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West Dakota may be a state of mind, but the imaginary state and its capital, Zenith City, are familiar places to public managers everywhere. Using West Dakota and Zenith City as backdrops, public-management guru Robert D. Behn creates managerial dilemmas that government officials everywhere can identify with.

The situations, drawn from real-life cases, are posted on Governing Magazine's Web site, Governing.com, along with Behn's ideas for dealing with them -- and the opportunity for readers to post their own ideas. This month: how to avoid failure with a big information techology project. Read all about it -- and share your ideas -- at: http://governing.com/choice/mc0800.htm

Also this month on Governing.com, you'll find a full chapter excerpted from the new book by David Osborne and Peter Plastrik, "The Reinventor's Fieldbook": http://governing.com/rfbintro.htm

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Best regards, John Martin Editor, Governing.com jmartin@governing.com

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