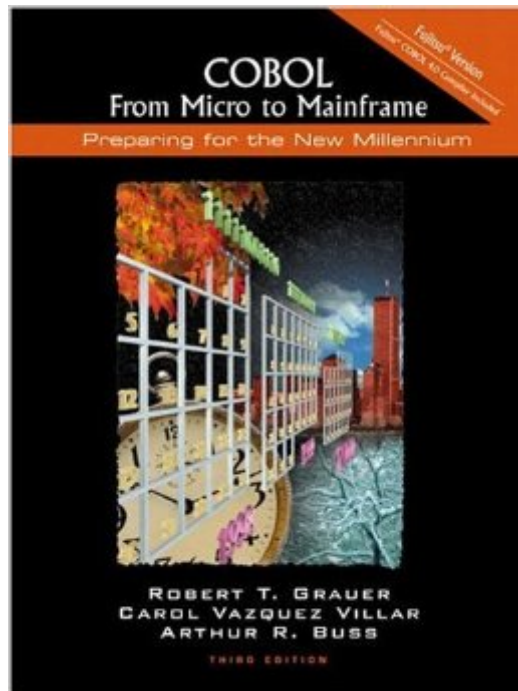


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COBOL: From Micro To Mainframe: Fujitsu Version (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

For a one or two semester introductory COBOL course running on either a PC or mainframe. This machine independent introduction covers all of the basic COBOL elements and special features, as well as providing an introduction to using the Fujitsu compiler. This book includes a CD-ROM containing the Fujitsu 3.0 COBOL Compiler FREE with every text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have taught COBOL for a number of years and have always used Grauer Villar & Buss. This new edition, although commendable in adding Microfocus Cobol, lacks true Mainframe focus. A few years ago there was an accompanying small book that greatly added to the mainframe concepts - but is no longer available. However, the flow of the book, the explanations, examples and summaries have proved to be an excellent textbook for professional training, especially when accompanied with appropriate JCL and CICS textbooks. Still above all, I rate this at the top of COBOL books - but don't agree with the authors assumption that the mainframe is no longer a relevant part of COBOL programming.

This book is a great resource for the beginning or intermediate Cobol programmer. Very clear explanations and abundant examples aid understanding. The authors favor a "hands on" approach which encourages the reader to try out the concepts in each chapter. The example code is included on the CD (along with the input files for the exercises) which is a great timesaver. The authors are

careful about pointing out differences between Cobol-85 and Cobol-74 as they arise. While this may seem to be a minor point with the advent of the latest Cobol standard, it is helpful to those who work with older systems that are not fully Cobol-85 compliant. The Fujitsu Cobol environment comes along with the book. The Fujitsu compiler is a big improvement over the DOS-based compiler and editor that came with the second edition. An appendix provides some step-by-step examples to help the reader get up to speed with the compiler. The book is weighted more towards micro computers - if you are working in a mainframe environment, you will probably want to find additional references on JCL, CICS, etc. The book may not be the best choice for someone who has no previous programming experience, but for readers who have some background in programming (in any language) and are interested in learning Cobol, this book & compiler set is the best resource I've seen for Cobol at this level. I strongly recommend it.

I teach programming at the university level and have recently switched to this publication as the main text for my classes. The book provides fantastic examples and explains concepts at a level a beginning programmer can understand. As with any text, the solutions are available in the instructor's manual (available from the publisher). The extensive support provided by the publisher's web site and by the authors themselves is unmatched. As this book was written to be instructive, it lacks somewhat as a reference guide, but is still a valuable resource for any junior programmer.

This is a textbook that I used to teach myself COBOL. Although it is a textbook, it is not obtuse or pompous and it is actually sometimes funny. The new edition, however, comes with Microfocus COBOL, which gets the same clear and thorough treatment as before. The examples in every chapter demonstrate the concepts well and logically build upon preceding material: almost made the self-learning process painless. More variety in the exercises would have made it a 10.

I first had the second edition of this book, and I bought the third edition as soon as I heard it was out. It has the most complete sample programs of any COBOL text I've seen. I found code examples for every concept or method introduced. The accompanying software makes COBOL projects almost fun, giving you a GUI-like workspace as opposed to SEU on the AS400 (I teach on that). I recommend this book to all my students who are serious about COBOL.

This book is excellent for the Cobol language, but when it comes to talking about Mainframes, only in the title do you find the word Mainframe. I could have missed the import of the book, but when

'mainframe' is not even in the index, nor is MVS (Multiprogramming Virtual Storage), CICS (Customer Information Control System), TSO (Time Sharing Operation: a program that allows the typing of the Cobol program) JCL (Job Control Language, a batch like computer language used to link and compile and interface between the programmer and MVS). I welcome "Constructive" corrections to that fact. I truly find the title "Cobol: From Micro To Mainframe: Preparing for a New Millenium" to be misleading! Had there been a better description of the book contents, I would have not ordered the book directly from the publisher.

This is definitely a good starting point for any programmer even if they eventually won't be using COBOL on a regular basis. The techniques for program design that are given apply to all languages and will result in a solid program every time.

I HAVE FOUND THIS BOOK TO BE VERY INFORMATIVE. MY QUESTION IS THIS. THE BOOK I PURCHASED FROM SCHOOL CAME WITH THE MICROSOFT COBOL COMPILER SOFTWARE. WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS THIS SOFTWARE THE SAME AS THE OTHER PERSONAL COBOL MICROSOFT SOFTWARE?

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