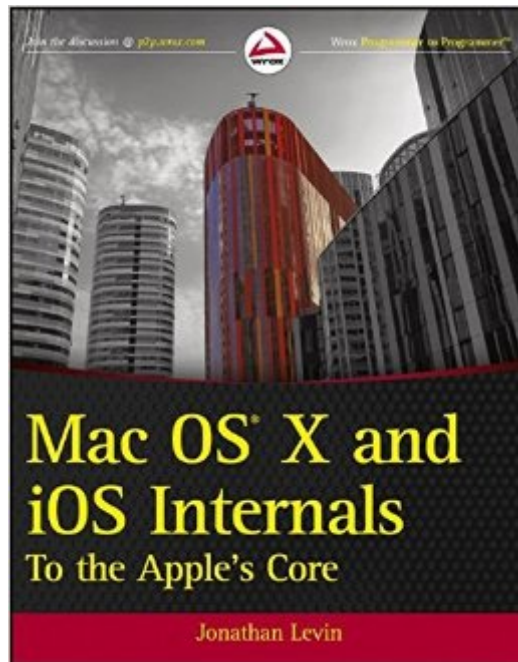


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Mac OS X And iOS Internals: To The Apple's Core



Synopsis

An in-depth look into Mac OS X and iOS kernels Powering Macs, iPhones, iPads and more, OS X and iOS are becoming ubiquitous. When it comes to documentation, however, much of them are shrouded in mystery. Cocoa and Carbon, the application frameworks, are neatly described, but system programmers find the rest lacking. This indispensable guide illuminates the darkest corners of those systems, starting with an architectural overview, then drilling all the way to the core. Provides you with a top down view of OS X and iOS Walks you through the phases of system startup both Mac (EFI) and mobile (iBoot) Explains how processes, threads, virtual memory, and filesystems are maintained Covers the security architecture Reviews the internal APIs used by the system BSD and Mach Dissects the kernel, XNU, into its sub components: Mach, the BSD Layer, and I/O kit, and explains each in detail Explains the inner workings of device drivers From architecture to implementation, this book is essential reading if you want to get serious about the internal workings of Mac OS X and iOS.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is true that reading a kernel book can be difficult and not fun, but the problem of this book is beyond this. If you read the table of content, it looks like this book covers a lot of aspects. Providing "Mac OS X Internal" is somewhat "outdated", this book might be the only one you can get in the market. It does cover a lot of aspects, but leaves none of them discussed in-depth. For example, VFS. It is sad that Mac OS X Internal doesn't really cover a lot on VFS. I bought this book, hoping

that it could discuss more about Mac OS X VFS, but I was disappointed. It covers even less. The VFS Mac OS X is using now was a fork of FreeBSD. They share a common ancestor at some point of time, then they diverged. If you look into the current FreeBSD VFS, it's very different with the one Mac OS X is using. So you cannot simply depend on a FreeBSD kernel book. I don't want to make my code dirty, I always want to make sure I have a good understanding of all the assumptions of VFS interfaces before I move on. The fact is that, there's no single book on shelf can reach this goal. Apple doesn't have a good documentation of their VFS, either. So as an independent developer, reading Apple's existing code (devfs for memory based VFS, HFS for block device based VFS) seems to be the only way to learn it. Beside the above problem, another big issue is the typos and errors in this book. There are quite a number of typos. Most of them don't cause real trouble since you can correct them by yourselves, but some of them are really misleading. Like on page 348, the first parameter of mach_msg call should be a pointer type, but the star is missing. I stared at it for a minute and looked at the real source code, proved that the book was wrong. Other errors also make glitches while reading.

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