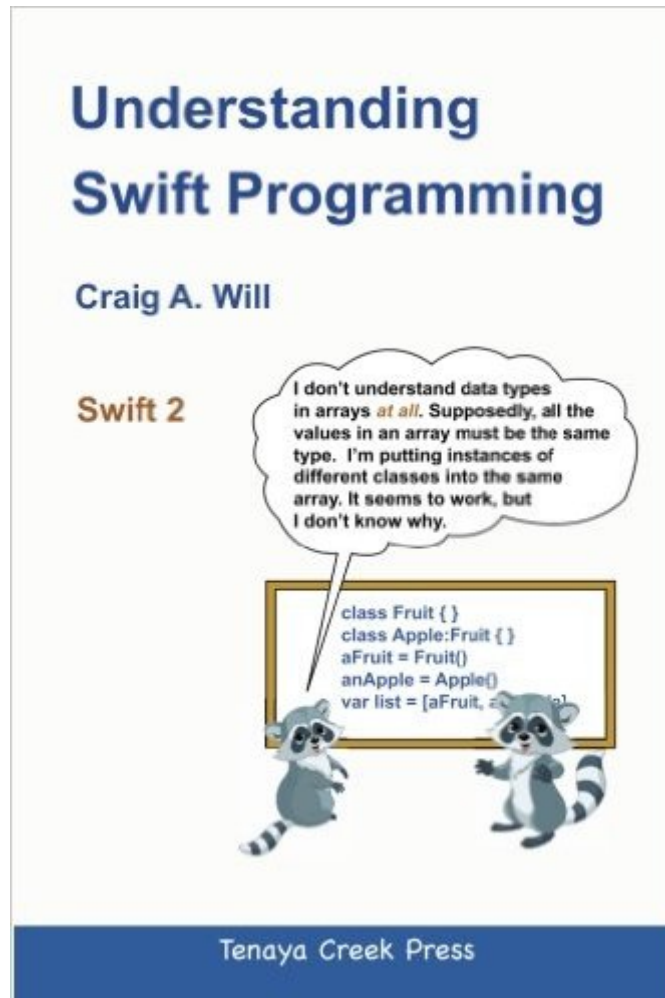


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# Understanding Swift Programming



## Synopsis

Covers Swift 2 Swift, Apple's new language for app development, has been widely praised for its clean, safe, and feature-rich design. The language is poised to quickly replace Objective-C for developing iOS apps. Swift is now the 14th most popular language (Objective-C is #18, having sunk like a stone from #3) as of January, 2016. If you are serious about iOS app development, you should start learning Swift now. Although Swift at its core is a fun and easy-to-use language, it does have some aspects that are likely to be new to you. Like optional values. Its more sophisticated use of functions and closures. The new class-like data types of structures and enumerations. The sophisticated matching in swift statements. Generic programming. And the use of protocols as a substitute for inheritance in the new approach of "protocol oriented programming". And there are some complicated nuances that you'll occasionally run into that you need to understand. The initializing of new objects, especially when inheritance is involved. Type casting. Variations in function calling and the Swift compiler's intelligent response to the surprising variations allowed in closure syntax. What's the best way to learn Swift? You need a way to learn it that doesn't involve incomprehensible jargon and head-scratching convoluted language. Understanding Swift Programming is a book that has been carefully designed and written to introduce programmers (with at least some programming experience) to the new language. It has been crafted with clear explanations of everything about Swift, when possible in ordinary English with a minimum of technical jargon. Does it dump everything about a topic on you at once? No. It has a carefully layered organization, introducing you to essentials first and taking up a topic a second and sometimes even a third time to discuss further nuances. Is this a quickie book leaving out what you will actually need when you code an app? No. It offers complete coverage of all but the most obscure aspects of Swift. Does this just show you code without much explanation? No. As the title suggests, the goal is to help you fully understand the language, not just memorize code samples. Is this a book that you might read but then, as is common with many programming books, retain little of when you actually start coding? No. First, the book is organized so as to help you build up your understanding conceptually. It has an often light style, with over 35 cartoons that keep the mood informal and fun and aid retention. And second, at the end of every chapter, readers are invited to get a web browser and participate in the hundreds of exercises offered as part of the Hands-on Online Exercises. Studies have shown huge increases in retention when readers actively think in this way immediately after absorbing information. The book is inexpensive--with its 480 pages (est.) on an Ebook reader or 392 pages in its print version, compare its per-page cost with other books on Swift. A web site, [understandingswiftprogramming.com](http://understandingswiftprogramming.com), keeps track of (the still continuing!)

changes to Swift and informs you of errors. The book covers the new Swift 2, including a 21-page chapter on Protocol Oriented Programming that we think is the most clearly written description of the new approach available anywhere. There's no risk. The Kindle version can be returned for a full refund if you receive the request within 7 days. (Log in, go to Manage Your Content and Devices, select the book and then Return for Refund.) The print version can be returned within 30 days for a full refund. See the Returns Center. Understanding Swift Programming is more than a book. Its carefully crafted organization and writing, together with the Hands-on Online exercises, makes it a complete course for learning Swift, unique among what is available today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 392 pages

Publisher: Tenaya Creek Press; 1 edition (September 11, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0996228101

ISBN-13: 978-0996228107

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #348,748 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Swift](#) #50 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Apple Programming](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is the only book that was available right after Swift 2.0 was available. I have used the heck out of it. I found it far exceeded my expectations considering the price. The book was also a refreshing book because it was not bogged down by having an Objective-C history. There are so many books that need to be re-written from scratch because the authors don't have the time to update them correctly. Most of the O'Reilly, Big Nerd Ranch, and Addison Wesley publishers had authors that did an awesome job with Objective-C books, but they are tomes and will be very difficult for the authors to just throw away all the material from the Objective-C days, but they are going to have to. You also get the Kindle version of this book free with the Matchbook program if you purchase the printed version. There is no code download and the online exercises are not worth going out to, but the book is definitely worth getting so you have something in your hands on Swift 2.0. It is a good cover to cover read as well as a great reference.

Confession: I have not yet read the entire book. Thus far I've been happy with the way the book is organized, with the content, and with the explanations. I'm a seasoned developer, but new to the Apple world. I'll update this review when I get through reading the book.

I have programmed mainly in Java (also with Objective-C) so I needed book what is special about Swift and this suited well. I also liked book with it's not too serious attitude and I got all what I was expecting to learn Swift in that size book.

Very well explained and written

Great book!

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