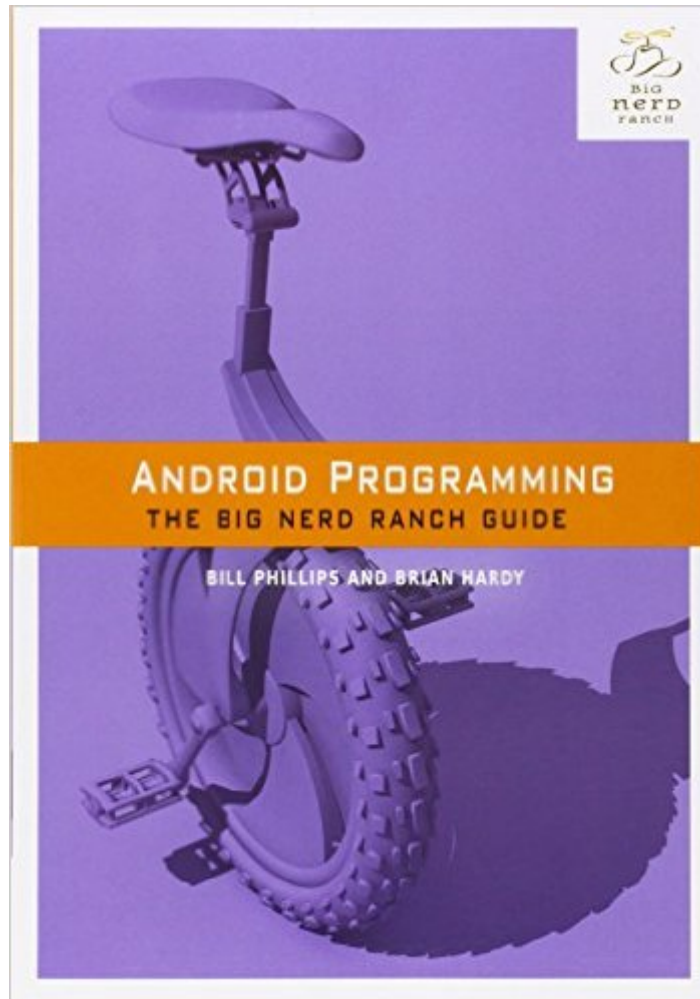# Android Programming: The Big Nerd Ranch Guide (Big Nerd Ranch Guides)

ANDROID PROGRAMMING
THE BIG NERD RANCH GUIDE

BILL PHILLIPS AND BRIAN HARDY

Synopsis

Android Programming: The Big Nerd Ranch Guide: is an introductory Android book for programmers with Java experience. Based on Big Nerd Ranchâ ™s popular Android Bootcamp course, this guide will lead you through the wilderness using hands-on example apps combined with clear explanations of key concepts and APIs. This book focuses on practical techniques for developing apps compatible with all versions of Android widely used today (Android 2.2 - 4.2). Write and run code every step of the way â " creating apps that catalog crime scenes, browse photos, track your jogging route, and more. Each chapter and app has been designed and tested to provide the knowledge and experience you need to get started in Android development. Write and run code every step of the way â " creating apps that catalog crime scenes, browse photos, track your jogging route, and more. Each chapter and app has been designed and tested to provide the knowledge and experience you need to get started in Android development. "Big Nerd Ranch provided the training we needed to get hundreds of engineers building skillfully on Android. This book is a great distillation of that training and will be a huge help to anyone looking to ramp up as well." â " Mike Shaver, Director of Mobile Engineering, Facebook "â ¦a must-have for the developer just starting in Android or ready for more advanced techniques. I was impressed with this bookâ ™s content and clarity of presentation. The authors explain simple and complex Android topics with equal ease." â " James Steele, author of The Android Developer's Cookbook

Book Information

Series: Big Nerd Ranch Guides

Paperback: 580 pages

Publisher: Big Nerd Ranch Guides; 1 edition (April 7, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0321804333

ISBN-13: 978-0321804334

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.6 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (207 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #105,043 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #5 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Wireless Networks   #35 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Mobile Phones, Tablets & E-Readers > Programming & App Development   #53 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Data in the Enterprise

Customer Reviews

I think the other reviewers sum it up pretty well. The author does a solid job of teaching you the fundamentals of Android and tells you EXACTLY what do to get the projects working.However...I'm reading this book in May of 2013, so the book is completely relevant. Android 4.2 is the current OS and the current version of Eclipse is the same the author is using. I am very happy about this.I gave up on the Nerd Ranch iPhone book because the latest version of XCode was too different than the author's. Half the time I was trying to translate what the author was doing to the new Xcode way. Android doesn't change as much. However, there are little things like "fill_parent" that are used in books like Hello Android which is now deprecated. So if you learned from that book, you would be using a deprecated value for who knows how long! Hello Android is excellent too, but that was written before Honeycomb which changed everything!So if it's mid 2013, I recommend this book. But don't let it sit on the shelf. Start it immediately. Books about mobile platforms become outdated very quickly.

This is the first review I have ever written for a book.The book claims to be "an introductory Android book for programmers with Java experience" and it does exactly what it says on the tin. This is what I liked most about the book:1. the style is readable. I found myself actually enjoying the book. Many other technical programming books are simply too dry to read except as a reference. This book is a cover-to-cover read.2. explanation is given. Instead of just presenting facts, the authors develop understanding through explanation.3. real applications are developed. The authors introduce new material through real world examples that the reader follows along to. Similarly to the words of another reviewer here, occasionally it feels as if the reader is really in a course with the authors instructing in real time.I am looking forward to further texts of this quality and style on more advanced Android programming from the authors.There is a lot of rubbish out there. If you are looking to get into developing on Android then buy this book.[PS: An idiot reviewer here gave this book one star. He purchased a book that describes itself as an introductory text, then complained that the book was introductory. Please.]

This book deserves 6/5 stars. I had high expectations for this book and upon reading and using the book it has blown those expectations away! For starters the book is portioned into easy bite size bits to help you learn android development from the ground up. Starting with what android actually is and finishing up with using maps in your mobile application (for more information look at the table of contents for the book). You will be writing code every step of the way with this book...What sets this

book aside from any other app development book is that the book really "talks" to YOU. Reading this book is almost like having a personal tutor at your disposal.The book tells you exactly what to do AND goes over WHY you're doing what you're doing. Right about now you're probably saying "Jeez, I don't want to be told what to do, I'm a rebel..." or "Sheesh, how the hell are you supposed to learn if you're being told exactly what to do?".. well for starters practice and repetition will help you learn for when you come across problems on your own, AND ALSO, at the end of every section there is a "Challenge" where the authors ask you to do specific things (i.e. add to the app, fix something in the app) that make you think on your own, do your own research, and actually write code without being told what to do...If you are trying to learn android development get this book, it walks you though everything and gives you exactly what you need to get started on your journey through mobile app development on the android platform. There is also an online forum for the book that you can go to, to ask questions, the authors are almost always on the forum so you can get help directly from the source.Buy this book, it's the best Android How-to book on the market, you will not be disappointed.

At this point I am only about halfway through the book, but will be updating this review as I progress.Layout:I find the layout of the book to be very helpful. Each chapter either creates or builds on an app from the previous chapters. YOU START BUILDING APPS and it is rewarding and energizing to see the fruits of your labor immediately. Code to be added or deleted is clearly labelled too, which is an advantage compared to other books. There are also plenty of screenshots to guide the reader as they progress and challenges that help more fully understand the code.Explanations:Although they say some experience required, explanations are (very much unfortunately) underdeveloped for the book. Quite a bit of experience is required. The book explains how the code is written, but doesn't contain a lot about why a certain method or class is used. Unless you are familiar with mid-level coding, a lot of time will be spent online looking for additional help. There is a forum on their website and "answer code" (i.e. the code copied from the book) that can be downloaded, but other than that there is little explanation beyond what's written. That being said, the code they do write is very clean and elegant and has really improved my own coding.So far my biggest beef is that some chapters are very underdeveloped. It seems like they were either rushed or done with little thought, which can be incredibly frustrating.

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