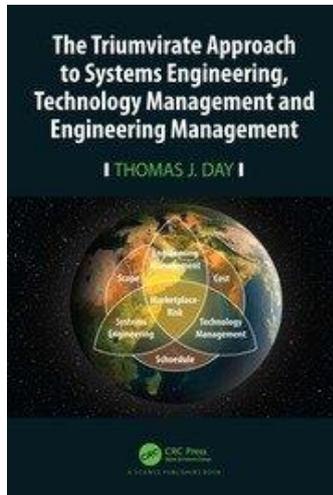


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **The Triumvirate Approach to Systems Engineering, Technology Management and Engineering Management¹**

Author: **Thomas J. Day**

Publisher: CRC Press

List Price: \$130.00 (soft cover), \$260 (hard cover)

Format: Soft cover, hard cover, eBook 348 pages

Publication Date: January 2022 ISBN: 978-1-032-10462-1

Reviewer: **Richard Fisher, PMP**

Review Date: February 2023

Introduction

The Triumvirate Approach to Systems Engineering, Technology Management and Engineering Management is focused on the intersection of those three disciplines and how they might be used together to improve the complete product life cycle. The author clearly has significant government and military engineering experience and introduces concepts such as a “Concept of Operations,” that is most commonly found in military projects.

Overview of Book’s Structure

Roughly the first half of the book focuses on the product life cycle, from inception through operations. He pays particular attention to a project’s early phases, such as defining the problem or need, and the product that will ultimately address it. The second half of the book is more focused on

The book spends a lot of time introducing concepts but could benefit from more examples and some case studies. This would help illustrate the concepts, especially from an end-to-end perspective.

¹ How to cite this review: Fisher, R. (2023). The Triumvirate Approach to Systems Engineering, Technology Management and Engineering Management, book review, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XII, Issue IV, April.

Highlights

The book treats program and project management as a set of tools to control and monitor technical product development. Many PMBOK processes are discussed from an engineering perspective and assume a professional from one of the three disciplines in the title will fulfill many PMBOK requirements, such as functional requirements definition, risk management and testing. It treats program and project management as a tool focused on “tracking cost, scope, schedule and risk.”

Highlights: What I liked!

As a person from an engineering background, I liked the technical focus, and the discussion of a topic that is often overlooked. I enjoyed his technical view of the product life cycle and how these disciplines interact with one another throughout it. The author doesn't get overly technical but does go into more detail when looking at cost-benefit analysis throughout a product's life cycle. There are also substantial endnotes giving additional sources of information for the topics that a reader would like to investigate further.

Who might benefit from the Book?

This book would be most suitable for anyone with direct responsibilities for complex technical projects or those who aspire to have responsibility. This includes Engineering Program and Project Managers, Systems Engineers, as well as mid to senior level technical management, up to and including CTO-level executives.

While many of the techniques described in this book are well suited to any project, many of the techniques are more suitable for large, complex projects that span multiple engineering disciplines. Any professional who needs to interact with this type of project or professionals would benefit from reading this book.

Conclusion

Despite significant editing and typographical errors, this is an excellent book that covers a topic that has not been well-addressed in either technical or business literature. Given the extremely broad nature of the book's subject, it cannot cover all topics deeply, but does give enough high-level information to allow a person to begin digging into the topics more fully.

Although it does not require any advanced math or engineering knowledge, the book is written towards a technical audience, and adopts an academic tone and focus in addressing the topic. It does introduce numerous systems engineering terms and concepts, and several tools like Analysis of Alternatives and Concept of Operations. Be forewarned – this is not a quick weekend read with practical pointers that will introduce a technique that can be immediately used. It is a technical overview of the

intersection of multiple engineering disciplines and the concepts, tools and techniques involved in them.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Triumvirate-Approach-to-Systems-Engineering-Technology-Management/Day/p/book/9781032104621>

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About the Reviewer

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Richard Fisher is an experienced Enterprise Architect focused on software systems in a variety of industries, including transportation, telecommunications, aerospace, healthcare and insurance. He works extensively in the intersection of different disciplines, including systems engineering, project management, technology management and operations.

Richard has his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, a Master of Science in Systems Engineering and Management, and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA). He is also certified as a PMP and Scrum Master.

Richard lives in the Dallas area with his wife, two sons, a dog and a cat. His wife is also a practicing project manager in the healthcare domain and is active in PMI. He can be contacted at: Richard@noctam.com