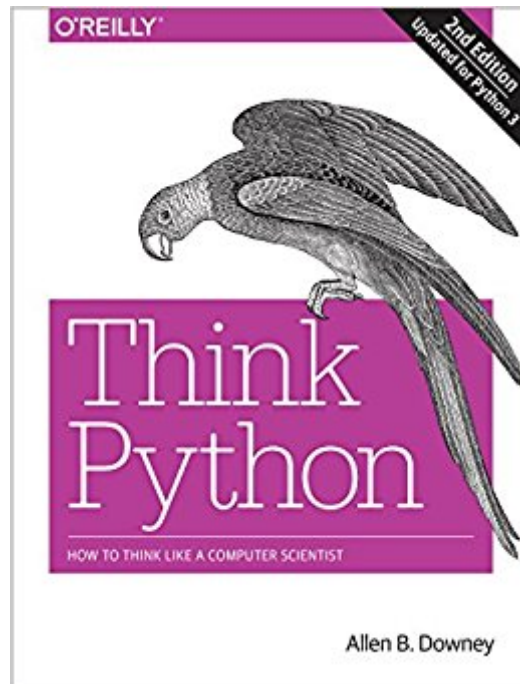




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Think Python: How To Think Like A Computer Scientist



Synopsis

If you want to learn how to program, working with Python is an excellent way to start. This hands-on guide takes you through the language a step at a time, beginning with basic programming concepts before moving on to functions, recursion, data structures, and object-oriented design. This second edition and its supporting code have been updated for Python 3. Through exercises in each chapter, you'll try out programming concepts as you learn them. Think Python is ideal for students at the high school or college level, as well as self-learners, home-schooled students, and professionals who need to learn programming basics. Beginners just getting their feet wet will learn how to start with Python in a browser. Start with the basics, including language syntax and semantics. Get a clear definition of each programming concept. Learn about values, variables, statements, functions, and data structures in a logical progression. Discover how to work with files and databases. Understand objects, methods, and object-oriented programming. Use debugging techniques to fix syntax, runtime, and semantic errors. Explore interface design, data structures, and GUI-based programs through case studies.

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Customer Reviews

Allen Downey is a Professor of Computer Science at Olin College of Engineering. He has taught at Wellesley College, Colby College and U.C. Berkeley. He has a Ph.D. in Computer Science from U.C. Berkeley and Master's and Bachelor's degrees from MIT.

I am a big fan of Dr. Downey. Think Python is one of several introductory level books he has written recently. It is the product of many years of teaching computer science to university students. It is a well laid out introduction to computer science, programming, data structures, algorithms, and Python. It is very well suited to independent study. I am a retired university professor of computer science. This is a book I would have chosen as a class text.

The good: This is a wonderfully written book. Having programed for several decades, I was surprised by how much I enjoyed a introductory programing book. This book blends in concepts of how to solve problems while introducing python. The progression of python was done excellently with non-trivial insightful examples. The bad: I only gripe I have about my current copy of the book is that there were several pages missing! The 4 star is for these missing pages. Otherwise, this product deserves a 5 star for what it accomplishes. The temporary fix: As others have noted, this book is available online and I was able to read the missing pages there!

The book is brand new and delivered quickly. It's recommended by a professor of data science course. It's really good for students who encountered with python for the first time. There is also brief introduction to computer science and programming languages. It's nicely organized, explained and very easy to follow. I have not yet read it through although the course is over. I used it as a hand book and check whenever I forgot the command or had bugs. I will keep it until I get familiar with python, and becoming skillful. I really like the book because it somehow helps me to learn to think like a computer scientist.

Great text for the beginner, teaching not just Python syntax but also design and some basic CS. Even though there is a newer edition for Python 3, this edition does mention the minor differences between the Python versions, which are minor at this level and easily learned at the same time.

Its hard to rave about a programming book. It is a good reference and is well written, but let's face it, the fastest and best way to learn a programming language these days is through some short introduction course (like Coursera.org, or edX.org) and google questions. However, if reading a text from cover to cover, or just as a reference is your preferred method of learning, this is a good Python book.

1st off....waaaaaay cheaper than on campus. Second, does the job and fairly simple explanation of how python works.

I am not new to programming, and for that reason the book is probably starting at a too low level for me. However, since I have very little spare time and I do want to learn Python, the example were so simple that it was then easy to try them out and get me going with this programming language.

Very helpful introductory level guide to programming with Python.

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