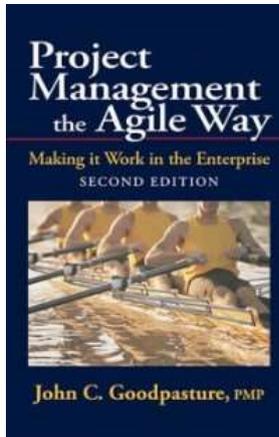


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Project Management the Agile Way: Making it Work in the Enterprise, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition***

Author: **John C. Goodpasture, PMP**

Publisher: J. Ross Publishing

List Price: \$59.95                      Format: Hardcover, 392 pages

Publication Date: 2015      ISBN: 978-1-60427-115-7

Reviewer: **Ivan Kotcher, PMP**

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### Introduction

This book is a comprehensive guide to Agile project management, as well as an overview of project management concepts and approaches ranging from Scrum to XP, the Crystal Family, and Kanban. Intended for experienced practitioners who may be unfamiliar with Agile and related methodologies, it contrasts Agile with more traditional methods. Although it can be dense, the structure of the book lends itself to investigating specific topics of interest and provides excellent summaries of major ideas and how Agile can be applied effectively to different aspects of project management.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The book is structured very much like an academic lecture or textbook, broken down into discrete sections with a consistent structure for each. The author states that the structure is intended to emulate an Agile sprint, with the reader concluding a “release” at the end of each chapter.

Chapters include or more “Modules” that present objectives, summary and takeaway points, and chapter-specific endnotes with definitions and/or references to other sources. In many cases, important definitions or ideas are presented as blocks broken out from the main text. Discussion points are also provided for the reader to think about how the ideas can be interpreted or applied in his or her own context.

The publisher also provides additional free material from its own resource center, accessible through the publisher website.

## Highlights

The book is an excellent resource for both experienced practitioners and newcomers to introduce and apply Agile methodology in a real environment. It does an excellent job of explaining how traditional methodology can affect the expectations and participation of multiple stakeholders, and describes how Agile changes the dynamics of a project. Everything from project business cases to planning and scheduling work, to managing teams and value, to facilitating adaptation of an existing company to Agile, is covered.

One important aspect of the approach is to provide historical context to various project management concepts and approaches. The book exposes the reader to not only Agile, but to ideas and people often left out of simple descriptions of Agile methodologies. These summaries, backed up by references in endnotes, provide a rich base of material for further research and conversation with potential team members—as well as a way to integrate multiple tools drawn from other successful project approaches.

### Highlights: What I liked!

I really enjoyed the structure of the book, as well as the comprehensiveness of the overview of project management. Agile is often presented independently of broader project management ideas, and comparison and contrast other methodologies is much more helpful when presented in the context of project management as a whole. This book provides not only a good Agile reference, but a good basis for exploring other external source material.

The other good aspect of this book is the clear breakdown of topic areas and a learning plan for each. Specific areas of interest are easily found, and each presented in a dense summary covering what you need to know to bring to bear on thinking through specific project management problems.

### Who might benefit from the Book?

Project management students and teachers will be the major beneficiaries of this book. It reads as an excellent teaching tool as well as a study guide for Agile, the structure lending itself to supporting or even acting as the basis of a seminar on the material.

From a practitioner perspective, the book is a good summary reference guide as well as a primer on Agile for those who may not have yet used it for project execution.

## Conclusion

I really appreciated this book, and would recommend it to anyone approaching Agile for the first time. Many books about Agile miss the context of it within the development of project management in general, and as a result miss the opportunity to highlight where it's effective and where it may not help in reaching real-world business objectives. The book can be a bit dry in parts, but lends itself to repeat

reference and use. Best of all, the author emphasizes again and again what every project manager knows: project methodologies each have their uses and weaknesses, and good project managers benefit from having the broadest range of tools available to them.

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For more about this book, go to: <http://www.jrosspub.com/project-management-the-agile-way.html>

*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).*

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## About the Reviewer



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**Ivan Kotcher, PMP**, is a project and program manager with strategic and operational consulting experience across the full breadth of data center infrastructure management. He has over 20 years of experience working with telecommunications and application hosting companies ranging in size from global carriers to startups. He currently works as a Transformation Director with Wipro Technologies, helping customers to evolve business processes and associated supporting technologies to improve cost profiles and service delivery.

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