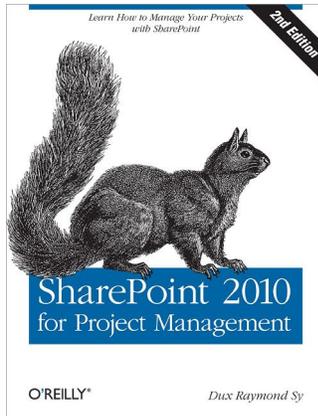


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **SharePoint 2010 for Project Management**

Authors: **Dux Raymond Sy**

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Reviewer: **Larry L. Johnson, MBA, PMP**

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Introduction to the Book

The purpose of this book is to walk you through setting up SharePoint to be your Project Management Information System (PMIS). It also addresses why you should have a Project Management Information System and how it will aid you in managing your projects. If followed, this book will help you reduce communication inefficiencies so you can manage your projects more effectively. The book identifies which features will need to be included by your IT department and what you are able to do yourself when structuring your SharePoint site.

Overview of Book's Structure

SharePoint 2010 for Project Management is set up in a workbook format and walks you through a variety of exercises to set up SharePoint so you can more effectively manage your projects. The first lesson is very basic and each lesson gets progressively more advanced. Each lesson explains the concepts to be covered then walks you step-by-step through each exercise. Included in the book are plenty of screen shots so you can see exactly what your site should look like as you are performing each exercise. Each lesson ends with a debriefing to review what you have just learned, a best practices checklist, and a summary.

This book also provides insight into how the features you are adding to your SharePoint site will help you manage specific areas of your project and why you would want to do so. For example, SharePoint 2010 for Project Management gives you the steps on how

to set up a risk/issue log on your SharePoint site and also includes how to set up a workflow so any necessary approvals can be tracked and stored on SharePoint.

Highlights: What I liked!

There are several benefits from reading this book. First, the book was structured in a very clear and concise way. The format tells you what you are about to learn then walks you through the exercise and finally it reviews the lesson. This format creates a great learning opportunity because you are reinforcing each lesson multiple times. Second, the book starts with the basics and gradually builds on each lesson allowing you to build your skills to more complex tasks while you add functionality to your SharePoint site. Third, the author provides pictures and screenshots for many of the steps. Fourth, the book addresses how to integrate project management tools into SharePoint which is very useful.

The author does not spend much time on explaining how to be a good project manager but does pepper in concepts on how to manage projects better. Then, he relates how using an effective project management information system like SharePoint can help you apply those concepts.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

SharePoint 2010 for Project Management is a very useful book but there is one area in which this book could be significantly improved. The book could have had more depth. It is only about 200 pages and most pages have large amount space set aside for pictures and illustrations. This makes the book very quick to read but I would have liked to see more information on how to use SharePoint for more robust reporting.

This book seems to just scratch the surface of what could be done in SharePoint to help you manage the information related to your project. I've seen several implementations of SharePoint that built significant reporting and tracking capabilities in this tool and I was hoping to learn more of that but just got some basics.

This book does walk the reader through setting up a very basic dashboard for a project, I think there is opportunity to use SharePoint to further streamline the reporting process and provide more information while still being concise.

Who might benefit from the Book

Anyone who is responsible for documenting, reporting, or managing projects will find this book beneficial; especially if they are new to SharePoint. Deciding to implement a PMIS and using the steps outlined in this book to create a solid foundation for information storage, management, and reporting can relieve stress for the person who takes advantage of what this book teaches.

Conclusion

As project managers we are all aware of the importance of communication to the success of our projects. In order to communicate effectively we need to gather, store, filter and disseminate information efficiently. Usually the decision has already been made on which tools we have available. Wherever possible, project managers should influence the organizations in which they work on which tools are the most effective. As a result, we should be informed on the strengths and weaknesses of the available tools. SharePoint 2010 for Project Management will help you understand the strengths of SharePoint as a PMIS and if you are faced with needing to use this tool, it will provide you a firm foundation on how to set up and use SharePoint as your PMIS to better manage your projects.

SharePoint 2010 for Project Management; by Dux Raymond Sy; published by O'Reilly Media; February 2012, soft cover, ISBN 978-1-4493-0637-3; List price = \$44.99; more information about the book at <http://shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920020387.do>.

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About the Reviewer



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Larry L. Johnson, MBA, PMP is president of the PMI Dallas Chapter and has over eight years project management experience. This experience includes: consumer products, financial services, and logistics industries, managing database and application conversions, web based software development, call center management software, and tradeshow projects. He has experience working with both local and offshore teams. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Texas and his Masters in Business Administration from Baylor University.

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