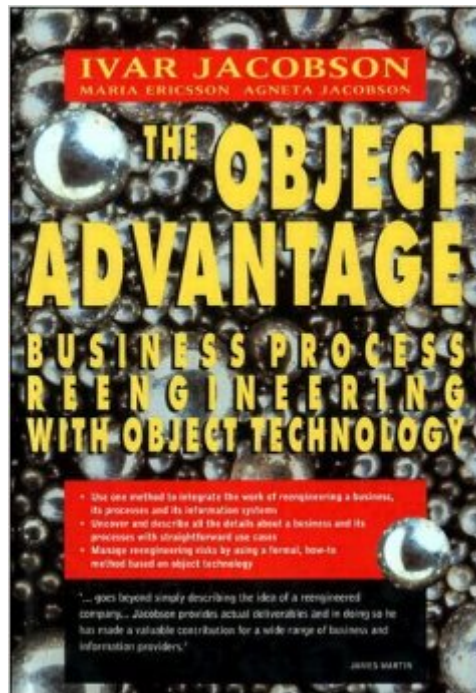


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# The Object Advantage: Business Process Reengineering With Object Technology (ACM Press)



## Synopsis

Business Process Reengineering (BPR) is the key management trend of the day. Ivar Jacobson's book *The Object Advantage* presents a blueprint for re-designing a business according to BPR principles. It uses one method to integrate his work of reengineering a business, its processes and its vital infrastructure the information system. It describes all of the details about a business and its processes by viewing customers as users and business processes as cases of how they use the business "use cases". And it manages the risks involved in BPR by using a how-to method based on object technology, offering concrete guidance in the shape of a formal reengineering process. Whilst most books tackle the "soft factors" (motivation, management commitment, leadership), *The Object Advantage* goes beyond this type of hand-waving and offers practical steps to success that include:

- \* A description that specifies every activity and deliverable involved in the business process
- \* Deliverables, in the form of business models, that focus on the company's architecture and dynamics
- \* A process for the development of an information system that is truly integral to the reengineered company

A seamless relationship is created between business model and information system, vastly increasing a company's chances of successfully reengineering itself - the heart of this relationship is the application of the BPR model and object technology. Ivar Jacobson's book will be essential reading for any manager contemplating reengineering their business or wishing to understand more about BPR and its practical implementation. It will also be invaluable for reengineering teams re-designing their companies, employees within a reengineered company needing to understand how their new environment will work and what their role will be, and systems analysts and designers wanting to expand their current applications of object technology into business modelling and business reengineering.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With Booch's OOA/D and Rumbaugh et al's OMT of the same mid-90's era, Jacobsen's Use Cases complete a set of the most powerful contemporary approaches to software development prior to UML (no coincidence that they joined forces at Rational!). The well-integrated contents include: business engineering (definitions, the "new company", BPR, risk management), what is business modelling (definitions, traditional ways of modelling- SA/SD, IDEF, SADT, working with business models), object orientation (definitions & modelling), OO business modelling (re-engineering, business context), architecture, reversing the existing business, forward business engineering, an example, building the supporting information system, managing OO business engineering, and scaling up to a large business. Strengths include the attractive appropriate use of figures, sidebars, references and supporting material; and the depth of proven use cases and applications supporting the credibility of approach. A book you can read cover to cover, or dip into a section for reference. Much of the approach is now included in Rational's UML - so the book still has value for business and software development. Criticisms include the lack of more fully worked examples, and the lack of checklists (although chapter summaries are good). Overall a great intermediate-level text (not introductory nor complete enough to be expert) for software developers, engineers, and business information systems consultants.

This book tackles business process reengineering from an information technology perspective. While I personally disagree with some of the assumptions made by the author, there is a lot of value here for ANYONE involved in process improvement initiatives. In fact, I believe that some of the insights provided by this work are available in no other book on the subject - making this book indispensable for process improvement managers and consultants. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me - [adamleft@webspan.net](mailto:adamleft@webspan.net).

I am please to give this book 5 stars. I have not yet read the other reviews and do not understand any lower ratings other than they just do not get it yet. The chapter on Use Case development, for

instance is worth getting this book. So many engineers do not understand the simple concepts of Use Cases and Sequence Diagrams. I was introduced to Sequence Diagrams with ObjectTime in the mid '90s. I have written about the experience -- a 4-month project which had an integration time of less than 2 hours. Real Systems Engineering with Executable Models at the top level, and Use Cases flowed down as described in this book are still revolutionary to communicating a project between the stakeholders and building the right system right. Malcolm

Only two reviews here?? This book precedes Ivar Jacobson's role in UML, so it may be slightly redundant today, but it is an excellent use cases book, and it still comes down from the shelf now and then.

Ok, so maybe the subject matter isn't the most riveting but I truly found this book so totally boring that I have never been able to finish it despite several attempts. Thankfully this book has been superseded by many other titles.

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