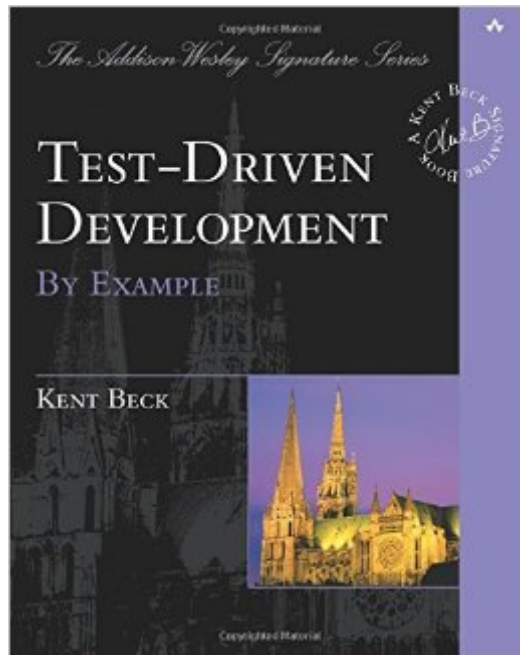# Test Driven Development: By Example

Synopsis

Follows two TDD projects from start to finish, illustrating techniques programmers can use to increase the quality of their work. The examples are followed by references to the featured TDD patterns and refactorings. This book emphasises on agile methods and fast development strategies.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Addison-Wesley Professional; 1 edition (November 18, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0321146530

ISBN-13: 978-0321146533

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.7 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (67 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This Kent Beck title is an introduction to the world of Test-Driven Development (TDD). The book teaches the concepts of TDD by working through two complete sample projects. Along the way, Beck gives the reader valuable insight into the thought process and techniques behind successful test-driven development. When the reader has finished working through these sample projects, he should know enough about TDD to get started working on a TDD project.The book is divided into three sections. The first two sections are each walkthroughs of the aforementioned sample projects using TDD. The third section is a collection of notes and useful tips to try to get the most out of TDD. If you've ever read anything from Beck, then you should be familiar with his style. If you haven't, Beck is an engaging enough writer, and the text flows smoothly and is fairly pleasant to read.It would help to be familiar with some member of the xUnit family prior to reading this book. Beck uses Java and JUnit for the first section, but never really goes into discussing the JUnit API. Readers unfamiliar with xUnit may have no idea how to proceed with writing their own tests using one of these frameworks. True the API is simple enough that its functions may be ascertained simply by reading the code, but this is no reason not to provide explanation. The second sample project is an

actual implementation of xUnit, so a bit more information may be gleaned here. Beck made the curious decision to use Python as the language of implementation for the second project, although he does provide explanation of the language's fundamentals. Finally, none of the sample projects are really complicated enough to do more than get us going on the path of TDD.

Many other reviewers have, with some justification, bemoaned the crunchingly slow pace of this book. Yes, the book moves through its examples slowly. Yes, sometimes Beck's mock humility comes off more than a little snide. It's not perfect on those counts, but please keep in mind that this is a book about a _process_, not a _result_.The first example takes up almost half the book just to go through a pretty minimal implementation of a multi-currency representation for money. If this were a book about how to implement money representations, it would be a dismal failure. But of course, that's not the point at all -- the point is to use an example that's simple (so as not to be distracting), but just complex enough to produce adequate talking points to drive a discussion about test-driven development (TDD).TDD is incredibly important, surprisingly late in arriving as a TLA unto itself, and Beck certainly gets points (cf. the review about "90% is just showing up") for producing a good straightforward introduction that's sorely needed. Nobody's going to come away from this book feeling filled to the brim with facts and sophisticated techniques. It's a short book (around 200 pages), and its pace is unhurried. What it does is focus on _fundamentals_.TDD is all about buyin -- once you "get religion" and become "test-infected" (per Gamma), you've got a solid basis to grow from. It's about habits, and habits can be hard to teach. What's obvious to one person is mysterious to the next. Beck's approach of "sit here with me and listen to my thoughts on a simple, representative problem" is perfectly adequate. It concedes (repeatedly) that some of the steps are obvious, but the pages quickly and one never feels truly bogged down.

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