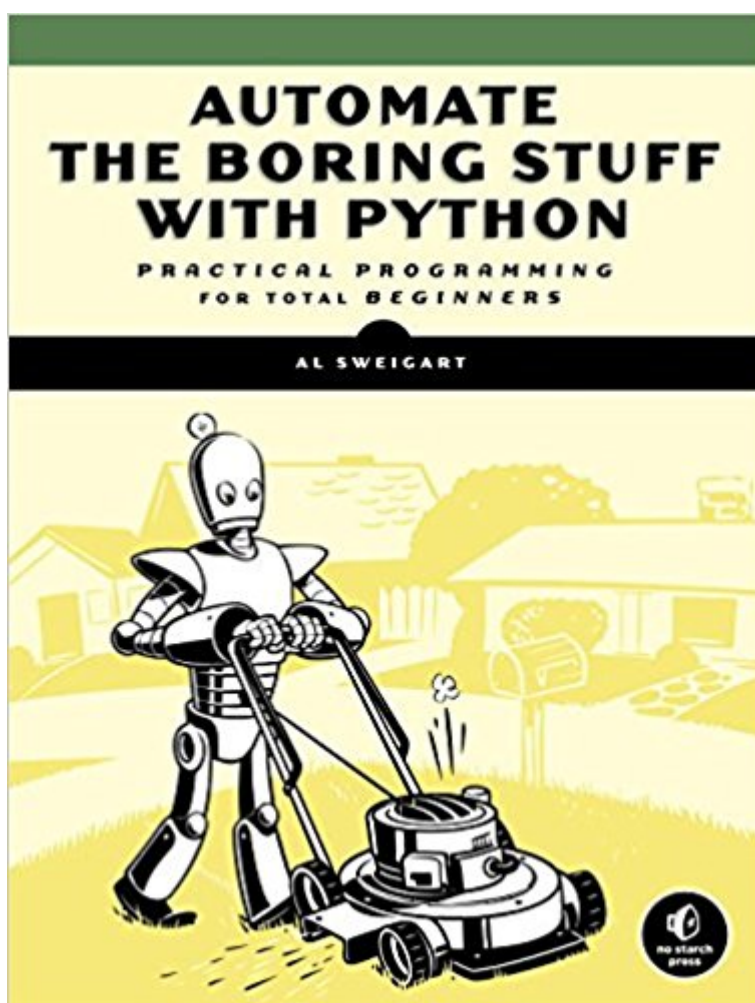


The book was found

Automate The Boring Stuff With Python: Practical Programming For Total Beginners



Synopsis

If you've ever spent hours renaming files or updating hundreds of spreadsheet cells, you know how tedious tasks like these can be. But what if you could have your computer do them for you? In *Automate the Boring Stuff with Python*, you'll learn how to use Python to write programs that do in minutes what would take you hours to do by hand—no prior programming experience required. Once you've mastered the basics of programming, you'll create Python programs that effortlessly perform useful and impressive feats of automation to:

- Search for text in a file or across multiple files
- Create, update, move, and rename files and folders
- Search the Web and download online content
- Update and format data in Excel spreadsheets of any size
- Split, merge, watermark, and encrypt PDFs
- Send reminder emails and text notifications
- Fill out online forms

Step-by-step instructions walk you through each program, and practice projects at the end of each chapter challenge you to improve those programs and use your newfound skills to automate similar tasks. Don't spend your time doing work a well-trained monkey could do. Even if you've never written a line of code, you can make your computer do the grunt work. Learn how in *Automate the Boring Stuff with Python*. Note: The programs in this book are written to run on Python 3.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I'm having a lot of fun breaking things and then putting them back together, and just

remembering the joy of turning a set of instructions into something useful and fun, like I did when I was a kid." — Wil Wheaton "Do you need Automate the Boring Stuff with Python? Yes, if you want to enhance your workflow by using automation, this is an excellent place to start. Highly recommended." — Network World

Al Sweigart is a software developer and teaches programming to kids and adults. He has written several Python books for beginners, including Hacking Secret Ciphers with Python, Invent Your Own Computer Games with Python, and Making Games with Python & Pygame.

Introductions to python are easy to find -- but at the end of the day most python tutorials for beginners end up being the same lessons repackaged, often leaving the new programmer with gaping holes in how their newly acquire skills can be applied practically. This is not one of those books. The book begins with the essential skills and concepts necessary to build a solid foundation in not only python, but programming in general. The introduction is thorough, easy to follow, and broken down with enough examples for even the newest of programmers to digest. Those who found Learn Python the Hard Way a little frustrating will like the much more broken down process used in this book. But where this book stands out is the second part where you actually build useful tools you might need to use everyday. The author does a fantastic job of bridging the concepts and skills you learned earlier to real world applications, without skipping many of the important things other tutorials ignore like regex. Whether it's organizing files, working with spreadsheets, or even sending e-mail and text messages, the book introduces programming concepts to the reader through real world applications they can build and use immediately. While programming puzzles and challenges are fun and necessary to an extent, there is little more satisfying to a new engineer than building something that can actually do something useful. One of the biggest hurdles new programmers face is not knowing where to go or what to build after their introductions. Even more so, they do not know necessarily how to apply their new skills. For those more interested in day-to-day applications than building games, this is an amazing place to learn by building with python. I would recommend this for any new programmers, and even those who are interested in exploring what they can build with their foundation.

I'm an electrical engineer who programs a lot both at my job and at home. My non-programmer sister wants to learn how to code and I was interested in learning Python both for work and hobbies, so I picked this up to teach myself and evaluate as a gift for her. Needless to say, I'm pretty satisfied

with it and I expect that my sister will be too. Python is a fantastic language for beginning programmers and Sweigart does a great job of explaining it. The only beef I had with it is that some of the humor in the book may interfere with comprehension. Humor is great to keep readers engaged and help prevent them from stressing out about stuff that can be intimidating, but there are a few times here where I felt the quality of explanation suffered a little to squeeze in a joke or geek-culture reference. Note that my complaint is minor enough to not warrant taking a star off of the rating. The book's focus on automation in the second half is fantastic. Most other programming books that I have used are nowhere near as pragmatic and it's great to be able to apply your new knowledge to your own life immediately. I also recommend this book to anyone who has a boring job sitting in front of a computer all day. Learn to automate your tasks and do a month of work in a day.

Before purchasing this book I had some familiarity with Python, so I should preface this by saying that I am not a complete beginner to programming and to Python. That said, this is a fantastic book for getting up to speed with Python 3. It doesn't spend a lot of time on theory, so if you're looking for a CS education this might not be the book for you. It's more for someone who wants to get up to speed with Python knowledge and getting stuff done. It does cover the basics quite well though, so it won't hurt your quest for knowledge no matter what your goals are.

This is a really useful book on using python. It starts with an introduction to the parts of the language you'll need (which is a tad basic & can be skipped if you have familiarity with python already) & thankfully avoids the usual computer book trap of explaining how every function works, only concentrating on what you'll need to work through the practical examples. The examples themselves comprise most of the book, and are imminently useful, from working with web pages, to documents, spreadsheets, drawing programmes, and even gui automation. I can already see practical applications at work for the knowledge I've gained, & even just finding out about some of the modules' existence has been useful. If you're interested in learning python & want to avoid dry textbook learning, while learning real practical applications of programming, you'll enjoy this book intensely.

BUYER BEWARE - This book is great when you first start off, however, once you get about halfway through, several of the python modules they have you load to do projects have been updated and the code no longer works in the book. This makes you have to constantly lookup documentation for

several of the python modules and is extremely difficult especially if you are brand new to programming. It needs updated badly or after the halfway mark it becomes useless to beginners.

I am not so heavy user of Python!! I have basic usage knowledge of Python. But this book is so easy to read that a high school student can learn to use Python from the first six chapters in about ten days realistically. The second part of book after chapter six is interesting but takes more time for this learner to understand its uses and programming steps. However, the author has given complete information to finish the project successfully. Worth the time to read first six chapters even if the person does not end up doing projects that are not useful to him. My thumbs up for this book!

If you want to do personal projects to practice Python skills but don't know where to start, pick up this book. It will give you ideas which will help you think the tasks you can pick up at your workspace to hone your skills as well as to boost your productivity. Needless to say this book explains all the basic concepts of python to get you started and also gives you some good code snippets to help you along the way. You can safely go for this book. It's certainly helpful to a beginner.

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