

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [C++ Book review \(C++ Primer Plus \(6th edition\), C++ Primer \(5th edition\)\)](#)

TronX. - January 28, 2014, 10:19 am

Hey guys!

I just wanted to leave a quick review, of a C++ book.

EDIT: For now I've removed the review. I'd like to get the 5th edition of c++ primer before I judge. I've been told that is much better.

UPDATE: I've now purchased C++ Primer (5th Edition) which have recieved much better ratings. I'll use this thread to review both of these books, once I receive the other one.

I'll update this as I go on.

popov - January 28, 2014, 3:23 pm

If you are just starting c++ then i recommend "learn c++ in 21 days" (something like that), i like it since a majority of books seem like they drag on whereas this book doesnt

?Galaxy - January 29, 2014, 1:18 pm

I am interested to see your further review as this is the book recommended by ms virtual academy in their [jump start videos](#).

(Jan 28, 2014 04:23 PM)popov Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) learn c++ in 21 daysI have also heard very good things about this book but the C++ Primier will most likely give a much fuller understanding of C++

popov - January 29, 2014, 1:29 pm

(Jan 29, 2014 02:18 PM)CallMeMrBiG Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am interested to see your further review as this is the book recommended by ms virtual academy in their [jump start videos](#).

I have also heard very good things about this book but the C++ Primier will most likely give a much fuller understanding of C++

yeah if you dont have previous programming experience then i would recommend a in depth book

?Galaxy - January 29, 2014, 1:37 pm

(Jan 29, 2014 02:29 PM)popov Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yeah if you dont have previous programming experience then i would recommend a in depth book

I'm sure the primer is not only a method of teaching but also to be used as a reference through out your time using C++

wethegreenpeople - January 29, 2014, 2:37 pm

C++ primer plus is not a highly regarded book.

<http://accu.org/index.php?module=bookreviews&func=search&rid=1744>

That's for the 4th edition but I've read equally bad reviews about the latest.

Only3 - January 30, 2014, 3:38 am

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/388242/the-definitive-c-book-guide-and-list>

http://ebook-dl.com/item/C_Plus_Plus_Primer_Plus_6th_Edition_Stephen_Prata

TronX. - January 30, 2014, 9:53 am

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That's for the 4th edition but I've read equally bad reviews about the latest. Link me the source of the reviews for the latest book. I'd like to see them.

(Jan 29, 2014 02:18 PM)CallMeMrBiG Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am interested to see your further review as this is the book recommended by ms virtual academy in their [jump start videos](#).

I have also heard very good things about this book but the C++ Premier will most likely give a much fuller understanding of C++. If you've got any specific questions, feel free to ask me, either here on the thread, using PM, or add me on skype: simondeath1

wethegreenpeople - January 30, 2014, 10:55 am

http://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/comments/z1v31/what_is_wrong_with_c_primer_plus/

http://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/comments/188k8v/why_is_c_primer_plus_6th_edition_a_bad_book/

http://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/search?q=C%2B%2B+primer+plus&restrict_sr=on

Tldr; Bad practices, and crappy teaching style. It gets okay reviews on amazon and the like because it's being reviewed by people that are new to programming and don't know better,

I'm not saying that it won't teach you anything, but it'll teach you wrong. And if you're going to learn wrong you might as well not learn at all.

TronX. - January 30, 2014, 11:31 am

(Jan 30, 2014 11:55 AM)wethegreenpeople Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#)

http://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/comments/z1v31/what_is_wrong_with_c_primer_plus/

http://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/comments/188k8v/why_is_c_primer_plus_6th_edition_a_bad_book/

http://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/search?q=C%2B%2B+primer+plus&restrict_sr=on

Tldr; Bad practices, and crappy teaching style. It gets okay reviews on amazon and the like because it's being reviewed by people that are new to programming and don't know better,

I'm not saying that it won't teach you anything, but it'll teach you wrong. And if you're going to learn wrong you might as well not learn at all. I checked 2 of the 3 you sent me. That's bullshit. It does not teach C. It compares to C, that is correct. But comparing and teaching C is not the same thing. Also, many of the posts on the reddit pages are referring to the 4th edition. I'm surprised that they can't see the difference of the 4th and the 6th one. Also, I'm not saying this book is better than others. I'm saying this works for me. I'm only trying to help people who's clueless about what they should get. Also.. Don't use reddit for reviews.

wethegreenpeople - January 30, 2014, 12:01 pm

Did you read through the links that I sent you?

Quote: I found the 6th edition at B&N a few days ago and flipped to chapter 4, "Compound Types." lck. Here's what I remember.

Prata starts with pointers and C strings. Then there's a very short section on string, and Prata says

using string is easier than char *. Next come arrays. Then there's a very short section on vector, but all he does with it there is get and set with []. As expected, he also says vectors are easier to use than arrays. Then he teaches structs, and IIRC there's a short section on C++11 syntax for initializing a struct. He ends the chapter with unions!

In sum, he teaches "hard" stuff in a lot of detail before teaching "easy" stuff. So yeah, he teaches C before C++, but the instruction is interleaved. By teaching C first and in greater detail, he gives the impression that C idioms are the usual way to go. By interleaving C and C++ instruction, he gives the impression that you can happily interleave C and C++ idioms in your code. By merely telling you that the C++ stuff is just "easier," he doesn't guide you in when to prefer what.

That is in reference to the 6th edition. It's literally in the first sentence.

Quote:Also, I'm not saying this book is better than others. I'm saying this works for me. I'm only trying to help people who's clueless about what they should get.

If it works for you, great, fine, I'm happy. But don't try and sell the book like it's some fantastic book because it's not, it teaches bad habits. This isn't just according to reddit. This is also according to stackoverflow, and cpp forums all over the place full of people that already know C++ and have read through this book.

I'd much rather listen to people that already know C++ telling me that a book is bad, than people who don't know C++ telling me a book is fantastic. But that's just my personal opinion.

TronX. - January 30, 2014, 12:16 pm

(Jan 30, 2014 01:01 PM)wethegreenpeople Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Did you read through the links that I sent you?

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I'd much rather listen to people that already know C++ telling me that a book is bad, than people who don't know C++ telling me a book is fantastic. But that's just my personal opinion. You cannot say that it teaches C first, if you've never had it. I've got it, and it doesn't. End of story. Anyway, thanks for your opinion.

wethegreenpeople - January 30, 2014, 12:23 pm

You are correct, I don't have it because I spent a little time researching before I bought my book.

If I may ask a quick question, you say with a lot of confidence that it absolutely doesn't teach C first. So I'm assuming that you have learned C already? You have an intermediate knowledge of the language? Or at least an intermediate knowledge of C++?

KingVS - January 30, 2014, 3:40 pm

Thanks for this thread really useful :) Appreciate it.

TronX. - January 30, 2014, 9:48 pm

(Jan 30, 2014 04:40 PM)KingVersace Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for this thread really useful :) Appreciate it.

Thanks a brunch for the comment. However, I'd recommend you to wait buying the primer plus, instead check out C++ Primer 5th Edition.