

Three Worthwhile Books about the Project Milieu

Reviewed for SIGOOT by Conrad Weisert, November, 1997

Bruce F. Webster: *Pitfalls of Object-Oriented Development*, M&T Books, 1995, ISBN 1-55851-397-3, \$24.95.

Despite its title, not much in Webster's 250-page book is actually about OOT. If you substituted *client-server* or *event-driven* or just *large systems* for object-oriented, most of the content would still apply.

Despite the lack of specific OOT guidance, the advice Webster gives us is sound. Project managers and others responsible for important development projects, object-oriented or not, should read and re-read it.

The style is friendly and readable. The book ends with a good bibliography of both project management and OOA topics. (This book is available in the SIGOOT library.)

Recommended.

Edward Yourdon: *Death March-- The Complete Software Developer's Guide to Surviving "Mission Impossible Projects"*, Prentice Hall, 1997, ISBN 0-13-748310-4, \$24.95.

Yourdon's latest work is must reading. In 200 pages he captures the essence of the out-of-control, politically charged, high-pressure environments that all too often characterize today's major development projects. Although he offers no magic cure, he gives practical advice to professionals who find themselves trapped in such a situation.

OOT isn't a specific focus, but the kinds of project Yourdon discusses are often the visible ones where object-oriented techniques are being put to the test in an organization. When they ultimately fail, OOT gets the blame.

Very highly recommended

Gerald M. Weinberg: *Quality Software Management -- Volume 1, Systems Thinking*, Dorset House, 1992, ISBN 0-932633-22-6, \$40.00.

"Systems Thinking" doesn't begin to convey what this 300-page book is about. Weinberg has given us a superb book on *project management*.

This work is deeper than the other two reviewed here. It demands effort and concentration from the reader. That investment will be amply rewarded in the reader's enhanced understanding both of the project processes and of the organizational environment.

Each of the 18 chapters ends with:

- Helpful Hints and Suggestions
- Summary
- Practice (problems)

Highly recommended.