long it takes you to do things (see Dell' Orso's rule)

# GANTT CHARTS: PLANNING NOT TO SPEND ANY MONEY




https://www.teamgantt.com

# GANTT CHARTS: LIVE DEMO



# BONUS: DO-IT-YOURSELF, OPEN SOURCE

https://rawgraphs.io/learning/how-to-make-a-gantt-chart/

Does not work with dependencies, but gives you an idea of how to do this in Excel

Tip for grant writing: a simple chart will help your reviewers understand that your work is feasible