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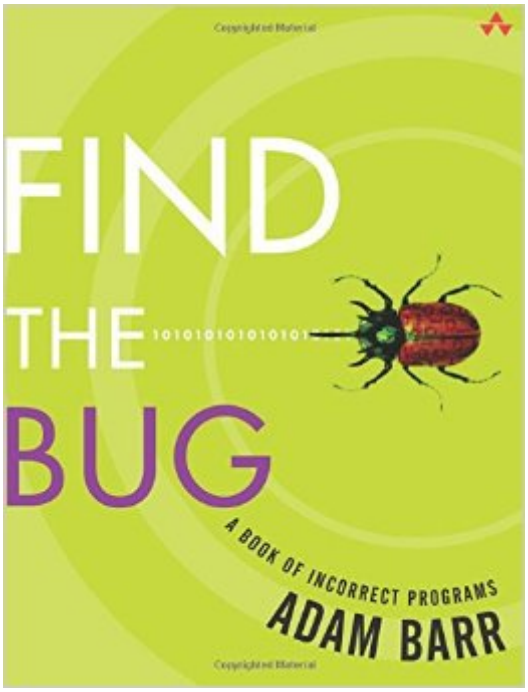
Find The Bug: A Book Of Incorrect Programs



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Synopsis

Presents bugged programs in C, Java, Python, Perl, and x86 assembly language, with explained solutions. This book includes language overviews to help you debug 50 examples. It shows how to look past the surface of code to uncover its hidden internal logic. It also offers practical guidance on analyzing programs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you’re a programmer who has to look at code that others have written, you’ll appreciate this book... Find The Bug by Adam Barr (Addison-Wesley).Chapter list: Bug Classification; Tips on Walking Through Code; C; Python; Java; Perl; x86 Assembly Language; Classification of Bugs; Index of Bugs by Type; References; IndexThis is a excellent text to help you improve your skills on reading code and mentally debugging it. There are 10 short program or routines for each of the five languages. Your goal is to walk through the code and figure out what is the hidden error in it. There are three or four suggestions if you need help thinking it through, a couple of direct hints to focus your thoughts, and a complete explanation at the end. Even though you may not be familiar with some of the languages, Barr gives you a basic coverage of the fundamentals at the beginning of the chapter so that you can see if you are able to spot the error. Add to all that some good information on how best to walk through code, and you end up with a book that should be part of every developer’s training. If you’re part of a development group that does code walkthroughs, this would be an excellent guide to help everyone become more effective during the process.A good way to

step outside your normal thought processes and improve your skills... good stuff.

Adam Barr steps you through code analysis in a logical fashion, guiding you around some obvious and not so obvious pitfalls. His writing style makes it easy to understand his concepts. Adam’s selection of languages benefits programmers of all backgrounds. I especially enjoyed looking through the Python examples. The language summary at the beginning of each chapter is a great idea to acquaint newcomers to a language. Experienced programmers as well as hobbyists will find great value in the examples. Not only will you become a better debugger, you will become a better programmer.

This book has a set of bugs to work through in C, Java, Perl, Python, and Assembler. The bugs range from rudimentary syntax mistakes to more complex and subtle bugs. Hints are given to help you along the way. These will definitely give you brain a spin. Much link the C lint bugs in that have been printed in Dr. Dobbs for years. If you enjoy logic puzzles and bug hunting you will like this book.

Don’t buy this book; save a tree!It says nothing about actually useful practices, like unit-testing. No thrilling bug hunting stories, just a collection of boring examples, written in "for dummies" style that made me want to close the book immediately.

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