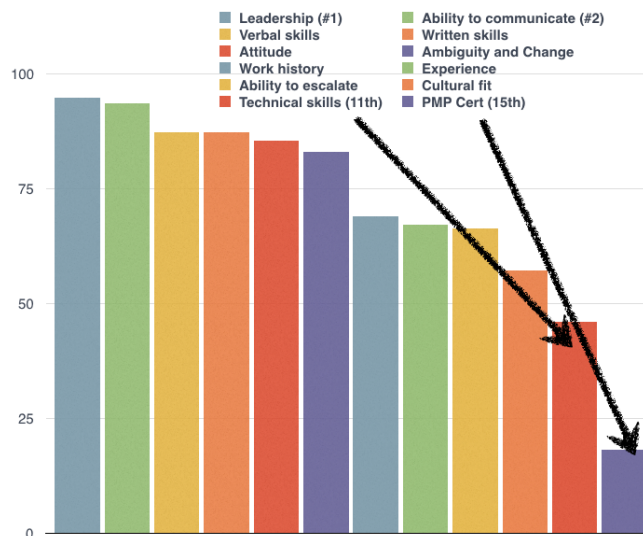


What Skills Do You REALLY Need To Succeed?



Source: Feb 2011 PM Journal Starkweather and Stevenson study

The Feb 2011 PM Journal (the academic research arm of PMI) published a study of what IT leaders are actually looking for in technical project managers. The results may surprise you. The numbers in the chart above are the percentages of the skills marked as “Extremely Important” or “Important.”

Technical skills are LESS important

This research shows that while we tend to believe that professional certification and technical skills are important, those are NOT the things that leaders are looking for when they are recruiting. In fact, **technical skills came in 11th**, (not even in the top 10 skills!) and PMP certification came in 15th!

Based on what I see as an executive coach working with highly technical experts, I can tell you that this applies to more than just project management. It applies to the highest levels of all geek work, too!

What does that mean to you? When it comes to career advancement it's not ok to blow off growth of your technical skills, but you also will need to make some investments in developing your skills in these other areas.

What is your personal plan to grow your skills?

How will you grow your skills in influencing others? Communication? Speaking? Writing? Attitude?

These are the first 5 areas that the top people in your organization are looking for. They are more highly valued, will come along with more pay, more respect, and more resources to deliver great work for the company. Want help? Check out <http://BrightHillGroup.com> and sign up for my podcast - where I talk about how to grow your skills!