

A Few of Randy's .NET Programming Book Recommendations

C# Programming

Pro C# 2012 and the .NET 4 Platform by Andrew Troelsen, ISBN-10: 1430225491, ISBN-13: 978-1430225492

This book provides lots of reference material and examples of the very latest C# language and .NET features. It also covers object-oriented programming well and includes sections on WinForms and ADO.NET, but the primary focus is the language and .NET itself. I do not own this book, but do own other books written by Andrew Troelsen. He is a very good author.

A Programmer's Introduction to C# 2.0 by Eric Gunnerson and Nick Wienholt, ISBN-10: 1590595017, ISBN-13: 978-1590595015.

This is a terrific book if you want a quick and fast paced introduction to the C# language itself. The book does not spend a lot of time on basic programming concepts, so it will be best for people that already know another language such as C++ or Java fairly well. I own the prior version of this book and found it quite helpful as I was learning C# for the first time.

Application Development Using C# and .NET by Michael Stiefel and Robert J. Oberg, ISBN: 013093383X, ISBN-13: 9780130933836

This book, while is a little dated is good if you want to see an entire application being created one step at a time. I own and copy of this book, which is also now available as a free download from the Internet.

VB.NET Programming

Microsoft Visual Basic 2010 Step by Step by Michael Halvorson, ISBN: 0735626693, ISBN- 13: 978-0735626690

This book is the one recommended and sold by Microsoft and the primary focus is on learning how to use Visual Basic .NET to develop applications. It can be used by novices to learn VB.NET and is a good starting point. I do not own this book, but have browsed through it in bookstores.

Murach's Visual Basic 2010 by Anne Boehm, ISBN: 1890774588, ISBN-13: 978-1890774585

This book is geared towards intermediate developers that know some programming, but want to dive into Visual Basic .NET. While I don't own this book, I own other books by this same author and found her style of writing to be very good. I also own other books in the Murach series and most of the are of excellent quality.

Microsoft Visual Basic .NET Programmer's Cookbook by Matthew MacDonald, ISBN: 073561931X, ISBN-13: 978-0735619319

This book is a bit different than most. It present about 100 solutions that show you how to solve specific problems you are likely encounter in your applications. I own this book and found many of the examples provide a new way of looking at solutions to common problems. It does assume you already

have a good grasp of Visual Basic .NET and are familiar with the .NET Framework.

General .NET References

Essential .NET – Volume 1 by Don Box and Chris Sells, ISBN: 0201734117, ISBN-13: 978-0201734119

This book was written by a couple of the developers who actually helped design and build the .NET Framework in the first place. While it only covers the .NET Framework 1.0, it does provide an inside look at why .NET was designed and works the way it does. The book goes under the hood and digs deep into subjects like the CLR (Common Language Runtime), CTS (Common Type System) and other advanced .NET concepts. I own this book and found it useful for understanding the “big picture” behind .NET.

Programming Data-Driven Web Sites with ASP.NET by Donny Mack and Doug Seven, ISBN: 0672321068, ISBN-13: 978-0672321061

I found this book to very helpful while learning how to use databases in ASP.NET applications, but many of the concepts also apply to regular .NET application development also. The bad news is this book has not been updated since 2001, so some of its information is a little out dated, even though the basic concepts have not changed much. You may want to consider the more current book titled *Beginning ASP.NET 2.0 Databases: From Novice to Professional* by Damien Foggon instead. That book was updated in 2006 and a new release covering ASP.NET 4.5 is schedule to be released in August 2012.