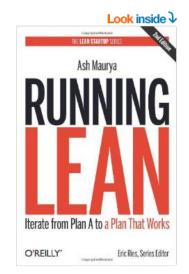


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Running Lean: Iterate from Plan A to a Plan That Works (Lean

Series) Hardcover – March 9, 2012 by Ash Maurya (Author)

626 customer reviews

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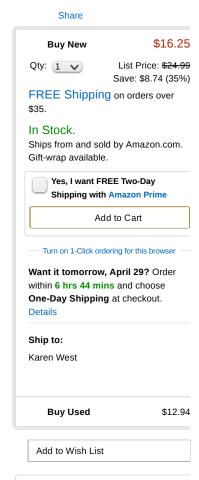
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Exclusive Interview with Ash Maurya, Author of Running Lean

Q. Why is your book "Running Lean" especially important now?

We live at a time where we have so much power at our fingertips, where we are building more products than ever before. But the odds of building successfu products haven't gone up. We're simply building more stuff nobody wants. What we need is a systematic process for quickly vetting and building successful products. That is the promise of "Running Lean."

Q. What is the top reason startups fail?

Most startups fail, not because they fail to build the product they want to build, but they fail to find a market for their product before running out of resources.

Q. What reason do you attribute for this failure?

Entrepreneurs are typically most passionate about their solution and often spend a disproportionate amount of time perfecting their solution only to find they were optimizing something nobody wanted.

Q. What do founders need to start doing now in order to achieve success?

The first step is shifting their mindset. The "true product" of a startup is not the solution, but the business model. Once founders start thinking of the business model as "the product," they start prioritizing risks differently. The key to building a successful product is maximizing learning about what's riskiest per unit tir Sometimes that's the underlying solution, but often times it's not.

Q. Describe the top tactical technique for systematically building a startup in today's economy?

A core part of the process is identifying what's riskiest and then doing the smallest thing possible to test that risk. From this principle you can derive specific tactics to fit your particular product. For instance, in the book I argue that you can initially test a lot of what's risky without building the product first using prox like customer interviews, mockups, and videos,

Review

"Ash has put together a book I wish I'd read before pursuing my own startup. The level of detail, including case studies and practical applications, make this book a resource worthy of sitting on every aspiring entrepreneur's shelf.

-Rand Fishkin, CEO and Cofounder, SEOmoz; Coauthor, The Art of SEO

"Ash has laid out a clear compass for anyone to validate their ideas, solve real problems and create a successful business. I'd encourage this book to anyon trying to get a business off the ground."

- Noah Kagan, Chief Sumo of AppSumo.com

"Lean concepts are exciting but it's hard to know what to actually do. Ash not only gives advice but makes it practicable--this is the first comprehensive guidebook for how to execute a Lean Startup.

Jason Cohen, founder of WP Engine & Smart Bear.

"Ash provides compelling, actionable guidance for applying lean principles to a startup. His startup canvas changed the way I think about my own startup. TI book is a valuable guide whether you are a serial entrepreneur or a first time founder.

Product Details

Series: Lean Series Hardcover: 240 pages



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An engaging guide for startups, and any product development effort

By J Mello on March 1, 2012

Format: Kindle Edition

This book is a concise guide that helps you take immediate action in using lean startup and

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Great book, didn't waste my

Great book for start ups. It's a must have.

customer development principles. More simply, as the subtitle states, it shows you how to "Iterate from Plan A to a Plan That Works". The book opens with a brief chapter on the principles behind Lean Startup and Customer Development. For each chapter after that, Ash describes what you will learn, shows you clearly what you need to do, and what decisions you need to make.

The book's chapters are:

Introduction

- 1. Meta-Principles
- 2. Running Lean Illustrated
- 3. Create Your Lean Canvas
- 4. Prioritize Where to Start
- 5. Get Ready to Experiment
- 6. Get Ready to Interview Customers
- 7. The Problem Interview
- 8. The Solution Interview
- 9. Get to Release 1.0
- 10. Get Ready to Measure
- 11. The MVP Interview
- 12. Validate Customer Life Cycle
- 13. Don't Be a Feature Pusher
- 14. Measure Product/Market Fit
- 15. Conclusion

Appendix - Bonus Material - comments and insights on topics including: building a slow burn startup, thoughts on premature funding, achieving flow, pricing models, teaser and landing pages, sales letters, continuous deployment, conversion dashboards

Throughout the book, Ash shows when and how to use methods for activities like: business model planning, interviewing customers, setting up tests for hypotheses, pricing, determining your Minimum Viable Product (MVP), forming hypotheses and conducting tests.

The book isn't just theory. Ash moves beyond the discussion and rationale for using Lean Startup methods which Eric Ries covers in his book ... Read more >

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43 of 44 people found the following review helpful

Why I love this book

By Emiliano V. on March 2, 2012

Format: Hardcover

I've read several books in this field, The Lean Startup, Making Ideas Happen, The Art of Start, and Running Lean is always the first book I recommend to any entrepreneur. It's that great of a book.

What makes this book standout is that there's great intellectual depth behind the concepts and ideas Ash presents but written in a clear, practical manner that makes it easy to follow. If you're debating between Running Lean or The Lean Startup by Eric Ries, definitely start with Ash's first. Here's an example why - Eric advocates doing customer discovery, i.e. talking with customers, and discusses the benefits of doing so. Ash does that and goes further by giving you the actual tactics on how to do so. Where to find those potential customers, how to reach out to them, and even a template of the questions to ask them. That's the beauty of his book, it goes beyond the "why" and gives you the specific hows to execute.

The other big benefit of this book is the structure of the content as it's a linear storyline. There's a quick overview, and then Ash starts going from an idea to validating it incrementally into a successful, product that's structured for growth. So you only need to read up to the point your venture is at. That itself follows the idea within the book of "Right Action, Right Time" which puts more of your time taking your venture to the next stage.

This is a 5 star book and worth every penny.

Comment Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful

Practical advice that will elevate your lean startup game

By Steve Odom on March 1, 2012

Format: Kindle Edition Verified Purchase

Published 4 days ago by Ona

Make Lean Principles a Reality!

"Running Lean makes lean principles a practical reality for entrepreneurs ready, filled with actional advice and concrete examples it is an excellent resource for everyone... Read more
Published 4 days ago by Mike Moyer

Highly Practical and Helpful. It's

Great Tool

The book is very practical, it's a great read. I now want to read it again as I apply the principles on I product I'm building. I'm very optimistic about this Published 8 days ago by Samuel Waithaka

Five Stars

Great help

Published 21 days ago by chechey

Great Manual on How to Start U

This is a manual on how to launch an Internet based company.

It clearly conveys the steps of from how to identif an opportunity to successfully lunch it. Published 25 days ago by Enrique Maroto

I have read/studied all the great

books out there pertaining to...

I'm in the beginning stages of my first startup. I have read/studied all the great books out there pertaining to building a startup. Read more
Published 1 month ago by Jimvick

Five Stars

Great introduction to lean startup! Lots of good examples.

Published 1 month ago by Jussi Pihlainen

Maximize your chances of

success!

If you have a startup idea and you want to improve your chances of success, you rather take the 'Lea approach to startups. Read more
Published 2 months ago by Rodo Novarini

Five Stars

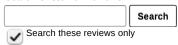
Very hands on recommendations!
Published 2 months ago by Carlos Augusto Lau

For every entrepreneur and

intrapreneur!

It's impressive how Ash Maurya has taken the Le Startup method from theory to practice. The book gives great examples based on strong case studi practical tools and easy to... Read more Published 2 months ago by Caspar M Lund

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This is one of the essential books for lean startup practitioners. It isn't theory. You can tell these are real lessons from Ash's own experience running lean startups. This book is very prescriptive; telling you specific things to accomplish. The one thing I found really valuable was the focus on how to map out your startup using the one page "lean canvas". After reading this book, I really got it and elevated my lean startup game.

Comment Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

19 of 22 people found the following review helpful

Great practical advice for startups, step by step customer development

By Amazon Customer on March 1, 2012

Format: Kindle Edition

Running Lean is the best book out there for entrepreneurs that want to launch their startups using customer development and lean startup. Clear, to the point and practical, it is full of gold and no BS. The structure of the book and its real life examples make it really easy to implement in no time. If you want to DO this is your book, and you will also learn something along the way, a lot more than with other books that talk a lot of theory and are more oriented to the corporate boardroom.

I really enjoyed reading it and using it to build a new project.

Comment Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

17 of 20 people found the following review helpful

Practical but lumpy

By Michael on March 14, 2012

Format: Hardcover

I figure that if I get more than one usable idea out of a 'how to' book then I am doing well. I got three from this book - a rare achievement in a market full of formula driven thrash.

The first message is clear - long winded business plans that pretend to predict the future have no place in a lean start up and, as someone who's done a lean start up, I agree. The other message? Focus on the customer.

None of that is new, but what I did find new was an approach to business planning and metric monitoring that gets all the important stuff onto one page. While written for software startups, the book has lots of value for anyone trying to get a new business up and running (I'm starting a non-software company and the book has been a godsend).

I would have given this book five stars but it is lumpy. Some points are labored, the obvious is stated a few times too many, and it is a bit heavy on the aconyms..

But these are minor flaws in a book that is perhaps most marked by the obvious excitement of the author for his topic. As for the three things I learnt? Two have been mentioned (the one page plan and metrics - truly great) and the third was some sensible stuff startegies to follow as you get your product to a market fit.

If you are planning a software start up then buy this book - my guess is that you will learn something (if not you can feel comfortable in your pre-existing well rounded knowledge). If you are planning a start-up in another field then this is still worth a read. As I indicated above, I'm starting a new business (a small group tour company) and while much of the book wasn't relevant to the specifics of that business, there was enough there to justify the cover price and time taken to read it.

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