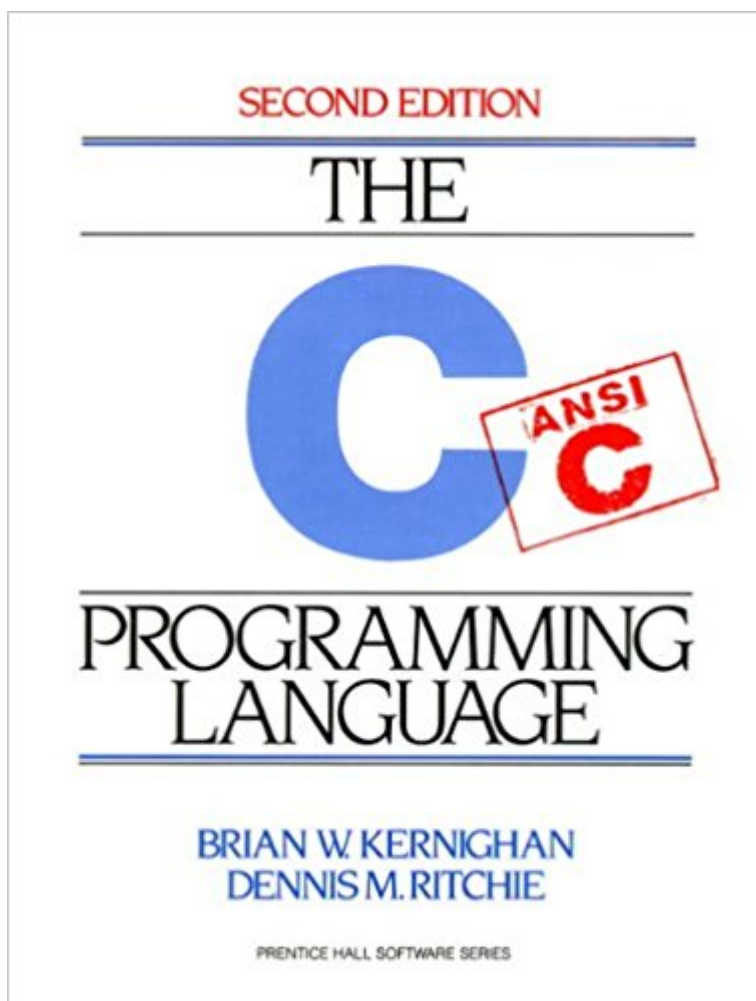


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C Programming Language, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

The authors present the complete guide to ANSI standard C language programming. Written by the developers of C, this new version helps readers keep up with the finalized ANSI standard for C while showing how to take advantage of C's rich set of operators, economy of expression, improved control flow, and data structures. The 2/E has been completely rewritten with additional examples and problem sets to clarify the implementation of difficult language constructs. For years, C programmers have let K&R guide them to building well-structured and efficient programs. Now this same help is available to those working with ANSI compilers. Includes detailed coverage of the C language plus the official C language reference manual for at-a-glance help with syntax notation, declarations, ANSI changes, scope rules, and the list goes on and on.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just about every C programmer I respect learned C from this book. Unlike many of the 1,000 page doorstops stuffed with CD-ROMs that have become popular, this volume is concise and powerful (if somewhat dangerous) -- like C itself. And it was written by Kernighan himself. Need we say more?

This second edition describes C as defined by the ANSI standard. This book is meant to help the reader learn how to program in C. The book assumes some familiarity with basic programming concepts like variables, assignment statements, loops, and functions. A novice programmer should be able to read along and pick up the language.

I've used several programming books to teach me languages. First it was the "Learning Perl" and "Programming Perl" books from O'Reilly. Then we had "C++: How to Program", from Deitel and Deitel. But none of those can come close to this book. K&R manages to teach an entire programming language in but a few lessons. As they say, C is a small language: it doesn't need a 1000 page book! Short, easy-to-understand, and right to the point, this book teaches the syntax of C, the usage of C, common paradigms of C, and so on. Possibly confusing practices (`while((int c = getchar()) != EOF)`) are well-explained, and you come away with a fantastic foundation of this language. The exercises are fantastic, and some are quite difficult, forcing you to think and apply yourself. My one complaint is that solutions are not provided, but these are easily found online. Even once you've read this book, it can be a fantastic reference. There are tomes out there dedicated to C reference, those may be better for, say, writing a kernel. But for most people, this book works fantastically. I cannot recommend this book enough for learning C.

Great book, but be careful when ordering. I specifically ordered a hardcover and got a softcover. What the hell, ?

A great reference and learning book for an affordable price. Even in the modern world of google and stack overflow, this book (written by one of the authors of the C language). I used this book numerous times throughout college and learned quite a few tricks in C from it.

This book is not only a clear, concise, interesting introduction to C; it's also a great way to learn by example how to write clean code. Both the text and the sample programs are well thought out, easy to read, and simply intelligent. I'm not too familiar with other ways of learning C, but I'd hazard a guess that this is by far the best. It's simply a wonderful book

Book is from Author of C. There are no revisions but there is nothing really changed as much in C. Very good for anyone - beginner or expert. If you are planning to work on C then must buy. I have international version, us version (I don't know why two...but have to buy other when first one was not accessible). I also have Kindle edition...which I use the most now.

In 1988, The C Programming Language, 2nd Edition (affectionately referred to as K&R2) was first printed. Despite the passing of so many years, C's syntax and semantics have remained fairly

stable. It is then fitting that K&R2 remains the de facto manual and reference for helping programmers get acquainted with the C programming language. Dennis M. Ritchie, one of the co-authors, is the original designer of C and also helped design the Unix operating system in the '60s. Brian Kernighan also helped with the design of Unix, AWK, and is noted for creating other well-known Unix programs. Not only are the authors well qualified, but they communicate very effectively in concise and clear language. The authors do not pander or condescend to readers. They make no claims to teach C in only one day; they actually expect readers to have a basic grasp on various programming concepts. The authors show an earnest desire to help programmers learn the language. The code examples provided are very helpful and exceptionally elegantly coded. As other reviewers have noted, they help instill good coding habits from the start. K&R2 provides a helpful introduction to programmers, which gives an overview of what the C programming language is (and is not). The introduction explains C's typing system and basic features. The meat of the book is well organized into chapters that sequentially build upon previous chapters. Chapter 5, "Pointers and Arrays," for example, does a great job at elucidating a difficult computer science concept. A lot of people are well aware of nasty bugs deriving from using pointers and arrays, but the authors explain pointers and arrays in a very clear way, which draws the important distinctions between them. After the main tutorial chapters, the appendix follows in an amazingly compact, yet thorough reference, which includes a C grammar, overview of the standard libraries, and more. Oftentimes, this reference is the most convenient and concise source for information (note that the C Standard is *the* authoritative source on the C specification). For example, the section covering the `"printf"` and `"scanf"` conversion specifiers is extremely helpful and much easier to digest than most man pages. For such a relatively small text, it's amazing how thorough it is. Although it's no substitute for having a copy of the ISO C Standard at hand, it's still an indispensable reference to have. Also, since C99 has yet to be fully implemented on many common implementations, developers still look to the ANSI C standard for ensuring their code is as portable as possible. I feel K&R2 is the best reference for learning C; it has been considered canon for all these years for a reason.

It doesn't matter how experienced of a programmer you are (counting the minimum as a brief knowledge of loops and conditionals as well as a little syntax), you can always take a look at this book and learn a little more. Some exercises are quite challenging for the novice programmer but they are achievable, and most of them help a lot. Despite its old age, it is still a very good source of learning good C programming and I highly recommend it if you want a deep understanding of the

language.

If you've worked with C, you know it is terse, compact, and sometimes unforgiving. This book was the de facto standard for C prior to ANSI, and after that remained pretty definitive. This book is small, so one might mistakenly assume it is less thorough, but C is not a big language, and it doesn't need a big book. The important thing is to understand the features that it DOES offer, because failure to get the nuances of those can be catastrophic. I am a software engineer by trade, and use C (usually ANSI but sometimes K&R for older things) and it's still helpful to refer back to function references or the language specification. If you need a data structures book or algorithms or some kind of guidance how to go about writing programs, there are plenty of others on those topics; this book does not (and should not) cover those. If you need to know C and know it well, I highly recommend this. Having programmed SOMETHING is really all that one needs to understand the basics. Having seen the UNIX/Linux system calls is helpful, but that chapter is self-contained and one can learn the rest without an issue.

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