It would be difficult to put value on a book that has been a classic text and a reference in academia and in the real world in the context of Network Programming for over a decade. Richard Stevens published the ever-popular Unix Network Programming [UNP] back in 1990, followed the second edition in 1998. With a dedication to the memory of R. Stevens, the UNP book found itself two new authors, Bill Fenner and Andrew M. Rudoff, who would write the third edition of this book. The third edition has many updates, a new look and feel and many of new chapters that cover the topics more applicable these days. In my opinion, it is still the most valuable and profound text in the context of Network Programming.

For those of us who have the first two editions of this book, the third edition has the following changes in effect:

- IPv6 updates. In the second version of the book, IPv6 was merely a draft and the sections covering IPv6 has been updated to take these changes into effect.
- POSIX updates. The functions/APIs and examples have been updated to reflect the changes to the latest version of the POSIX specification (1003.1-2001).
- SCTP coverage. 3 new chapters that cover this new reliable, message-based transport protocol have been added.
- Key Management Sockets coverage. Network security and its applicability and use with IPsec.
- Updated Operating Systems and machines that are used to run the examples in the book.
- Some topics such as Transaction TCP and X/Open Transport Interface have been dropped.

Many topics and sections have been updated with the authors’ comments.