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Learning To Program



Synopsis

Everyone can benefit from basic programming skills—and after you start, you just might want to go a whole lot further. Author Steven Foote taught himself to program, figuring out the best ways to overcome every obstacle. Now a professional web developer, he'll help you follow in his footsteps. He teaches concepts you can use with any modern programming language, whether you want to program computers, smartphones, tablets, or even robots. Learning to Program will help you build a solid foundation in programming that can prepare you to achieve just about any programming goal. Whether you want to become a professional software programmer, or you want to learn how to more effectively communicate with programmers, or you are just curious about how programming works, this book is a great first step in helping to get you there. Learning to Program will help you get started even if you aren't sure where to begin.

- Learn how to simplify and automate many programming tasks
- Handle different types of data in your programs
- Use regular expressions to find and work with patterns
- Write programs that can decide what to do, and when to do it
- Use functions to write clean, well-organized code
- Create programs others can easily understand and improve
- Test and debug software to make it reliable
- Work as part of a programming team
- Learn the next steps to take to build a lifetime of programming skills

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Customer Reviews

This is hands down one of the greatest beginner programming texts I have come across! A lot of books I've encountered go over the basics of whatever language is used in the book and solely focus on that and don't provide much applicability beyond making trivial programs. This book takes that typical style and obliterates it. Not only do you learn the basics of Javascript but you learn a lot of programming tips, techniques, ideas and methods that will serve you for your entire career (or hobby). Through this book you make a real world application and actually have something real that you've created, instead of your typical number guessing game or glorified "hello world" programs you make an actual application using methodologies used in the industry. Steven goes over everything from material about other programming languages and what they are used for to concepts on GIGO (garbage in garbage out) and sanitization. This is not your typical beginner book and more beginning programming books should take note of the pedagogy that the author uses. If you're looking for a great book to learn to program, make it this one!

Bought this twice. First, I bought the Kindle edition. By chapter 2, I ran into a snag. Not because of any errors in the book, purely from my own inexperience, the book is great so far- EXACTLY THE INTRO TO PROGRAMMING I WAS SEARCHING FOR. So I looked up the author on Google+ to ask for help, I couldn't figure what I had done wrong. He answered promptly, was extremely helpful and asked to have me email him my code so he could check it, found the errors and provided me with a website to check my Javascript in the future... and all of this WAS ON THANKSGIVING. I was impressed by his book and even more impressed by his willingness to help me, especially during Thanksgiving. Mr. Foote is completely devoted to helping people learn to program. As a result, I purchased a second copy, this one a physical copy of his book. Completely happy with this purchase. The man is a Jedi.

Bravo, Steven Foote! Bravo! This book is great for those who are looking for context and an overview of what it means to program. No crazy complexities, or burdening details; just a very clear, concise, and witty explanation of the big picture. I know how to code, but I wasn't at all sure how to *program* for the web. There is a big difference, and Foote gives great insight into these differences. Also, Foote has a great sense of humor and wit, that comes across in his book, making it different from the dry material out there, or the gimmicky "quirky" programming books. It's genuine. I suggest coming at this book (and any endeavor in learning to program) with a project you'd like to work on, like a website or app, whatever. Have a design of something in the back of your head; this will allow you to get the most out of the book, without being lost, because you'll be reading with

context and PURPOSE. Foote does this for you with the built-in project "kittenbook" but, if you really are learning to program to be a DIY programmer, come at it with your own idea. It'll make a world of difference if you do.

I have worked on the networking side of information technology (IT) for almost 30 years (Keith Barker Networking on Facebook). Over the years, I have dipped my toe into the world of programming a few times (often out of necessity, or due to working with a team of programmers to facilitate a network based application). I am a novice regarding the programming side of an application. I purchased Steven's book initially after looking at the preview, and after diving into it I love it! Very straight forward, and it feels like the book is focused on helping me learn programming, instead of the author trying to prove how smart he is (and by the way, Steven is brilliant). This book, combined with many of the programming courses at CBTNuggets.com are a fantastic combination of learning tools. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in getting started in programming. Keith Barker Facebook and YouTube: Keith Barker Networking Twitter: @KeithBarkerCCIE Web: CBTNuggets.com

I love this book! Often the best teachers are those who've recently learned themselves, as they still remember what it's like to not be an expert. The author, Steven Foote, doesn't have decades of experience programming and as such his understanding of what it's like to be a complete beginner is insightful and refreshing. Furthermore, his explanations of the big ideas in programming and computing are comprehensive without being condescending. Another great thing about this book is the way it's firmly based in this day and age. From the outset the reader is learning to write software that is native to the web and cloud; the project is to build a Chrome extension that gives your Facebook feed a kitten-makeover. I think this is a great way to introduce newcomers to programming in a relevant and fun fashion. But it doesn't end there. The author goes on to gradually widen the horizons of the budding programmer and introduces important topics like documentation, Open Source and version control. Finally, and most importantly, the book shows how to take control of your own learning. I think this is the most valuable aspect of them all. Ultimately programming is a passion for most and a skill that is developed through hard work and self study. I wish more introductory books could be written in this way.

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