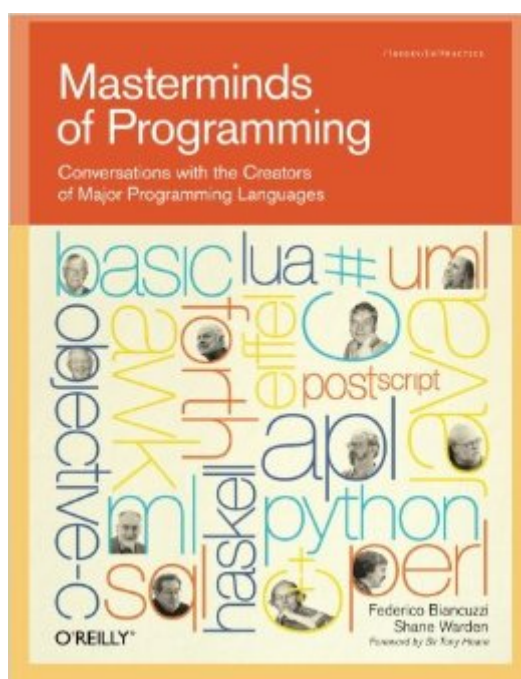# Masterminds Of Programming: Conversations With The Creators Of Major Programming Languages (Theory In Practice (O'Reilly))

Synopsis

Masterminds of Programming features exclusive interviews with the creators of several historic and highly influential programming languages. In this unique collection, you'll learn about the processes that led to specific design decisions, including the goals they had in mind, the trade-offs they had to make, and how their experiences have left an impact on programming today. Masterminds of Programming includes individual interviews with:Adin D. Falkoff: APLThomas E. Kurtz: BASICCharles H. Moore: FORTHRobin Milner: MLDonald D. Chamberlin: SQLAlfred Aho, Peter Weinberger, and Brian Kernighan: AWKCharles Geschke and John Warnock: PostScriptBjarne Stroustrup: C++Bertrand Meyer: EiffelBrad Cox and Tom Love: Objective-CLarry Wall: PerlSimon Peyton Jones, Paul Hudak, Philip Wadler, and John Hughes: HaskellGuido van Rossum: PythonLuiz Henrique de Figueiredo and Roberto Ierusalimschy: LuaJames Gosling: JavaGrady Booch, Ivar Jacobson, and James Rumbaugh: UMLAnders Hejlsberg: Delphi inventor and lead developer of C#If you're interested in the people whose vision and hard work helped shape the computer industry, you'll find Masterminds of Programming fascinating.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In short, I really enjoyed it. Here's an extremely abbreviated and opinionated summary:Adin D. Falkoff (APL) made programming as mathematical as possible.Thomas E. Kurtz (BASIC) was generally a nice guy who wanted to bring programming to the masses.Charles H. Moore (FORTH)

frustrated the heck out of me. He stated that operating systems are the software industry's biggest con job. I disagree. Operating systems protect me to some degree from bad and malicious code. They also let me run multiple programs at the same time and allow me to keep running even when one of the programs crashes. He also said that a piece of code written in any other programming language will be 10 times as large (in number of lines of code) as the same code written in Forth. I'd like to see him try that trick with Python!Robin Milner (ML) was completely fascinated with programming models and proving the correctness of code. That reminds me of the quote, "All models are wrong. Some models are useful."Donald D. Chamberlin (SQL) showed me some of the history of SQL. I didn't know IBM research was such an interesting place.Alfred Aho, Peter Weinberger, and Brian Kernighan (AWK) were as good as I expected.Charles Geschke and John Warnock (PostScript) talked about Adobe and the history of PostScript. I just don't like that Charles guy, and I don't like Adobe. However, they're smart guys.Bjarne Stroustrup (C++) was as frustrating as I expected.Bertrand Meyer (Eiffel) was really interesting. He wrote a book in French that has had a profound impact on French programmers. If he had translated that book into English, it's likely he'd be as famous as, say, Richard Stevens (the author of "UNIX Network Programming").

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