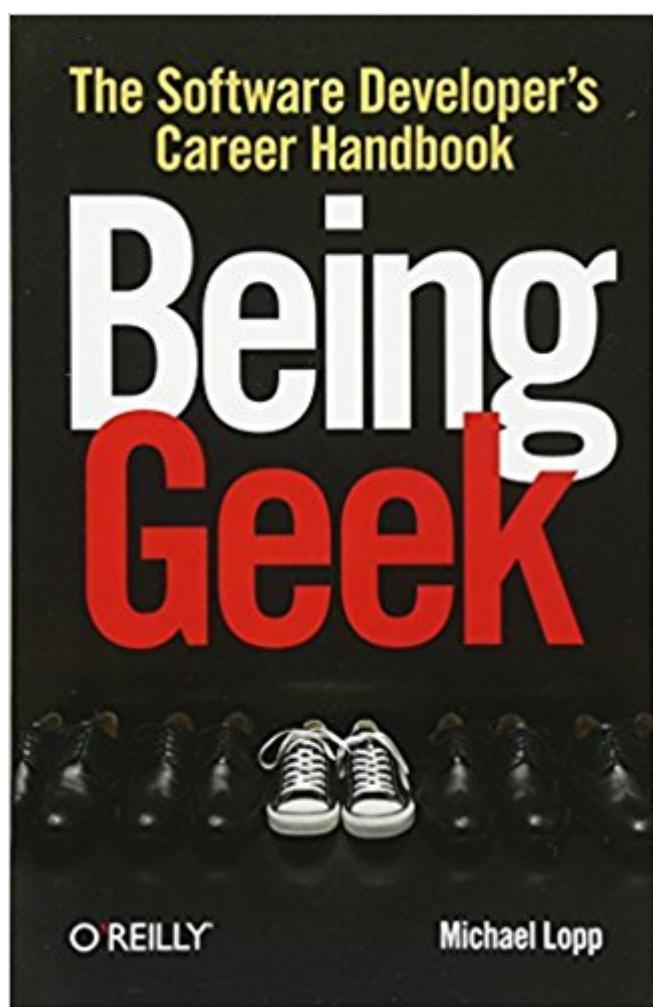The book was found

Being Geek: The Software Developer's Career Handbook

Synopsis

As a software engineer, you recognize at some point that there's much more to your career than dealing with code. Is it time to become a manager? Tell your boss heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a jerk? Join that startup? Author Michael Lopp recalls his own make-or-break moments with Silicon Valley giants such as Apple, Netscape, and Symantec in Being Geek -- an insightful and entertaining book that will help you make better career decisions.With more than 40 standalone stories, Lopp walks through a complete job life cycle, starting with the job interview and ending with the realization that it might be time to find another gig. Many books teach you how to interview for a job or how to manage a project successfully, but only this book helps you handle the baffling circumstances you may encounter throughout your career.Decide what you're worth with the chapter on "The Business"Determine the nature of the miracle your CEO wants with "The Impossible"Give effective presentations with "How Not to Throw Up"Handle liars and people with devious agendas with "Managing Werewolves"Realize when you should be looking for a new gig with "The Itch"

Book Information

Paperback: 338 pages

Publisher: O'Reilly Media; 1 edition (August 13, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0596155409

ISBN-13: 978-0596155407

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars   47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #498,869 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #69 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Computers & Internet   #306 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Business & Professional   #1254 inÃ Â Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing & Engineering > Software Development

Customer Reviews

Michael Lopp is a Silicon Valley-based engineering manager. When he's not worrying about staying relevant, he writes about pens, bridges, people, and werewolves at the popular weblog, Rands in Repose. Michael wrote a book called "Managing Humans" which explains that while you might be rewarded for what you produce, you will only be successful because of your people.

This is one of the most useful career books to read for people new in the tech industry. If you are in college or just starting your career, this is a must read book. It covers every topic from looking for a job, writing a resume, interview tips, offer negotiation, and what to do once you get the job. The one thing I don't like about it is the crass language, but if that doesn't bother you, then this book might be entertaining as well. Even for people who aren't in software engineering will find useful tips because he writes it in a way that his advice is true for a variety of careers.

The author of this book writes the popular "Rands in Repose" blog. IT people will recognize the situations Lopp describes, and may find some of his advice and insights to be useful.The chapters are strongly influenced by posts on the blog. While the chapters are interesting of themselves, there is little coherence between chapters, and some of the chapter headings are not a good description of the contents.Lopp's other book, "Managing Humans," may be a better choice for many readers. In that book, the chapters are more coherent, and the stories are more on-point.This was an enjoyable, quick read, which is why I gave it 4 stars. I just think the other book is better, which is why I gave that one 5.

Great book that delivers what it promises. Being Geek lays out both the big picture of career management as well as some of the finer points of controlling your tech career in an industry where everyone around you assumes you would prefer to be left alone and code.Everything is covered from how to set goals within your current gig and beyond, to how to interact with a notoriously hard to read brand of co-worker. It covers topics that one might think taboo to ask a boss; simultaneously answering those questions and making them seem less inappropriate to talk with a manager about (e.g. your life after your current company or what your next position within the company could be.)Being Geek also brings into light the false assumption that developers should graduate into management. It points out what should be obvious but isn't: developers don't necessarily make good business liaisons. It goes on to elaborate on more "tech" geared career paths.The abstract discussion of how geeks interact with themselves and business, what to look for and expect in these interactions, and what tools there are to facilitate these relationships is also very useful. As you learn from the book, geeks like to organize things into systems; even their relationships. Having the relationships I experience with my coworkers outlined provided a surprising amount of clarity and perspective to my own work environment.The chapters can largely stand alone (I think the book is mostly an edited compilation of the author's blog) and make for an easily digestible "cover to cover" read that also can serve as a reference. At times the book became a little too "self-helpy" for my

taste, but then again that's exactly what Being Geek is supposed to be.

I've been reading Lopp's blog, Rands in Repose, for some time. Lopp has a pretty good geek resume, with experience at Symantec, Borland, Netscape, and Apple. His blog is one that I always read, since he's got a great gift for distilling lessons out of his experiences. This book is mostly a compilation of his blog posts, with some new essays added to help define the overall arc of a geek's career as defined by starting at a new job to deciding to move on to the next one.Looking on my own experience in tech companies, I think that his advice is often spot-on. There have been times when I've read one of his blog posts after a difficult situation and found myself understanding it better. He's got a keen eye for detail and for understanding the nuances of geek behaviour, as well as all of the interacting forces that come into play when you're working for a big geek company. I've gone back to read half-remembered posts that I felt were pertinent to a given situation.I found it amusing that Lopp says in his introduction that he's not writing a book that gives you ten steps for anything, or that will define the five characteristics of a top leader, but most of his essays are structured in just that form: distill a situation into some archetypes, identified by Capital Letters. For an occasional blog post, I don't mind this style; as a book, this structure got rather repetitive. While I love the blog, I found that I couldn't read the book for more than a half-hour without losing interest because the style just didn't work for an actual book.Honestly, I was hoping for more. The blog is excellent. I hoped that a book would use the blog as a starting point and give more consideration, more depth. But it's not there. If, like me, you've been reading his blog for some time, I can't really recommend this book. You've read most of it before, albeit in a different order. The new pieces don't really add that much. If you're not a reader of his blog, this book is a good look at moving through your geek career. I'd recommend adding his blog to your reading list while you're at it.

You have to be in an open mind set when reading this. Your work has to be your passion an you need to have spend some time in a large cooperation. Given that this book is very valuable to put your daily live in perspective!

Goes far beyond what you would normally expect. Lopp deals with issues and situations that occur everyday but no one talks about. His point of view is right on and he speaks to a day in the life of a development manager from deep experience. I heartily recommend this book.

Being Geek: The Software Developer's Career Handbook The Complete Software Developer's

Career Guide: How to Learn Your Next Programming Language, Ace Your Programming Interview, and Land The Coding Job Of Your Dreams Software Engineering: The Current Practice (Chapman & Hall/CRC Innovations in Software Engineering and Software Development Series) Don't Hire a Software Developer Until You Read this Book: The handbook for tech startups & entrepreneurs (from idea, to build, to product launch and everything in between.) Don't hire a software developer until you read this book Software Project Survival Guide (Developer Best Practices) Soft Skills: The Software Developer's Life Manual Software Requirements (3rd Edition) (Developer Best Practices) Career Information, Career Counseling, and Career Development (9th Edition) Career Information, Career Counseling, and Career Development (10th Edition) (Merrill Counseling (Hardcover)) Career Information, Career Counseling, and Career Development (10th Edition) (Merrill Counseling) Career Information, Career Counseling, and Career Development (7th Edition) The Software Requirements Memory Jogger: A Pocket Guide to Help Software And Business Teams Develop And Manage Requirements (Memory Jogger) Head First Software Development: A Learner's Companion to Software Development Agile Project Management: Agile Revolution, Beyond Software Limits: A Practical Guide to Implementing Agile Outside Software Development (Agile Business Leadership, Book 4) Don't Buy Software For Your Small Business Until You Read This Book: A guide to choosing the right software for your SME & achieving a rapid return on your investment Software Agreements Line by Line, 2nd ed.: A Detailed Look at Software Agreements and How to Draft Them to Meet Your Needs IEC 62304 Ed. 1.0 b:2006, Medical device software - Software life cycle processes Agile Software Development with Scrum (Series in Agile Software Development) Launch It: 300+ things I've learned as a Designer, Developer and Creative Director. A handbook for digital creatives.