Project Retrospectives

"This is a book to read cover to cover and then use as a resource, project by project. It is a book for every process improvement coordinator, project leader, software manager, and consultant wishing to improve their organization's performance in learning from experience."
—**Carol A. Long**, *IEEE Software*

"The insights into how people work and interact provided in this book are invaluable for anyone in a supervisory role who's trying to build a successful team (that will, in turn, build a successful product)."
—**Diane Brockman**, *SQL Server Professional*

". . . a wise and practical book on project retrospectives. It is destined to be a classic in our software engineering and project management literature. . . ."
—**Ellen Gottesdiener**, EBG Consulting

"This is one of the best written, best edited, most nicely presented, and most useful software books I've ever read.
"His sensitivity to the complex interpersonal issues surrounding project retrospectives will help any facilitator, participant, or manager get the most out of these important learning activities."
—**Karl Wiegers**, Process Impact

"*Project Retrospectives* is a strong book, full of strong features that will make it the classic work in this area."
—**Gerald M. Weinberg**, *from the foreword*

"This book does an excellent job of discussing the people issue involved in retrospectives and provides many useful suggestions on how to deal with those issues.
"I found this book insightful, interesting, and easy to read." —**Linda Westfall**, *Software Quality Professional*
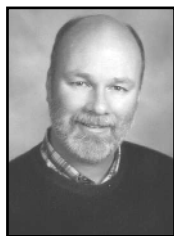
"The experience and understanding that Kerth puts forward in this book is priceless and should be a roadmap for what to do after every project is considered done."
—**Charles Ashbacher**, posted on Amazon.com

"The storytelling process is . . . very powerful when well done, and because of the paucity of storytelling literature, Norman L. Kerth's book . . . is extremely valuable."
—**Sue Petersen**, *Software Development*

About the Author

With more than twenty years' experience leading project retrospectives, Norman L. Kerth is recognized as the leading expert in the field. A principal of Elite Systems, based in Portland, Oregon, he also regularly consults and speaks on specification and design methodologies with emphasis on object-oriented technologies and pattern languages. Visit www.retrospectives.com.
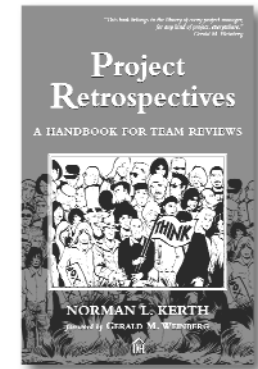
Partial Contents

Project Retrospectives
A Handbook for Team Reviews

by Norman L. Kerth
foreword by Gerald M. Weinberg

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Use Team-Based Review Sessions to Maximize What You Learn from Each Project

With detailed scenarios, imaginative illustrations, and step-by-step instructions, consultant and speaker Norman L. Kerth guides readers through productive, empowering retrospectives of project performance.

Whether your shop calls them *postmortems* or *postpartums* or something else, project retrospectives offer organizations a formal method for preserving the valuable lessons learned from the successes and failures of every project. These lessons and the changes identified by the community will foster stronger teams and savings on subsequent efforts.

For a retrospective to be effective and successful, though, it needs to be safe. Kerth shows facilitators and participants how to defeat the fear of retribution and establish an air of mutual trust. One tool is Kerth's Prime Directive:

Regardless of what we discover, we must understand and truly believe that everyone did the best job he or she could, given what was known at the time, his or her skills and abilities, the resources available, and the situation at hand.

Applying years of experience as a project retrospective facilitator for software organizations, Kerth reveals his secrets for managing the sensitive, often emotionally charged issues that arise as teams relive and learn from each project.

Don't move on to your next project without consulting and using this readable, practical handbook. Each member of your team will be better prepared for the next deadline.

Read more about this book at
www.dorsethouse.com/books/pr.html