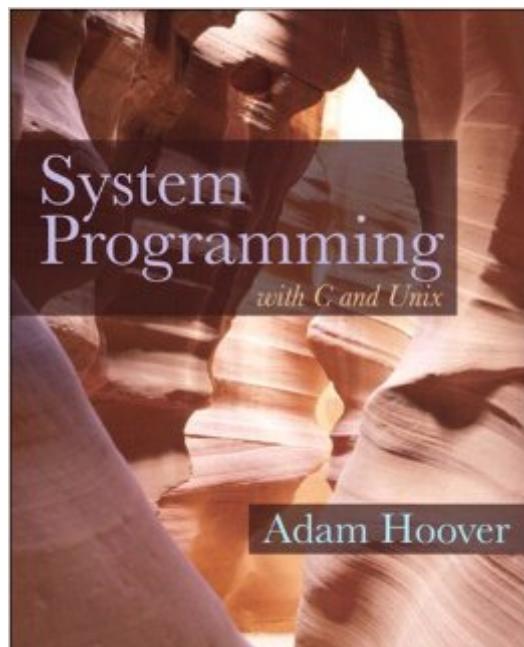


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# System Programming With C And Unix



## Synopsis

Beginning computing students often finish the introduction to programming course without having had exposure to various system tools, without knowing how to optimize program performance and without understanding how programs interact with the larger computer system. Adam Hoover's *System Programming with C and Unix* introduces students to commonly used system tools (libraries, debuggers, system calls, shells and scripting languages) and then explains how to utilize these tools to optimize program development. The text also examines lower level data types with an emphasis on memory and understanding how and why different data types are used.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I recently took a c programming class and had to get this book for it. I concurrently took three other programming classes (Perl, python, and Java) and had much better experiences in those classes with different textbooks. Most irritating was the typos in the binary logic section which threw off my calculations and were really not explained well for beginners. On top of that, there were no interesting sections, the writing was bland, and the examples were elementary. At least my other

books had interesting project descriptions (Perl - web crawlers, indexers, rankers, search engine optimization; python - biomorphs, ant clustering, cellular automata, genetic algorithms, Isystems). Maybe I was expecting more from a generic c class (with a standard c textbook) but I was highly disappointed. I am left with no clue as to what practical things I can do in c. The main thing I learned that also related to my Perl work has been pointers, which are just like references in Perl.. but even those were not clearly explained in this book. I got more out of stackoverflow q&a's and online research than I did in this entire book (and in my entire c class).

This is not the book to purchase if you're interested in not falling asleep while reading. You are much better-off reading K&R's The C Programming Language. Most of the contents of that book cover the topics in this book far more effectively. The only strength that this book has, and hence the 2 stars instead of 1, is that it offers an introduction to memory mappings and data structures. But what good is the book if it bores you to death? And what if that book costs you \$100??? You can download K&R for free online...

This is a fast-paced book on system admin and the Unix/Mac/Linux environment. It emphasizes the historical and technical importance of C without being a comprehensive or even introductory guide to the language. Rather the focus is on the essence of system programming: what can be done and how to figure out to do it. My Cal State college is utilizing it for a course (designated for the IT major or as an elective within other disciplines) on this very subject. I'm taking it as an upper-division math major with a strong interest in social justice and the use of open-source systems in education--and loving it. This text, in particular, is probably my strongest of the semester. Here are the highlights: Equally challenging/accessible to professionals, upper- and under-classmen: This is not a point-by-point, 1,000 page, do-it-all-for-you, extremely elementary, 1-cent-word introduction. Yet all it assumes is a mature audience and the ability to think--as well as find other sources of information--for oneself. Theoretical, but with plenty of concrete examples: It doesn't shortchange the student from under-the-hood methodologies, or by neglecting to exemplify them practically. Concise: It doesn't reteach you everything you've ever learned, e.g. arithmetic, loops, how to tie your shoes; or devote half of its page weight to historical biographies. Unusual subject matter: System administration is critical to computing professions, but goes unmentioned in many introductory computer science classes. In all, I give this book a full-five stars because it sets out to do something valuable, does it, and does so stylistically well.

Thanks it was just as expected! !

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