



turning managers into leaders

Merge's Monthly Mega Minute – February 2006

Welcome to **Merge's Monthly Mega-Minute** - a bite-sized, yet substantial and practical, nugget of information that you can use immediately to enhance your professional and personal success.

This issue of Merge's Monthly Mega-Minute may be **FREELY** distributed to friends, colleagues, and discussion groups, as long as the entire issue is included. You may use excerpts of it in your print, electronic, or other publications, as long as the following byline is also included:

Merge Gupta-Sunderji helps turn managers into leaders. Through engaging keynotes and facilitated workshops, she gives people specific and practical tools to achieve leadership and communication success. Contact her at www.mergespeaks.com or 403-605-4756

A riddle about squirrels

Five squirrels were sitting on a branch. One of them decided to jump off. How many squirrels were left?

Was your answer four? If so, you'd be wrong. You assumed that just because one squirrel DECIDED to jump off, it followed through and acted on its decision. Unfortunately, there's a big difference between deciding to do something and actually doing it. True for this squirrel, and sadly, true of what many people do in the workplace every day.

Think about it. As a leader, how many times have you made a decision to take action on an issue, only to second-guess yourself or get sidetracked by other priorities? Ultimately, either because it's easier, or just by plain ol' default, you procrastinate and end up taking the path of least resistance, which is "do nothing" and "hope for the best". Occasionally, the damage from inaction is minimal, but more commonly, the problem or issue gets worse.

Be aware of your decision making process over the next few days. The next time you make a management (or personal) decision, monitor yourself to see how long it takes you to put that decision into action. If it's taking longer than 24 hours, then you're being the squirrel! Quit being a squirrel!