

## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW<sup>1</sup>



Book Title: ***Agile Beyond IT: How to develop agility in project management in any sector***

Author: **Adrian Payne**

Publisher: Practical Inspiration Publishing

List Price: Unknown      Format: Digital and Print, 252 pages

Publication Date: 2022

ISBN: (Print) 9781788603270/(EPub) 9781788603287

Reviewer: **Andre'a Alston**

Review Date: November 2024

---

### Introduction

This book's foundational content and core details specifically focus on the direct correlation between (IT) information technology and agility as key drivers to successfully manage projects and programs in any industry and or business sector. While agility is often misunderstood, its impact when used in conjunction with (IT) information technology systems, tools, and applications result in the formulation of strategic partnerships/relationships, task automation, ease of documentation, enhanced product or service outcomes, etc. However, if your business entity does not have or is not actively fostering a culture of change relative to people and technology management, then using or leveraging agility and (IT) information technology to manage projects/programs will not be considered, adapted, or implemented.

### Overview of Book's Structure

This book is comprised of ten chapters in total. Within the first few chapters, the author focuses on building a solid foundation relative to project and program management by using common actions and terms that exist across most industries, before introducing the importance of agility, change culture, people management, and the use of (IT) information technology. As a result, the latter portion of the book focuses on introduction of (IT) information technology within the project/program management space and how utilizing this option in conjunction with agility can produce both positive or negative outcomes, if the appropriate level of support is not received from the decision-making stakeholders (i.e. senior management and/or the executive suite) who hold the power of approval. However, when agile practices in conjunction with (IT) information technology are implemented and used within an environment where

---

<sup>1</sup> How to cite this work: Alston, A. (2024). Agile Beyond IT: How to develop agility in project management in any sector, book review, PM World Journal, Vol. XIII, Issue XI, December.

change is cultivated, supported, and consistently managed amongst people, the project/program management process itself is less cumbersome and expectations are exceeded.

## Highlights

The first major highlight/and area of focus within this book consists of the reiteration of agility and (IT) information technology within project/and program management which single handedly serves as a dual approach that exists to address the complexities of project/and program management.

The second major highlight is that the book reminds the reader of the importance of building cross functional teams that are agile, creative, and supported in their efforts.

The third major highlight is that the author emphasizes that while agility and (IT) information technology when partnered together can be effective/and helpful, they can also produce a variety of results (i.e. positive or negative).

The fourth major highlight is that the book sheds light on the “value of maturity” which project/and program managers should identify within project/and program management teams before introducing agility and (IT) information technology, as maturity is a foundational component required to ensure project/program success is achieved.

## Highlights: What I liked!

As a reader I enjoyed being reminded of the importance of change culture, and people management chapter over chapter. Working within a culture of change, while simultaneously managing people requires dedication, courage, aptitude, and skill. As a project/program manager, these two main components are directly related to operational sustainability and co-exist as key drivers within project/and program management, typically resulting in products/and or services being rendered by employees who exist within cross functional teams.

Another major highlight of mention by the author is the reassurance to readers to not be afraid to “fail fast”. This resonated with me because in quality improvement, trial and error are a constant which typically results in documentation, reflection, and identification of areas of improvement (AOI) before moving forward with the development process. A highlight that piqued my interest as I was reading directly coincides with the (CMMM) capability management maturity model as this model is not used frequently in project/program management and instead is used mainly within the commercial space.

However, the foundational aspects and other criterion derived from CMMM are sometimes referred to and used within the project/program management space.

## Who might benefit from the Book

Individuals who would benefit from reading this book include/and are not limited to: project managers, program managers, quality improvement professionals, (IT) information technology professionals, business intelligence professionals, business analysts, data analysts, and any other professional who is seeking to broaden their horizons in reference to itemized correlation between agility, change, and (IT) information technology within the program/project management space. This book also extrapolates content and details from existing issues/and barriers which remain fluid across multiple industries. This read also provides enlightenment around the value of building a solid, and cohesive team who will rely on your guidance/and leadership as a project/and program manager who has access to those (i.e. stakeholders) with approval/and decision-making power.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this literary work serves as a reflection of the complexities that exist within project/and program management and why it is important to consider all facets associated with project/and program management in today's society. Agility and (IT) information technology as multifaceted options that can improve the project/and program management process significantly by automating tasks, improving time management, etc. However, if change culture and emotionally intelligent/emotionally quotient leaders that manage people do not exist within the business entity, then implementation of agile practices and (IT) information technology will not be successful.

It is equally as important to ensure that project/and program management teams are "mature", cohesive, and allowed to be creative to develop high quality outcomes. Overall, this book is a value add to professionals who are seeking additional insight on how agility and (IT) information technology can transform both processes and outcomes when managing projects/and programs.

For more about this book, go to: <https://practicalinspiration.com/book/agile-beyond-it>

---

## About the Reviewer



### **Andre'a Alston**

Maryland, USA



**Andre'a Alston** is a creative and expressive healthcare professional who has a passion for helping others which has driven both her personal and professional growth for many years. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, enjoys being creative (i.e. painting, taking pictures, and creating other artwork), traveling, exploring the outdoors, shopping, and taking on new risks within the journey of life. As a professional with a decade of experience, she has used her creative/and innovative instinct along with other transferable skills to develop solutions to address long-standing problems, while simultaneously working in both patient-facing and provider-facing roles.

Andre'a has worked in a variety of settings that include and are not limited to: quality/continuous quality improvement, patient advocacy/and transitional support, project/program management, data statistics/and informatics, physician/and business support, etc. Her professional credentials include possession of a (A.A.S.) associate degree in graphic design, (BHCM) bachelor's degree in healthcare management, and a (MBA) master's degree in business administration. She can be contacted at [andrea.b.alston@outlook.com](mailto:andrea.b.alston@outlook.com) or LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-alston](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-alston)

---

*Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, the PM World Journal and the [PMI Silver Spring Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to the PMWJ editor or directly to the PMI Silver Spring 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 Silver Spring Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published.*

*If you have read a good recently published book related to managing programs, projects or teams of professionals, consider authoring a book review for publication in the PM World Journal. 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.com](mailto:Editor@peworldjournal.com).*