

(Ebook pdf) Project Management: Fast Track to Success: The low down on the top job

Project Management: Fast Track to Success: The low down on the top job

Patrick Harper-Smith, Simon Derry
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Patrick Harper-Smith, Simon Derry : Project Management: Fast Track to Success: The low down on the top job before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Project Management: Fast Track to Success: The low down on the top job:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Yet Another "Business Babble" BookBy clickz4I love business books. That is good business books. You know, the ones that actually say something. Then there are the business babble books that exist solely to spread the latest buzz phrases to wannabes who have no common sense but advance

in their career because they stay hip to the latest business fads and lingo. This book is for them, not me. If you love PowerPoint Presentations that use 10,000 words to say nothing, you're sure to love this book. It's full of charts and bullet points. (well in between the ads for their own website anyway.) Here's an actual bullet point from the book: * If, during the planning and implementation of the project, the management and team have no sense of what they should be doing or delivering at a given point in time, then their chances of delivering a wholly successful project are substantially reduced. There's a newsflash, people who have no clue what they are doing usually don't get anything done. Then they give a case study of effective project management. I love case studies BTW because they usually impart wisdom. So I read eagerly of a project manager named Simon who was brought in to solve a 'nightmare' problem of having a project in multiple time zones. Apparently the company doing the project was baffled that people in different time zones worked different hours and needed an outside consultant to help them with the monumental challenge. I'll let the book tell you how the story ended. --Solution: Simon created a unique project schedule that took into account the different staff work timetables in the UK and also the different work dates in the Middle East. He also recommended appointing a sub-project manager for the Middle East part of the project, who was aware of the working patterns there but could also communicate easily with the UK. Learning: Having a single time frame for the project that took into account three different work schedules made life easier to plan. Having a local manager in the Middle East made communication a lot easier-although the sub-project manager was under a lot of pressure and ended up working very odd hours! --If you never would have thought to make a schedule for the project that took into account they were in different parts of the world, then this book is for you. For the rest of you, skip this book and go get some real work done.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Project Management for beginners, not managers By John Williamson I wanted to like Project Management: Fast Track to Success (Accelerate Your Career) because of the title and the blurbs that were being used in the product description. As a former IT project manager, this reader was anticipating finding a good resource to suggest to others who are involved in this field. Sad to say, it didn't live up to expectations nearly as much as I hoped. This book is broken down into four major sections: A. AWARENESS B. BUSINESS FAST TRACK C. CAREER FAST TRACK D. DIRECTOR'S TOOLKIT Within the section, it starts off well enough in the first chapter, entitled Project Management in a Nutshell, where the authors state: "This chapter is about raising the awareness of the need for good project management techniques across an organization. There is usually significant room for improvement in both individual and corporate capabilities and in the effectiveness of teams in managing projects." They go on to ask "Just what is project management?" and go on to say: "A quick Internet search will reveal many varied definitions of projects and project management, but knowing many definitions doesn't make you a better project manager nor make project management any easier." They then offer their definitions, which seem to be the same as any other very basic project management book that you'll find today... and that's where this gets confusing, as the subtitle is "Fast Track to Success (Accelerate Your Career)." As one reads on, it doesn't take long for the reader to realize that there may have been other titles that could have been used, such as: * Project Management: A Primer * Project Management: The First Steps Authors Patrick Harper-Smith and Simon Derry are certainly well qualified, as one can see from their credentials, both in the beginning of the book and on their online site. They also have a strong and respectable team of contributors, a group that could have made this book a dynamic "Fast Track to Success" yet it seems to fizzle out. It's not that the material is bad; it's just weak, a bit thin if you will. And as much as most of us like having solid and dynamic Internet resources to back up and integrate with what we find in books such as this, there seems to be gap between the book and what they're offering on the `Net. If they're dynamic and revise it all for their next edition, then perhaps it could be more useful. My main gripe with this book has to deal with simple readability. If one to make a point is to use a multitude of charts and diagrams to get points across, then they should be legible. In the case of this book, the designers got carried away with too much grey-scale, and it took reading the book with a halogen lamp on its highest setting to get through it all. There's far too much use of light grey notes and headers throughout this book, and it's enough to make it actually annoying when one cannot focus on the content. If you're looking for a good book that's not loaded with fluff, hype, or heavily academic lessons, then Eric Verzuh's The Fast Forward MBA in Project Management is highly recommended, as is the classic Peopleware: Productive Projects and Teams by Tom DeMarco and Timothy Lister. Both of these are highly recommended as two of the best available, but there are many others... just read the reviews. So who should read this book? Does it have an audience? If you're a manager with even moderate experience, you may find it a 2-star resource if you have good reading glasses and a bright lamp. If you have subordinates who are just starting off in project management yet don't want to be caught with Project Management For Dummies on their desks, then Project Management: Fast Track to Success might be a decent 3-star choice. But content-wise, the 'Dummies' book has some solid project management 101 level materials, so get them one for the desk and the other to read privately.

5/30/2012 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good summary book By Agrican Though tailored toward those heading into project management, book was well written and provides enough intelligent insight for season project manager to read before starting a new job or new engagement, reminding them on the key focus areas.

GET THE RESULTS YOU WANT IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT. FAST. Projects are there to deliver

measurable benefits and value to an organisation. Delivering on time and on budget is important, but project management is not just about doing things right, it is also about doing the right things to get the results your business needs. To be an effective project manager you need to maintain flexibility in all things and to maintain your focus on the fact that it is the business need that is paramount, not the process of getting there. **Fast to Success: Project Management**, helps you do this by providing you with a practical, flexible and adaptable framework for managing projects. This practical, career-oriented book gets you up to speed on project management quickly. It shows you how to integrate the core best-practice tools of project management with broader business needs and how to involve people across the whole business, as and when required. It gives you: Project management in a nutshell - a series of frequently-asked-questions to give you a concise overview of the subject The top 10 tools and techniques you can use to help you develop your approach to project management Simple checklists to help you identify the strengths and weaknesses of your capabilities and those of your team Advice on leading your team how to decide your leadership style and build your team Tips on how to progress your career, whether it's your first 10 weeks in the job or whether you're looking to get right to the top Don't get left behind, set out on the Fast Track today. For more resources, log on to the series website at www.fast-track-me.com. **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER** The Fast Track books provide you with a complete resource to get ahead as a manager faster. They bring together the latest business thinking, cutting edge online material and all the practical techniques you need to fast track your career. Specially designed to help you learn what you need to know and to develop the skills you need to get ahead, each book is broken down into 4 key areas: Awareness - find out where you are now and what you need to do to improve Business building - the tools and techniques you need to build up your skills Career development- learn the steps you should take now if you want to get ahead Director's toolkit - tips to get you to the top. And make sure you stay there! Fast Track features include: The Fast Track Top 10 a concise, cutting edge summary of the information you need to shine Quick Tips and FAQs a short cut to practical advice from people who have been there before you and succeeded Real life stories to give examples of what works and critically, what doesn't Practical career guidance including a framework of objectives for your first 10 weeks in a new role Expert Voices to give you the state of the art view from today's leading experts To complement the Fast Track to Success Series there is a custom-designed, highly interactive online resource at www.Fast-Track-Me.com log on now to get on the Fast Track today.

From the Back Cover **GET THE RESULTS YOU WANT IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT. FAST.** Projects are there to deliver measurable benefits and value to an organization. Delivering on time and on budget is important, but to be an effective project manager you need to focus on the business need rather than the process of getting there. **Project Management: Fast Track to Success** shows you how to integrate core best-practice tools with broader business needs. It will teach you the key skills you need to excel in project management and accelerate your own career development. It includes: Project management in a nutshell a series of frequently asked questions to give you a concise overview of the subject The top 10 tools and techniques you can use to help you develop your approach to project management Simple checklists to help you identify the strengths and weaknesses of your abilities and those of your team Advice on leading your team how to decide your leadership style and build your team Tips on how to progress your career, whether it's your first 10 weeks in the job or you're looking to get right to the top Don't get left behind set out on the Fast Track today. About the Author Patrick Harper-Smith is one of the founding directors of Project Leaders International Ltd a consulting organization that works with client companies in the areas of training, consulting, and supporting software. He works with clients to establish, expand, and diversify their businesses through the application of strategy, project management processes, and innovation strategies. Patrick has had a varied international career within the travel, financial services, and consulting industries. At U.S. consulting firm Kepner-Tregoe, he managed and developed highly profitable operations in the Southeast Asian region. He also worked for Jacques Borel, founding and developing their voucher business in Hong Kong. At American Express he was Director of Training for the whole of South-East Asia (600 offices in Asia-Pacific and the marketing of the Corporate Card in ten Asian markets). Patrick gained an associate degree from Universit  de Paris and is a program director on the Project Leaders International strategy and innovation and project leaders programs. He is also PRINCE2 qualified. Simon Derry is also a director of Project Leaders International Ltd. He is a professional consultant with over 15 years' experience working with leading organizations in a variety of industry sectors and management levels. Following graduation from the University College of Swansea, Simon attended the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and then served five years as an officer with the Royal Regiment of Artillery. In 1993 he joined the NHS as directorate manager at Northwick Park Hospital NHS Trust. He then became customer service manager for Psion in 1995, the leading hand-held computing company in the world at the time, where he established the customer services, technical support, and helpdesk operations. In 1998 he joined an international management consultancy and training firm where his remit was the design, development and implementation of service improvement projects with various clients worldwide, including Dell, Sun Microsystems, Siebel, Cisco, and other IT and telecom companies. He has detailed knowledge of the incident

management and problem management aspects of the ITIL framework and is PRINCE2 accredited. Simon also has an MBA from Henley Management College (now Henley Business School), where he focused on project management selection systems and creativity and innovation in the workplace.