

## **Book Review: Essentials of Systems Analysis and Design: An international version**

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### **Book Information**

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## **BOOK REVIEW**

The fourth edition of *Essentials of Systems Analysis and Design* based on more than 50 years' experience in teaching systems analysis and design, emphasizing on hands-on and experimental learning of the concepts, skills and techniques that are required for an effective analysis and design of systems. The book addresses the three key factors any student need to be aware of in today's information and technology driven business: The knowledge on how to organize and access information strategically, the ability to work in a team and to use the Internet. It also combines depth of coverage with brevity by offering 10 chapters in five parts which cover the essentials of system design and analysis content without overwhelming the reader with unnecessary detail.

The organization is as follows:

- Part I: Foundations for System Development—gives an overview of systems development and previews the remainder of the book. The three chapters discuss the environment of systems development including a modern approach to systems and systems development as well as go through the sources of software. Furthermore, the reader gets a compact overview to the management of an information systems project.
- Part II: Systems Planning and Selection—covers how to assess project feasibility and build the baseline project plan. This section gives an insight into how to plan and to assess a development project.
- Part III: Systems Analysis—covers determining system requirements, process modelling, and conceptual modelling. After the system requirements are determined, the reader gets introduced to the modelling of processes and the conceptual data modelling. All these phases are discussed theoretically and afterwards applied on the Case company.
- Part IV: Systems Design—covers how to design the human interface and databases. This includes the design of forms, reports, determination of deliverables and outcomes as well as the design of the data base that is going to be used.
- Part V: Systems Implementation and Operation—covers system implementation, operation, closedown, and system maintenance. Here, there reader is going through the whole process of testing the software application, installation, documentation for users, training and support of users as well as conducting the maintenance of the system.

The book also includes two very supportive Appendices. Appendix A introduces the reader to object-oriented analysis and design by showing the tools that can be used for this purpose. This includes object as well as dynamic modelling. Appendix B discusses agile methodologies, which are development methodologies with short iterative cycles, extensive testing and active involvement of users.

All chapters are organized around the “systems development life cycle” (SDLC) providing a strong and systematic framework. There are also three fictional cases included which show the reader how systems analysis and design is applied in different business situations. The cases are accompanied with Internet coverage and features allowing the reader to follow the cases and recognizing how the Internet can affect the development of systems. Each chapter closes with an extensive selection of material that accommodates various learning and teaching styles. This includes key review points, a checkpoint of the key terms, review questions, problems and exercises, discussion questions as well as case problems.

As compared to previous editions, several revisions have been completed. This edition emphasizes on the current changes in systems analysis in greater depth and also discusses in more detail the issue on make versus buy in systems integration. Updates refer to project management, illustration of technology and the end-of-chapter running case. The references at the end of the book are grouped for each chapter and invite the interested reader for further investigations in the subject matter.

Although being technical, the book calls attention to a managerial approach for analyzing and designing system where the methods and principles of systems development are in the focus rather than specific tools of the field.

In teaching, the book can be combined with a comprehensive and flexible technology supported supplement package. Students are able to perform net searches, a glossary of terms as well as a glossary of acronyms. Useful web links in form of destinations are also included to help students explore systems analysis and design. The book is also designed for offering the course online as files are offered ready for upload.

All three authors are esteemed professors in the field and they offer with *Essentials of System Analysis and Design* the appropriate book for any educator offering a course in systems analysis and

design. The authors state that “the writing of the book has involved thousand of hours” (p. 25). One can say that this investment was worth it.