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Silver Jubilee Edition ISBN: 0-932633-49-8 304 pages of softcover Dorset House Publishing (translated in Japanese, Chinese) This effective approach to problem solving has been used for many years with people in all walks of life. These guidelines include a new collection of laws such as the Eye Brain Act, the Strong Communications Act, and used-car law, as well as principles such as the principle of innudation and the principle of indifference. With these and other laws and principles, you will see how to identify the problem, observe and interpret observations, and approach the problem. Example and/or Buy e-book through: KINDLE Barnes and Noble Smashwords Buy at Amazon.com Editor's Comments (from Forgotten Books Page: This is the most mind-opening book I've ever read. I first came across this book while browsing the stacks of the engineering library in my graduate school. What's going on here? I couldn't avoid having to stick to the curriculum, but at least with Weinberg's help, I could put it all in some perspective. When a person delves into a specific scientific or engineering subject, the depth and breadth of details, theories and techniques can easily fill the entire field of view. Discipline becomes the way we approach a wide range of problems. However, we also quickly learn to identify from any of the problems that go beyond discipline to solve. But what, ask Weinberg, of problems that refuse to be avoided? And what about the depletion of our natural resources by an ever-growing population in an increasingly wasteful economy? S? What about the terrible wars and impoverished world? What about death and what's wrong with me dying? Such problems, he continues, go beyond any discipline. The introduction to common thinking systems is, in fact, an attempt to teach an approach to thinking when labels are missing, or misleading. Weinberg adopts the basic principles of General SystemsTheory, introduced by Ludwig von Bertalanffy in the 1930s and then developed by Kenneth Boulding and others, and shows how can be applied, in different ways, S? Well, not really to solve such problems, but at least to recognize and understand them. He doesn't assume that all the answers are: S? Don't take this book too seriously, Weinberg warns his readers. This is not the Bible, nor the proof, nor even the close-knit argument. It's, indeed, my first few thoughts, a collection of hints, nudges, pushes, and sometimes pushes that aim to help your first few thoughts about any systems problem. When mapping his territory, Weinberg at an early stage divides (and, as he points out repeatedly in the book, any act of dividing things has inherent dangers) space problems into three regions: Organized simplicity - the realm of mechanical laws - Unorganized Complexity - a region of sufficient diversity or chance for statistics to be reliable, he argues, there is a significant failure of two classic methods. Weinberg does not object to the use of scientific methods. Science is also the most useful tool, which is probably the most useful tool a person has ever discovered, he writes. But we are constantly stymied in our attempts to solve problems where simplification of mechanics or statistics tools does not seem to work. And unfortunately, we have a tendency to persist in banging away at coalface with these tools, even if they don't work. Weinberg compares the situation to the story of a boy who said, Today we learned to write banana, but we didn't know when to stop. Or as it raises the idea in the banana principle, the heuristic devices don't tell you when to stop. Take, as Weinberg, an example of two classic approaches to understanding the system: a black box and a white box. On the one hand, in the black box approach, we run the risk of not understanding the limitations of our observation tools (e.g., the principle of uncertainty in quantum physics) or the act of observation on a black box (e.g. the Hawthorne effect in social sciences). On the other hand, with the white box approach, he writes, due to our own limitations, we will never fully disclose a single box, even if we build it ourselves. Understanding the limitations of our tools is a recurring theme in the introduction to general systemic thinking. As in the excerpt above, Weinberg stresses that any scientific instrument must have a simplistic effect in order to have any value. Awareness of the limitations of a tool does not undermine its value, however, or as it suggests in principle graph to three, if you can not think of three ways to abuse the tool, you do not understand how to use it. Weinberg compares scientific methods to a box of handyman's tools. It was very effective. solving many problems in the first two regions. What lies in the third region may be situations in which current scientific methods can work but do not have, either because they have never been tried or because they have been tried without proper imagination and understanding. But it is also possible that there are situations where we are unlikely to stumble upon a breakthrough that pulls the problem into a space where our tools can solve them completely or effectively, at least in the near future. One of Weinberg's strongest messages in the book is the importance of recognition when problems do not respond to known methods and approaches. Or, as he put it, we've been fishing in a small pond for a while, most of the light fish will be caught, and maybe it's time to change the bait. Because we are human beings, we resist change. We stick to what worked in the past, even if it doesn't seem to work. Only extreme disappointment, disaster or any other crisis, forces us to take a step back and rethink what we are doing. Weinberg calls it the Used Cars Act: 1. There is no need to change the way you look at a world that doesn't put too much pressure on the observer. 2. The view of the world can be changed to reduce the burden on the observer. In other words, he writes, why do we continue to pump gas into certain ancient ways of looking at the world, why we sometimes spend enormous efforts to repair them, and why do we sometimes trade them? At the end of each chapter Weinberg offers a set of questions for further research. Such questions as: Tagore said: Plucking her petals you do not collect the beauty of the flower. Many poets are also famous for their celebration of integrity and complexity. Select a specific poet and several representative works to discuss in the light of the Midsize Law For medium-sized systems, i.e. those that enter the third region. The French academy has been known to have been debating for 40 years over whether it was le voiture or la voiture. How can an English-speaking person know the gender of a pen? How does a French child learn the same? How does the French Academy know the gender of the cars? Go out into a large open field if you can still find one lying on your back and look at the clouds for an hour or so. Take notes of the numbers you see there and then analyze those notes to see if you can discover the influences that have shaped your vision. Like most of the questions in the book, they are open. The introduction to the general thinking system is that rare book where questions excel Answers. Go to just about any page and you'll find some questions that can lead you to hours or days of thinking. Which is one of the reasons why I never managed to read it from start to finish. For me, at least doing this would require me to highlight some great instructive question in favor of pushing relentlessly, which seems to contradict Weinberg's whole point. All common thinking systems, he writes, begin with one of three questions: 1. Why do I see what I see? 2. Why is everything still the same? 3. Why does everything change? Of our struggles with these issues, Weinberg says, We can never hope to find an end; we don't intend to try. Our goal is to improve our thinking, not solve the Sphinx mystery. This is why I have found myself returning to the Introduction to Common Thinking Systems over and over again in my twenties since I first came across it. I don't know better the spark to revive a mind that is stuck in a dead-end mindset than to discover this book, immerse yourself in one of Gerald Weinberg's wonderful open questions, and rediscover how one looks at the world. (CGE Knowledge Areas: General Knowledge, Behavior and Ethics) Review by John D. Richards As you might say from the title, this is not a new book - it's a classic. The author worked on the original from 1961 to 1975. He begins the foreword to this silver anniversary edition with a quote from Albert Einstein: The significant problems we face cannot be solved on the same level of thinking as we were when we created them. This book is about thinking. It's about how people organize, synthesize, and order their universe. Weinberg, in his original foreword, described his role: My role, therefore, is to integrate the mass of the material into the introductory form. I tried to gather ideas from both theorists of common systems and disciplinary ones to organize them in a consistent and useful manner, and to translate them into a simpler and more common language so that they become common property (pg. xi). The book consists of two prefaces, a section on how to use a book, seven chapters, an application (a brief mathematical and statistical glossary), final notes, an author's index, and a subject index. All of them are well organized and integrated. Each chapter contains a section called Issues for Further Research and a list of recommended readings. The questions in the first chapter cover 10 disciplines: economics, social psychology and sociology, mechanics, archaeology, thermodynamics (or thermostatics), operations research, poetry, neuroendocrinology and utopian thought. The problem begins with the reader's journey into a system of thinking with the aim of how to identify and scope problems that can be solved in later chapters. In the course of this discourse, the author draws on examples in physics, biology and mechanics to Few. The approach determines how people go about solving problems. Weinberg examines many of the laws as well as the history of science and systemic thinking in a humorous manner. The system and illusion focuses on the development of systems and provides some warning related to them. The interpretation of observations examines the interpretation of observations when a super observer makes such observations. Super-services people see and remember everything about the situation; unfortunately, they don't exist. This is followed by a study of the comments, as they are influenced by the role and orientation of observers. Breaking Down Observations discusses the ways in which the limited mental abilities of observers affect the observations they make. In fact, people do not make perfect or complete observations. Describing behavior discusses the use of modeling and their limitations. The author warns that modeling is limited and may not contain all the information or functional things or systems they are designed to represent. Weinberg sees Chapter 7, some systemic issues, not as his last chapter, but rather as the end of Part 1. It is difficult to summarize the broad chapters of the book in several sentences and it is even more difficult to give this book the credit it deserves in such a limited review. Suffice it to say that this is one of the classics of systems or computer science. I recommend it to everyone; it will cause both scientists and the uns learnable to explore their world and their thinking. This book will appear on my reading desk on a regular basis and one day I hope to upgrade to the golden anniversary edition. John D. Richards (email protected) is an account and project manager for SRA International in San Antonio, Texas. He spent more than 30 years as a manager and leader. He is a certified quality engineer and auditor, as well as a senior member. He holds a doctorate and master's degree in education from the University of Southern California, as well as a master's degree1 and a bachelor's degree in psychology. He serves as an adjunct professor at the University of the Incarnate, teaching courses in statistics, quantitative analysis, management and psychology. Reviews True classics in the way people set and solve problems, (Source: Amazon.com) Reviewer: Charles Ashbacher of Hiawatha, Iowa United States of America (e-mail protected) In computing, a timeless classic is all that's worth reading for whatever reason but to get historical context after five years. If this is still true after twenty-five years, then this is really an extraordinary piece of work. This label refers to this book. It's not about computing per se, it's about how people think about things and how facts are relative to time, our personal experience and the environmental context. Human thinking complex operation, and that's the point of this book. Problems and represented not by those in computing, but by the challenges in how we think about the world and how this world can differ from person to person. In many ways, Weinberg anticipates the development of the science of chaos, where small changes lead to disproportionate change. His example of a small change of one character is a classic. The man considered buying part of the property, but when he was told that the value is fourteen million dollars, sent a telegram response: No, the price is too high. However, somehow the character was removed, so the agent received a message: No price is too high, purchased the property and therefore the classic error was invented. Weinberg uses science and mathematics as a point of genesis for most of his examples. The laws of thermodynamics, randomness and modeling in public spaces are used to demonstrate the points. As someone with extensive experience in science, I have found his examples of how scientific thought gives us an anchor, but still changes over time excellent educational material. Thoughts of the problem are included at the end of each chapter and they cover many different areas. Some are related to mathematics, others to science, and many of them may be the point of vigorous philosophical discussion. Together they form the best collection of thought experiments and points of contention that I have ever seen come together in one place. This is a book that is a true classic, not in computing, but in the broad field of science. This is partly about the philosophy and mechanisms of science; partly about designing things to make them work, but basically it's about how people view the world and create things that fit that view. This book will still be worth reading for a long time to come and it's on my list of top ten computing books of the year. -- Reviewer: A reader from San Jose, California (on Amazon.com) If I had to choose a book that influenced my thinking the most, it would be this. This book itself

stimulated my interest in system research, and this is one that I have returned to reread many times. Gerald Weinberg took the essence of the theory of common systems and formatted for the masses. His understanding of methodology, and his ability to combine humor with explanation makes it a must read in this area. While many of these examples are based on programming, this does not detract from the benefits of this work. The publisher needs to understand the importance of this work, and put it back in print! Note. Note. n.: Well that the publisher did not, but Dorset House did, and now you have the desire. The ground of good and fearless thinking. (Source: Amazon.com) Reviewer: E-mail is protected from San Diego, California. This book is a quiet little masterpiece, where its author shares his observations about his world in a personal way. With that with a light touch, he also delves into the thought structure behind these observations. It's This. scientific philosophy with folk, conversational, almost homespun, a style that is never lost in abstractions or deviates far from living examples in everyday life. Its lack of academic buzz and techno-pomposity is refreshing and informal, but ideas have a power that can't help but affect your own thought processes. An example (to me) is the classification of all systems into three types: determinism, average number and statistical. This concept has proved fantastically useful over the years. Some other comments took some nerves to put into print. The pure effect of the book, after all, is also inspiring. Here's someone showing us all how we can deal with the big, bad world in a friendly, humorous, courageous, and empowered way. - I believe that this is one of the most important books I have read. (Source: Amazon.com) Reviewer: David F Walter (email protected) from Grosse Point, Michigan, I've reread this book at least five times in the last 15 years. With each reading, it stimulates new thoughts and ideas on different topics. It's a shame this book is out of print. It should be part of the overall curriculum for any college degree. The reader asks: Letters help me understand how your four systems (thinking) books differ, namely: 1 - Introduction to General Thinking Systems 2 - General Principles of System Design (with Dani) 3 - Rethinking System Analysis and Design 4 - SSM Volume 1: Thinking Systems of Them, I Own and Read only the OSM book, but I'm interested in reading others. Perhaps your answer may also be helpful in your site's book section, where a brief description of blurbs from four books wasn't enough to answer a question for me. Jerry is a good question and a good offer. Here's my best answer: 1 -- Introduction to General Thinking Systems 2 - General Principles of System Design (with Dani) Two Books, best read sequentially, which provide a deep theoretical basis for general systemic thinking that does not specialize in any particular application area. (It's a common thinking system, after all.) 3 -- Rethinking System Analysis and Design contains GST applications for system analysis and design, as well as some other materials about SAD. 4 -- WSM Volume 1: System Thinking applies common thinking systems in software management. Neither 3 nor 4 cover the entire GST area, but only apply some of its parts in some specific areas. Order any of these four books now from Dorset House Books! Or from Amazon.com. Amazon.com. introduction to general systems thinking pdf. an introduction to general systems thinking epub. an introduction to general systems thinking pdf free download. an introduction to general systems thinking pdf download. an introduction to general systems thinking weinberg

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