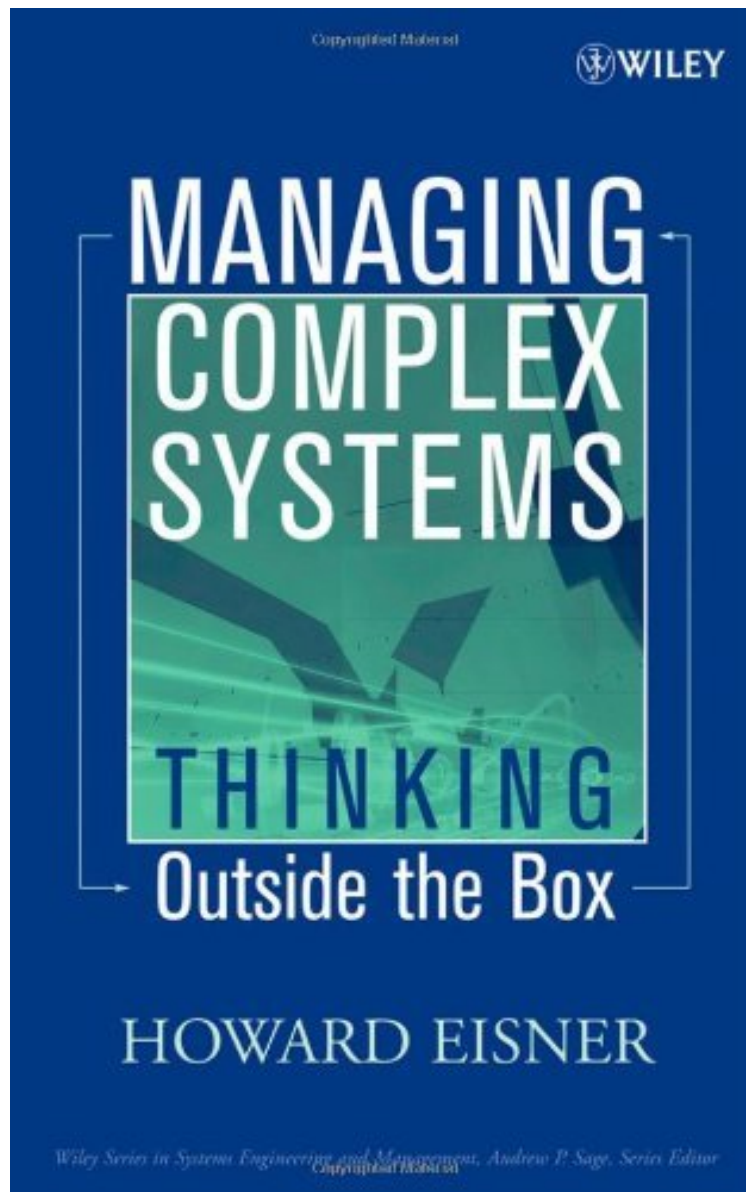


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Managing Complex Systems: Thinking Outside the Box (Wiley Series in Systems Engineering and Management)

Howard Eisner

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Howard Eisner : Managing Complex Systems: Thinking Outside the Box (Wiley Series in Systems Engineering and Management) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Managing Complex Systems: Thinking Outside the Box (Wiley Series in Systems Engineering and Management):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Systems Engineering: Intermediate to advanced level By Rafael C. Azevedo It is a great book, although I would not suggest as a first book on systems engineering and/or systems management (in this case I'd recommend the other book of the same author). Has some material on Complex and Systems of Systems, Software Reuse, and Off The Shelf Systems, and Managing its development. The book has two rather interesting chapters: i) 14 - "THINKING IN GROUPS": where it presents the differences of individual thinking as opposed to group thinking, as well as some commonly used methods. Unfortunately this chapter only scratches the surface of each topic (Dr. Eisner, please write a book on this subject!!); and ii) 15 - "WIDENING THE CIRCLE": where it presents some approaches (as the author refers), such as: TRIZ, Thinking like Leonardo, The Art of Problem Solving, Einstein, Breakthrough Thinking, Creativity, among others. It has no exercises at the end of each chapter. I recommend it for students, managers and practitioners. Hope this helps! 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Wise advices for dealing with complexity By Milton S P Professor Eisner argues that dealing with complexity is a paramount for the modern technological organization. By having a huge academic and business experience Professor Eisner presents 9 ways of think out sides the box, which means a broad way to look at problems brought about by complexity. Written in a almost informal language this book is pleasant reading that will help a great deal those who must overcome complexity. 1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. worse than unfortunate By A Student of SEAs a student who had this as a textbook, I can tell you that this is the last book you want to read IF your goal is managing complex systems. In point of fact, this book is nothing less than an "in-the-box" approach to identifying that which is out of the box. Can you hackney the hackneyed? Eisner has proven it so... Do not buy this book, even if it is in your syllabus.

Nine innovative methods to think outside the box and solve complex system problems Managing Complex Systems provides specific tools and guidance needed to be a more creative and innovative thinker. Following the author's methodology, the reader will be better able to devise and implement nontraditional solutions to seemingly intractable complex problems. By challenging the reader to think in new and creative ways, the book offers a road map to success, whether measured in terms of competitive advantage, greater market share, improved productivity, or higher profits, all based upon better solutions to difficult problems. The first four chapters set the foundation for creative thinking by exploring the nature of large-scale systems and complexity, thinking inside and outside the box, and examples of how an inventive mind solves problems in both management and scientific domains. Subsequent chapters address nine focused methods that the author has formulated to help the reader think outside the box: * Broaden and generalize * Crossover * Question conventional wisdom * Back of the envelope * Expanding the dimensions * Obversity * Remove constraints * Thinking with pictures * Systems approach Real-life examples are provided for each method that demonstrate how the approach enhances problem solving and decision making in system development and management. Following the discussion of the nine methods, the author examines group decision making as well as additional creative thinking procedures devised by other researchers, including references that assist in exploring these methods in greater detail. The author ends with a wrap-up chapter that includes a test to help readers practice their tendencies toward creative thinking skills and action with respect to solving real-world problems. The nine methods discussed in this book have broad applicability and can be used successfully by managers with a wide range of responsibilities in business and technology. For anyone who is tired of the same old approach with the same old results, this book is essential reading.

From the Back Cover Nine innovative methods to think outside the box and solve complex system problems Managing Complex Systems provides specific tools and guidance needed to be a more creative and innovative thinker. Following the author's methodology, the reader will be better able to devise and implement nontraditional solutions to seemingly intractable complex problems. By challenging the reader to think in new and creative ways, the book offers a road map to success, whether measured in terms of competitive advantage, greater market share, improved productivity, or higher profits, all based upon better solutions to difficult problems. The first four chapters set the foundation for creative thinking by exploring the nature of large-scale systems and complexity, thinking inside and outside the box, and examples of how an inventive mind solves problems in both management and scientific domains. Subsequent chapters address nine focused methods that the author has formulated to help the reader think outside the box: Broaden and generalize Crossover Question conventional wisdom Back of the envelope Expanding the dimensions Obversity Remove constraints Thinking with pictures Systems approach Real-life examples are provided for each method that demonstrate how the approach enhances problem solving and decision making in system development and management. Following the discussion of the nine methods, the author examines group decision making as well as additional creative thinking procedures devised by other researchers, including references that assist in exploring these methods in greater detail. The author ends with a wrap-up chapter that includes a test to help readers practice their tendencies toward creative thinking skills and action with respect to solving real-world problems. The nine methods discussed in this book have broad applicability and can be used successfully by managers with a wide range of responsibilities in business and technology. For anyone who is tired of the same old approach with the same old

results, this book is essential reading. About the Author HOWARD EISNER, DSc, has managed and carried out research and development programs in systems and software engineering for more than forty-five years, in both industrial and academic environments. He served as executive vice president of ORI, Inc. and vice president of Atlantic Research Corporation (ARC). Currently, he is Professor at The George Washington University. Dr. Eisner has given tutorials for INCOSE (International Council on Systems Engineering), has over 100 papers to his credit and has had many of his articles published in the Washington Business Journal.