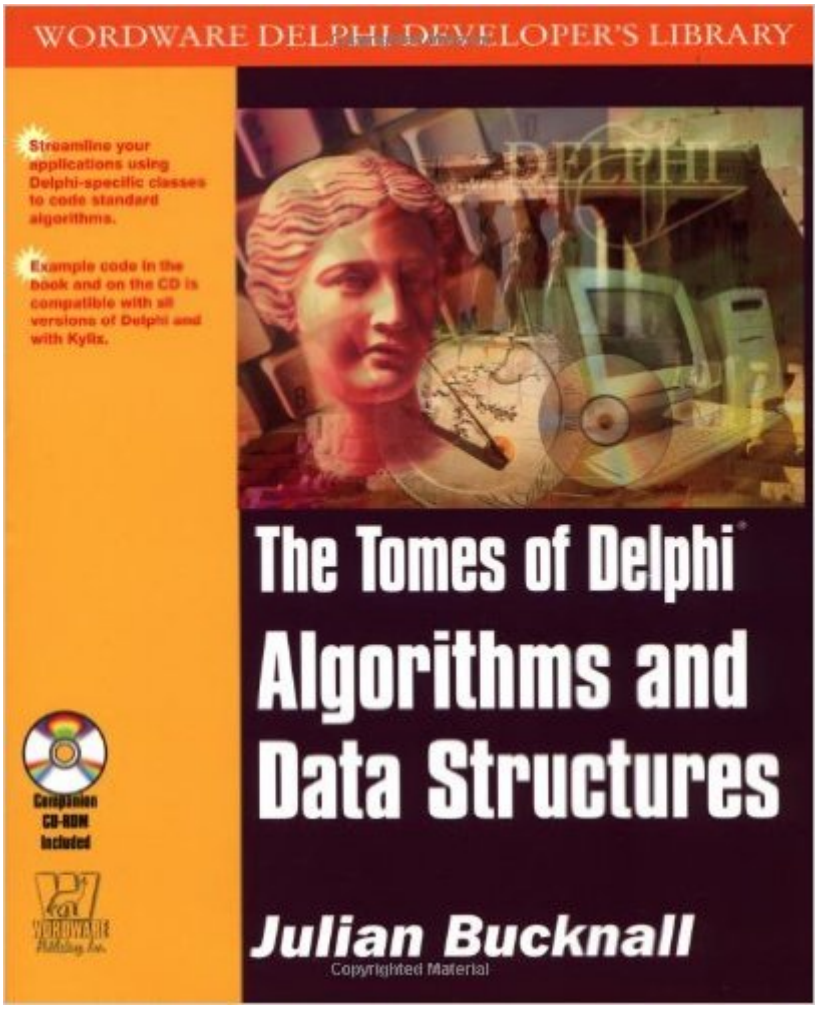
Tomes Of Delphi: Alogrithm And Data Structure (Wordware Delphi Developer's Library)



Synopsis

Delphi developer Julian Bucknall provides fellow developers a comprehensive overview of using algorithms and data structures from a practical perspective. Bucknall begins with a discussion of algorithm performance, and provides comprehensive coverage of such topics as arrays, linked lists, and binary trees. The book focuses on search algorithms—such as sequential and binary search—and sort algorithms—including bubble, insertion, Shell sort, quicksort, merge sort, and heapsort—along with techniques for optimization. Additionally, the author presents hashing and hash tables, priority queues, state machines and regular expressions, and data compression techniques such as Huffman and LZ77. The companion CD contains the author’s highly successful freeware library EZDSL, source code compatible with all versions of Delphi and with Kylix, and executables from TurboPower Software Company.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book that I’ve been waiting for for a long time (according to the acknowledgements, Julian has worked on it from April 1999 until February 2001, probably even longer). But it has been worth it, because it’s an excellent book about algorithms and data structures implemented in Delphi (and Kylix) - usually version independent.The book consists of 12 chapters. But even before the first chapter Julian takes on the question of "why a book on Delphi algorithms?" in the introduction. He explains that a number of Computer Science algorithms books are hardly practical, and the practical

books are mainly for C, C++, or Java. This is a book about algorithms and data structures using Delphi (for Windows, but also Kylix for Linux), with a lot of focus on practical and useful techniques that make sense.A great plus is that the code in the book works for every version of Delphi and Kylix (and probably also in C++Builder), and I'm fairly confident it will remain working in the next version(s) of Delphi and Kylix to come. A bonus point is the syntax high-lighting in the source code listings. A small effort for the author/publisher, but a great help for the reader who sees the source code for the first time.

This book is packed full of gems of wisdom that transcend Delphi. It's not just about algorithms, data structures and Delphi - it's about the science of computing and it's about being a good programmer. As a C++ developer (primarily) with an eye on Delphi I found that this book really made me think about how I program and how I solve problems. I have read dozens of books on C++, Pascal, Delphi, COM, DCOM, C# and .NET, many of them very good. But this is one of those rare books that goes beyond teaching you a particular technology. It will help you become a better problem solver and it will help you write better code. You will not be disappointed in adding this book to your personal library. Ten spring cleanings from now, when you're developing in whatever the current technology flavor of the month is at the time, this book will still be on your shelf - and it won't have any dust on it.

I just received this morning the book "Algorithms and Data Structures" and could not take my eyes out of it! I skipped lunch and did not take any break today until now! This is the book on algorithms I have been looking for since my university days! Julian Bucknall is an extraordinary writer, one who knows how to turn complicated concepts into beautiful simplicity! I wish more authors would have published texts of that quality on Delphi topics; it would have dismissed the improper idea that Delphi is not a serious language and that it cannot be used in serious programming... A must for any serious Delphi programmer!

Julian Bucknall writes the Algorithms Alfresco column in The Delphi Magazine. He is also one of the chief programmers at TurboPower, an award winning Delphi programming tools company. He is an expert on algorithms and data structures, and writes very clearly, explaining each algorithm/data structure in a stepwise manner in tandem with the source code. Julian also demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of os kernel routines (low-level memory allocation and such), enabling him to write highly optimized versions of classic algorithms and data structures: this book is NOT just

pascal translations of material you learned in college. I strongly recommend that all Delphi/Kylix developers buy it. I would say, however, that intermediate to advanced programmers will benefit more from it, because they will be able to apply principles from the material to other areas of their programming, while less experienced programmers will be happy to black box the tools. And they should be! This book is replete with usable tools.

Traditional Pascal and Cobol have enjoyed this type of book for some time as well as C but Delphi has yet to be widely accepted in the academic community as a means to teach complex algorithms and data structures. In graduate school I had a course by the same name as the title of this book and was required to suffer Cobol. How I wish Delphi had been the language of choice.Mr. Buchnall proves, as I have emphasized, that Delphi is as excellent language to teach underlying programming principles. His clarity and fast pace make this book a valuable tool in my knowledge repository. I found myself racing through complex structures with ease. I truly believe Julian is elevating himself among giants such as Knuth, Graham, Meyer and others who struggle to articulate the processes that many of us have stumbled upon but were seldom smart enough to remember where. The pages are already dog-eared as I jump back and forth, implementing things I had been taught a long time ago yet failed to utilize.I would like to see a graduate level text using Delphi along the same lines. It is time for Latin and Cobol to step aside. Delphi has come of age and proven itself an excellent teaching tool. Mr. Bucknall has made a significant contribution towards that end.

"Algorithms and Data Structures" is an absolute must have for all advanced Delphi programmers. It’s sitting on my bookshelf right next to my first edition, "Oh! PASCAL!." Why?It’s the best book out there to cover all the fundamental aspects of low-level Object Pascal programming. The book covers, Arrays, Linked Lists, Stacks & Queues, Searching, Sorting, Randomized Algorithms, Hashing and Hash Tables, Binary Trees, Priority Queues and Heapsort, State Machines and Regular Expressions, Data Compression and Advanced Topics.I consistently reference this book. I’ve found Bucknall’s discussion and insight into the TList, covered in the Arrays chapter, very informative. Bucknall’s review of State Machines is also very good reading.If you want to write great code, or want a great review of Algorithms and Data Structures in Object PASCAL, buy this book.

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