



## PMF Book Review

**Book Title:** Managing Agile Projects  
**Author:** Kevin Aguanno, PMP, MAPM  
**Publisher:** Multi-Media Publications, Inc.  
**List Price:** \$39.95 (US), \$49.95 (Canada); eBook \$29.95 (US)  
**Publication Date:** 2005, Paperback  
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**Reviewer:** Ishkhan Topalian  
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## Introduction

This book is an introduction to the world of managing agile projects. It has just enough detail to keep the reader's attention and does an overall good job in giving the reader some tools and techniques to take away from the reading and be able to apply them to everyday projects. The book is specific as to when agile methods should be used, when change occurs in projects for example, and also cautions the reader that there is no cookie cutter approach in using agile methods. It is up to project manager to assess the specific project they are working on and apply only those agile methods which would benefit that project.

## Overview of Book's Structure

The book split into 4 parts with individual chapters dedicated to each part. The chapters throughout the book have a variety of contributors with Mr. Aguanno being the editor of the whole book. These resources and their bios are listed at the end of the book along with their credentials, books/articles they may have authored, and links to any related websites.

The four parts of the book are as follows:

1. Intro to Agile Methods: this part defines the term "agile" in the context of project management; what the different agile methods are; their benefits; and, who would benefit from reading the book and learning agile methods of project management.
2. Managing Agile Projects is Different: This part describes the common characteristics that may arise as a result of dealing with change.
3. Agile Management Techniques: this part discusses all the different techniques that can be used in great detail.

4. There Are No Silver Bullets: this part describes on how to use the different techniques and tailor them to the specific needs of the project manager for his/her own agile project.

### **Highlights: What I liked!**

Considering the author's professional background and the complexity of the topic, the book was very easy to read and understand for any level of project managers. I found this a plus as I do not have any formal technical education or training and would otherwise find it very difficult to comprehend.

The author's choice to compile the information into four parts and then subdivide them into detailed chapters was a good choice.

The author's choice to use tables, charts and bulleted/bolded definition sections was a great addition to the text.

### **Shortfalls: What was missing!**

As a non-software/non-technical project manager, I found that I could not relate too much to the author's use of examples relating specifically to his experiences with software engineering and the use of agile methods. Although, the author did include one example of how an agile project was managed as a result of changes in law due to legislative actions which I could easily relate to my everyday work.

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

I saw this book as being beneficial for all types of professionals involved in projects:

- Portfolio/Program managers
- Project managers of all different experience levels
- Business Analysts
- Quality Assurance managers
- All levels of functional managers especially those who manage key project resources

### **Conclusion**

~~Overall, I thought the book was very informative. It dealt with a topic I had not yet read about in my studies of project management. I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone interested in learning new methods of project management, especially those who are involved in software engineering. There is a vast resource library the reader can use to further enhance their learning of agile methods and project management.~~

*Editor's note: All author royalties from the book "Managing Agile Projects" are being donated to the International Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund ([www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)) as it was published just six days after the tsunami that devastated southeast Asia and all of the book's contributors wanted to do their share to help*

#### About the Reviewer:



***Ishkhan Topalian***



**Ishkhan Topalian** is the Compliance Project Manager for an auto insurance company and manages all projects that result because of changes in laws resulting from legislative, judicial, or regulatory actions. He has been handling projects for the past 4 years in this same capacity. Mr. Topalian is enrolled in the Project Management EMBA program at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and just completed the PM Certificate phase (year 1) of the program.