PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: *Project Management A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling, 11th Edition*

Author: Dr. Harold Kerzner, PhD
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
List Price: US $94.00 Format: Hard cover; 1264 pages
Publication Date: 2013 ISBN: 978-1-118-02227-6
Reviewer: Diane R. Diehl, MBA, PMP
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Introduction

The latest edition of *Project Management A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling*, by Dr. Kerzner, is a must for individuals wishing to obtain their PMP credential. It is the perfect companion to the PMBOK® Guide, reinforcing and clarifying important concepts a project management candidate must understand. It is also an excellent reference book for existing project managers and those who are invested in the success of a project.

It is my opinion that Dr. Kerzner, the Senior Executive Director for Project Management of the International Institute for Learning (http://www.iiil.com/), is the quintessential author of books related to Project Management.

Overview

Used in both undergraduate and graduate courses in business, information systems, and engineering, *Project Management A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling* is structured as follows:

- The first five chapters focus on the basic core of knowledge needed for project management.
- Chapters 6 through 8 continue to focus on the behavioral aspects of the organizational support functions and strengthens the belief that effective project managers know more than just technology or Microsoft Project: they also embrace the soft skill set of managing people as a critical success factor.
- Chapters 9 and 10 describe factors for predicting success and management support.
• Chapters 11 through 20 present a detailed examination of planning, scheduling, controlling, cost control, estimating, contracting/procurement, and quality.

In addition, more than 25 cases studies and more than 125 multiple-choice questions are included.

What’s New in this Edition

In addition to updating existing text to align with PMBOK® Guide changes there are over 40 new sections, including:

• Handling Negative Team Dynamics
• Organizational Change Management and Corporate Culture
• Validating the Assumptions and the Objectives
• The Statement of Work
• Requirements Traceability Matrix
• Configuration Change Control
• Estimating Pitfalls
• The Cost Overrun Dilemma
• Managing Crisis Projects

Highlights: What I liked!

The page margins now include sidebars that cross-index and map the material to the PMBOK® Guide: a change that should prove extremely useful for those preparing for the PMP exam.

Recommendation

For anyone thinking about obtaining a PMP credential, I strongly recommend this book as a companion to the PMBOK® Guide. Additionally, existing project managers, project sponsors, and executives would benefit from having this ‘go-to’ reference book in their library.

Check with your local PMI Chapter to see when they will be holding a class featuring Dr. Kerzner: you will not want to miss meeting him and having him sign your book.

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

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Diane Diehl has been practicing project and process management for over 12 years and lives in Dallas, Texas. Diane has consulted for such organizations as Bank of America, PepsiCo, VMware, Fannie Mae, and Verizon Business Professional Services. Ms. Diehl holds an MBA from York College of Pennsylvania. Due to her specialization in process improvement, ITSM risk control, and compliance, she has begun pursuing her CISA Certification, which will provide additional value to her clients.