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## *How the Grinch Stole Business*

He's just sitting there in the corner watching all the frivolity, kind of chuckling to himself. Let's just see how much productivity I can zap from businesses during the holidays. The Grinch encourages merrymaking, talk of holiday parties, what are you getting the kids this year, and that ole standby...the potluck. Then of course there is decorating the office, that one fanatic who decorates his/her cube like its Macy's, and who is going to open all those cards from other Businesses and where do we put them? Don't forget the Toys for Tots, you know I'm going to be a little late after lunch; I've got to pick up that gift for Uncle Cliff. I'll be in a little late tomorrow; I've got my wife's Christmas Party. Need I go on??

This is what managers face from the week after Thanksgiving to the day after New Years. A general malaise affects the entire population. Work simply exists to help you pay for that bigger and better Star Wars Lego set. How do we motivate during that time of year. Managers shouldn't take on the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. It is just going to take a more concerted effort, gentle prodding if you please. Join in the festivities but also remind your co-workers that they still have obligations to the company, tasks that need to be completed if we want to keep having Christmases. You can't get rid of the Grinch, but you can minimize the damage he wants to inflict.

