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Game Developer's Open Source Handbook (Charles River Media Game Development)



Synopsis

With the cost of game development increasing regularly, studios are looking for innovative ways to reduce their budgets without compromising quality. At the same time, developers are looking toward more complex and customizable software, tools, and libraries to build truly next-generation games. These goals have traditionally been mutually exclusive, but open source software can solve both problems by providing game developers with free, high-quality tools and libraries for every aspect of the development process. Graphics, audio, physics, networking, and movie playback code are all available for the taking; developed, written, tested, and ready to use. This software is complemented by a wide range of end-user tools for both the programmer and artist including graphic editors, IDEs, MIDI sequencers, and 3D editors. The Game Developer's Open Source Handbook uncovers this world of open source software and teaches management and game developers what code is available, where to get it, how to incorporate it into existing processes, and, most important, how to adhere to the license agreements for redistribution. The book is for all game developers, especially the "Indies," who want to use the wealth of free software in their own games to help increase the scope of the technology available and reduce the financial burden. Members of the Linux fraternity will also find it a useful insight into the methods by which these libraries can be applied into constructing a game. In addition, the book will be required reading for the producers and systems analysts of game studios who want to see the big picture. This must-have resource introduces a new world of software, and a new way of developing games for the 21st Century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's reliable. As soon as a new version of the software ships; hundreds, if not thousands of people go in and try to break it. If they break it, then they, or any of hundreds of others immediately go to fix it. ==It's fast. The Linux core is much smaller, much faster than any of the various Windows operating systems. And, of course, it's FREE. And that's a very good price. A full set of the software needed to do gaming in today's market is a pocket full of dollars. If it's open source, it's simply free. Just to prove it, there's a CD included with this book and it contains some 120 gaming software packages. This book is aimed at the newcomer to the open source movement. It discusses things like the licensing requirements and what the software packages can do rather than being a guide to detailed programming. The goal is to direct you in the right direction so that you get the benefits of the open source movement quickly without having to go looking for what packages you might need.

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