GENESIS

Release 2.5

By Michael Coleman

In the Beginning the Project Manager created the Programming Staff. The Programming Staff was without form and structure. And the Project Manager said, "Let there be Organization;" And there was Organization. And the Project Manager saw that Organization was good; And the Project Manager separated the workers from the supervisors, and he called the Supervisors "Management," and he called the workers "Exempt."

And the Project Manager said, "Let there be a mission in the midst of the Organization, and let it separate the workers, one from another." And the Project Manager created the mission and he called it "The System." And the Project Manager separated those who were to benefit from The System from those who were to build it. And he called the former "Users," and he called the latter "Programmers."

And the Project Manager said, "Let all the Programmers in the Organization be gathered together into one place, and let a Chief Programmer be brought up to lead them." And it was so. And the Project Manager saw that he was competent.

And the Project Manager said unto the Chief Programmer, "Create for me a schedule, so that I may look upon the schedule and know the Due Date." And the Chief Programmer went among his staff and consulted with them. And the staff was divided into two parts, one part called "Analysts" and the other part called "Application Programmers." And the Analysts went back to their desks and estimated, as was their custom. And it came to pass that each Analyst brought his estimate to the Chief Programmer, whereupon he collected them, summarized them, and drew a PERT CHART.

And the Chief Programmer went unto the Project Manager and presented unto him the estimate saying, "It shall take ten months." And the Project Manager was not pleased and said, "I have brought you up from the depths of Staff; you have not grasped the "Big Picture." And the Project Manager hired consultants and authorized overtime, and he said to the Chief Programmer, "Behold, see all that I have done! The Due Date will be in FIVE months!" The Chief Programmer was much impressed and went from before the Project Manager to implement The System.

And the Chief Programmer sent his Analysts to the Users and said, "Let Specifications be written!" And there were meetings, and lunches, and telephone calls, And the Specifications were written, And there was a Payday and the Happy Hour, one month.

And the Chief Programmer examined the Specifications and saw that they were too ambitious. And he separated the mandatory features from the optional features; And he called the mandatory features "Requirements," and

he called the optional features "Deferred," and the Users called him names. And the Chief Programmer gave the Specifications to the Analysts and said, "Let the Requirements be analyzed and let the files be designed." And it was so. And the Chief Programmer said, "Let the Software Houses put forth their Salesmen, and let us have a Data Management System." And it was so. The Software Houses brought forth all manner of Salesmen who presented their packages, and claimed wondrous things for them, each according to his own file structure. And it came to pass that a Data Management System was selected; And the Chief Programmer saw that it was good. And there was a Payday and the Happy Hour, a second month.

And the Chief Programmer said, "Let the System be divided into parts, and let each part become a Module. And let programming teams be formed and let each be assigned to write a Module." And it was so. And the Chief Programmer created the programming teams with two levels, a greater and a lesser; and he called the greater the "Senior Programmers" and he called the lesser the "Junior Programmers." And he gave the greater dominion over the lesser. And the Chief Programmer saw it was good. And the Senior Programmers saw it was good. And the Junior Programmers saw it differently. And there was a Payday and the Happy Hour, a third month.

And the Chief Programmer said, "Let the programming be started and let much overtime be consumed, for there is but two months left." And the Programmers, both the greater and the lesser, were much afraid and they strove to please the Chief Programmer. And they flowcharted, and they coded, each in his own fashion. And the Chief Programmer looked upon the work and liked it not. And the Chief Programmer said, "Let there be a Standard;" And there was a Standard. And the Programmers looked upon the Standard and liked it not. And there was a Payday and the Happy Hour, a fourth month.

And the Chief Programmer said, "Let there be Progress Reports, so we can monitor and control;" And there were Progress Reports. And the Chief Programmer looked upon the Progress Reports and saw that the Due Date was not to be met. And the Chief Programmer arose, bought a suit, shaved his beard and went unto the Project Manager, and groveled. And the Chief Programmer pointed his fingers, and caused Blame to issue forth upon all manner of creatures who sold Hardware and Software. And the Chief Programmer asked for an Extension.

And the Project Manager was exceedingly angry, and cast doubts upon the Chief Programmer's ancestry, and did utter a multitude of threats. But it came to pass that an Extension was granted; And the Chief Programmer took the extension back to the programming teams and there was much rejoicing. And the programming of the Modules was completed. And there was a Payday and the Happy Hour, the fifth month.

And the Chief Programmer said, "Let the Modules be integrated, one with another, so that System Testing may begin." And it was so. Two by two, the Modules were integrated, one with another. And great difficulties were experienced, and many hours of overtime were used, and many cups of coffee were consumed. And it came to pass that System Testing was completed. And

there was a Payday and the Happy Hour, the sixth month.

Then the Chief Programmer did go unto the Project Manager, and said, "Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will come to all Users; for on this day The System is completed." And suddenly there was with them a multitude of Users praising the Chief Programmer saying,

"Glory be to The System in the highest, but can you make this one small change?"