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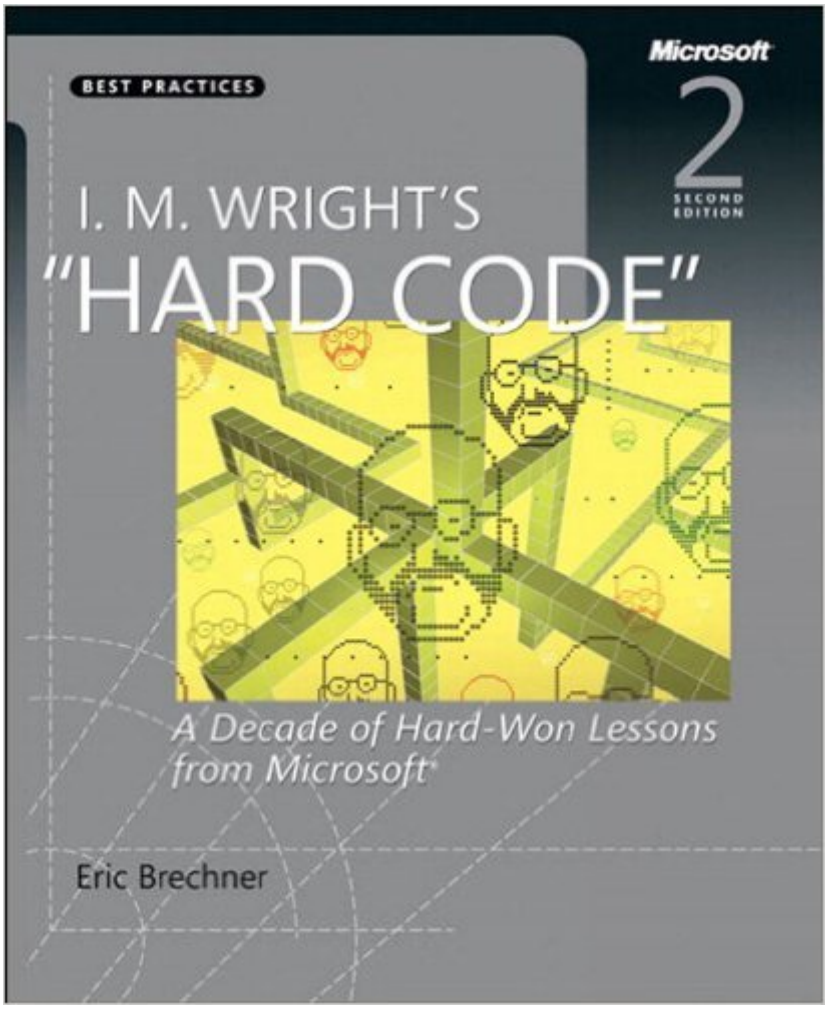
I.M. Wright's Hard Code: A Decade Of Hard-Won Lessons From Microsoft (Developer Best Practices)



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Synopsis

Get the brutal truth about coding, testing, and project managementâ ”from a Microsoft insider who tells it like it is. I. M. Wright’s deliberately provocative column "Hard Code" has been sparking debate amongst thousands of engineers at Microsoft for years. And now (despite our better instincts), we’re making his opinions available to everyone. In this collection of over 80 columns, Eric Brechner’s alter ego pulls no punches with his candid commentary and best practice solutions to the issues that irk him the most. He dissects the development process, examines tough team issues, and critiques how the software business is run, with the added touch of clever humor and sardonic wit. His ideas aren’t always popular (not that he cares), but they do stimulate discussion and imagination needed to drive software excellence. Get the unvarnished truth on how to: Improve software quality and valueâ ”from design to security Realistically manage project schedules, risks, and specs Trim the fat from common development inefficiencies Apply process improvement methodsâ ”without being an inflexible fanatic Drive your own successful, satisfying career Don’t be a dictatorâ ”develop and manage a thriving team! Companion Web site includes: Agile process documents Checklists, templates, and other resources

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Customer Reviews

I first heard about this book when I read the following review on about.com:http: // visualbasic . about.com / od / vbbooks / fr / Br9780735661707.htmIt piqued my interest, despite my being retired, and having known for some years that I would never be interested in becoming manager of software projects -- definitely moot at this point! Many years ago, I dipped my little piggies into project leadership (not even real management!),and have remained emotionally scarred ever since.When I started reading this book, my initial reaction was that the author was a self-centered, opinionated, arrogant jerk with way too much self-confidence. But then he's a relatively senior manager at Microsoft -- that's probably par for the course: he wouldn't be where he is if he wasn't capable nor full of confidence! His prose is, er, entertaining, and doesn't pull any punches -- intentionally so; he does it for effect, and to get a reaction (these were articles originally written for an internal publication at Microsoft). It took a while for me to get over this, and start listening to him (while gritting my teeth).I didn't find the first few chapters terribly absorbing, but I stuck with it, and gradually things started to get more interesting, until -- around Chapter 5 -- I found material I could really relate to.It was interesting to read in this book so many of the tenets that should have been followed at one of my former employers (a very large software company), but weren't. This book suggests very strongly that Microsoft has a much better handle than my former employer (a Microsoft competitor) had on how to develop software. Of course, I take with a giant pinch of salt how true the Microsoft characterization really is, from a very pro-Microsoft author.

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