

Online/Audio summaries of latest guru books

Submitted by: On Tap Communications

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14th May 2004 - New service allows busy executives to keep up to date with the latest management thinking - online or via audio

Books24x7, a subsidiary of SkillSoft Plc, partners with Soundview Executive Book Summaries to offer eight-page summaries of the best business books - fully searchable by title, author or keywords - and accessible either online or in downloadable PDF or MP3 file formats.

The new service, called ExecSummaries, is available by subscription to all organisations. The collection currently includes 140 summaries of the best business books released over the past four years. Produced by Soundview Executive Book Summaries, the summaries cover business-related subjects such as leadership; management trends, philosophies and practices; business strategies; current operational methods; economics; sales and marketing; customer service; and career techniques. New titles will be added each month.

Subscribers will be able to quickly pinpoint specific information or access an entire summary (typically about 5,000 words/eight pages) visually or orally - either online or via downloadable PDF or MP3 files.

Now that UK laws severely restrict the use of mobile phones while driving, ExecSummaries will help subscribers to make best use of their travelling time - allowing them to copy the MP3 content into CD format and listen on the move to the latest management thinking from the world's most respected business gurus.

Kevin Young, managing director of SkillSoft, the parent company of Books24x7, commented:

"We believe ExecSummaries will be welcomed by all business professionals, particularly those whose work schedules don't allow them to keep constant pace with the latest business books."

Organisations can licence ExecSummaries as a stand-alone collection or as a complement to Books24x7's unabridged IT, business, finance and office collections. Subscription costs are based on number of users, duration of contract and other Books24x7 collections licenced. For more information and samples visit www.books24x7.com; email cdewar@skillsoft.com or call Craig Dewar on 020 8283 1800.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Representative titles included in the collection:

Scoring Points: How Tesco is Winning Customer Loyalty
Clive Humby, Terry Hunt, and Tim Phillips, Kogan Page Ltd, 2004

The Weightless Society
Charles Leadbeater, Thomas Texere, 2000

Good To Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't
Jim Collins, HarperCollins, 2001

Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done
Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan, Crown, 2002

In addition to ExecSummaries Books24x7's fully searchable online library includes:

7 BusinessPro - an 1,800-title collection covering such topics as leadership, project management, communications, coaching, time management, and marketing and sales

7 ITPro - a 3,600-title collection encompassing areas such as programming, web development, operating systems, IT certification, databases, enterprise computing, graphic design

7 FinancePro - a collection of 270 titles targeted to financial professionals and covering financial and accounting topics such as GAAP, business valuation, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, portfolio analysis, International Accounting Standards guidelines, and global economics

7 OfficeEssentials - a 100-title specialty collection targeted to non-technical users who require occasional real-time assistance with common desktop applications such as Microsoft Office.

About Soundview Executive Book Summaries

Founded in 1978, Soundview Executive Book Summaries pioneered the concept of distilling the key points and ideas of full-length business books into quick and easy-to-read print summaries. Each year, the company reviews approximately 1,500 business books and selects 'the best of the best' for the 30 summaries published annually. Each summary is approximately 5,000 words (eight standard pages) in length.

Co-founder and publisher Cynthia Folino moved the company to Vermont in the early 1980s. In 1999, the company was acquired by Clement Publishing Group, a Concordville, Pennsylvania-based publisher of business-to-business newsletters and employee communications programs since 1919. Today, the company is the global leader in business content summarization. For more information, visit www.summary.com.

About Books24x7

Books24x7, a subsidiary of SkillSoft PLC (Nasdaq: SKIL), offers subscription clients online access to more than 5,000 unabridged IT and business books and reports. Books24x7's patent-pending technology platform enables users to pinpoint business-critical information quickly by performing multi-tier, online searches of the company's Referenceware collections: ITPro, BusinessPro, FinancePro, and OfficeEssentials.

Books24x7 helps bridge the gap between what employees know and need to know in hundreds of leading organisations, including Bank of America, EDS, and Lockheed Martin. The company has relationships with more than 100 leading publishers, including AMACOM, Apress, ASTD, Harvard Business School Press, McGraw-Hill, Microsoft Press, and John Wiley & Sons. For more information, visit www.books24x7.com.

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estimates of its future financial performance as of any date subsequent to the date of this release.