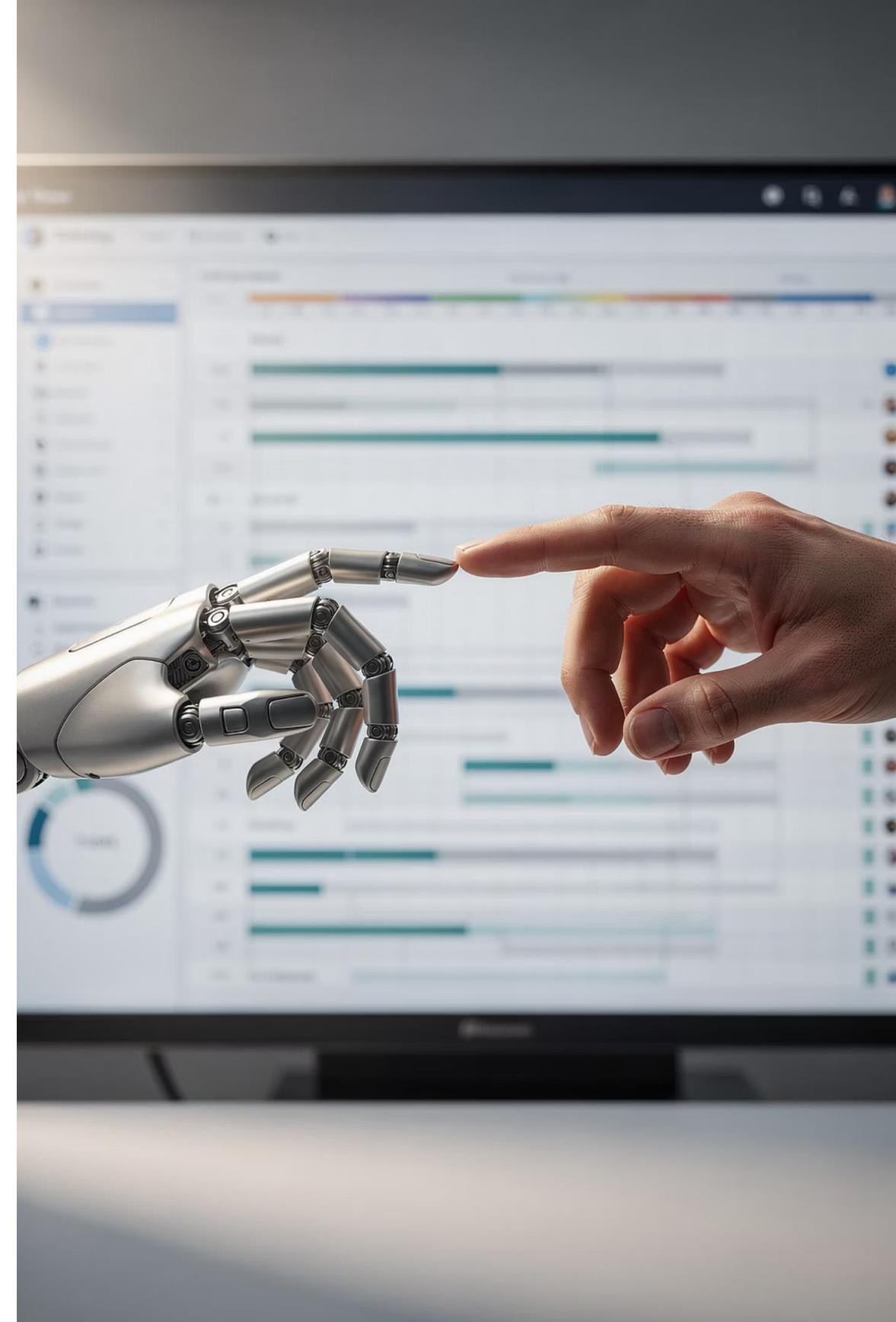


The AI knows Project Management... so what?

AI for Project Managers - Case 1

Dr. Marc Bara



About me

Dr. Marc Bara Iniesta

Consulting

Founder of ProjectWorkLab, a consulting firm specializing in project management and process optimization

Experience

Over 20 years of experience in international project management in technology, aerospace, and digital transformation

Academia

Professor at business schools and lecturer on innovation and project management

Certifications

Main PM certifications: PMI's PMP, Scrum Master by [scrum.org](https://www.scrum.org)



Let's start with a quick round

Raise your hand if...

You have used ChatGPT or similar in the last month

You use a PM tool that claims to have "AI"

You have heard that "AI will automate the PM's job"

You can explain the difference between "automation" and "artificial intelligence"

Gartner's Prediction (2019)

In 2019, Gartner published a prediction that has been repeatedly used in commercial presentations:

"80% of project management tasks will be eliminated by AI by 2030"

The problem

This figure specifically referred to administrative tasks such as report generation and status updates, not the strategic and relational core of project management. But it has been extrapolated out of context.

Where are we really?

We are in 2026, well past halfway to 2030. It's a good time to evaluate: where are we really? What has been automated and what hasn't?

What tasks do you think CAN be automated?

Think about your day-to-day as a PM. Of these six tasks, which ones do you think an AI could do TODAY completely autonomously (without supervision)?

1

Generate a weekly status report

2

Resolve a conflict between two stakeholders who have opposing priorities

3

Update dates on the schedule when a task is delayed

4

Decide whether to hire more resources to meet the deadline

5

Detect that a project will have budget problems

6

Negotiate a scope change with the client

Notice something?

Pattern detection & data processing

Tasks 1, 3, and 5 are about detecting patterns and processing data.

Judgment, relationships & context

Tasks 2, 4, and 6 require judgment, relationships, and context — no AI does those today.

☐ And then there's a middle ground: AI can *generate* a report, but can it generate a *useful* one? Let's find out.



Case 1

"Feed the Machine"

Our project has started...

Project scenario

Available to you, the project has started! You are in your first week as a Project Manager

On the ground

This week, you've been doing what PMs do: talking to the team, the architect, the contractor, the heritage office. Requesting documents. Attending meetings.

What landed

This is what landed in your inbox.

Your inbox

Document	Source	Format
Email, March 9	Ana Delgado (Sponsor)	.txt
Meeting notes, March 11	Technical review meeting	.docx
Email, March 11	Elena Voss (Architect)	.txt
Official letter, March 10	Heritage Conservation Office	.pdf
Budget status, Q1	City Finance Department	.xlsx
WhatsApp messages, March 12	Laura Chen (Project Coordinator)	.txt

The task

The setup

Ana Delgado's assistant just confirmed a 30-minute check-in tomorrow (Friday, March 13).

Ana wants a **one-page status briefing**: where things stand and what you've found this week.

Your Instructions

Use AI to prepare the briefing. Use your favourite AI: ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Grok...

Each group will present it to Ana (3 min per group). I will be Ana. Expect tough questions.

You have **15 minutes**.

What just happened?

The AI gave you a clean, professional, well-written summary.

And it hid many problems....

- **The Dump Problem**

When you dump messy information into an AI and ask for a summary, the AI doesn't help you find contradictions. It helps you miss them.

- **The Illusion of Control**

It produces something that looks like control. But it's not.



A different approach

Dump Approach

All docs at once; contradictions hidden

Sequential Approach

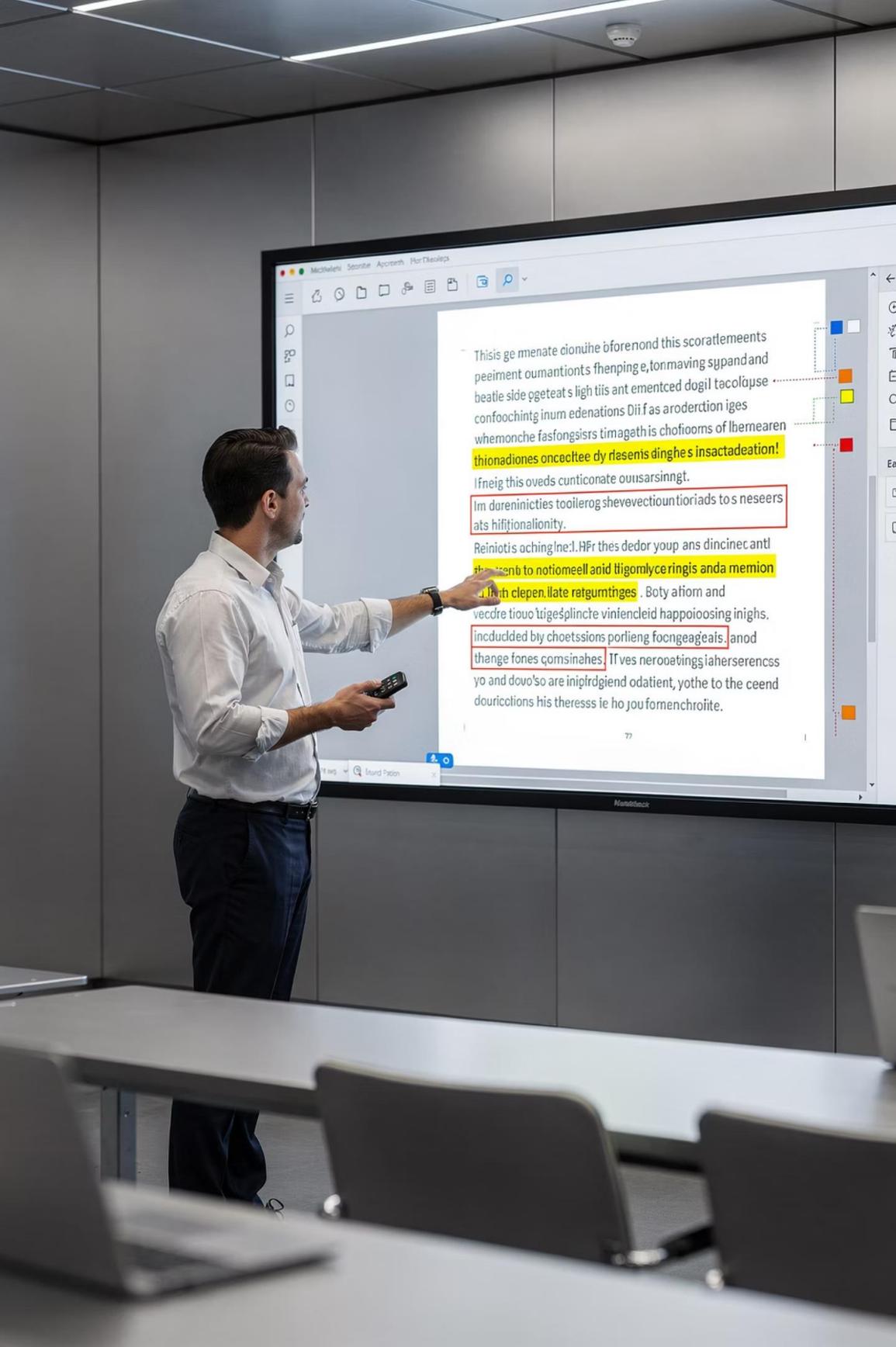
Feed one doc at a time; cross-check

What if instead of dumping everything at once, you feed the AI one document at a time, and ask it to cross-check each new piece against what it already knows?

Now the AI becomes a contradiction detector instead of a contradiction hider.

📄 Same AI. Same documents. Different approach. Different result.





Let's "feed the machine"

01

Consistency Check Prompt

You will use a consistency check prompt.

02

One by One

Feed the documents one by one, in chronological order.

03

Watch

Watch what the AI finds.

What did the consistency check produce?

Not this

Not a briefing for Ana.

But this

A map of the project's real state: contradictions, gaps, open decisions.

This is the work a PM does BEFORE preparing a deliverable.

Your dump gave you a polished summary. This gives you the clarity to know what that summary should actually say.

The key takeaway



Case 1

How you feed information to the AI changes what it can do for you.



Dump a mess, get a pretty mess.



Structure the input, get actionable analysis.

This is not a prompting trick. This is a PM skill: reading chaotic project information, knowing what matters, and deciding how to use your tools.