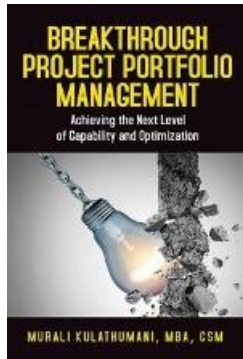


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **Breakthrough Project Portfolio Management:
Achieving the Next Level of Capability and Optimization**

Author: **Murali Kulathumani**

Publisher: J. Ross Publishing

List Price: \$59.95 Format: Hard cover, 339 pages

Publication Date: 2018 ISBN: 9781604271492

Reviewer: **Edward A. Haskin** Review Date: December 2018

Introduction

This book provides a new approach to transform your project portfolio by utilizing a new modified earned value management approach (*mEVM*). The author begins by describing the core tasks of portfolio management, then outlines the new (*mEVM*) approach, real-life implementation strategies and support systems that play a role in making your portfolio successful. Whether or not you have an existing portfolio or starting from scratch. The book can be used in many scenarios for guidance. The real-life applications and even political considerations are helpful guides for any level of portfolio maturity.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book is divided into four parts. Part I covers key components of portfolio management, part II covers the (*mEVM*) approach, part III covers strategies for real-life implementation and part IV discusses additional support systems a portfolio manager would need for continued success. Each chapter follows a blueprint that is easy to follow and develops a rhythm that outlines the goals, introduces the topic, explains the topic, describes levels of capability maturity and concludes with a review of the learning objectives.

Some chapters will also include additional information on the need for the topic, additional elaboration, and "how-to" sections to develop the building blocks of a certain capability. Each chapter summary provided a quick synopsis of the contents and connected relevant pieces of information.

Highlights

It is obvious that the highlight of the book is the authors explanation of the (*mEVM*) method of using objective measures to assess and monitor projects within a project portfolio. The authors graphs and illustrations allow the reader to visualize how this

would work in their situation. He provides steps to produce not only monthly but multi-year reporting. This forces the reader to think of using this method in the long-term. After the description of (*mEVM*), the author takes the reader down a carefully thought out path to roll-out such a program.

Chapter 13 explains why (*mEVM*) works and this lays out the case for moving all programs in this direction. Throughout the book the author shows that keeping things simple can produce the best results. To simply put it, (*mEVM*) will objectively show the organization what projects are working, which need help, and which should be terminated, and funding distributed elsewhere.

Highlights: What I liked!

The authors straight-forward approach to portfolio management was informative. It is clear he has been in various capability maturity levels throughout his career and has provided lessons learned to the reader. It was particularly refreshing to address the strategic connections needed for projects, but also identified political influences that could hinder forward progress.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Both advanced and beginner portfolio managers could benefit from this book. A beginner may find the most use since this could be a playbook for future planning and activity, an existing manager is provided strategies to address push-back and change management techniques. In addition, non-IT based disciplines could also find useful information. Although regulatory or compliance related projects don't usually have the funding assessment luxury of deciding what will or not be worked on, the monitoring and reporting aspects this book provides brings value to a manager.

Conclusion

I must admit that once I got into the meat of (*mEVM*) method and benefits, I found it hard to put the book down. Although I had already faced many of the lessons learned, it was the guidance around many of the pitfalls that portfolio managers face that resonated the most to this reader. I believe the (*mEVM*) can go beyond technology or IT projects and others in Accounting, Marketing, and even Compliance could benefit for the many helpful hints and suggestions this book provides.

The author kept things simple and as I mentioned before, made the topic refreshing. This should be a helpful tool for anyone who manages multiple projects for an organization.

For more about this book, go to: <http://www.jrosspub.com/business/project-program-management/breakthrough-project-portfolio-management.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. 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



Edward Haskin

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Edward Haskin is an executive leader with an extensive and broad background in risk management, compliance and project management. He is also an author, entrepreneur, speaker, grant writer, and knows the value of a good ear hustle.

Edward's experience and training have given him a unique ability to forge innovative approaches to meet the needs of today's rapidly changing business environment. He is deeply committed to finding and implementing the tools, processes, and best practices necessary to minimize risk and identify the options that hold the most potential. He strives to give companies the tools and techniques they need to make faster, and less costly decisions so they can move forward efficiently to achieve their objectives.

Edward began his career as a mortgage banking compliance officer and quickly built his expertise to include project management, lean six-sigma, and risk management. He has successfully directed complex projects in government offices and public and private organizations in a variety of complex engagements.

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