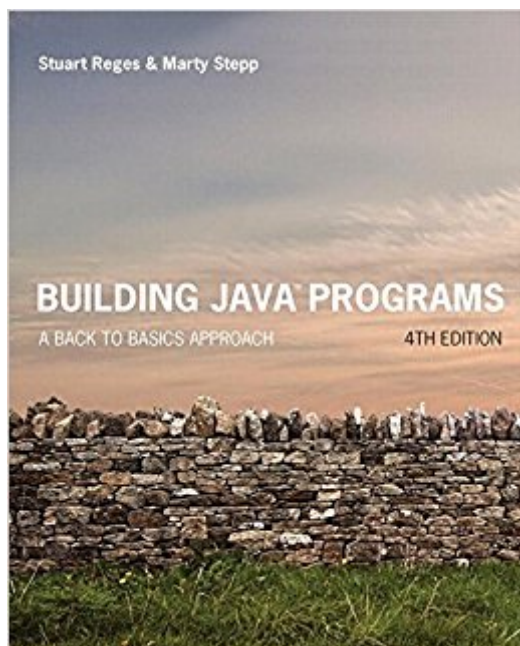


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Building Java Programs: A Back To Basics Approach (4th Edition)



Synopsis

For courses in Java Programming – A Layered, Back-to-Basics Approach to Java Programming

Newly revised and updated, this Fourth Edition of *Building Java Programs: A Back to Basics Approach* uses a layered strategy to introduce Java programming, with the aim of overcoming the difficulty associated with introductory programming textbooks. The authors’ proven and class-tested “back to basics” approach introduces programming fundamentals first, with new syntax and concepts added over multiple chapters, and object-oriented programming discussed only once readers have developed a basic understanding of Java programming. Previous editions have established the text’s reputation as an excellent choice for thoroughly introducing the basics of computer science, and new material in the Fourth Edition incorporates concepts related to Java 8, functional programming, and image manipulation.

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Book Information

Paperback: 1224 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 4 edition (February 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0134322762

ISBN-13: 978-0134322766

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 1.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,391 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Java #29 in Books > Textbooks >

Customer Reviews

I feel like in a book where you are starting something from scratch, you should be able to pick up the book and get started. But I have not found a java programming book yet where that is the case. The weakness for me was coming from not know how to use the compiler. So having no programming experience at all when I was first introduced to this book, I still couldn't write a program. I would think that a really "good" starter book would cover that. Now that being said, once you have the compiler operation issue squared away, this book is so easy to understand. Very clear walk throughs. I think it may be a little weak on how to work with objects but for the most part, I really like this book. Really the only thing standing between this book and a 5 star rating is the compiler issue. One thing I did think was really neat was, the book came with a disk that had several of the most popular compilers in it, along with the java dev kit. If you are going to use this book, for simplicity of getting started, use the Jgrasp compiler until you figure out what you're doing. Then you can move on to something a little more industrial.

I feel I need to provide an important comment to potential buyers of this text book. I think there is a serious omission left out in Chapter 3G. In order to work through the routines in chapter 3G the text book instructs one to place the following declaration at the top of your program: `< import java.awt.*; // for graphics >` In addition, the text book instructs that one needs to place the file "DrawingPanel.java" (which can be downloaded from the textbook website) under the same folder as your program you are writing. I did that and it did not work (errors). From advice from a real professional programmer, in addition to the above text book instructions, one needs to also go into the "DrawingPanel.java" source file (the one that was just placed into the folder and add a `< package name; >` statement at the top of the DrawingPanel.java source code where the "name" is the name of the routine /package/project that you are presently writing. After that, your program should compile. I am a newbie as far as Java is concerned and I am using this text book to self teach myself the JAVA language. I think this is an excellent text book for learning JAVA. I have tried to use others and got tripped up and discouraged. The examples, exercise, and projects are not only instructive but are very rewarding and enjoyable. I do recommend going through the optional Chapter 3G. This is a chapter that teaches you how to draw graphics to the screen and is very rewarding. I am writing this as I am finishing up working through Chapter 3G. If the rest of the book is similar to the material I have gone through so far, I highly recommend it.

The book explains a whole class of coding and it guides you step by step without leaving anything to guess. The use of jGrasp is up to date even though the book is an older version and sometimes even better at explaining algorithms. There are self-check exercises and codes to decode without an answer so you kind of have to try it on your own. I like that the book demonstrates how coding works which can be useful for anyone that is not taking a class and just wants to learn by himself. Java can be very confusing at times but this book helped me figure out a whole new language that couldn't be taught by my professor. I just wished my CD wasn't broken; I think I could've gotten a lot more.

This book is well written and easy to read. I do not mind reading this book and will eventually read the whole thing. There are interesting tidbits about some of the history of programming which I enjoy. Where the book is lacking is in the types of programming examples used. The examples are not very memorable, although they are clear and easy to follow. The order of information somewhat builds on itself but not necessarily, so in the beginning (up to chapter 4) it's hard to see how everything is going to fit together. The best presentation I have seen on Java was an iTunes U course from UC Santa Cruz - Introduction to Programming in Java. The professor starts right off the bat with graphics, which makes the concepts easier to grasp and more memorable because you can visualize them. I recommend downloading this free course for anyone who is trying to learn Java. Other than that I am glad I bought this book and look forward to finishing it.

Got this for a class, but not that bad. Details programming structure well and the practice exercises prepare you well for exams.

Building Java Programs was a great book to use while learning Java programming. The book is written very well and is easy to understand, even for people who have never attempted programming before. For those of us who have programming experience, the book was still informative and provided lots of good examples and practice problems. The supplemental materials (slides, assignments, etc) were very helpful. They provided some extra information and practice that corresponds to the chapters in the book. The online Practice-It! program was great as well, letting you write and test Java code for all kinds of sample problems online with instant results. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in learning Java programming, or anyone who wants to brush up on their skills.

The lessons go just enough in detail, but not off track, when introducing new material. I have found this to be a great learning aid for my introduction to computer programming class. My professor is not a great lecturer, and he is even less helpful so I rely heavily on information from the textbook which teaches me everything I need to know. I really like the exercises and projects included at the end of each chapter.

This was by far the best intro to Java textbook I have ever seen. It helped me immensely in the classes. The authors get their point across to the students very effectively and with many step-by-step examples so that you don't get lost. Even my friends from other schools have told me that this was hands-down the best intro to Java textbook and that even they use it although their courses require a different textbook.

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