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Effective Complex Project Management
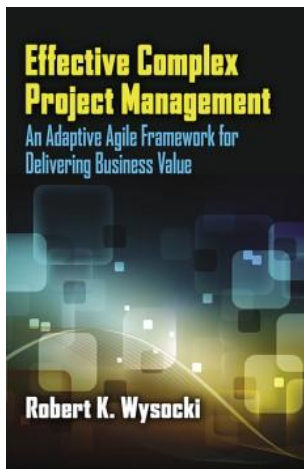Author: Robert K. Wysocki
Book Review   Reviewer: Ash Jantrania

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: **EFFECTIVE COMPLEX PROJECT MANAGEMENT - An Adaptive Agile Framework for Delivering Business Value**

Author: **Robert K. Wysocki**

Publisher: **J. Ross Publishing**

List Price: US$69.95   Format: Hard cover; 332 pages

Publication Date: 2014   ISBN: 13: 978-1-60427-100-3

Reviewer: **Ash Jantrania**

Review Date: October 2014

Introduction to the Book

The author has emphasized the need for a practical approach to successful project management within an organization for complex projects.

Overview of Book's Structure

For successful project management involving complex projects, there is a need to transition from the traditional Waterfall to an adaptive Framework - Adaptive Complex Project Framework (ACPF).

ACPF is robust and adaptive tool which apples the Agile and lean approach. It is a methodology applicable to all industry types and has been developed, refined and validated for over 20 years.

Highlights: What's New in this Book?

The book highlights the need for a change in current day project management approach. There is a need for a totally different type of project management approach looking at the multi-million dollar complex projects. Such projects are typically delivered late, over budget and minus desired customer expectations.

The current day plan based approach does not deliver projects meeting customer expectations. The author has given a very detailed understanding of Adaptive Complex Project Framework (ACPF). This new approach is the most forward thinking concept in complex project management.

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Highlights: What I liked!

The book highlights the business challenges encountered in managing complex projects which are typical of several organizations. It suggests ways to identify and mitigate these challenges.

The author breaks down the Adaptive Complex Project Framework (ACPF) into different phases. Each phase has very detailed descriptions highlighted with number of illustrations, diagrams and real life examples for easier understanding.

The book suggests a model for implementing the complex adaptive framework (ACPF Implementation) in organizations. This would be paradigm shift in the way a lot of organizations manage complex projects in today's world.

Who might benefit from the Book?

In my opinion the Portfolio Managers, Program Managers, PMO Staff, Business System Analysts and Project Managers will tremendously benefit from this book. In fact the entire project team and all stakeholders would also benefit from this book.

Conclusion

We need to change the way we manage complex projects. The book gives the correct formula to solve the many issues encountered in managing complex projects by traditional methods. We need to eliminate the unnecessary architectural complexity in the current day approach.

There is need to migrate to adaptive complex project management from the traditional plan based approach.

For more about this book, click here.

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. Reviewers can keep the books and claim PDUs for PMP recertification. 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.

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Ash Jantrania is a seasoned Project Manager in Dallas Fort Worth area. He has extensive Project Management and Business / Systems analysis experience in Telecom, Transport, Mortgage Banking, Health, E-Commerce, Retail & Non Profit organizations. Ash holds PMP and Scrum Master certifications. He has comprehensive knowledge of project management in both Waterfall and Agile/Scrum methodologies. He can be contacted at ajant1@yahoo.com.