



## Synopsis

Provides unique coverage of Intel's Pentium chip. Explores hardware programming aspects that affect code performance. Features innovative optimization techniques not found in any other book. Includes the useful Zen timer-a hands-on software tool for measuring code performance. Presents creative "right-brain" Zen approaches to the art of writing PC software.

## Book Information

Paperback: 450 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #786,638 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing & Engineering > Performance Optimization](#) #555 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Microsoft Programming > C & C++ Windows Programming](#) #5238 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools](#)

## Customer Reviews

Excellent book. He starts off each chapter with a weird story. Very easy to understand and covers all aspects of optimization on all x86 processors up to pentium. He shows you programs in C then optimizes the hell out of them in later chapters.

You can still learn a lot on optimization but there is almost nothing on the Pentium generation. Covers mostly 16 bit assembly. Would be nice to have a book like that for 32 bit optimization.

It's rare that an author can take an esoteric topic like instruction cycle optimization and accomplish three key goals: explain the concepts with great clarity, make the book fun to read, and change the way the reader thinks about programming and optimization in general. Abrash has that rare combination of excellent communication skills, breadth and depth of technical knowledge, and a passion for helping you understand the hows, whys, and whens of code optimization. While some of

the material seems a little dated now (covering Pentium I and prior CPUs), the concepts, methodologies, and ways of thinking about optimization still apply today.

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