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Titolo Pubbl/distr/stampa	Gemini 4 : An Astronaut Steps into the Void / / by David J. Shayler Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2018
ISBN	3-319-76675-9
Edizione	[1st ed. 2018.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (378 pages)
Collana	Space Exploration
Disciplina	629.4584
Soggetti	Astronomy Aerospace engineering Astronautics Space sciences Technology Popular Science in Astronomy Aerospace Technology and Astronautics Space Sciences (including Extraterrestrial Physics, Space Exploration and Astronautics) Popular Science in Technology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Preface Chapter 1: Stepping into the void Chapter 2: Dressed for the occasion Chapter 3: Jim and Ed Chapter 4: Steps towards space Chapter 5: School for controllers Chapter 6: "We're on our way, buddy!" Chapter 7: He's out! He's floating free Chapter 8: A streamlined Gemini capsule Chapter 9: Something else up here Chapter 10: This thing isn't very big Chapter 11: Computer malfunction Chapter 12: Final orbits Chapter 13: "We're about ready to come down! Chapter 14: Post-flight Chapter 15: A significant contribution Appendices Bibliography About the author Other works by the author Index.
Sommario/riassunto	The flight of Gemini 4 in June 1965 was conducted barely four years after the first Americans flew in space. It was a bold step by NASA to accomplish the first American spacewalk and to extend the U.S. flight duration record to four days. This would be double the experience

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gained from the six Mercury missions combined. This daring mission was the first to be directed from the new Mission Control at the Manned Spacecraft Center near Houston, Texas. It also revealed that: Working outside the spacecraft would require further study. Developing the techniques to rendezvous with another object in space would not be as straightforward as NASA had hoped. Living in a small spacecraft for several days was a challenging but necessary step in the quest for even longer flights. Despite the risks, the gamble that astronauts Jim McDivitt and Ed White undertook paid off. Gemini 4 gave NASA the confidence to attempt an even longer flight the next time. That next mission would simulate the planned eight-day duration of an Apollo lunar voyage. Its story is recounted in the next title in this series: Gemini 5: Eight Days in Space or Bust.