
PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Secrets to Mastering the WBS in Real World Projects***

Author: **Liliana Buchtik**

Publisher: **Project Management Institute**

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Reviewer: **Newton Freeland**

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Introduction to the Book

Mastering the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) in Real World Projects is an excellent presentation of theory as well as practical application. The author illustrates key concepts through good and bad examples.

The book includes key definitions, options for structuring the WBS, various software applications for WBS development and WBS integration with other tools such as project schedule and costs.

Key concepts developed by the author include:

- WBS defines scope
- Tasks versus Deliverables
- The top 20 benefits of using a WBS

Overview of Book's Structure

The book is organized to benefit both a new Project Manager who has not considered the value of using a WBS as well as the seasoned project manager who needs to be exposed to new ideas about the WBS development and applications.

Key topics include defining the WBS, clearing up confusions about the WBS, understanding and mastering its use, software tool discussion, integration with other processes, etc.

Highlights: What's New in this Book

The concept of defining scope with the WBS was not new but the development was very profound. That supported what amounts to a major change since 1987 by redefining the WBS to address deliverables instead of tasks. The author reports that both deliverables and tasks are appropriate in the project schedule but only deliverables are addressed in the WBS.

Highlights: What I liked!

I really liked the logical way the material is organized. The outline lends itself to being a reference in the future.

I also appreciated the discussion with the agile process, integrated with PMBOC processes.

The author also did a great job of tying the WBS into the other knowledge areas such as communications and risk management.

Who might benefit from the Book

Those who will benefit from this book include project and program managers of all ages and systems engineering managers.

Conclusion

The book is well written and will benefit anyone who takes the time to read it. It is an excellent resource to provide an overview but also is valuable as reference material when performing project planning, executing, and monitoring and control.

About the Reviewer



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Newton (Butch) Freeland's background includes US Naval Flight Officer - E-2C operations and T&E, Airborne systems test, systems engineering, business development, international border security and Project management for the past 28 years. Systems have included UAV, E- 2C, SATCOM, Australian P-3 weapons upgrade, SeaVue radar, Ukraine border security, and DEA aircraft sensor and communications modifications.