How to Become a Programmer
Everything (Non-Technical) You Need to Know to Start Making Money Writing Code

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v1.0
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Introduction
Thank you for supporting this effort to provide battle-tested answers on how to become a programmer. I’ve wanted to write this book for at least three years, and the backlog of questions I received during this time makes this book more valuable than it would have been when I originally envisioned it.

Motivation
A question you might be asking yourself is, “Why would a programmer write a book about how to become a programmer?” Like every good question the answer is much longer than you probably care to hear. But here goes...

I receive a steady flow of emails asking some variation of the question, “How can I become a programmer?”

In early 2007 I put my thoughts down in abbreviated form in the post Advice on How to Become a Programmer, but judging by the number of new questions I continue to receive (all of which are answered in this book), it’s obvious this subject deserves a more in-depth look than a blog post can deliver.

Everything contained in this book is based on 10 years of professional software development. I’ve been a salaried developer, a freelance developer, a consultant, a development manager, owner of a consulting firm, owner of a small shrink-wrapped software company (a.k.a. a MicroISV), and a technical author. I’ve written software that has never seen the light of day, and software that processes millions of transactions per day.

My blog is read by about 20,000 people each month, 80% of them software developers.

Updates and Questions
This book will be updated every few months as new questions surface. If you purchased this book from Software by Rob you are entitled to a lifetime of free updates.

If you didn’t purchase this book from Software by Rob, please consider doing so. The proceeds contribute to updating and expanding this work, as well as answering emails from new and potential programmers.

If you have a question I haven’t answered in these pages, feel free to email me at rob@softwarebyrob.com. I can’t promise I will respond to every email, but it is very likely you will hear from me, if for no other reason for me to say “I’ve answered your question in the new version of the ebook, take a look.”