



# Project Management Using Random Events

Are you tired of having to constantly report problems to your boss? Are you tired of coming up with yet another lame excuse for problems caused by others? Let CROSSTALK save you some time with the Department of Defense General-Purpose Excuse and Explanation Memo form (DODGE EM). Simply get yourself a single six-sided die, start rolling, and fill in the blanks below. This gives you well over 45,000 possible explanations from which to choose. You will save so much time with paperwork, you might actually be the first developer on your project to actually spend more time developing than doing paperwork!

<p><b>TO:</b> --Roll Dice, Insert from <b>Table 1</b>--</p> <p>I am truly sorry to report that my project is --Roll Dice, Insert from <b>Table 2</b>--.</p> <p>I first realized this --Roll Dice, Insert from <b>Table 3</b>--.</p> <p>I'm sorry, but this happened because we --Roll Dice, Insert from <b>Table 4</b>--.</p> <p>To put us on the right path, we need to --Roll Dice, Insert from</p>	<p><b>Table 5</b>--.</p> <p>It would really help us if you would --Roll Dice, Insert from <b>Table 6</b>--.</p> <p>This won't happen again – because next time, I will --Roll Dice, Insert from <b>Table 7</b>--.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>--Insert your name here--</p>
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- Table 1
1. My boss.
  2. My boss' boss.
  3. The General Accounting Office.
  4. Congressional Oversight Committee.
  5. My mommy.
  6. Those who read this after I go.

- Table 2
1. Running over schedule.
  2. Running out of money.
  3. REALLY running out of time and money.
  4. Making the developers nauseous.
  5. Forcing those associated with the project to rewrite their resume.
  6. Being referred to in-house as the "resume stain."

- Table 3
1. This morning.
  2. In the middle of the night, after having the \$2.99 "all-you-can-eat" burrito special.
  3. When faced with certain and imminent discovery.
  4. After everybody else figured it out first months ago.
  5. In spite of massive amounts of anti-depressants and competent psychiatric care.
  6. After all of the developers took up meditation and fled the country.

- Table 4
1. Ignored the advice of all the consultants.
  2. Listened to every single consultant.
  3. Re-scoped the requirements 14 times.
  4. Never had any requirements.
  5. Spent all the budget, and still never had any requirements.
  6. Built it and made it to test without any real requirements.

- Table 5
1. Hire a consultant who knows something about security.
  2. Fire the consultants who know nothing about security.
  3. Switch to Ada – a secure language.
  4. Realize that 53 designers and no coders is a bad mix.
  5. Figure out who the users might be and try talking to one about security.
  6. Have the developers take up interpretative ballet as a hobby.

- Table 6
1. Show up occasionally to the stakeholder meetings.
  2. Quit showing up to the stakeholder meetings.
  3. Micromanage somebody else for JUST a few days.
  4. Show up late, leave early, and stay behind closed doors.
  5. Realize that your degree in sanitation engineering does not make you a technical expert – and that security DOES NOT mean wearing a Depends.
  6. Attend church regularly and pray for the project – it's our only hope.

- Table 7
1. Read CROSSTALK regularly.
  2. Read CROSSTALK regularly.
  3. Read CROSSTALK regularly.
  4. Read CROSSTALK regularly.
  5. Read CROSSTALK regularly.
  6. Read CROSSTALK regularly.

— David A. Cook, Ph.D.  
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