
PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **Project Management: Planning and Scheduling Techniques¹**

Author: **Vijay Kumar Bansal**

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Publication Date: 2024 ISBN: 9781032549378

Reviewer: **Emmanuel Wesley, PMP**

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Introduction

Project Management: Planning and Scheduling Techniques serves as an accessible primer on fundamental project planning and management skills. Targeting newcomers, the book covers vital methodologies such as the Critical Path Method, Precedence Diagramming Method, Line of Balance, and PERT. It combines theoretical explanations with practical learning elements, including exercises, diagrams, and examples, offering both students and project managers practical insights and clear guidance.

Overview of Book's Structure

Each chapter in the book starts with learning objectives and ends with a chapter conclusion. There are illustrated examples provided for every planning and scheduling technique covered in the book. Although the book is quite technical in nature, it is very easy to read. Each chapter builds on the knowledge of the previous one, leaving the reader with a solid understanding of the techniques being discussed.

Highlights

In the first chapter of the book, the author gives a comprehensive overview of what project management is and the different steps involved in project management. He also provides an overview of all of the different planning and scheduling techniques that will be discussed later in the book. All of the preceding chapters are dedicated to an individual deep-dive on each of the following techniques: Work Breakdown

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Structures, Bar Charts, the Critical Path Method, the Program Evaluation and Review Technique, the Precedence Diagramming Method, and Line of Balance.

Highlights: What I liked!

The author does a really good job of breaking down technical concepts into easily digestible bite-sized pieces of information and then he builds them on top of each other in such a way that you're confident that you actually understand how to use the planning and scheduling techniques discussed. One of the ways this is done is by using a ton of examples, tables and graphs. Another way is redundancy. The author repeats the basics frequently throughout the book and I believe this to be helpful to the newcomer as repetition helps to drill down the understanding and should help with retention.

I like that at the end of every chapter there are exercises and problems for the reader to solve. In the current format of the book the author gives the reader the question or example to solve, and also provides the answer immediately underneath the question. All of the equations and graphs come pre-filled out for the reader with the answers. I personally would've preferred the opportunity to have filled out the answers myself and work the problems out by hand. In my opinion, the author should make this change in future formats of the book thereby giving the reader a more "hands-on" learning experience.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Under-grad and Grad Students will both find this book to be a simple, easy to read, self-study guide that clearly explains key project management concepts. It's suitable for courses in engineering, business administration, management science, and information technology.

Project management professionals and executives who wish to provide continuous support to projects will find this book to be a helpful aide.

The book is also an easy self-study guide for non-project managers or any reader who desires to learn project planning and scheduling techniques.

Conclusion

Project Management: Planning and Scheduling Techniques is a very well written and comprehensive breakdown of many of the most popular planning and scheduling techniques project managers use in real world applications today. Despite the best efforts of a planner, it is not always possible to achieve perfection in planning, and there are occasions when a plan might not succeed. The primary goal of project management is to ensure that a project is finished within the given timeframe, budgetary limits, and specified quality standards. The techniques discussed in this textbook will equip the reader with the tools needed to best achieve that goal. *In the current edition of the book the reader should note that there are a number of typos

throughout that may make it difficult to fully understand what the author is trying to say, particularly when it comes to solving a few of the examples in different chapters. Overall, I'm impressed with the flow of the book; this should not detract from the value of the content the author provides.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.routledge.com/Project-Management-Planning-and-Scheduling-Techniques/Bansal/p/book/9781032549378>

About the Reviewer



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Emmanuel Wesley is a seasoned Project Management Professional, boasting over a dozen years in the transportation and logistics industry. With a proven track record, I've adeptly managed business portfolios worth up to \$3 million. My expertise spans strategic planning and execution, and leading high-performing teams to success. I also specialize in regulatory compliance, business development, and seamless project implementation. Email address: Emmanuel.Wesley@outlook.com

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