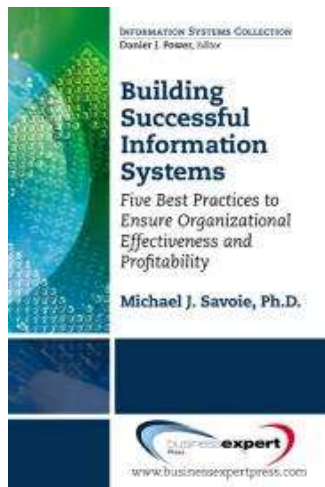

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Building Successful Information Systems***

Author: **Michael Savoie, Ph. D.**

Publisher: **Business Expert Press**

List Price: US\$39.95

Format: soft cover; 90 pages

Publication Date: 2012

ISBN-13: 978-1-60649-425-7 (paperback)

Reviewer: ***Jerry Harraman***

Review Date: April 2013

Introduction to the Book

Building Successful Information Systems by Dr. Michael Savoie reminded me of a recent life experience that illustrates his principles.

I am fascinated by the Ti Plant (the Hawaiian good luck plant) and have tried to grow one from a Ti plant 'stick' many times. So I recently, on a whim, 'googled' Ti Plant from my smart phone. In 1.22 seconds, it returned 17,600,000 hits. Trying to process this data, formatted for a PC screen, on my 2" x 2" smart phone screen was impossible at best.

According to the author, the five best practices to ensure organization effectiveness and profitability are *right data, right place, right time, for the right person, with information in the right format.*

I needed to be able to read only one of the 17,600,000 pieces of data. The place, time and person were right, but the data and format were sorely missed.

Overview of Book's Structure

The author draws on his professional experiences to remind us of these 'first principles' needed in today's data processing world. He begins by reminding us of the basic principles of information systems outlined as an information ladder: data, information, knowledge and wisdom. Through experiences he illustrates what constitutes data, how

to get information from the data to the right place, at the right time, for the right person and in the right format.

Highlights: What's New in this Book?

What is new in the book is 'old'! In today's new technologies, we have the ability and concern [lest we miss something important] to collect and store immeasurable amounts of data. Enamored with this capability and power, we forget the goal – provide our customers with information they can process to run their business.

Highlights: What I liked!

This succinct and brief analysis, illustrated by personal professional experiences, reminds us, again, of the basic principle of the IT environment. Follow the business ladder: 1) business process identification, 2) needs analysis, 3) strategies to address the needs, 4) applications that support the strategies and 5) hardware necessary to support the applications.

Shortfalls: What was missing!

N/A

Who might benefit from the Book?

The C-Suite should always insure that computers are only one of the tools used in information systems, information systems are designed to support the business processes and that while computers have their place, they rarely are successful replacing people when decision-making is required.

Information Technology professionals need reminding that design, build and implement information systems must reflect the flow of the business processes to provide efficient and effective value-added services.

Conclusion

Regardless of the appeal of a new / updated information system, if it doesn't meet the five rights, it is not going to benefit the operation. There is no 'secret sauce.' Always demand a clear, concise analysis of the problem from a business perspective.

Building Successful Information Systems; by Michael Savoie, PhD; published by Business Expert Press; 2012, ISBN 978-1-60649-425-7; \$39.95 USD; 90 pages, soft cover. More at <http://www.businessexpertpress.com/books/building-successful-information-systems-five-best-practices-ensure-organizational-effectiveness>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of cooperation between the publisher, PM World and the Dallas Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI Dallas Chapter – www.pmidallas.org). Publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



Jerry Harraman



Jerry Harraman is an IT executive and PMP with an extensive background leading various global programs and organizations, specializing in business systems and service delivery. Leadership has focused on successfully supporting business strategy, company profitability and organization success.