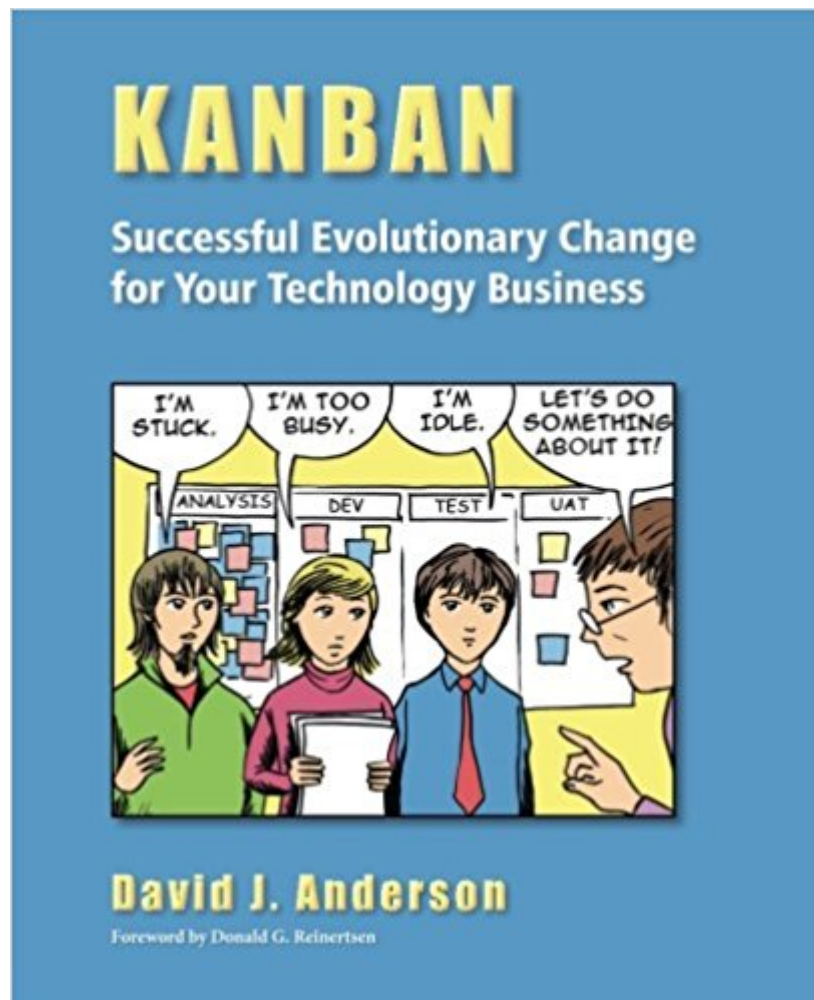




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Kanban: Successful Evolutionary Change For Your Technology Business



Synopsis

Kanban is becoming a popular way to visualize and limit work-in-progress in software development and information technology work. Teams around the world are adding kanban around their existing processes to catalyze cultural change and deliver better business agility. This book answers the questions: What is Kanban? Why would I want to use Kanban? How do I go about implementing Kanban? How do I recognize improvement opportunities and what should I do about them?

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Customer Reviews

David J. Anderson leads a management consulting firm focused on improving performance of technology companies. He has been in software development nearly 30 years and has managed teams on agile software development projects at Sprint, Motorola, Microsoft, and Corbis. David is credited with the first implementation of a kanban process for software development, in 2005. David was a founder of the Agile movement through his involvement in the creation of Feature Driven Development. He was also a founder of the Agile Project Leadership Network (APLN), a founding signatory of the Declaration of Interdependence, and a founding member of the Lean Software and Systems Consortium. He moderates several online communities for lean/agile development. He is the author of Agile Management for Software Engineering: Applying the Theory of Constraints for Business Results. Most recently, David has been focused on creating a synergy of the CMMI model for organizational maturity with Agile and Lean methods through projects with Microsoft and the SEI.

He is a co-author of the SEI's Technical Note "CMMI and Agile: Why not Embrace Both!" •
He is based in Sequim, Washington, USA.

I picked up this book when a co-worker introduced the concept at our company: If we're going to do it, I wanted to understand it. It was a relatively "light" read, and clearly explained a number of fundamentals that we weren't doing when we first started. Things like WIP limits (and the consequences of not having them) are clearly explained and examples from the author's experience are provided. I work in a development / support IT group (we support and enhance a suite of internally developed software applications). Using guidance from the book, we've slowly modified our processes and have achieved a moderate level of success and are continuing to improve as time goes on. We've now been using Kanban for a little over a year, and other groups in the company have started to ask for our help getting them started using similar processes.

My company has been attempting to use Scrum and not doing so well. I came across the concept of applying Lean and Kanban to our process, I believe this approach may be more successful for us. My research into using Kanban for software development was triggered by a Twitter post. When I began looking for books and other materials I could use to learn the process, "Kanban" by David Anderson was at the top of the must read list. I agree. This book provides a great description of how Kanban can be used for software development. I especially appreciate the real life examples of where this tool was applied and used successfully. The material in this book will be useful in making the case to my management and team. The one criticism that I would make is that the book sometimes seems to repeat itself. While the author may need to revisit some earlier concepts when presenting new ones, it might be possible to do so with a bit less repetitiveness.

I am new to this field of knowledge and yet, the style and the contents of this book was digestible. As a daily practitioner of different levels of support, defect resolving - a self managing all-in-one team - I've got hints from this book to implement my Kanban system. There were substantial amount of links to pieces of literature in the book, including personal Kanban. I've read the paperback version of the book first than decided to buy the Kindle version. The picture quality was not daunting in the paper version either, but in the Kindle book the pictures are useless. The picture format is jpeg and it has color information too, which adds up to space required and has no added value on the grayscale display. The text is unreadable on the pictures as jpeg is the worst lossy format for this purpose. The book's contents is superb. The practical advice in the book helps in

implementing your own Kanban. The theoretical background is strong and empowers the reader to dive in the cited literature on the field of SPC (statistical process control) and on other highlighted topics in the body of knowledge of management. The only problem I've found is the poor quality of pictures in the Kindle version. Hope it will get fixed!

Painted a much clearer picture for me how Kanban and Theory of Constraints could be applied to SW, and also more about the origins of Theory of Constraints in the study of statistical variation. Perhaps would be more useful for someone to have some exposure to TOC before reading this. The book offered interesting stories of the evolution of these techniques and how they were first applied to SW, albeit sounding a little self promoting.

Great book: I am not surprised as I have been a big fan of David Anderson's work for years. He again has done an excellent job making clear how to improve the performance of delivering software. The book illustrates how to use kanban in the software development process. His experience with and understanding of related topics such as Deming's management ideas, agile software development and theory of constraints provide an excellent base from which to explain the material. And his first hand experience adopting these ideas as a manager give him the ability to explain the strengths and weaknesses of various options. The book presents a reasoned explanation of what has worked in his experience. The book provides specific and useful guidance to those attempting to adopt kanban management in software development (as I am). The book is very well written and presents the material in a very easy to digest way, which I appreciate a great deal. It is so packed with information it is very difficult to mine even a significant portion of the value in one read. The organization allows for easy reference as you need to focus on any specific topic to find that topic and get an excellent review in minutes. The book is an excellent resource that is presented in a manner that will allow a leader to use it as a resource over the years. I highly recommend this book and believe it will take a place next to the Leader's Handbook, Improvement Guide, Peopleware, New Economics and a few other books I refer to often as I work. His previous book was also excellent. Agile Management for Software Engineering: Applying the Theory of Constraints for Business Results.

The book provides both a good introduction to kanban as a tool for continuous improvement and a good explanation about how to use it in software development projects. The reason I am not giving it 5 stars is because it is too repetitive sometimes. I believe the book could be shorter. Anyway, it

worths reading.

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