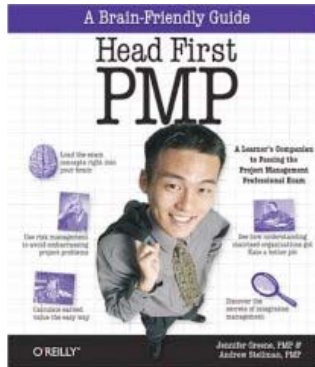


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *Head First PMP: A Brain Friendly Guide to Passing the PMP Exam (Head First)*

Authors: Jennifer Greene, PMP and Andrew Stellman, PMP

Publisher: O'Reilly Media, Inc.

List Price: \$49.99

Publication Date: 2007

ISBN: 0-596-10234-8

Reviewer: Donald Gubbins, PMP

Review Date: November 2007

Introduction to the Book

This book is written as part of the O'Reilly Head First series of books. The authors wrote this book to enable professionals to better prepare for the Project Management Institute's Project Management Professional (PMP) or Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) examinations. The book is intended to supplement the Project Management Institute's Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK). Thus the book focuses on the examination and is not intended as either a project management reference book or an introductory book to project management.

The authors are themselves PMP certified and have a project management training and services consulting practice. This is the second O'Reilly book published on project management by the authors.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book begins with an introduction that explains the purpose of the PMP examination and the PMI project management approach in general. The authors state that the book's chapters are organized along the same topic structure as the PMBOK guide: Organizations, framework, process framework, integration management, etc... This simplifies using the book as you can just go chapter by chapter back and forth from the PMBOK to the Head First PMP book.

Highlights: What I liked!

The authors use what they term “metacognition” as their teaching method. So they use many visual illustrations and cues along with a conversational style and exercise activities to engage the reader’s attention. The examples they use to illustrate their points tend to have emotional overtones in order to get a visceral response from the reader.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

The non-linear presentation of the material (compared to the normal book) is both the book’s strength and weakness. The ‘metacognition’ format of the book with its illustrations and informal organization can be a little annoying at first. But almost every page has a topic heading that helps keep the reader oriented and eventually the format becomes more comfortable.

Who might benefit from the Book

This book is a useful tool for preparing for the PMP examination. In the reviewer’s opinion it is most suitable for readers:

- Preparing for the PMP or CAPM examinations
- Looking for a simpler companion exposition of the PMBOK guide
- Comfortable with non-linear learning

Conclusion

This was one of several books that the reviewer used to prepare and pass his PMP examination. The reviewer finds the book suitable as a primary source (along with the PMBOK) for anyone studying for the PMP or CAPM examinations. It has a deceptively simple yet effective teaching methodology that complements the terse PMP guide.



Donald Gubbins
Contributing Book Reviewer



Donald Gubbins is an experienced insurance, credit, and banking IT consultant and applications manager in Columbus, Ohio. Don is PMP certified and has a Magna Cum Laude Bachelor of Science degree from DeVry University of Columbus. Also, Don received a Graduate Certificate in Project Management in 2007 from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). He expects to graduate with his MBA from the UTD PMI-certified graduate project management program in December 2008. Don can be contacted by e-mail at dqubbins@columbus.rr.com.