

Career Tips Thursday: Session 38

MASTER YOUR CAREER TIME: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Unlock strategies to prioritize, optimize, and thrive in your career.

UNOG/HRMS/CLM | UNDP/BMS/OHR | UNIDO/COR/HRM/TMG/TDP

Career Tips Thursday: Session 38

As a result of participating in this webinar you will:





Learn core time management principles.



Discover common pitfalls and how to avoid them.



Master prioritization and scheduling techniques.

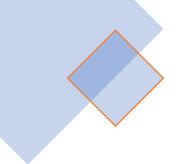


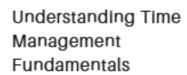
Agenda

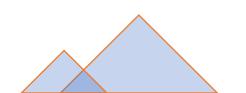
- 1. Understanding Time Management Fundamentals.
- 2. Discover how time management is about energy management.
- 3. Learn to prioritize tasks and optimize your schedule.
- 4. Build sustainable habits to enhance productivity and well-being.











?

Myth vs. Reality of Time Management

"Time management is about doing more."

Those are all common misconceptions about time management!

Actually, it's about doing the right things.

"You just need a to-do list."

Breaks improve focus and energy, making work more efficient.

"I don't have time to take breaks."

Working smarter, not longer, leads to better results and prevents burnout.

"I need to multitask and work longer hours to be successful."

Not really, and prioritization matters.



Definition of Time Management

- 'Time management' is the process of organizing and planning how to divide your time between different activities.
- Conscious choices about what to do, when to do it, and how much time to allocate to each task.

Time to Reflect: Rate yourself on your time management habits

(Worksheet: Part 1, Step 1)





Poll Question:

Which of these time management struggles do you face the most?

- 1. Need to rush
- 2. Missing / Being late for appointments
- 3. Getting forgetful
- 4. Missing deadlines
- 5. Other





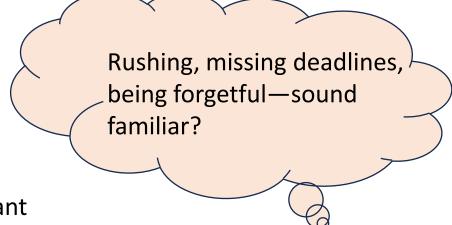
Time Eaters – What's Draining Your Time?

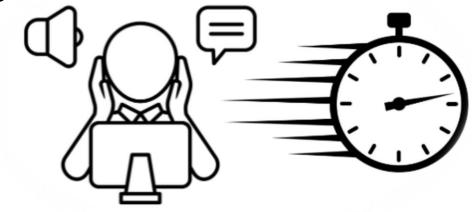
Common Time Eaters:

- **Constant distractions** : notifications, emails
- Multitasking Myth: Why it lowers productivity
- Reactive mindset: focusing on immediate over important
- Perfectionism: Spending time on details instead of progress.

Time to Reflect What are your biggest time eaters?

(Worksheet: Part 1, Step 2)







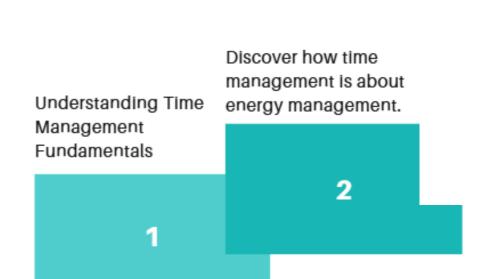
Why don't we 'have the time'?

- Instant Gratification Bias: Prioritizing short-term over longterm
- Decision Fatigue: Too many choices lead to procrastination
- Focus Limits: Brain's optimal concentration time (25-45 min)

"Unlike money or material possessions, time is finite. Once it's gone, it's gone forever."







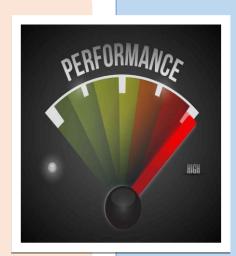


The Time Management Mindset Energy not time is the currency of productivity

Old paradigm

- Manage time
- Avoid stress
- Life is a marathon
- Downtime is wasted time
- Rewards fuel performance
- Self discipline rules
- The power of positive thinking

New paradigm



- Manage energy
- Seek challenge
- Life is a series of sprints
- Downtime is productive time
- Purpose fuels performance
- Rituals rule
- The power of full engagement



How to Fuel Your Energy Systems?

Physical energy

- Deep breathing
- Food –sustained energy, water
- Getting enough sleep (7-8hrs)
- Fitness-cardio & strength

Dool with properties and

Deal with negative emotion

Emotional energy

- Shift from stress to challenge.
- Refuel your energy power
 - Pure enjoyment
 - Deeply relaxing

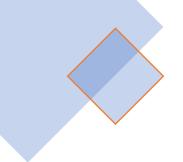
Mental energy

- Mental preparation
- Positive self-talk
- creativity
- Focus on realistic, meaningful tasks.
- Visualization

Spiritual energy

- Spiritual exercise
 - Meditation
 - Yoga
 - Align work with purpose and values.
- Positive self-talk
 - Spiritual renewal





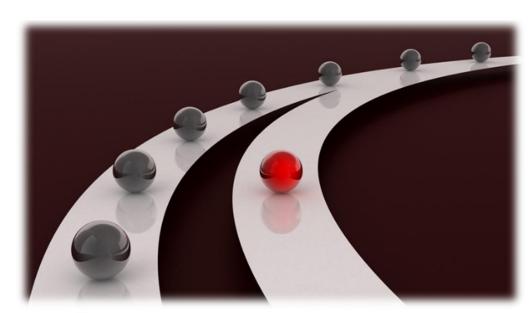






Mastering Prioritization Techniques:

Equipping Yourself with *Effective Strategies*







Identifying and Focusing on High-Impact Activities

Urgent

Not urgent

Important

CRISIS Do:

Tasks with deadlines or consequences

Hassle Schedule:

Tasks with unclear deadlines that contribute to long-term success

Not Important

PROGRESS Delegate:

Tasks that must get done but don't require your specific skill set

(UN)NECESSARY EVILS Delete:

Distractions and unnecessary tasks



Application Example

Urgent

Not urgent

mportant

Do:

Finalizing the project plan due tomorrow (Urgent and Important)

Schedule:

Developing a strategy for a future project (Not urgent but important)

Not Important

Delegate:

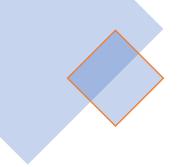
Attending a meeting that could have been an email (Urgent but not important)

Delete:

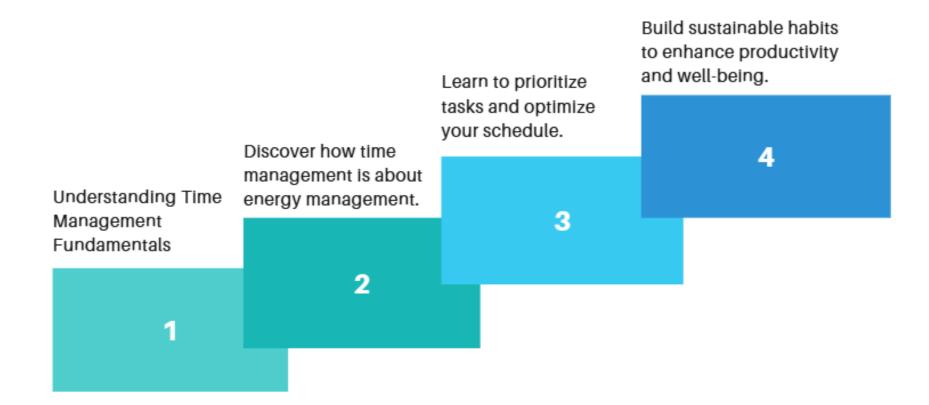
Checking social media during working hours (Not urgent and not important)

Time to Reflect:
Apply the
Eisenhower Matrix
(Worksheet: Part 2,
Step 3)



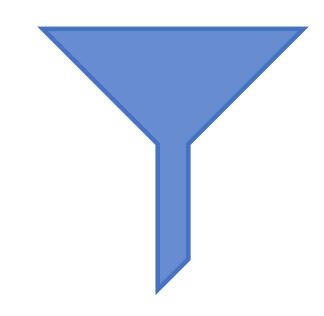






Set your intentions, set your filters, make your day more deliberate

- Aim: For each of the day's most important activities, what matters most in making them a success? What does that mean your real priority should be?
- Attitude: What concerns are dominating your mood/thoughts? Are they helping or hindering? Can you set them aside if you need to?
- **Assumptions:** What negative assumptions have you got about the task/meeting? Can you challenge these?
- **Attention:** Considering your true aim and your assumptions where do you most want to direct your attention? What do you want/need to notice?



Consider to plan your next working day or an important meeting using this checklist.



Setting goals that help





Set some behavioral goals



Articulate your goals positively and specifically

Create 'approach goals'

Find a personal why

Break off bite sized chunks

Make a 'when-then' plan



Create a brain friendly **to do list**:

Write it down as soon as you think of it

Satisfying to tick off

Be realistic





Single tasking

Why is this important?

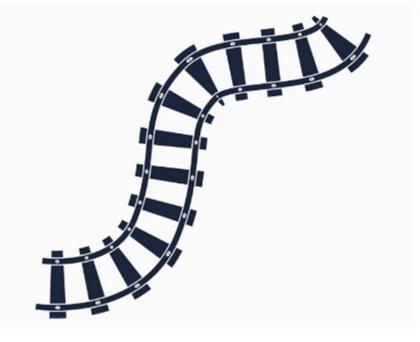


- Research done at various universities demonstrates that multi tasking damages productivity.
- i.e makes the working day longer.
- Research by University College London showed it can also have the effect of seemingly lowering intelligence.
- Research at Vanderbilt University showed that people doing two tasks simultaneously took 30% longer.
- Other research has shown that multi tasking damages the quality of decision making.
- Each time we switch task we are using our deliberate mental system is rapidly switching between activities and each switch uses mental time and energy.



How can you stay on track and reduce chances of being derailed?

- Batch your tasks: Group similar tasks together so you are not constantly switching.
- Zone your day: What is the best time of day for you to tackle each batch of tasks? Use your best time of day to do the jobs requiring the most brainpower. Create longer blocks of clear time for important work.
- Make a 'when-then' plan.
- Create a supportive environment.
- Remove distractions: minimize interruptions; switch off alerts; find a 'parking lot' technique to capture stray thoughts before they disappear.
- Plan mini rewards for small successes / milestones.
- Imagine what success looks and feels like.



Time to Reflect: What will work best for you

(Worksheet: Part 3, Step 4)



Ensuring deliberate downtime

- Take breaks: aim to take breaks every 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours) between each zone of activity
- Make decisions at peaks and not troughs: Which task requires you to make a lot of choices, and how can you make them when your brain is freshest?
- Schedule breathing room: can you offer blocks of time as blocks of 25 minutes or 45 minutes (rather than 30 or 60 minutes) to create mini breaks between appointments.
- Allow reflection time: After each task or meeting use a minute to record your biggest insights. An end of day refection practice is also helpful e.g., DATE discovered, achieved, thankful for, experienced.







Scheduling for Success

- Time-Blocking & Deep Work:
- Block specific times for focused, distraction-free work.
- Batch similar tasks to minimize contextswitching.
- Tips:
- Use your most productive time for complex tasks.
- Schedule breaks every 90 minutes for mental recovery.

Time to Reflect: Plan your next working day through this checklist and create your schedule
(Worksheet: Part 3, Step 4)





Time to reflect: Identify a Task You've been avoiding and the reason behind it?

(Worksheet: Part 4, Step 5)



Overcoming Overload & Procrastination

- Strategies:
- Break big tasks into small, manageable steps.
- Use the "When-Then" plan: When I finish this, then I'll reward myself.
- Practice saying a constructive "No" to non-essential tasks.
- Reflection: What's one task you've been avoiding? How will you tackle it?



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What am I going to do differently?

- 1 Learning Point
- 1 Action
- What is the first step and when will you make it?

Time to Reflect: Set your first actionable goal and reflect (worksheet,6-7)





Feedback

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Participant survey: Career Tips Thursday





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