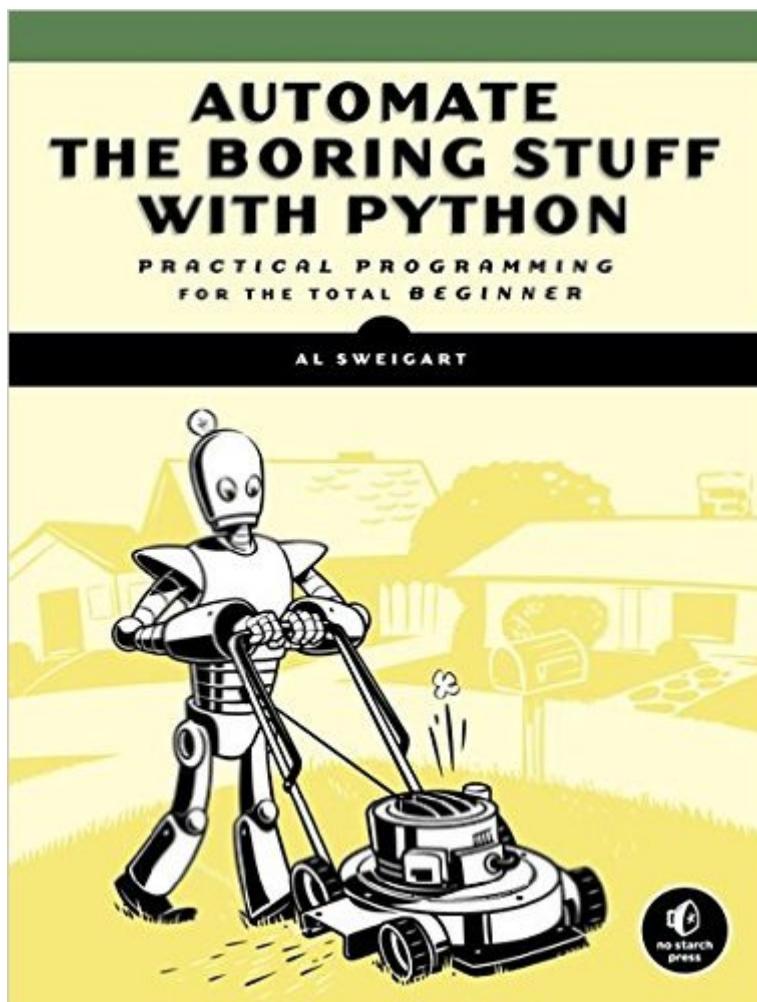


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# Automate The Boring Stuff With Python: Practical Programming For Total Beginners



## Synopsis

If you've ever spent hours renaming files or updating hundreds of spreadsheet cells, you know how tedious tasks like these can be. But what if you could have your computer do them for you? In *Automate the Boring Stuff with Python*, you'll learn how to use Python to write programs that do in minutes what would take you hours to do by hand—no prior programming experience required. Once you've mastered the basics of programming, you'll create Python programs that effortlessly perform useful and impressive feats of automation to:

- Search for text in a file or across multiple files
- Create, update, move, and rename files and folders
- Search the Web and download online content
- Update and format data in Excel spreadsheets of any size
- Split, merge, watermark, and encrypt PDFs
- Send reminder emails and text notifications
- Fill out online forms

Step-by-step instructions walk you through each program, and practice projects at the end of each chapter challenge you to improve those programs and use your newfound skills to automate similar tasks. Don't spend your time doing work a well-trained monkey could do. Even if you've never written a line of code, you can make your computer do the grunt work. Learn how in *Automate the Boring Stuff with Python*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hi all, for all the poor college students or recent grads or anyone looking to not spend money for knowledge...this book is free to read online. The publishers have a website (<https://automatetheboringstuff.com>) where you can read it in its entirety for FREE. You can literally

have it open in a tab or tablet while you code. Happy learning and enjoy!

Introductions to python are easy to find -- but at the end of the day most python tutorials for beginners end up being the same lessons repackaged, often leaving the new programmer with gaping holes in how their newly acquire skills can be applied practically. This is not one of those books. The book begins with the essential skills and concepts necessary to build a solid foundation in not only python, but programming in general. The introduction is thorough, easy to follow, and broken down with enough examples for even the newest of programmers to digest. Those who found Learn Python the Hard Way a little frustrating will like the much more broken down process used in this book. But where this book stands out is the second part where you actually build useful tools you might need to use everyday. The author does a fantastic job of bridging the concepts and skills you learned earlier to real world applications, without skipping many of the important things other tutorials ignore like regex. Whether it's organizing files, working with spreadsheets, or even sending e-mail and text messages, the book introduces programming concepts to the reader through real world applications they can build and use immediately. While programming puzzles and challenges are fun and necessary to an extent, there is little more satisfying to a new engineer than building something that can actually do something useful. One of the biggest hurdles new programmers face is not knowing where to go or what to build after their introductions. Even more so, they do not know necessarily how to apply their new skills. For those more interested in day-to-day applications than building games, this is an amazing place to learn by building with python. I would recommend this for any new programmers, and even those who are interested in exploring what they can build with their foundation.

I'm an electrical engineer who programs a lot both at my job and at home. My non-programmer sister wants to learn how to code and I was interested in learning Python both for work and hobbies, so I picked this up to teach myself and evaluate as a gift for her. Needless to say, I'm pretty satisfied with it and I expect that my sister will be too. Python is a fantastic language for beginning programmers and Sweigart does a great job of explaining it. The only beef I had with it is that some of the humor in the book may interfere with comprehension. Humor is great to keep readers engaged and help prevent them from stressing out about stuff that can be intimidating, but there are a few times here where I felt the quality of explanation suffered a little to squeeze in a joke or geek-culture reference. Note that my complaint is minor enough to not warrant taking a star off of the rating. The book's focus on automation in the second half is fantastic. Most other programming

books that I have used are no where near as pragmatic and it's great to be able to apply your new knowledge to your own life immediately. I also recommend this book to anyone who has a boring job sitting in front of a computer all day. Learn to automate your tasks and do a month of work in a day.

Out of all the programming languages, Python is one of the easiest to learn. Some of the advantages that Python has over other programming languages are that it is easy to read and write, less strict on syntax, and simpler to work with. This makes Python ideal for anyone who is new to programming. This book is not designed to be used as reference material; it's a guide for beginners. Anyone can pick up this book with no programming knowledge and by the time you are through, you can be building your own programs. From the beginning to the end of the book, the author does a good job in explaining and elaborating and doesn't make the reader feel lost. The text and code are easily distinguished and easy to read. There are also bits of humor incorporated within the book which is greatly appreciated. About a third of the book is used to teach the basics of expressions, flow control, functions, lists, dictionaries, structuring data, and manipulating strings. For the rest of the book, the author utilizes everything that you learned by creating programs that automate tasks such as:

Pattern matching with regular expressions  
Reading and writing files  
Organizing files  
Debugging  
Web scraping  
Working with Excel spreadsheets  
Working with PDF and word documents  
Working with CSV files and JSON data  
Keeping time, scheduling, tasks, and launching programs  
Sending email and text messages  
Manipulating images  
Controlling the keyboard and mouse with GUI automation

This programming book stands above most of the programming books I have read. The problem I have with most programming books is that they teach you the basics and that is it. What I really like about this particular book is that you use the knowledge that you learned throughout the book and create programs that are practical and useful in the real world.

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