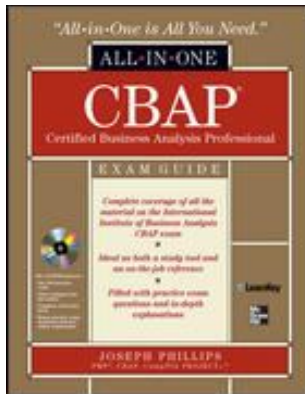


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *CBAP, Certified Business Analysis Professional*

Authors: Joseph Phillips, PMP, CBAP, CompTIA PROJECT+

Publisher: McGraw Hill

List Price: US\$49.99 (477 pages) hardcover

Publication Date: August 2009

ISBN: 978-0-07-162669-9

Reviewer: Carol Kacinko

Review Date: October 2009

Introduction

CBAP, Certified Business Analysis Professional by Joseph Phillips serves as both an exam guide for the Certified Business Analysis Professional certification exam and a reference for business analysis. Joseph Phillips states in the preface that the intended two purposes of his book; 1) to help people pass the CBAP exam, and 2) to 'help business analysts become better business analysts'.

My purpose for reviewing this book was to gain a better understanding of the CBAP certification process. This understanding enables Business Analysts to not only be able to pass the certification exam, but also provides an insight of the job tasks performed by a Business Analyst.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book is broken into the Introduction, Chapters 1 through 10, a Glossary, and a CD supplied that also contains CBAP video training along with an electronic copy of the book itself.

Within the Introduction, a CBAP Exam Readiness Checklist provides the percentage of questions contained on the exam per Knowledge Area with a cross reference as to which chapter each of the Knowledge Areas is explained. This chart provides a concise, short definition of which Knowledge Areas to concentrate to pass the exam.

Included within each chapter are 'Note' statements that the author considers very relevant, Key Terms, Questions and Answers, and a Chapter Summary.

Chapter 1: Earning the Certified Business Analysis Professional Certification: reviews the certification application process, the necessary prerequisites, and how to complete this process to qualify for the certification. Joseph recommends joining the International Institute of Business Analysts, describes the benefits of membership with the continued requirements to maintain the certification after passing the exam. He also differentiates a Business Analyst from a Project Manager. This chapter provides a good synopsis of the credentials and application process necessary to pass the certification exam.

Chapters 2 through 9 define the Knowledge Areas and tasks performed within each of these as a Business Analyst. This section provides an excellent reference as to the job function of a Business Analyst, describing how-to's in performing the role.

Chapter 10: *Passing the CBAP Examination* provides techniques on preparation on passing the CBAP exam, how to create study sheets, some test-taking secrets, the CBAP objectives and a summary of CBAP key facts. The intent of this chapter is to provide the reader with tips and techniques on how to study, prepare for and pass the exam.

A Glossary of terminology, an Index and a List of Figures contained on the CD provided at the end of this book follow the Appendices. The List of Figures contain a cross reference to the chapters in which it represents.

Highlights: What I liked!

CBAP, Certified Business Analysis Professional provides a good concise reference on the role and responsibilities of a Business Analyst, while supplying a good reference for this job function. The material is laid out in a concise manner so that once the reader understands the intent of the book, they can easily use this as a reference guide.

The supplemental CD includes CBAP video training as well as an electronic version of the book itself. Once the reader has an understanding of this book, the CD can provide a quick reference to the application of the techniques identified within the book.

Who might benefit from *CBAP, Certified Business Analysis Professional*

The practicing Business Analyst could benefit from the understanding the role, responsibilities and techniques for performing this function. Joseph Phillips provides not only a good study guide for the CBAP certification exam, but the book can be used as a source of reference while performing daily activities within this role.

Conclusion

Overall, *CBAP, Certified Business Analysis Professional* accomplishes its stated purpose of providing an exam cram guide for taking the CBAP exam. The supplemental CD provides a quick reference that can be used by the practitioner.

About the Reviewer:



Carol Kacinko



Carol Kacinko is an IT Consulting Executive with over 30 years, specializing in Data Management and IT Management. She has led multi-million dollar, multi-year projects; one awarded the 'Smithsonian Institute Award for Technological Innovation', established Project Management Offices (PMO) where one CIO was recognized in the 'Top 10 CIO's of the Year' for the Governance implemented, established strategy and led design through implementation of successful Business Intelligence solutions to major corporations. As Principal of her own consulting company she has provided services to Fortune 500 companies and Federal Government Agencies specializing in Project Management, Business Intelligence, Data Architecture and Enterprise Architecture. Carol has provided instruction for both Oracle and IBM in all Data Base Administration curriculum and Business Intelligence. Carol can be contacted at ckacinko@kacinko.com.