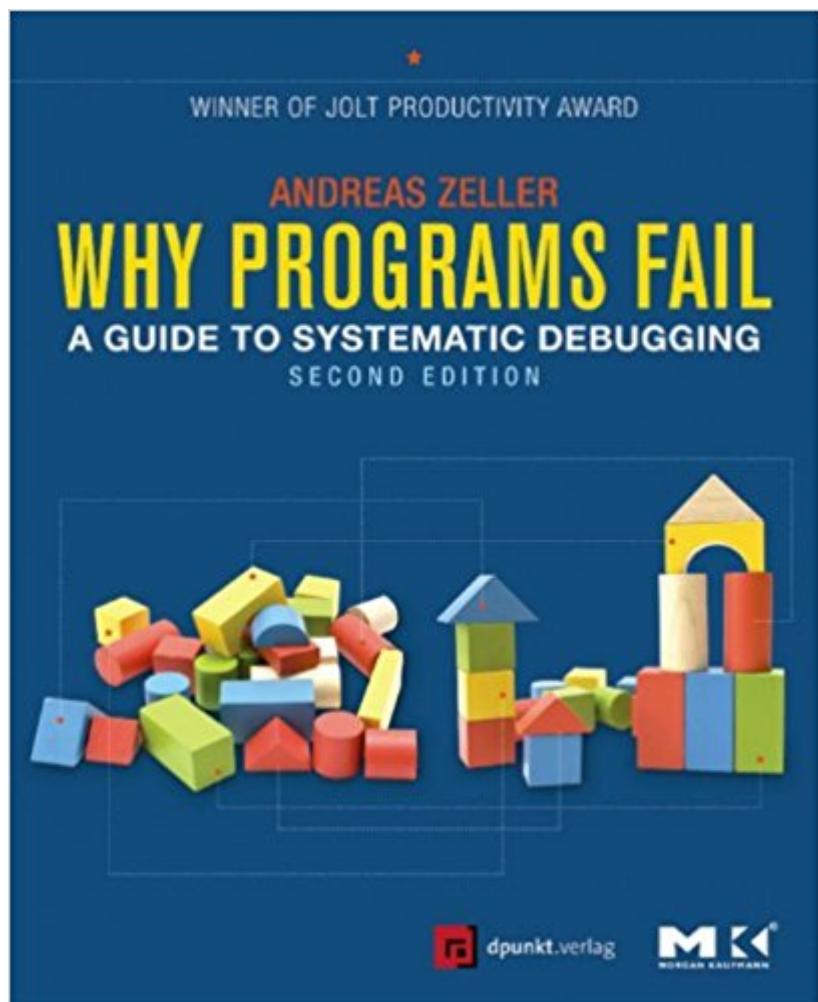


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Why Programs Fail: A Guide To Systematic Debugging



Synopsis

This book is proof that debugging has graduated from a black art to a systematic discipline. It demystifies one of the toughest aspects of software programming, showing clearly how to discover what caused software failures, and fix them with minimal muss and fuss. The fully updated second edition includes 100+ pages of new material, including new chapters on Verifying Code, Predicting Errors, and Preventing Errors. Cutting-edge tools such as FindBugs and AGITAR are explained, techniques from integrated environments like Jazz.net are highlighted, and all-new demos with ESC/Java and Spec#, Eclipse and Mozilla are included. This complete and pragmatic overview of debugging is authored by Andreas Zeller, the talented researcher who developed the GNU Data Display Debugger(DDD), a tool that over 250,000 professionals use to visualize the data structures of programs while they are running. Unlike other books on debugging, Zeller's text is product agnostic, appropriate for all programming languages and skill levels. The book explains best practices ranging from systematically tracking error reports, to observing symptoms, reproducing errors, and correcting defects. It covers a wide range of tools and techniques from hands-on observation to fully automated diagnoses, and also explores the author's innovative techniques for isolating minimal input to reproduce an error and for tracking cause and effect through a program. It even includes instructions on how to create automated debugging tools. The text includes exercises and extensive references for further study, and a companion website with source code for all examples and additional debugging resources is available.*The new edition of this award-winning productivity-booster is for any developer who has ever been frustrated by elusive bugs*Brand new chapters demonstrate cutting-edge debugging techniques and tools, enabling readers to put the latest time-saving developments to work for them*Learn by doing. New exercises and detailed examples focus on emerging tools, languages and environments, including AGITAR, FindBugs, Python and Eclipse.

Book Information

File Size: 12263 KB

Print Length: 544 pages

Publisher: Morgan Kaufmann; 2 edition (July 22, 2009)

Publication Date: July 22, 2009

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0092L8LCW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #748,368 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #58

in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Debugging #441

in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing & Engineering >

Testing #949 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Computers & Technology > Programming >

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Customer Reviews

This book is indeed a solid reference on a whole new approach to debugging, and I recommend it to every professional programmer. I just wish they did a better revision work before publishing it, as scarcely past the third chapter you will have already ran into half a dozen bizarre errors. Misplaced or missing words are just the beginning; wait until you run into the misplaced paragraphs...None of the errors take away this book's value, but they are sort of a black eye in an otherwise beautiful figure.

If you are learning COMPETENT programming, you probably want to work through this at 1/2-year intervals until it becomes second-nature. You ALSO, however, want to be doing "Release It!". Why Programs Fail gives you how to prevent bugs from having a default home in your code...Release It! gives you how to prevent /others' bugs/ from taking down the system-of-systems your code is participating in. If you are committed to competent code, you gain hugely from both. hth & Namaste!

Excellent book.

That's the best book on debugging I have ever read. The ideas have become invaluable tools in my debugging practice.

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