

September Dinner Meeting: Going Lean in an ERP World

“ERP and Lean: A Marriage Made in Hellven”

So your company has a nice new fancy ERP system, and the President just announced that first thing tomorrow morning the company will embark on a journey to Lean. She also mentions, off-handedly, that **you** will be responsible for coordinating the related projects.

Or...your company has been on a journey to Lean for the past couple of years, and you are making some good progress. You have set up kanbans, you have a 5S program up and running, you have implemented VMI, and you have convinced the Controller that your shop people don't have to fill in detailed job timesheets. You are well into mapping the value stream, and you have big plans for the next steps. Then management dictates that the new corporate ERP system will be rolled out to all companies in the corporation – and that **you** are in charge of the project for your site.

Do you panic? Of course you do. But when your heart rate returns to normal, you start to look for the positives, and start to identify the things to avoid...

BIO

Curtis Roberts, CPIM, has worked as an Industrial Engineering Technologist, Scheduler, Master Scheduler, Planning Manager, Materials Manager, Operations Manager, Business Systems Analyst, and Business Systems Consultant. For the past number of years he has worked helping companies implement ERP systems in a variety of industries and business environments.

In addition to his ERP and Operations consulting duties, he continues to teach APICS courses for the Vancouver chapter, where he has been teaching (and learning) for seven years. Every semester, one of his student evaluation forms comes back with the comment “I love his sense of humour”, and one comes back with “I wish he would stop telling those stupid jokes”. As a result, he has had to learn to live with confusion.