

# Microspeak: Action on

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20090818-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20090818-00)

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I have been fortunate to have been spared exposure to this particular corner of Microspeak, but others have not been so lucky.

| Have you actioned on this ask?

It's not clear whether actioning on something means that you've started it or you've finished it. As a result, this is another case of using jargon to impede communication. The inventors of this particular form of Microspeak must be proud of themselves, for not only have they verbed a noun, they coupled it with an unnecessary preposition. But they aren't content to stop there. It wasn't long before the noun that got verbed got re-nouned!

| Here is our list of action-ons.

The obfuscation is now complete. Nobody knows whether this is a list of things they want to do, a list of things for which management has given their approval, a list of things for which work has begun, or a list of things which have been completed! The only thing that is clear from that sentence is that there's a *list* of some sort.

And I'm sure they're working on obfuscating that, too.

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