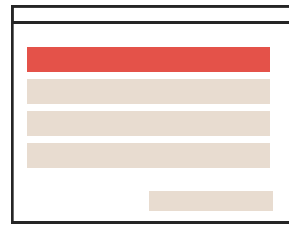


Cloud Drift.

Green
on Slides
Red in Code

How PMs Lose Control
of Delivery Before
It Even Starts

clouddrift.co.uk



The Illusion of "Green"

In large-scale IT projects, there's a dangerous pattern we keep seeing:

- Status: green
- Resource plan: aligned
- Holidays: planned
- Reports: tidy

And then comes the shock: "integration failed", "partner team didn't deliver", "handover delayed by 6 weeks".

This isn't bad luck. It's a structural failure of delivery oversight.

Remember

*Too many PMs in
large organisations
live in spreadsheets.*

Where the Problem Really Lies

PMs track resource allocations, manage burn charts, and celebrate green status reports – while the product is going nowhere.

They avoid diving into the gritty reality:

- Is this task actually done?
- Has it passed test and code review?
- Can this feature ship?

Answering that takes guts and technical context. So they stick to planning.

When We Join a Project, Here's What We Often See

Delivery rots under the surface.

- Partner teams marked as "green" are weeks behind.
- Integration plans exist only in slides.
- No one owns readiness criteria.
Everyone assumes someone else checked.

We don't wait for the problem to escalate.

We move first.

- We review their code.
- We patch their APIs.
- We fix their tasks when they block ours.

Our way

*If a "green" team
is actually red and
dragging us down
– we take over.*

Our way

We integrate for them, clean up for them, and deliver on time anyway.

Not because it's nice.

Because it's necessary.



What Your PMO Probably Lacks

- Definition of Ready and Done as enforceable contracts.
- Daily visibility of real progress, not planned progress.
- Feedback loops that trigger action before blockers escalate.
- The courage to call out a partner team when they're falling behind.



Scaling Headcount Doesn't Solve This

If your delivery process lacks teeth, adding more teams only multiplies the chaos.

You don't need more vendors.
You need operators.



A Short Checklist Before You Scale

- Can you detect drift in real-time – without waiting for a status call?
- Do your PMs know what's actually working, not just what's assigned?
- Will your delivery team act before a risk hits the radar?
- Can they clean up someone else's mess if that's what it takes?

If not – let's talk

Know a PM watching green dashboards while their delivery burns?

Tag them below – because sometimes the best therapy is realizing you're not the only one fighting spreadsheets while code rots.



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