
PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Project Pain Reliever***

Author: **Dave Garrett**

Publisher: **J. Ross**

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Reviewer: ***Richard D. Bonaparte***

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Introduction to the Book

“Are you filling in as a project manager?” “Did you get into project management by accident?” “Are you overwhelmed and now feel the pain and frustration of managing these projects?”

Just as a prescription meets the need of a suffering patient, so does Garrett’s “Project Pain Reliever,” script a much-needed remedy. Using simple ingredients and applied liberally to our suffering patient, the new or ‘accidental’ project manager has the cure.

After reviewing numerous books on the subject of relieving ‘pain’ I’ll admit I was somewhat jaded, expecting a dry adherence to work breakdowns, critical path, communications and team leadership, with a few giftings towards ‘overcoming challenges. “Pain Reliever” compiled from over 1000 Project Managers, 35 Authors and numerous real life scenarios creates more than just another toolbox or “how-to”, but a relevant roadmap to face the scariest challenges and deepest frustrations in today’s environments.

Overview of Book’s Structure

Project Pain Reliever reads like a WebMD for the accidental project manager to isolate the disease and find the cure.

The nine chapters address topics ranging from focusing your efforts, managing people, and building and delivery on requirements.

Select the relevant section of interest and get right to it. Start from one of the middle chapters and deal with projects that ‘have no end’, or to the end and understand what is ‘beyond my control’ or right from the beginning if you ‘feel all alone.’

Each chapter falls under the Art or Science of Project Management. Each sub-topic describes a relevant problem, their warning signs, results of inaction, possible solutions, a case study for review and a ‘what should I do’ section for getting you started.

Highlights: What’s New in this Book

Pain Reliever doesn’t break new ground but appears to stand out as a unique resource for those finding themselves in the role of a Project Manager.

Highlights: What I liked!

As a proponent of the ‘measure once’ philosophy, I was pleased to see the amount of effort that went in to the Planning chapter. The Planning Chapter, at 57 pages, is the largest chapter in the book, with ‘Managing Risks’ a close second.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

Additional case studies and access to templates and/or tools would have been an added benefit. Garret makes sure to at least draw relevance to PMI.org as a reference and templates and the discussions group help can be found there.

Who might benefit from the Book

With the Financial Industry racing to reorganize and evolve their workforce to meet today’s economic challenges, we’re seeing trends in the ways companies use traditionally trained or certified Project Managers. Considering this, it is possible that anyone can find himself or herself in the role of a Project Manager and ultimately benefit from this book.

Conclusion

Project Pain Reliever allows the new or seasoned Project Manager to gain greater insight into ways to quickly engage projects and absorb the necessary insights. This is a must have for your library.

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<http://www.jrosspub.com/Engine/Shopping/catalog.asp?store=12&category=-1&item=14265>

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About the Reviewer



Richard Bonaparte



Richard Bonaparte is the former President of R-Logic and founder of ProjectPros a Project Management and Agile Consulting Group.

As an experienced IT practitioner Richard has over 20 years experience in delivering IT solutions, business process re-engineering and software development for the Mortgage Banking, Commercial/Corporate Banking, Insurance and Financial Services industries.

Richard holds numerous certifications, including the PMI Project Management Professional (PMP), has lead numerous mentoring organizations, spoken at Southern California PMP Bootcamps and actively consults in the North Dallas area of Texas.

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