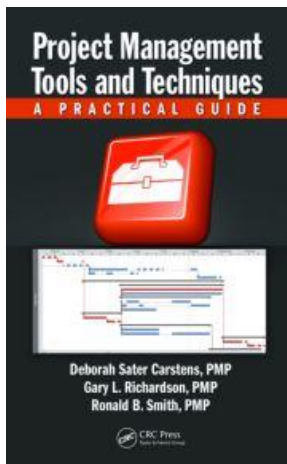


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Project Management Tools and Techniques: A Practical Guide***

Authors: **Deboah Sater Carstens, PMP; Gary L. Richardson, PMP; Ronald B. Smith, PMP**

Publisher: **CRC Press** List Price: \$107.96

Format: Hard cover textbook; 494 pages

Publication Date: April 2013 ISBN: 978-1-4665-1562-8

Reviewer: **Mark S. Becker, PMP**

Review Date: November 2014

### Overview

For the person looking for a good first introduction into the Project Management discipline, this book is fairly comprehensive. For seasoned practitioners, with well designed Chapters it becomes a reference guide in quick fashion. Given the consistent placement of formal Questions, in-class Questions, and Exercises at the end of each Chapter, this book would serve quite well in a Project Management course.

### Relevance

As a practitioner working in the US Defense Industry for a leading DoD Contractor in Master Planning and Scheduling; I am routinely subjected to Audits held to DFAR Contracts. That said, I found this book a good source of theory for Guidelines #6 & #7 from the 32-Point DCMA Checklist.

As an Corporate Trainer to New Hire Project Planners; I reference Theory found in this book.

### What I Liked about this Book

I especially enjoyed the chapter on the understanding and development of Work Breakdown Structure. Further explanation of Earned Value Management is addressed in easy to understand examples. In fact, through out this book; I found the use of Chapter Review questions helpful and forced myself to reread some sections for improved comprehension. Additionally the exercises provide realistic case studies for either the individual or small class team assignment useful in a training environment.

Although it is not a Microsoft Project 'how-to' book, it does present some very good examples of using the Tool to build Networks. Further discussion of both Earned Value and Earned Schedule are presented.

Each Chapter is presented with a Summary.

### **Shortcomings**

There could have been a far more comprehensive section on Organization Breakdown Structure (OBS) than what is mentioned within Chapter Seven: Developing the Work Breakdown Structure. A small chapter devoted to this topic would have added more insight.

Although an introduction to Schedule Risk Analysis is presented, I would like to have seen a much more comprehensive explanation. The Defense Federal Acquisitions Regulations (DFAR) specifies frequent Schedule Risk Assessments to be completed on Project Schedules (PMI Time Management). More insight into Schedule Risk Assessments pertaining to how interpret the outcome of 3-point estimates once a Monte Carlo Simulation has been run

### **Why should you read this book?**

If you're looking for a book that is under 500 pages, this one is good for both Trainees and Practitioners. According to the authors, this book speaks to the various techniques and tools to provide one with a strong foundation in Project Management. Projects are described in great detail through 5 sections of typical life cycles.

### **Conclusion:**

I make reference to this book when presenting Material to new Master Project Planners in addition to other PMI - Scheduling Professional materials. It is fresh and relevant and is worth picking up and scanning for your needs.

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For more about this book, go to: <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466515628>

*Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and 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 can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. 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@peworldjournal.net](mailto:editor@peworldjournal.net).*

## About the Reviewer



### **Mark S. Becker, PMP**

Texas, USA



Mark S. Becker, PMP has been a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) since March 1998 and received his PMP® certification in July 2000. Employed in the Defense Industry since 1981, his current employer is Lockheed-Martin (Dallas, Texas). Mark is currently assigned as an Earned Value Management Specialist supporting DFAR Contracts as a Master Program Planner. He is also an Organizational Trainer of New Planners.