

Reviews For The Minimum You Need to Know to Be an OpenVMS Application Developer

"Hands-on programming throughout the book provides a highly effective learning tool, and the best practices, advice, and knowledge transfer from the author gives the reader the unique feeling that they are sitting down next to a mentor, being coached through the tricks of the trade!"

Regan Windsor, Reader Views

"I had it shipped to the Netherlands for the price of \$96. It arrived within a week of the order date. Worth every dollar (euro)."

Wilm Boerhout

"Highly recommended for OpenVMS programmers (especially those new to OpenVMS who need a good bootstrap). At the very minimum, a copy of this book should be purchased as an "office resource" in every location where OpenVMS developers work."

Neil Rieck, OpenVMS Application Developer

"Amazing. This is a truly astonishing work and a MUST for everybody who is starting with application developing, be it on VMS or not (I can not tell for others as I am starting myself). It is not a book where you will find many theories about abstract topics but one displaying everything you need to know by means of examples, explaining each example's important parts in-depth. You really feel the experience of the author throughout the text! This is a book I'd try to take with me if my house was burning down."

Thierry Dussuet, OpenVMS Student

Ian Miller, OpenVMS.Org - OpenVMS News and Information

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After I got over the surprise of seeing a new book on OpenVMS Software Development I wondered at the title - this is an 800 page book with a CD! The book is intended for people who are familiar with programming on another platform and are faced with maintaining an application on VMS written using classic OpenVMS software tools. Perhaps a better title would be "What a person unfamiliar with OpenVMS should know to maintain an OpenVMS application".

Hughes describes uses of: the MMS and CMS tools from the widely used DECSET OpenVMS software development toolkit; CDD; FMS; the RDB and MySQL databases. He also mentions other tools often found in the OpenVMS application development environment such as VMSMAIL, PHONE etc. Parts of OpenVMS which will be unfamiliar to a person transferring from another platform, such as logical names and DCL symbols, are introduced as they will often be encountered when maintaining an application on OpenVMS.

The book is based around a single application which is developed in each of DEC BASIC, FORTRAN, COBOL, C and C++ using a variety of tools. Full source code is provided on the CD. By repeatedly implementing the same thing in different languages the programmer familiar with one language can learn about another. The presented code is not suitable for a production environment but is intended to illustrate something being described in the text. For example the error handling is not always fully implemented except when Hughes wishes to describe dealing with errors.

Hughes describes building the application and typical ways of organizing the development environment and highlights common pitfalls for programmers coming from other platforms. The book is written in American English and in a casual style. Although it is easy to read some people who are not native English speakers may not recognise some of the colloquial terms used. I don't think this will significantly hinder understanding.

Hughes has opinions about how things should be done and is not afraid to state them! Personally I find an opinionated book easier to engage with because there is something to argue or agree with. The final chapter is Hughes opinion on the state of the IT Industry.

The key to appreciating this book its specific focus. I think the target audience will find this a useful resource to sit alongside the OpenVMS Documentation. However the material is also useful for an OpenVMS developer faced with an application in a different programming language to the one they usually use.

"DO NOT begin any new database projects without first reading chapter 13 (MySQL) and chapter 14 (Oracle-RDB) of this book. Hint: while you can acquire MySQL for free, and it may have a place for some small applications, it may cost you more in the long run."

Neil Rieck, OpenVMS Application Developer