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Making Things Happen: Mastering Project Management (Theory In Practice)



Synopsis

In the updated edition of this critically acclaimed and bestselling book, Microsoft project veteran Scott Berkun offers a collection of essays on field-tested philosophies and strategies for defining, leading, and managing projects. Each essay distills complex concepts and challenges into practical nuggets of useful advice, and the new edition now adds more value for leaders and managers of projects everywhere. Based on his nine years of experience as a program manager for Internet Explorer and lead program manager for Windows and MSN, Berkun explains to technical and non-technical readers alike what it takes to get through a large software or web development project. Making Things Happen doesn't cite specific methods, but focuses on philosophy and strategy. Unlike other project management books, Berkun offers personal essays in a comfortable style and easy tone that emulate the relationship of a wise project manager who gives good, entertaining and passionate advice to those who ask. Topics in this new edition include: How to make things happen Making good decisions Specifications and requirements Ideas and what to do with them How not to annoy people Leadership and trust The truth about making dates What to do when things go wrong Complete with a new forward from the author and a discussion guide for forming reading groups/teams, Making Things Happen offers in-depth exercises to help you apply lessons from the book to your job. It is inspiring, funny, honest, and compelling, and definitely the one book that you and your team need to have within arm's reach throughout the life of your project. Coming from the rare perspective of someone who fought difficult battles on Microsoft's biggest projects and taught project design and management for MSTE, Microsoft's internal best practices group, this is valuable advice indeed. It will serve you well with your current work, and on future projects to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Okay, let's get the one downer about the book out of the way; it's a second edition of Scott'sÂ The Art of Project Management (Theory in Practice (O'Reilly)). Not sure why the name was changed but it might confuse some folks. Okay, it confused me, not sure about anyone else. If you've recently read the first edition then you may want to borrow someone's copy to go over the exercises/discussion at the end of each chapter. If you haven't read the first edition, you're in for a great time! This isn't a reference book, nor is it a cheat-sheet for passing your PMP. Scott writes as friends chat over coffee. To really "get it" you need that same head game. Find your personal motivation for making things happen, either at work or in your life, and slowly reflect on a single chapter over a hot cup of joe. Even better, find a couple friends who are just as success driven as you and work through the exercises together. My introversion is so strong that last sentence was almost painful to write, but a deeply reflective level of mental processing is what you need for this book. When you have a chapter in your head you can go over the events of the past week and generally find ways you could have handled something better. Write them down, go implement the ideas, and keep doing that as your success rate grows. Use the exercises as dry-run scenarios and really put some thought into them. Build your experience and expertise in the shadows; when the spotlight is on you'll be ready to make things happen in a big way.

There is a lot of praise out there for Scott Berkun and this book in particular. I feel a bit silly adding to the list of reviews, but I decided to go forward anyway when I tasked myself with writing the best review ever. I think a lot of us are looking to figure out what is the best in a fast fashion. Word of mouth is always king, so reviews come as close as they can. So, why read Making Things Happen?- Note that it is the new edition of The Art of Project Management.- You will gain personal motivation to make things happen either at work or in life.- The book covers how to be a great project manager, from gathering ideas to managing teams and schedules.- It may not be all new news, but it's all the best management practices in one well-designed book.- He introduces several key concepts and brings perspective to areas that may seem like common sense, but as the wise saying goes: "We need not be so much instructed but reminded."- This book is more than just an overview, but you do need to continue to learn. For more in-depth looks into project management,

one can read up on the Agile Manifesto, Lean Kanban principles; SEI's CRM for risk management; andÂ The Practice of Creativity: A Manual for Dynamic Group Problem-Solving- Scott Berkun's style of writing is really wonderful. His voice is both practical and vivid, engaging and clear. His level of expertise in communicating what it means to be a great project manager has transcended from author to teacher, which means you know he's good!! hope you find this review helpful. Now, go make things happen!

In the field of project management, 'Making Things Happen: Mastering Project Management' is one of the finest books I have ever had the chance to peruse. From gathering ideas to managing teams and schedules, everything and anything is in this book that is a MUST BUY for all project managers or group leaders that want to update or learn new techniques for creating widgets in the real world and doing so efficiently and successfully. I think a chapter overview would be helpful to help the reader get an idea of the wonderful content contained within:

01. History of Project Management
- I - PLANS
02. Schedules
03. What To Do
04. Vision
05. Ideas and how they come about
06. What do to with your great idea
- I - SKILLS
07. Writing good specifications
08. Good decision-making
09. Communication and relationships
10. Process, Email, Meetings - Don't waste people's time
11. When things go wrong
- III - MANAGEMENT
12. Leadership & Trust
13. Making things happen
14. Middle-game strategy
15. End-game strategy
16. Power and Politics

I was originally going to Highly Recommend this book but I think it's so fantastic I'm going to up it to HPR. If you are any way related to making progress at your job or possibly even life this can be useful, this book is a must read... NOW.***** HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION

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