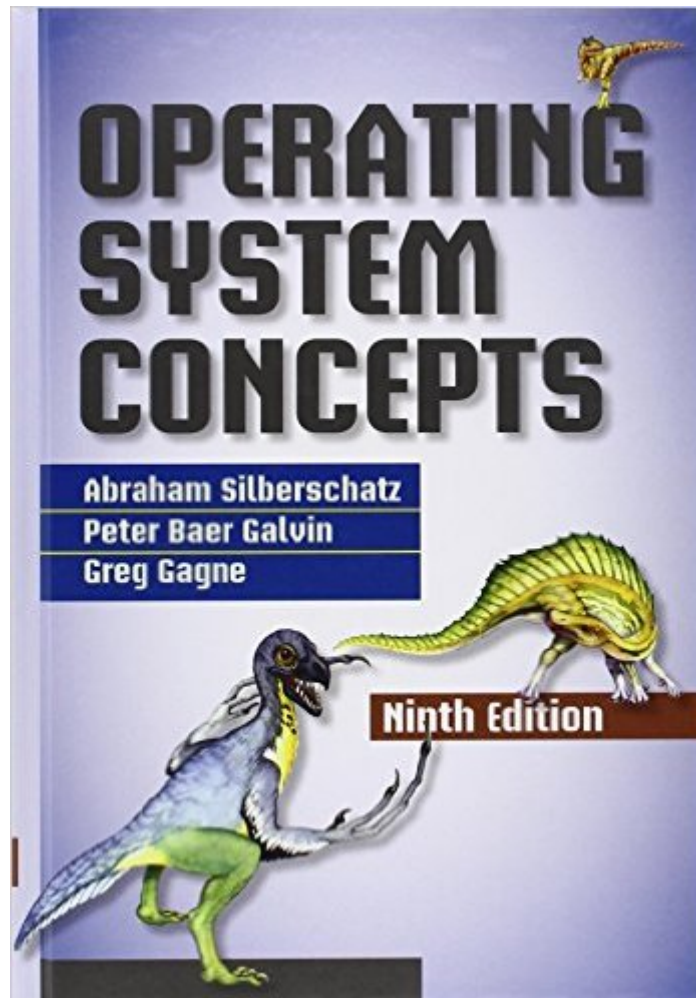


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Operating System Concepts



Synopsis

Operating System Concepts, now in its ninth edition, continues to provide a solid theoretical foundation for understanding operating systems. The ninth edition has been thoroughly updated to include contemporary examples of how operating systems function. The text includes content to bridge the gap between concepts and actual implementations. End-of-chapter problems, exercises, review questions, and programming exercises help to further reinforce important concepts. A new Virtual Machine provides interactive exercises to help engage students with the material.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here's a promising book with insightful exercises at the end of the chapter; however, the actual delivery is annoying and disappointing. I once took a chemistry exam with 100 other students, and the person who got the worst score was the teaching assistant who wrote the answer key. In too many places, it seems like an equally unsuitable TA was trusted to write the meager eight-page LARGE TYPE index (the book has 944 pages), dream up several of the exercises, and proofread the book for clarity and accuracy. Typographic conventions in this book need more attention; for example the two-letter variable name on page 405 looks at first like multiplication, and page 393 has commas that would appear to be thousands separators but are not. The Chapter 8 exercises in general need to face a random drug test; for instance: 8.22 What is the maximum amount of physical memory? 8.24 Consider a computer system with a 32-bit logical address and 4-KB page size. The system supports up to 512 MB of physical memory. How many entries are there in each of the

following? If you're wondering what the context is for the first question, or what the remainder of the second question is, referring to the book isn't going to help you. You've already read both exercises in full. Terminology is abused at many points; for instance the word "paging" abruptly jumps to mean "swapping" in the summary of Chapter 8, inconsistent with what the chapter defined paging as meaning. In other places statements of fact are made (on page 404, hardware that supports demand paging is sufficient to support swapping), but proven false moments later (on page 405, oh by the way, swapping requires additionally that CPU instructions be restartable).

So I am taking a class about "operating systems" ignoring the fact the teacher is absolutely horrendously appalling, this book is just about as bad. First it should be said it touches on what I would best describe as a cosmically large amount of OS related concepts, principles, algorithms, and protocols. However the wording I used is imperative... because touching on these topics is all that it does. For example I had an assignment that had to do with page-replacement algorithms, unfortunately I was very sick (nearly a week gone) and missed the lecture about basically all of this. However as with any class that has dedicated a book to be utilized by the students as a learning tool, I was expecting to find the section in the book covering the assignment topic and basically go from there.... Well I found the section on page-replacement algorithms and after reading just kind of stared at the book wishing I had something to set it on fire with. With the ranting aside, what I was demonstrating is the unfortunate pervasive pattern in this book to give vague descriptions of *crucial ideas, in addition to rarely including (what has been proven to be one of the most effective and easy to learn from) diagrams or graphical examples of the more difficult concepts. The aspect that really just add insult to injury though, is that many of the topics that are simple, or at least easier to understand, are often ridiculously over-explained. I don't want to just obviate the fact that there are a lot of topics (both simpler and more difficult) that are very well explained, furthermore there's also a good amount of useful graphical examples.

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