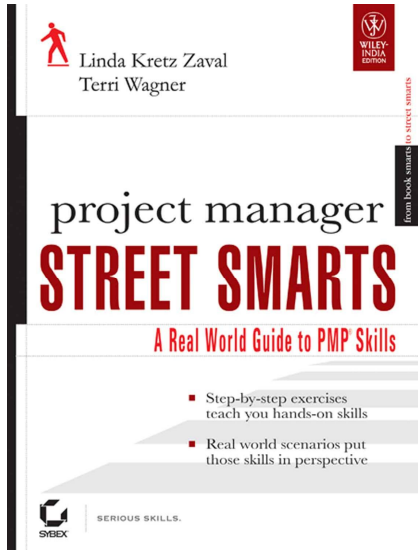


## PM World Today Book Review



**Book Title:** *Project Manager Street Smarts: A Real World Guide to PMP Skills*

**Authors:** Zaval, Linda Kretz; Wagner, Terri

**Publisher:** Sybex, Wiley Publishing, Inc.

**List Price:** US\$29.99

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**Reviewer:** Joshua Levy

**Review Date:** November 2009

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### Introduction to the Book

Street Smarts targets project managers who are both new and veterans to the profession. The book can also be used as a study guide for the PMP, although it is not entirely dedicated to the PMP exam as the authors spend a great deal of effort adding depth to the phases of a project.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The book is structured such that the objectives of the topic are outlined before each section. Knowledge checks frequently appear to help ensure the reader understands the objectives and the content. A scenario about the content is described, followed by any durations, setup needed, and any caveats to the scenario. The procedure and details follow. Explanations of the content appear to match the scenario.

### Highlights: What I liked!

The writing style is easy to read and coincides smoothly with the scenarios and solutions throughout the book. The heavy structure of project management has been made quite simpler and almost fun to read compared to other texts I have

been reading about the same topics. The approach they have selected is very user-friendly and actually helps guide how to examine current projects.

The scenarios they put together are great examples of project management as they helped make the process more meaningful and personal. Their voices were actually talking to the reader outside of a lecture-toned box. Even the Testing Your Knowledge questions were easy to read and understand what was being asked.

On a personal note, I have trouble understanding procurements as I do not have a direct role in this process in my current position. The Bud Bergstrom scenario was very helpful for me as I began to further understand procurement.

### **Shortfalls: What was Missing!**

The solutions were great, and I think I would have liked the solutions to be at the end of the chapter/section as opposed to the Appendix.

### **Who might benefit from the Book**

Other project managers, new or old, and individuals studying for the PMP can gain greater depth about the content. Street Smarts is beneficial for students who need a little more insight into the content of project management without the lecture-tone attached.

### **Conclusion**

For students who need a break from a standard textbook delivery this book provides reprieve.

*More information about the book can be found at*  
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470479590.html>

**About the Reviewer:*****Joshua Levy****Reviewer*

**Joshua Levy** is currently a senior project manager for alternate assessments with Pearson. Pearson is the Texas Education Agency's contractor for the state assessment program. Joshua is currently enrolled in the Executive MBA Online Program with the University of Texas at Dallas. He has a master's degree in educational administration from Texas State University, and his undergraduate degree is in elementary education/special education from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (USA). Joshua spent 8 and half years as a special education teacher and as an assistant principal prior to joining Pearson. He lives in Austin, Texas, USA with his wife and two children.