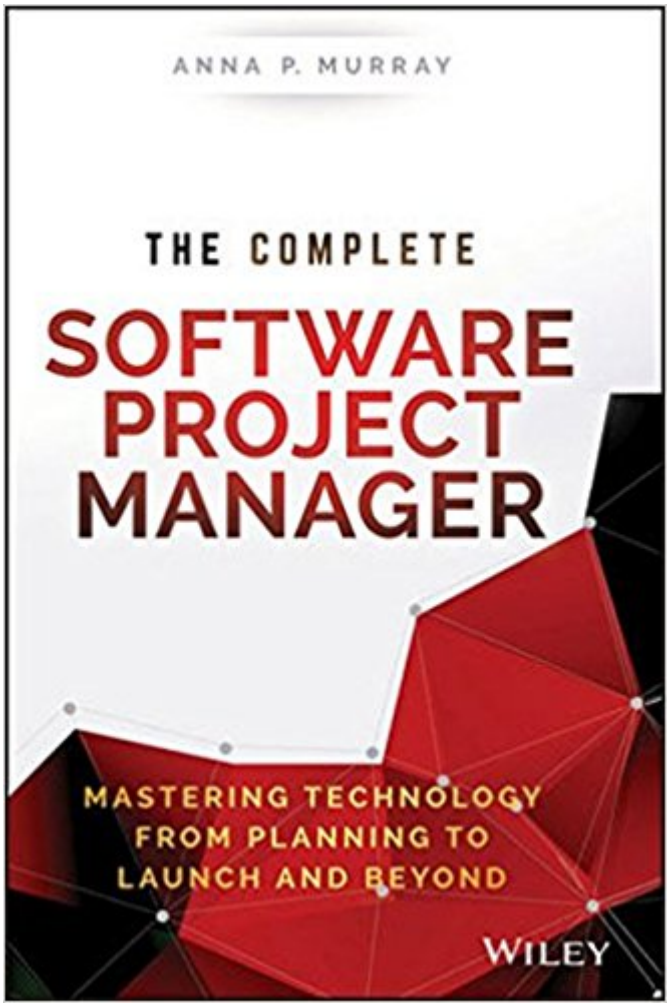
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The Complete Software Project Manager: Mastering Technology From Planning To Launch And Beyond (Wiley CIO)



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Synopsis

Your answer to the software project management gap The Complete Software Project Manager: From Planning to Launch and Beyond addresses an interesting problem experienced by today's project managers: they are often leading software projects, but have no background in technology. To close this gap in experience and help you improve your software project management skills, this essential text covers key topics, including: how to understand software development and why it is so difficult, how to plan a project, choose technology platforms, and develop project specifications, how to staff a project, how to develop a budget, test software development progress, and troubleshoot problems, and what to do when it all goes wrong. Real-life examples, hints, and management tools help you apply these new ideas, and lists of red flags, danger signals, and things to avoid at all costs assist in keeping your project on track. Companies have, due to the nature of the competitive environment, been somewhat forced to adopt new technologies. Oftentimes, the professionals leading the development of these technologies do not have any experience in the tech fieldÃ¢â ¬â •and this can cause problems. To improve efficiency and effectiveness, this groundbreaking book offers guidance to professionals who need a crash course in software project management. Review the basics of software project management, and dig into the more complicated topics that guide you in developing an effective management approach Avoid common pitfalls by perusing red flags, danger signals, and things to avoid at all costs Leverage practical roadmaps, charts, and step-by-step processes Explore real-world examples to see effective software project management in action The Complete Software Project Manager: From Planning to Launch and Beyond is a fundamental resource for professionals who are leading software projects but do not have a background in technology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many companies rush into adopting new technologies to both gain an edge on their longtime competitors as well as outpace the startups. The result is a widespread business imperative to complete a multitude of software development projects, but oftentimes the lead on development doesn't have the necessary project management know-how or experience—and this can undermine the entire initiative. The Complete Software Project Manager was written to ensure this doesn't happen. From Cloud-database migrations, to multi- platform websites, to real-time customer- service applications, and more—this is the go-to guide for successfully managing a software development project for all. Directors, managers, C-Level executives, and even seasoned project managers can take this practical guide into every meeting, from inception to post-launch, to effectively define, staff, budget, and run medium- to large-sized projects. Step-by-step advice from an award-winning technology consultant lets you operate with confidence knowing you are using the same knowledge and skill set as a top expert in the industry, including how to: Understand software development and why it is so difficult Plan a project, choose technology platforms, and develop project specifications Staff a project, develop a budget, test software development progress, and troubleshoot problems Deal with it when it all goes wrong Read cover to cover, this thorough treatment fully prepares you to lead for success with rarely taught best practices explained in easy-to-understand language fortified with hints and real-life examples. Keep this book with you through the entire project for its powerful management tools and handy lists of red flags, danger signals, and what to avoid at all costs to stay on track. For unmatched reliability, convenience, and go-to problem solving specifics on managing software development projects, turn to The Complete Software Project Manager: Mastering Technology from Planning to Launch and Beyond.

SPECIALIZED GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS The Complete Software Project Manager: Mastering Technology from Planning to Launch and Beyond is the must-have resource for every professional leading software projects. Everyone, from those with no background in technology to seasoned project managers, will find valuable advice to improve

their process. Written specifically for day-to-day use on the job, this one-of-a-kind resource addresses the factors contributing to disastrous technology projects by providing exclusive coverage on how to successfully roll out and lead those types of projects. Even if you're already in the middle of an initiative that isn't going well, this groundbreaking guidebook gives you the crash course you need to turn things around, including the basics of software project management, clarity through real-world examples, advanced topics for developing an effective management approach, and the hard-to-see pitfalls to avoid. Boost your management skills to another level with insight found nowhere else, such as: The five most common project hazards and what to do about them Identifying and trouble-shooting the three most serious project problems The single-most important key to modern project management Don't let the technology gap stand in your way of leadership excellence with The Complete Software Project Manager.

I've worked in project management for a systems integrator, and don't have a technical background to speak a common language with the programmers. This book was a fairly excellent explanation of the process, start to finish, for the business-minded manager having to grapple with an IT project. Why is it so difficult to translate between technical concepts and terminology, and business users? Why is it so difficult to control budgets on IT projects and why do they always go over, while so rarely delivering on the promised functionality? How can I recognize when the technical team is obfuscating or avoiding telling me what I need to know?Anna Murray has done a good job of laying out all the pieces in laymen's terms. She explains what should be happening during each stage of a project, and provides insight into the various reasons that 'what should be' and 'what is' so rarely match up. It is a good, fast-reading, high-level introduction to software projects.I found myself wishing she had gone a little deeper in certain areas, such as identifying scope creep situations, testing and bug clean up, and some of the topics covered in the final chapter surrounding UAT details. But on the whole, I really enjoyed the book and found it very helpful in capturing the end-to-end project snapshot.

The Complete Software Project Manager is a must read for any executive involved in software projects. Don't stop there, though, the project team(s) should read this book too! Murray's extensive technology and project management experience is clear as she explains projects in an easy-to-understand manner, providing real-world examples to convey specific points. Even if you have experience working with software project teams, this book will help clarify the project roles and the individuals that fit those roles, outline the issues that invariably arise during most projects, and

provide ways to avoid or work through those issues. Murray's writing style is refreshing--honest and straightforward, with the perfect amount of humor.

Are you a business leader, programmer, project manager, or program manager? If you are, then this book is for you. Author Anna P. Murray Nancy C. Muir, has written an outstanding book on software project management by giving you processes and advice that is appropriate for medium-to-large projects.Author Murray, begins by defining software development as any activity that involves the creation or customization of software. The author also provides you with an understanding of Agile and Waterfall, which are two ways of approaching projects and are foundational to good software project management. Then, she continues by introducing you to another aspect of project approach, which deals with the high-level technology decisions that must be made. The author then covers how the business and its technology advisor need to have one clear voice and a clear direction; and, this needs to be communicated to the teams underneath. Next, she discusses how you must have a trusted technology partner on board to help advise you on business decisions. In addition, the author looks at final discovery, which simply means the last phase that is necessary to get to the detailed plan of action. She also gives you some practical advice that will help you through the process of budgeting, in order to give you a chance to reach an accurate budget. Next, the author recommends that you should always budget for your risk factors and be prepared for the contingency to be spent. In addition, she suggests ways to structure your meetings; as well as, agendas that are good to follow. Then, the author continues by discussing that if a project is going well, business requirements have already been collected, in the most highly visual way possible, so that the programmers have a clear roadmap of what they need to do. She then gets you acquainted with the projectÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s first third, which is usually occupied with preparation, which involves: roles, team building, and conflict resolution; discovery; risk identification; and, business requirements. Next, the author takes a step back and looks at problemsÃƒâ Ã Â- what happens when the software doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t shape up and becomes a risk factor. Finally, she explains how the incorporation of business users into the prioritization of development work often produces a very efficient and collaborative environment where everyone knows whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s important to get done and why.This excellent book has provided a framework for managing software projectsÃƒâ Ã Â- the things the author has seen time and time again in website launches, database migrations, finance system replacements, custom n development, and packaged software deployments. In other words, this great book has pragmatic stuff that you need to know: organizing and staffing a project; the common conflicts that

crop up; planning; risk management; and, of course, budgeting.

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