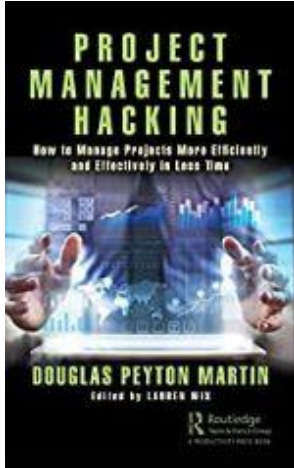

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **Project Management Hacking: How to Manage Projects More Efficiently and Effectively in Less Time**

Author: **Douglas Peyton Martin**

Publisher: Routledge/Productivity Press

List Price: \$79.95 or \$15.96

Format: Hardcover or Paperback, 74 pages

Publication Date: 2020

ISBN: 978-0-367-34815-1

Reviewer: **Kristyn Popejoy**

Review Date: March 2020

Introduction

This book attempts to give project managers tips to achieve certification, lead teams, projects, and hone life skills. The book is brief. The author does not provide concrete templates or structured examples but instead makes his point through storytelling. His intention is clear to make his point and move on.

Overview of Book's Structure

Across nine chapters, the book covers certification, personal development, leading a project team, process groups, general life skills, other duties, and summary.

Within each chapter, the author describes a standard path, evil path, and hacker path. The standard path section is brief and merely an introduction to the chapter. The evil path covers what not to do while the hacker path provides the authors tips and tricks. All recommendations for finding efficiency and effectivity while managing projects are located in the hacker path portion of each chapter.

Highlights

The book highlights a few specific opportunities that are time saving opportunities for a project manager.

The main point is a project manager needs to lay groundwork early in the planning portion for time saving success later in the project when executing, monitoring, and controlling processes are occurring. Half way through the book the author finally calls out where a project manager can save time!

Douglas highlights that project managers should not have their “nose down” into the product. Focusing on the product is a trap. Instead, project managers should focus their time on the project “that provide zero residual value to the product being delivered.”

Other highlights include empowering the project manager to escalate and raise issues, shorten meeting time, change, listen for silence, and issue resolution.

Highlights: What I liked!

The author purposefully wrote this book differently than nearly all other business books on the shelf. Specifically, Douglas’s word choice sometimes may seem surprising but his purpose of telling it like it is makes his point well understood with few words. The author practiced his hacking strategy to write this book, which I enjoyed.

For an experienced project manager, this is a quick read with traps to avoid and a gut check to re-prioritize time and focus on valued added activities.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Project managers with PMBOK framework experience will enjoy this book. The author does not take the time to explain project management fundamentals. Instead, the authors shortens the length of book to strictly his points about finding short cuts to save time. For a reader extremely short on time, the book structure organization allows one to skim content.

Conclusion

This book is relatable for anyone with project management experience and reviews time saving and way to increase your effectiveness as a project manager. The quick read is a reminder for avoiding certain pit falls easy to fall when managing projects. The author also provides seasoned project managers ways to re-prioritize in focusing on valued added activities.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.routledge.com/Project-Management-Hacking-How-to-Manage-Projects-More-Efficiently-and/Martin/p/book/9780367348151>

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

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About the Reviewer



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Kristyn Popejoy, PMP, is Assistant Director of Program Management with 14 years in the transportation and trucking industry. Her experience ranges from sales planning, procurement, supply chain, product development and project management.