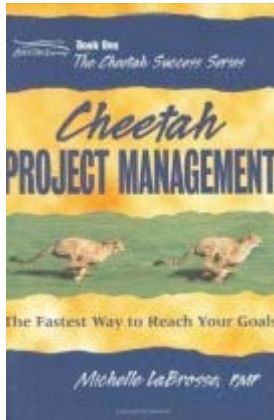


## PM World Today Book Review



**Book Title:** *Cheetah Project Management: The Fastest Way To Reach Your Goals*  
**Authors:** Michelle LaBrosse, PMP  
**Publisher:** MAKLAF Press LLC  
**List Price:** US\$ 31.95  
**Publication Date:** 2008  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9761749-5-0  
**Reviewer:** Karen Jefferson  
**Review Date:** May 2008

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### Introduction to the Book

The book is a detailed, step-by-step how-to guide for fast project management. It takes many of the basic principles of the PMBOK (Project Management Body of Knowledge) and breaks it down into a step-by-step guide with tools and templates for re-launching a project in trouble or launching a new project using Cheetah's Accelerated Project Management methodology.

### Overview of Book's Structure

Book One of the Cheetah Project Management series is organized very logically to enable project managers to follow steps for completing the accelerated project management process. The Cheetah way, the history, the culture is explained in the preface and opening chapter. The book is organized with details and content that substantiates this as a step by step reference guide. The next eight chapters walks the reader through the project management process from initiating the project through scheduling and budgeting the project and finally tracking the project's progress.

This book restates in 215 pages the industry's basic project management elements such as project agreement, team building, planning, risks, budget etc. to level set the reader. There are Cheetah templates, guidelines that make this a practical "how to" project management reference guide. The book closes with a lessons learned section and also includes a completed project agreement as part of the appendix.

### Highlights: What I liked!

The book documents a formal process that is accepted in the project management community as a legitimate fast track process. Often as experienced project managers we lead these activities, but this was the first book I have read where nearly all of the "how to" steps have been consolidated in a single reference guide.

Ms. LaBrosse does an excellent job documenting steps/techniques for accelerating a project. This book provides a "repeatable" process that can be used by inexperienced and experienced project managers alike.

I especially applaud the statement about project scope creep or feature creep in terms of "we can make it better". There comes a time when you have to freeze the changes and move forward.

The appendix gives an excellent example of a completed agreement (or charter) which I will definitely use.

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

My experience has been that if a project team successfully turns around a troubled project or completes a project well ahead of time, then additional performance compensation may come into play. Since this has become such a polarizing topic it would have been helpful to include a position on this subject. Certainly each situation warrants its own evaluation and there are no hard and fast rules but it would be good to see some dialogue on the subject of performance bonuses, based on the previously established success criteria of the project .

I find it helpful for the team members to be made aware repeatedly of the project sponsor's "business goals". While the book discusses the importance of the project sponsor's role, frequent status updates and sponsor communication, I feel more time and energy must be spent while in the midst of the project restating, reemphasizing, and reorienting the project team on the business objectives of the project.

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

- Project managers with a project in trouble that needs to be quickly re-launched.
- Inexperienced project managers. This book gives a step-by-step guide on how to do it right the first time.
- PMP's who need a refresher on the core principles of good project management.
- Project managers who remember what to do, but need templates and tools to expedite the process.

### **Conclusion**

While certainly applicable in all industries, I think this book is extremely valuable in today's Information Technology (IT) world where large, complex projects often go awry and must be stopped, assessed and quickly re-launched. The book has great information and provides a step by step "fast track" process and I deemed this extremely useful.

Info about the book: [http://astore.amazon.com/cheetahstore-20/105-5479358-8034862?\\_encoding=UTF8&node=0](http://astore.amazon.com/cheetahstore-20/105-5479358-8034862?_encoding=UTF8&node=0)

### About the Reviewer:



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**Karen Jefferson** is Vice-President and co-owner of DJEnterprises, Inc., an IT Management and Consulting firm based in Coppell, Texas, USA. Karen is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with twenty-eight years of professional experience in IT leadership and project management. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Dallas and a Master of Science (MS) degree in Administrative Sciences from The University of Texas at Dallas with a certificate in Project Management. Karen completed her PMP certification in 2006. Karen began her professional career as a Systems Engineer at EDS, continued in all areas of systems development and management at Frito-Lay, specialized in call center implementations and support at BNSF Railway and has been consulting for 10 years leading major projects for AmeriServe, Cadbury Schweppes, Dell, Verizon and others. She is currently leading separation activities and an EDI expansion project at the Dr Pepper Snapple Group in Plano, TX. Karen can be contacted at [karen.jefferson@djenterprises.com](mailto:karen.jefferson@djenterprises.com),