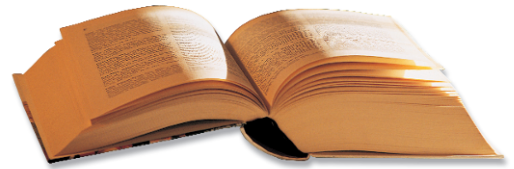


# Book Reviews



## Software Configuration Management

Software Configuration Management is all about ensuring that someone is taking care of the required elements of a project, and at the same time avoiding adding potentially harmful elements to the final version. This type of quality assurance can make all the difference between success or failure for a company, and this in turn influences job security.

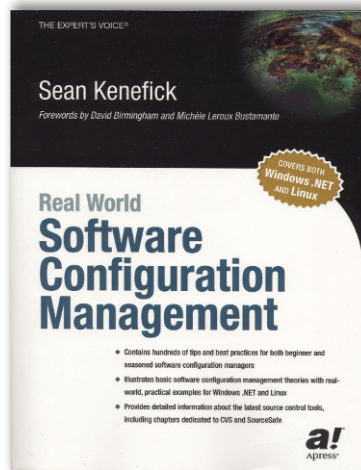
Rather than just being a checklist that ensures timely completion of a project, this manual tells you how make sure that jobs get done without getting in the way of the programmers. The first section of the book describes what the job involves and how you are likely fall into the role,

although it is not part of your job description. The detail is a little heavy-handed at times, but it is better to labor a point, and make sure the reader understands the concept, rather than run the risk of misunderstanding and in turn mismanaging the job.

The second section starts by describing the tools of the trade and has a surprisingly good section on the differences between various source control tools. Two; CVS and MS Sourcesafe are then shown in much greater detail, taking you from installation to remote working and using command line tools. The CVS section is

a good working tutorial, and the ability to compare it with the proprietary MS product is useful. As it is quite common to come across both in the real world, this alone would prove useful to software manufacturers, although the price is a little off-putting.

The final section of the book deals with building from source code. Again there are separate chapters that discuss Linux in contrast to Microsoft-oriented software houses. The author clearly understands the usefulness of command line tools, discussing how to write automated build scripts to remove the most dangerous of all human errors, forgetfulness. In the end, I warmed to the book; it was full of useful detailed sections. But due to the pricing, this is definitely one for the company creditcard. ■



## C++ GUI Programming with Qt3

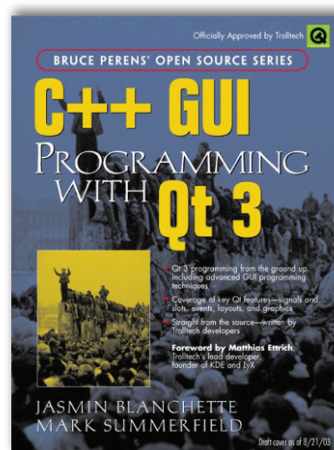
The book is not on sale until the beginning of February, but it would be wise to order straight away. For anyone who wants to make the most of TrollTech's Qt3, this is the book for you. The style is very easy to follow with a mass of examples and screenshots.

Object oriented code is seen as the new sexy path for programmers to take and so is becoming a much sort after skill. The advantage is the speed at which applications can be built. This is not a book to start to read when you are not near a computer. The examples make you want to jump straight in and follow them on your own machine.

The book takes you from a novice writing her first "Hello Qt" program right through to container classes and multithreading. The examples grow in each step, so you are always building on your

previously learned new skills. The book fortunately, does not assume you are a kernel hacking programmer, and at the same time manages to avoid being patronizing to those who have learned a little.

I found the book easier to understand than the O'Reilly "Programming With Qt". This is probably down to the enthusiasm that the two authors show throughout the book. Other authors would do well to read this book and try to follow the style. The examples build up nicely and you can see clearly where



they would be used in real life with code and screenshots for different platforms living side by side.

It does leave out any major aspects of Qt3 programming and gives you the essentials in a neat package. Every page is well written. It teaches exactly what it says on the cover of the book. This is definitely one to buy today. ■

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**Jasmin Blanchette and Mark Summerfield**  
**448 pages plus CD**  
**Prentice Hall, 0-13-124072-2**  
**\$44.99, US \$44.99, EUR 39.52**