

The developer's code

Ben Everard delves into a programmer's book that's not about programming.

The *Developer's Code* is a series of essays on the subject of commercial software development. This isn't a book on the subtleties of the art of computer programming; it's all about how to work well in a commercial setting.

The essays are grouped into eight categories (Metaphor, Motivation, Productivity, Complexity, Teaching, Clients, Code and Pride). Each essay is about a skill that isn't directly related to programming, but that programmers need in order to work effectively, such as how to manage teams well, and how to speak to clients. The short essays are easy to read and completely self-contained, so it's easy to read this book in pieces if you don't have time to get through the whole thing in one go.

If your main interest in programming is in open source or solo projects, this book has very little for you. However, if you're serious

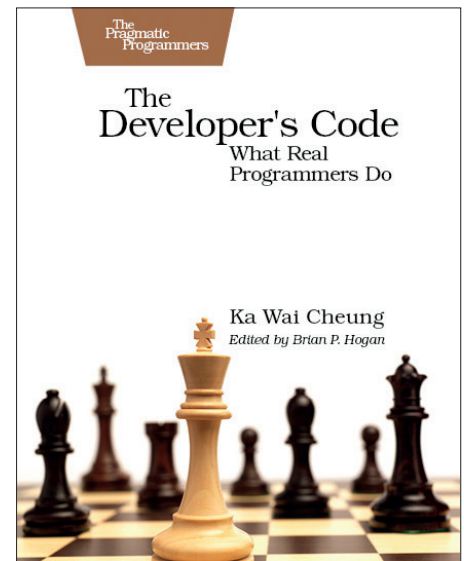
about progressing in this industry, *The Developer's Code* is the best such book we've come across.

The Developer's Code doesn't include any special new techniques or hidden secrets that haven't been published before. Instead, it presents useful information in an easy-to-digest fashion that will help you use your programming skills more effectively. If you feel as if you're stuck in a Dilbert strip, it could help you out.

LINUX VOICE VERDICT

Author Ka Wai Cheung
Publisher Pragmatic Bookshelf
ISBN 978-1934356791
Price £19.50

A useful book to help professional programmers advance up the corporate ladder.



As well as a physical book, *The Developer's Code* comes as a DRM-free eBook (in a variety of formats) at <https://pragprog.com>.

This Machine Kills Secrets

Dave Rebner is so secretive he won't even tell us his real name.

Cypherpunks – people who believe that sufficiently sophisticated cryptography can change the world for the better – have profoundly affected the last decade. Perhaps the most famous of these people is Julian Assange, but he wasn't the first, and he isn't alone. In *This Machine Kills Secrets*, Andy Greenberg charts the movement from its birth on a mailing list in the early days of the internet to the schisms that rocked Wikileaks following Assange's house arrest. It looks at the differing personalities that often clashed, and the different technology they built to free the world's information.

Greenberg has spoken with many of the key people in this saga, and this book includes first-hand testimony from just about every era the movement covers. Many books focus on the figureheads that are the public face of the movement, but *This Machine Kills Secrets* goes deeper and includes testimony from the geeks that made it all possible. It's well researched, well written, and an excellent read.

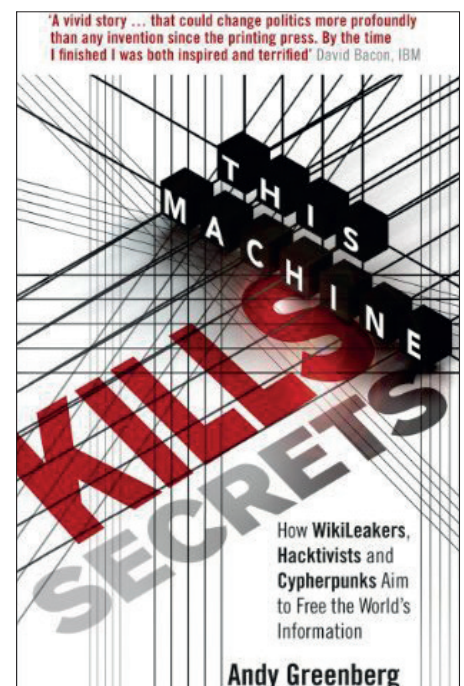
This Machine Kills Secrets isn't just a book about how leaking has happened in the past, it's a book about why it has happened, and why it will continue to happen. It's about the motives and passions that have led to the technology leakers use today.

The book finishes with Assange still under house arrest before he fled to the Ecuadorian Embassy, and before Ed Snowden leaked the NSA documents. This doesn't detract from the book, but it does mean that if you're looking for a modern history of leaking, you'll need to supplement this book with another covering the more recent leaks, such as *No Place To Hide* by Glenn Greenwald.

LINUX VOICE VERDICT

Author Andy Greenberg
Publisher Virgin Books
ISBN 978-0753540510
Price £12.99

The information wars are upon us, and this book tells the history of the resistance.



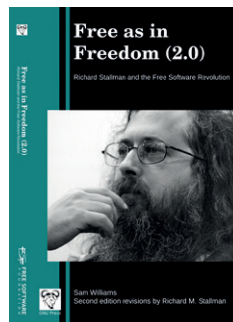
Woodie Guthrie's guitar may have been a machine for killing fascists, but all of our computers can help kill secrets.

Free as in Freedom (2.0)

Mike Saunders pokes his nose into this biography of the mighty RMS.

This book is a few years old now. So why are we covering it here? First: it's available as a free download (in PDF format) from <http://shop.fsf.org/product/free-as-in-freedom-2>. Second: you can get a copy of it signed by Richard Stallman (RMS) himself. And third: it's simply a great read!

The book explores Stallman's career as a programmer and activist, looking at his early work and how his positions on software freedom developed. It's fascinating to read how RMS was merely a humble hacker at the MIT AI Lab in the 1970s and 1980s, with no grand plans for the future, but slowly becoming aware of the increasing commercialisation of software. There used to be a tradition of sharing and openness in the computing world, but RMS saw these principles being eroded, and the straw that broke the camel's back was when he couldn't get access to the lab printer's source code in order to fix some bugs. At least,



Print copies, signed by RMS, are available for \$50.

not without signing an NDA, anyway. The book is a fascinating insight into the culture of the time, and what made RMS the fighter he is today.

LINUX VOICE VERDICT

Author Sam Williams and Richard Stallman
Publisher Free Software Foundation
ISBN 9780 9831 59216
Price Free (PDF), \$20 (book), \$50 (signed)
Essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how Free Software came about.

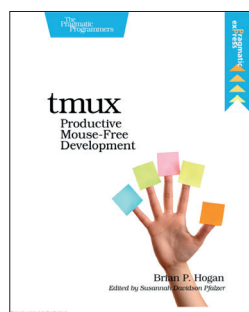


Tmux: Productive mouse-free development

Does anyone need a mouse? Ben Everard's is now redundant and free.

Tmux, the terminal multiplexer, is a tool for managing many terminals at once. Its most popular features are the ability to run many terminals in separate panes in a single window, and to detach from a session, but leave the terminals running. It's entirely keyboard-driven, so you can control everything without reaching for the carpal tunnel-forming rodent by your side.

Like many powerful keyboard-driven tools, *Tmux* can require a little effort to learn. It doesn't have an especially steep learning curve, and you should be able to get started with it quite quickly. However, if you want to get the most out of it, you'll probably need a little help, and *Tmux: Productive mouse-driven development* is possibly the best way to get started. At 66 pages, it's concise, but at the same time, its six chapters (Learning the basics, Configuring Tmux, Scripting customised tmux environments, Working with text and buffers, Pair programming with Tmux and



Once you've mastered *Tmux*, you'll never go back to using a mouse.

Workflows) cover everything you need to know. It also lets you know why you might need particular features, not just how to use them.

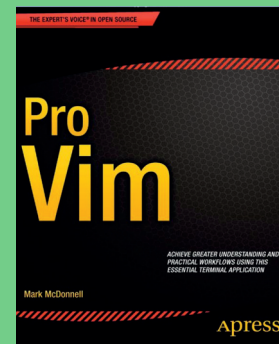
LINUX VOICE VERDICT

Author Brian P Hogan
Publisher Pragmatic Bookshelf
ISBN 978-1934356968
Price £10.99

Tmux is more powerful than most people realise, and this book will help you unlock it.



ALSO RELEASED...



Master *Vim* and throw your mouse away.

Pro Vim

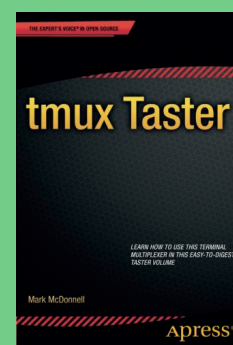
Learning a powerful text editor can change your life. You might find *Vim* horrendously terse and strange, but once you get your head round it and master the basics, you're well on the path to editing enlightenment. This 424-page tome assists you on the journey.



Why some products sell, and some fail.

Badass: Making Users Awesome

Got a great idea for a product or service, but no marketing budget? This guide, from Kathy Sierra of Head First fame, shows you how to turn your ideas into a success. The key? Making your users feel badass – as in, spiffing, tip-top, in our British English vernacular.



Tmux + *Vim* = heaven. In our humble opinion.

Tmux Taster

This mini guide (96 pages) takes you through the basics of *Tmux*, an extremely handy terminal multiplexer. Wassat, you say? As reviewed immediately to the left? That's right. It's such a useful piece of software that books are springing up like mushrooms in the dew.