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Notes To A Software Team Leader: Growing Self Organizing Teams



Synopsis

Is your team agile and self organizing? What is your role as a leader? Team Leadership is the missing link that connects all the buzzwords you hear these days about unit testing, TDD, Continuous Integration, Scrum, XP and others, to the real world where actual people have to learn, implement, and mainly, believe and push for this stuff to happen. This book is meant for software team leaders, architects and anyone with a leadership role in the software business. Read advice from real team leaders, consultants and everyday gurus of management: Johanna Rothman, Uncle Bob Martin, Dan North, Kevlin Henney, Jurgen Appelo, Patrick Kua and many others. Each with their own little story and reason to say just one thing that matters the most to them about leading teams. See what it'll feel like if you do things wrong, and what you can do about things that might go wrong, before they happen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had great hopes for Notes to a Software Team Leader, but unfortunately ended up being

disappointed by this book and the advice it gives. Sure, it has useful tips, but then there are things (e.g. commitment language) that I just don't agree with. Also, the book is thinner than you think as the second half is actually filled with articles or blog posts. So, there wasn't a lot of meat in the book, unfortunately. The book is split into two parts: The book and the articles or blog posts. Half of the book is the actual book (only about 100 pages) and the other half is articles or blog posts collected by the author. The articles cover a very wide range of topics. Part #1 of the book consists of 4 sections: 1) Elastic Leadership, 2) The Survival Phase, 3) The Learning Phase, and 4) The Self-Organizing Phase. The Elastic Leadership section sets the tone and structure of the book by stating that leadership is situational and that it depends on the state of the team. The experience of the author is that teams go through 3 different phases, unsurprisingly: 1) Survival, 2) Learning, 3) Self-organizing, each having a section with one or more chapters related to the leader's role when the team is in that phase. The survival phase is when there is panic and no time to learn. The learning phase is when the team gradually learns to solve their own problems and the self-organizing phase is where the team is able to solve problems without your help. The author states that maybe 5% of the teams are in the self-organizing phase and the majority in the survival. He then goes on to explain the kind of leadership style you ought to use for each of these phases.

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