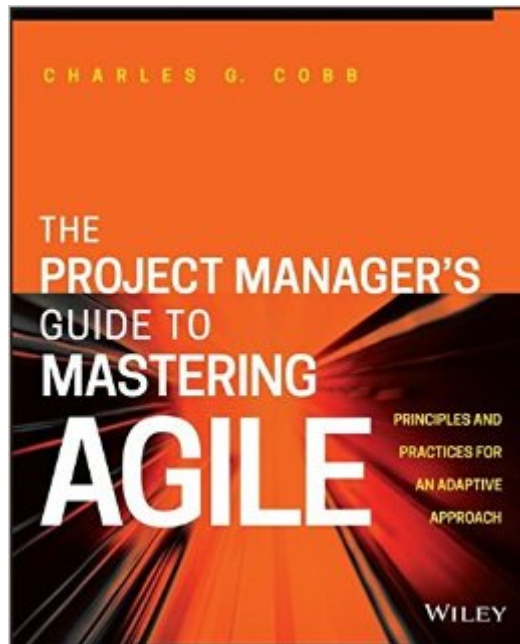# The Project Manager's Guide To Mastering Agile: Principles And Practices For An Adaptive Approach

# Synopsis

Streamline project workflow with expert agile implementation The Project Management Profession is beginning to go through rapid and profound transformation due to the widespread adoption of agile methodologies. Those changes are likely to dramatically change the role of project managers in many environments as we have known them and raise the bar for the entire project management profession; however, we are in the early stages of that transformation and there is a lot of confusion about the impact it has on project managers:  There are many stereotypes and misconceptions that exist about both Agile and traditional plan-driven project management, Agile and traditional project management principles and practices are treated as separate and independent domains of knowledge with little or no integration between the two and sometimes seen as in conflict with each other Agile and "Waterfall" are thought of as two binary, mutually-exclusive choices and companies sometimes try to force-fit their business and projects to one of those extremes when the right solution is to fit the approach to the project  Itâ ™s no wonder that many Project Managers might be confused by all of this!Â  This book will help project managers unravel a lot of the confusion that exists; develop a totally new perspective to see Agile and traditional plan-driven project management principles and practices in a new light as complementary to each other rather than competitive; and learn to develop an adaptive approach to blend those principles and practices together in the right proportions to fit any situation. There are many books on Agile and many books on traditional project management but whatâ ™s very unique about this book is that it takes an objective approach to help you understand the strengths and weaknesses of both of those areas to see how they can work synergistically to improve project outcomes in any project.Â  The book includes discussion topics, real world case studies, and sample enterprise-level agile frameworks that facilitate hands-on learning as well as an in-depth discussion of the principles behind both Agile and traditional plan-driven project management practices to provide a more thorough level of understanding. Â

# Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

QUICK SUMMARY: Despite the title, this book will acquaint you with agile project management, but the only way to master agile project management is by leading projects using agile methodologies. To that end, this book succeeds in providing a great overview of agile methodologies that any project manager ought to know.BACKGROUND: I hold both the Project Management Professional credential and a master's degree in project management from George Washington University. I've worked as a professional project manager for over ten years in an industry (IT) that I've worked in for 30 years. For nearly all of that time, I've worked on traditional, so-called "waterfall" projects, and continue to do so. Only now am I getting an opportunity to employ agile methodologies. This book is helpful to me in learning what those methodologies are, how to put them to use.WHAT I LIKE:- This book is written for graduate-level academics. It even comes with a full semester's course outline in Appendix D!

Having worked for a software company where we changed from waterfall to Agile methodologies, it was a long difficult road for many to make the change. Back in the day we needed a way to help us understand how to bridge this change; but we didn't have many books like this back then.Most chapters compare traditional project management to how agile changes these steps.In addition, there is some discussion on the pros and cons between waterfall versus agile, which I interpreted as one isn't necessarily better than the other. Rather, based on the pros and cons you may find waterfall fits the project better than agile and visa versa.For the SCUM process, the book provides a high-level overview chapter, which is helpful to those completely unfamiliar with these process.I work in a 40,000 employee company and we have a lot of employees with the role, title and/or certification of project manager. Yet, most can't get the job done and get hung up with all the documentation and task tracking responsibilities in place of actually driving a project to completion. What I like about this bridging between waterfall and agile, is the author is clear how documentation is less important and how a person should/could facilitate more (drive/lead the project less) in order

to get the project complete.I also really liked the case studies. Not just the typical "successful" case studies, but there is a chapter on the not so successful.OVERALL: If you are looking to better understand Agile and already have some project management experience, this is a good book that covers a lot of areas and ties your experiences together. If you are not familiar with Agile, you could just get a book on Agile and jump with both feet in.

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