

# Projects, Problems, and Politics

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Development projects are never as simple as they seem at the outset. Factors such as overconfidence, success on smaller projects, scope creep, and poorly-defined requirements often cause projects to get bogged down. An underlying and often hidden cause of all these factors is the political dimension, as people seek to influence projects for non-technical reasons. It's rarely spoken about as it's outside the comfort zone of technical people; and mentioning it can itself exacerbate political difficulties. In this talk, Ian considers why politics is such a slippery issue in system development, and provides some conceptual tools that may help developers to get a handle on it. The talk will lead into a group discussion.

## About the speaker:

Ian Alexander has worked on requirements engineering both in industry and as a researcher. He is well known as a speaker and author of both informal and peer-reviewed articles on requirements topics including stakeholders, scenarios and trade-offs. He is a past chair of the BCS Requirements Engineering Specialist Group. He is the lead author of the books *Writing Better Requirements* (Addison-Wesley); *Scenarios, Stories, Use Cases* (Wiley); and *Discovering Requirements* (Wiley).

