



# The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies

By Peter Miller

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**The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies** By Peter Miller

**What ants, bees, fish, and smart swarms can teach about communication, organization, and decision-making.**

The modern world may be obsessed with speed and productivity, but twenty-first-century humans actually have much to learn from the ancient instincts of swarmers. A fascinating new take on collective intelligence and its colorful manifestations in some of our most complex problems, *The Smart Swarm* introduces a compelling new understanding on solving our own problems relating to such topics as business, politics, and technology.

This lively tour from *National Geographic* reporter Peter Miller introduces ant colonies that have been the inspiration for streamlining factory processes, telephone networks, and truck routes; termites, used in studies for climate-control solutions; schools of fish, on which the U.S. military modeled a team of robots; and many other examples of the wisdom to be gleaned about the behavior of crowds.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Insects are social creatures, perhaps even more social—in the strict scientific sense—than humans since they lack such socially obstructing attributes as ego, personality, and opinion. Miller, senior editor at *National Geographic*, examines hives, mounds, colonies, and swarms, whose complex systems of engagement and collective decision making have catalyzed innovations in engineering and can suggest solutions to such problems as climate change. The sophisticated system of decentralized interdependence exhibited by termites invites a lesson on how to respond to emergencies, while the chemical-based communications among African ants helped officials at Southwest Airlines define their seating policy. Insects, birds, and fish variously demonstrate the plausibility and success of disorganization leading to self-organization and leaderless processes. Adding understanding to the dark side of group dynamics and, inevitably, mob behavior is the study of locusts, innocuous until they become part of a crowd. Miller informs, engages, entertains, and even surprises in this thought-provoking study of problem making and problem solving, and through the comparison of human and insect scenarios, shows how social cues and signals can either bring about social cooperation or destruction. (Aug.)

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### Review

"I loved *The Smart Swarm*. It's been a while since I was this stimulated by a book, or saw so many practical applications. And what a great read."

-Don Tapscott, author of *Wikinomics*

"With an eye for detail and an easy style, Peter Miller explains why swarm intelligence has scientists buzzing."

-Steven Strogatz, author of *Sync*, and Professor of Mathematics, Cornell University

"Most people can't fathom that ants, bees, and other social insects have found solutions to some of modern society's most vexing problems. In *The Smart Swarm*, Peter Miller offers a fascinating and articulate tour of what these creatures can do, how they do it, and the lessons for humans. This book is a gem, with a message that is as extraordinarily counter intuitive as it is valuable."

-Michael J. Mauboussin, Chief Investment Strategist at Legg Mason Capital Management and author of *Think Twice: Harnessing the Power of Counterintuition*

"[Peter Miller] has proven that there is intelligent life on earth, but it is not necessarily us. What a delightful, eye-opening book."

-Martin Cruz Smith, author of *Gorky Park* and *Stalin's Ghost*

### About the Author

Peter Miller is a senior editor at *National Geographic* and has served as a writer and editor at the magazine for more than twenty-five years. He lives in Reston, Virginia, with his wife.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Byron Sierra:**

Do you one among people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies book is readable through you who hate the straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer regarding The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies content conveys thinking easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different available as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

**James Horowitz:**

This book untitled The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this reserve from your list.

**Edna McArdle:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is definitely The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies.

**John Hill:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And you also know that little person including reading or as examining become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and also book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update regarding something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is niagra The Smart Swarm: How to Work Efficiently, Communicate Effectively, and Make Better Decisions Using the Secrets of Flocks, Schools, and Colonies.

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