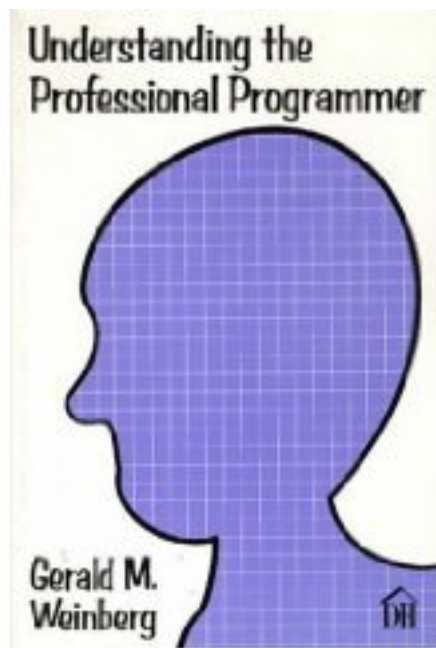


# Understanding the Professional Programmer



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著者:[美] Gerald M • Weinberg

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"If you are a programmer or manage programmers, or indeed just associate with programmers, this is a book that you should read... turn to any one of the essays, and find a thought-provoking idea."

- System Development

"... [this book] is likely to give readers a better start on supervising than the conventional management book would. ... [it mixes] knowledge of bottom-line reality with techie ingenuity." —Walter Zintz

Open Computing

"... the author has a marvellous knack of mixing humour and serious discussion thereby getting his message accross. ... a very thought provoking book. ... immensely enjoyable." —Lorna Kyle

Personal Computer World

"If you are a programmer or manage programmers, or indeed just associate with programmers, this is a book that you should read. ... turn to any one of the essays, and find a thought-provoking idea." —System Development

Software developers another twenty years from now will still be reading this book.

From [http://developerdotstar.com/bom\\_0302.htm](http://developerdotstar.com/bom_0302.htm)

The title of this book, *Understanding the Professional Programmer*, is slightly misleading. It might make you think that the book is aimed at software development managers, intended to help them make sense of the strange people called programmers who work for them. While software development managers might enjoy reading this book, it is really aimed at programmers themselves. To quote the author from the Preface, the book "is intended as an exercise in self-examination for the professional programmer."

I must confess, this is probably my favorite book on the subject of software development. It is definitely my favorite of Weinberg's many excellent books. I return to this book again and again, and find something new every time. *Understanding the Professional Programmer* is organized as a collection of essays, and, like my developer.\* essays aspire (at least in part) to be, the essays are about being a professional software developer. In fact, I freely admit this book is the direct inspiration for my developer.\* essays, and with every one I write, I aspire to emulate Weinberg's friendly, insightful, non-judgmental, irreverent, and witty essays. (That's a tall order, given that Weinberg has been involved with computer programming since the mid 1950's--;before the term "computer programmer" had even been coined.)

The book is broken up into seven sections, and the titles of these sections are a great start for communicating what it is about:

- I. What Questions Are Important to the Professional?
- II. How do Professionals Get That Way?
- III. Why Do Programmers Behave the Way They Do?
- IV. Is it Possible to Think More Effectively?
- V. Why Doesn't Everyone Understand Me?
- VI. How Can I Survive in a Bureaucracy?
- VII. Where is the Programming Profession Going Next?

Each of these sections contain several essays, and most of the essays are short enough to be easily read in one sitting. Weinberg loves to tell stories, and he uses stories and anecdotes to illustrate most of his points, with the points themselves often expressed as aphorisms. Weinberg's gift is inspiring thinking that is outside of one's normal

patterns of thought. Sometimes this is done in a subtle way, with ideas that will creep under your skin and not hit you until days later. Other times, something he will say will hit you right between the eyes, and you will have to put the book down for a minute to recover.

With all of this hyperbole, I am in danger of spoiling this book by raising expectations too high, so I am going to quit while I'm ahead. Let me close by saying that this may not be the book for you right now. I think that during a professional developer's career, there are times when one is focused exclusively on technical issues. There's nothing wrong with that. There are languages to be learned, techniques to be mastered. But many developers will reach a point where they desire look beyond the purely technical concerns, to look inward at themselves, and outward at the environments in which they work and the problems they are trying to solve. This is where Gerald Weinberg's writings come in, and *Understanding the Professional Programmer* is a great place to start.

One final comment, just so nobody feels misled: this book was first published in 1982—twenty years ago at the time I am writing this review; and many of the essays were written in the late 1970's. One reviewer on Amazon felt this to be a strike against the book. I understand this view, but I disagree. This is not a book about technology; it is a book about people and ideas. The themes are universal, and I predict that software developers another twenty years from now will still be reading this book.

--;Daniel Read

For all professional programmers, and especially for their managers.

From a review by Richard E. Biehl in *Software Quality Professional*, Premier Issue,:

Focusing on the complex challenges confronting skilled and experienced programmers in their unique environment, this book provides practical ideas and insights concerning the "people problems" of computer programming. The book is organized as a series of short essays, each exploring a concept vital to the advancement of the software professional. For all professional programmers, and especially for their managers.

Gerald Weinberg's *Understanding the Professional Programmer* begins with a definition of a professional as someone 'having great skill or experience in a particular field of activity.' Looking at the technical skills and paradigms required, Weinberg challenges professionals to explore and understand their meta-paradigms.... The meta-paradigms of the successful professional include such skills as the use of analogy, tracing and retracing one's own thought processes, induction from special cases to general rules, deliberately widening one's circle of intellectual associates, actively seeking to know what others have done and using such work as a starting point, and attempting to communicate with others using paradigms to clarify one's own thoughts.

He offers personal reflection in the form of this 10 'precious programming principles,' the last of which states: 'Every programmer has at least 10 personal principles, but only one programmer in ten thousand is willing to take the time to write down even one.' Weinberg's book challenges professionals to reflect on and share their own meta-programs and principles.

Any paid programmer will use the technical skills and paradigms of the field, but only professionals will develop and consistently use such meta-capabilities... Weinberg challenges readers to 'spend a part of your working day examining and refining your own methods.' In the process, people will uncover secrets that will make the pursuit of their profession more successful.

Weinberg laments the fact that there are many programmers working for pay who should not be referred to as professionals. 'The point is not merely that there are people out there passing as professional programmers who shame us all, but that few managers have any way of telling if they're talking to one of them or one of us.' He later adds, 'Somehow, if programming is ever to be treated as a profession, the public - and programmers themselves - will have to be reeducated.'

作者介绍:

杰拉尔德·温伯格 (Gerald M. Weinberg) 是软件领域最著名的专家之一，美国计算机名人堂代表人物。他是 Weinberg & Weinberg 顾问公司（位于美国内布拉斯加州首府林肯市）的负责人，并曾因其在信息科学领域的杰出贡献而荣获 J.D. Warnier 奖，该奖项的得主每年只有一人。温伯格精力旺盛、思想活跃，从 20 世纪 70 年代开始，他总共撰写了 30 多本书籍和数以百计的论文。今天，温伯格作为一个教师、讲演者、作家，仍在通过自己独特的见解帮助本行业提升生产力。

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## 评论

一本充满洞见的软件职业咨询书籍。

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## 书评

以下为节选评论，全文在我的Blog：[http://my.donews.com/caiwei/2006/10/16/20061016\\_understanding\\_the\\_professional\\_programmer/](http://my.donews.com/caiwei/2006/10/16/20061016_understanding_the_professional_programmer/)  
这是一本小册子，也是随笔集，这本书可读性很强，每个章节短小精悍又趣味横生。当然和所有温伯格的作品一样，他个人的幽默需要习惯之后才能有...

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看得比较快, 随意记一下. 非常强调身体健康对职业生涯的影响.  
生活中有比计算机多得多的内容, 而且大脑还有很多功能,  
远比平常用计算机工作的要多. 如果定期锻炼这些大脑的“其他部分”,  
让它们保持健康, 那么它们肯定也会给我们很多帮助..  
如果一个人总是在封闭环境下工作, ...

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总的感觉这是一部不错的书，不过有些地方看的不是很明白，可能是自己的经验还不够丰富，尚不能理解作者的思想，又或者有些国外的经验不适合我的思维方式、在或者翻译有问题。不管这么说这是一部值得反复阅读的书。  
书中有不少让我眼前一亮的小故事，也从中领悟到了一些道理。...

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几乎是一口气读完了这本书，第一次读温伯格的书，觉得很是不错。特别是关于选择工作、加班以及程序员的心理需要部分。每章后面的寓言也挺好玩。以下是自己认为比较好观点（大部分不是照抄的）：

真正胜任的程序员是非常难得的。“世上有很多可怜的企业，这些企业从来没能长期留  
...

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在书店乱逛，随手拣起一本小书，翻了一下，立刻被吸引，写的很好，很多问题都是程序员切身的体会，面对未来的迷惘，如何应付技术的挑战....呵呵，真的很有趣，文字也很幽默，翻译的很好，看过这本书，对自己是否该从事程序员这一职业会大有帮助的。  
一个字，荐！

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之前读过《你的灯亮着吗？》一书，原来作者是那么的出名，  
于是抱着好奇的心态再读温伯格大师的此本著作。  
果然，作者不厌其烦地向读者道出了很多与程序员有关的各方面，  
包括身体健康、精神状态、工作心态、从业决心等等...下面是我的部分读书记录：  
18:44 2010-11-8 第一...

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工作久了，再不像新人那样，始终沉浸在技术中。  
对公司规章制度、对自己和同事为人处世，也会停下去思考。  
书中有很多小故事，也许就是你现在遇到或即将遇到的问题。

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正如熊节在序言里所说，我在阅读过程中也充满了会意一笑和无奈叹息，笑的是那些“外行人”对程序员工作的不了解，叹的是自己还远不够专业。  
做一名专业的程序员，路漫漫，任道远，最重要的是要职业+敬业，不断的学习、交流以及创造依旧是关键！

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这本书不错，描写了一名专业程序员的内心世界和境遇，当然作者的观点一定是比蜗居里妻子出墙的那个C++程序员乐观得多。

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This book has not provide some expert detailed programming tips, but it surely give out a right direction for anyone who favors this field which is much more valuable in my opinion. As a programmer, there are several crucial things, first: intellegence(...

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里面有很多小故事，读了之后，可以让人思考很多东西，技术方面的书看多了，这方面的书很少，让人眼前一亮，做事之余，从另外一种角度思考自己，还是蛮有意思的

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说来惭愧，近几年才开始在做开发项目管理，但是自己却不是程序员出身，有外行管理内行的嫌疑，所以一直不遗余力地去努力学习，期间也收了不少温伯格的书来看，其中《质量.软件.管理》这套书给了我很大的帮助。从当当给的推荐信息上看到《理解专业程序员》这本，二话不说，直接...

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