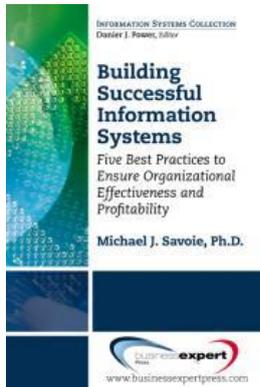


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Building Successful Information Systems: Five Best Practices to Ensure Organizational Effectiveness and Profitability***

Author: **Michael Savoie**

Publisher: www.businessexpertpress.com

List Price: \$59.95 Format: Soft Cover ; 90 pages

Publication Date: 2012 ISBN: 978-1-60649-425-7

Reviewer: **Douglas Dodd, Jr, PMP** Review Date: March 2016

Introduction

This book tackles the all-too familiar subject of Information Technology in yet another attempt to steer individuals in decision-making capacities (CIOs, CEOs, CSOs, Consultants, etc. - affectionately called the "C-Suite") to make better choices when evaluating and ultimately building effective information systems.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book has an abstract, key words section immediately following, the table of contents and a succinct glossary. Being in a modern writing style, the abstract reminds one more of a term or white paper, but is very engaging and an accurate description of the subject addressed.

This is needed, as the casual observer, especially in the project management realm, may assume a discussion on project management information systems and strategies rather than a technology-based information system.

The Key Words section provided 20 words the reader will see throughout the material and is a good reference for "what's coming", allowing a quick brush-up on the terminology to aid when consuming the information.

The remaining Contents and Glossary sections adhere to the more traditional aspects of published reference documents.

Highlights

This book successfully focuses on what the correct end result should be for a successful information system implementation (The "Five R's"):

- The *right* data
- In the *right* place

- At the *right* time
- To the *right* person
- In the *right* format

Savoie thoroughly, but simplistically addresses each component through examples, real-life issues and their respective outcomes as well as understandable illustrations and tables to aid the readers' understanding of the topic.

He covers the topic thoroughly; from **data** in its raw form to **information** (organized in a meaningful way for the end-user), to **knowledge** (information that is acted upon) to **wisdom** (which is knowing when to act on the provided knowledge).

The first two elements are computer (information system) driven while the last two are human driven, especially knowledge, which predominantly comes with, experience, something computers are far from mastering.

The author also covered the topic of "Big Data" in the Information System design context and warns that most organizations are confusing Big Data with "All Data" and that simply capturing *everything* is not the same as capturing "the right thing" steering decision-makers back to the basic principle of the "Five R's".

Highlights: What I liked!

This book, at less than 100 pages, does an exceptional job at addressing the subject and is a good reference for IT professionals as well as project managers who deal with technical projects. A warning, however, must be issued to those who are not from a technical background. Although the book covers key words such as BYOD, hacking, phishing, firewalls, infrastructure, etc., it is not a substitution for a deeper understanding of Information System/Technology sub-elements.

The book even touched on security profiles and procedures and has good examples that can be used as real world templates. Finally, he nicely summarizes the core principles of the book in the chapter entitled "*Putting It All Together*".

Who might benefit from the Book

Anyone in a decision-making capacity within an organization will find this book quite useful. When the call from senior leadership ultimately comes for them to join a technical project team, this resource can help to keep them focused on the core aspects of a successful implementation.

Conclusion

This is a very good book that can be used by both seasoned IT professionals and technical project managers as well as senior leadership and employees in decision-making positions. It can rightfully take its place along-side such classics as "The One Minute Manager", "Freakonomics" and "Who Moved My Cheese?" as compact, practical management tools that every business professional should have.

For more about this book, go to: <http://www.businessexpertpress.com/books/building-successful-information-systems-five-best-practices-ensure-organizational-effectiveness>

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.

About the Reviewer



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Douglas Dodd, Jr, MBA, PMP, OCA, Oracle 11g DBA, Network+, Security+, is a member of the PMI Dallas Chapter and has been involved in project management at multiple levels over the last decade, as a stakeholder, team-member or project manager. He has 20+ years of experience as a Business Analyst, Finance Manager, Financial Information Systems Manager and Business Software Solutions Analyst. He currently works as a consultant in Higher Education at Columbia Advisory Group in Dallas, TX, supporting the Commerce, TX branch of the Texas A&M University system. He is also on the Adjunct staff of Dallas Baptist University in Dallas TX. He currently resides in Wylie, TX with his wife Ava and son Brandon. Douglas can be contacted at ddoddr@gmail.com