Accelerated C++: Practical Programming by Example

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This is a first-rate introductory book that takes a practical approach to solving problems using C++. It covers a much wider scope of C++ programming than other introductory books Ive seen, and in a surprisingly compact format. - Dag Bruck, founding member of the ANSI/ISO C++ committee The authors present a clear, cogent introduction to C++ programming in a way that gets the student writing nontrivial programs immediately. - Stephen Clamage, Sun Microsystems, Inc., and chair of the ANSI C++ committee Anyone reading just this one book and working through the examples and exercises will have the same skills as many professional programmers. - Jeffrey D. Oldham, Stanford University Why is Accelerated C++ so effective? Because it: *Starts with the most useful concepts rather than the most primitive ones: You can begin writing programs immediately. *Describes real problems and solutions, not just language features: You see not only what each feature is, but also how to use it. * Covers the language and standard library together: You can use the library right from the start. The authors proved this approach in their professional-education course at Stanford University, where student

Accelerated C++: Practical Programming by Example Details

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Brent says

I really liked this book. This book goes over the basics (and some of the not-so-basics) of C++ programming. It introduces features of C++ and the standard library in a unique way: introducing new features to help make programs that *solve problems*, instead of making programs only to explore the features of C++ and the standard library.

I would not recommend this book for the absolute beginner. I feel that this book is for a person that has learned a tiny bit of the language and wants to know enough to do useful things with C++. If you want to learn to use C++ to do useful things, but know nothing about programming, I would suggest that you look at some other C++ programming book and then read this one.

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Max Lybbert says

Although I learned C++ from Cay S. Horstmann's book (currently called Big C++) I always recommend Accelerated C++.

Unlike many other introductory books, Koenig and Moo work hard to guarantee that examples don't need disclaimers ("of course, in a real program you'd just use std::string instead of our string class ..."), and that language features are used when they make sense.

Like Horstman, Koenig and Moo realize that using classes is much easier than writing them, and show how to use classes early in the book, and discuss class design later.

Koenig and Moo are among the great programmers to come from Bell Labs, and worked closely with Stroustrup while he was there ("argument dependent" lookup is also called "Koenig lookup"), and it's hard to turn down a chance to learn from them.

Fotis Koutoulakis says

This was a great book. I liked both its pedagogical style (first presenting a problem, and then utilising both the language and the library to solve it, while presenting the utilised features in a clean manner), and the fact that it presented ways to construct various useful structures (in particular, chapter 11 walks you through defining your own vector adt).

Definitely recommended if you want to learn C++.

HappyEvilSlosh says

I've been programming for over a decade and was recommended this book as good to learn C++ for people who already know how to program. However I felt like it was constantly talking down to me and went a bit slow, maybe a better description would've been that it's for people who already know how to program, but aren't very confident. In addition the (admittedly less than legitimate electronic) version I had had several errors including in examples, not a good look.

Danilo Novakovi? says

This is perfect introductory book to C++ for somebody with prior knowledge to C .
Lots of great exercises after each chapter in which you have to implement the stuff you learned.
I enjoyed every cover of this book and it helped me tremendously in my programming life, it was fun and all the stuff learned are usable right away.
I would recommend this as first book to anybody who wants to learn C++ !

Sergey Ivanov says

A solid albeit outdated overview of C++ from an STL first perspective. If you happen to be able to glance a copy but don't want to trudge through all its chapters, I'd say the main points and chapters to analyze would be: Chapter 6 for the library coverage, Chapters 10-12 for memory management abstractions with objects, and chapter 15 for an example of how to think over architecture.

If were to teach a course, I would take some materials from the book, as well as the spirit of covering something practice-first, but I would probably assign online reading materials like the C++ core guidelines instead for readings.

Christian Brumm says

Very much recommended when you want to get up to speed in Programming in C++, the Modern (STL that is) way. Best benefit for experienced programmers. Tutorial style. Some of the stuff might be boring if you are very experienced, even if you haven't worked a lot with C++. Still the best book I know to start.

Sigvald says

It was a bit too simple since I have programmed in C++ some years ago.

Alex says

This is the first book I read about C++. It is a very good introductory book for someone who has basic knowledge of C programming, or perhaps even no programming experience at all. It covers the most important aspects of object-oriented C++03, from the very basic up to complex constructs like templates. At the same time, it is not lengthy at all and quite easy to read.

Dietmar says

A great book that introduces concepts and practices of C++. The learning curve is without question steep - the authors explained within 300+ pages what otherwise would be rolled out in more than 1000 pages - however the well-organized structure guides readers through the core of C++ with lively examples.

As the reader reads on, the book reveals more and more advanced staff, such as dynamic memory management, handles, and template programming. At the first sight they seem daunting, however upon the second, third, or even the fourth reading they will eventually become meaningful.

If I may make a suggestion to the potential reader of this book: do not get frustrated when you feel that you did not get it: simply read it again. And the bonus: do the excercises.

In my opinion it is a pity that such textbooks are not available for many other programming languages. Potentially because few authors could provide such a clear yet knowledgeable overview on a programming language. Respect.

Bill Lacey says

This book is the fastest way to get up to speed in programming in C++. No time is wasted. The reader is plunged immediately into writing C++ programs. There are no digressions into C, simply real-world problem-solving using the Standard C++ Library. Constructors, destructions, vectors, pointers, arrays, and memory management are all covered - in context - not as separate, abstract concepts. If you're trying to learn C++ programming, don't waste your time with other books. This is the one to buy.

Free C++ resources, such as compilers and the libraries are available for free at http://gcc.gnu.org/

Antonio Gutierrez says

It has a high learning curve, but that's because it's explaning what other books explain in 800 or 1000+ pages in just over 300.It builds solid base and introduction to C++ syntax and its OOP concepts and it does it in very short time.

Leander says

The authors appear to have the teaching prowess they claim, as the book is clearly written and even the most abstract concepts are understandable after reading a sentence or paragraph for the second time. The Details section at the end of each chapter nicely summarizes the key take-aways and together with the two Appendices it provides a slim but powerful reference for aspiring C++ programmers.

However, as a programming newbie who went from the two "C for Dummies" books out there to this, it had a very steep learning curve. It seems more intended for people with many hundred or thousand hours of programming experience under their belt.

This assessment stems from the total lack of solutions to the exercises, which makes debugging and checking for logical errors very challenging impossible. Because some chapters build on exercise solutions of previous chapters, one can easily fall behind by not completing all the exercises. Without frequent consultation of Google, stackoverflow dot com, cplusplus dot com and the C++ FAQ, this book will suck the motivation out of any inexperienced programmer.

Took me ~65 hours to complete and I almost wish I had swallowed my ego and spend that time a the slower paced book like "C++ Primer Plus" instead.

Studentgu says

explain the concepts in real examples, and step into c++ over c.