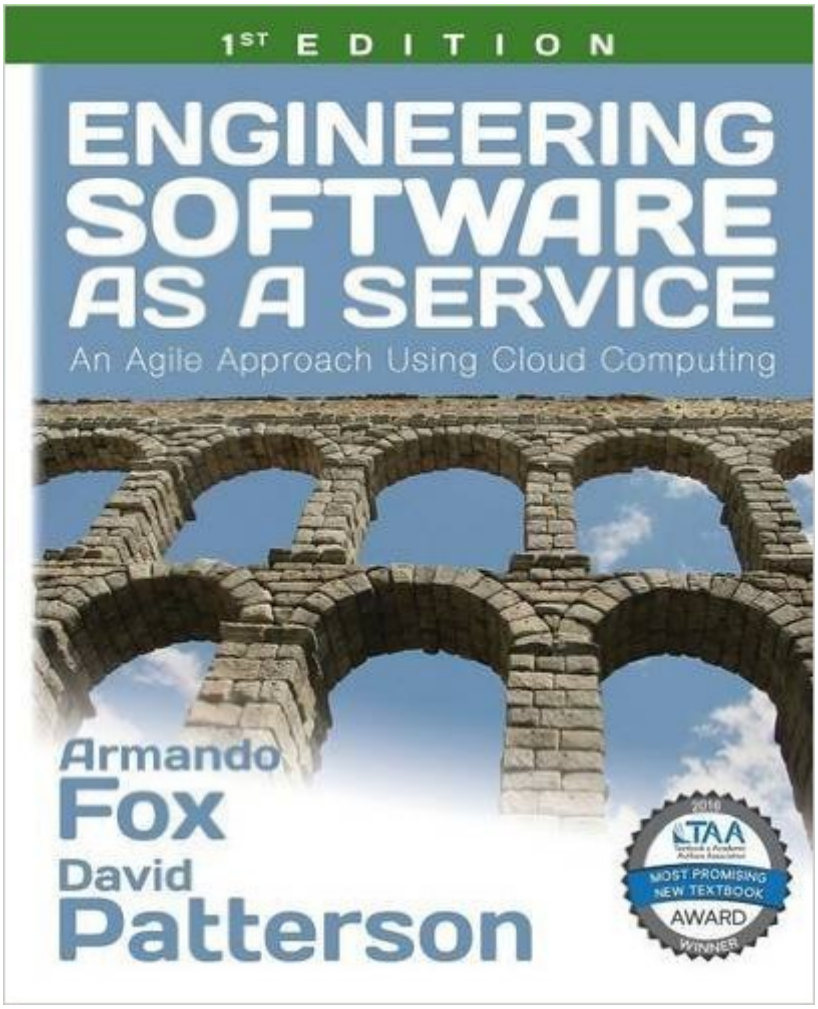
Engineering Software As A Service: An Agile Approach Using Cloud Computing



Synopsis

Awarded "Most Promising New Textbook" for 2016 by the Textbook & Academic Authors Association A one-semester college course in software engineering focusing on cloud computing, software as a service (SaaS), and Agile development using Extreme Programming (XP). This book is neither a step-by-step tutorial nor a reference book. Instead, our goal is to bring a diverse set of software engineering topics together into a single narrative, help readers understand the most important ideas through concrete examples and a learn-by-doing approach, and teach readers enough about each topic to get them started in the field. Courseware for doing the work in the book is available as a virtual machine image that can be downloaded or deployed in the cloud. A free MOOC (massively open online course) at saas-class.org follows the book's content and adds programming assignments and quizzes. See saasbook.info for details.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a good book, but it’s not as great on its own. The book is designed as a support material for the BerkeleyX 169.1x and 169.2x courses. This means you’ll take more advantage of the book by taking those courses yourself.Anyway, the book (and the course as well) is a very good reference on current effective practices on Software Engineering. If you read it, it might work to keep you up to date with good software development practices, taking Software as a Service and Agile Development as it’s core topics.Both the book and the course are meant for people with more-than-rookie programming skills, so you won’t get too much from it if you’re a still beginner.

Anyway, you might use it as reference, and it will give you good and useful information.It’s not a book on programming, it’s a book on Software Engineering, even though it uses Ruby on Rails as the language-and-framework set for explaining all the concepts and practices covered. The main reason why the book and course features Ruby on Rails instead of other languages and frameworks is the fact that, according to the authors’ opinion, it’s a perfectly suited technology (maybe the best) for fast and productive Agile Development.

I bought this book for the Berekely 169.1/2x courses on edx.org.As a professional software engineer, I found the book and the course to supplement my existing experience and knowledge quite well.One complaint I saw in another review was that the screencasts didn’t seem high quality. To be honest, it didn’t occur to me that this was a problem at all, since I was really taking the course...the book was a supplement (and was $10 for the Kindle edition). If I had bought the book and didn’t know about the course, I might have minded, or thought it made the book seem not quite as high quality. This is a fair criticism since I’d have similar expectations for other technical books, but rest assured, the content is still quite good.I knew some rails before, but seeing how certain parts of rails is implemented with ruby meta-programming, was very interesting and a "next level" thing as someone who is not too advanced with ruby yet.BTW another "slight criticism" is that the rails version used in the book is 3.2, whereas 4 is already somewhat established now...

Engineering Software as a Service (SOA) was an excellent book for my purposes. The author offers fairly detailed steps and examples of how a manager or team lead would move legacy systems to web services and then to the cloud. This is not a coding book about SOAP, RESTFUL, or JSON interfaces. It is not a reference or specification either. In fact, Engineering Software as a Service is a fairly easy read from beginning to end. While I do not necessarily agree 100% with everything he says, I do think it’s good to prepare for other opinions your organization may or may not share with the author. Lastly, I think he wrote this book based on hands-on experiences because I could feel his pain; especially in the warnings. I also think he wrote this for a perfect world (with tons of time, budget, and resources) so it will likely be incumbent upon the reader to adapt to his or her own paradigm.

This is a good textbook if you want to learn more about Ruby on Rails. It is very in-depth, and the kindle version is embedded with plenty of helpful links. One criticism I have is that they try to teach you using an existing rails app when they should be starting you from scratch.

Finally, a modern/comprehensive explanation of developing high-quality, scalable web applications. If you think SaaS (web applications run on a browser) is the future, you must read this book. It's very well written and explains many concepts well from high level to low-level like i've never read before. Some concepts I've read over and over in other books but were explained perfectly in the first pass!

Used it as part of my EdX participation in the course and used it as a supporting material. Even in beta version, this is a very good book, plenty of references both internal as well as external. I keep reading it since then.

The e-book is well written and Kindle provides functions such as highlighting, inserting notes, dictionary, book marking, and skipping to the desired section through bookmarks and the table of contents. I gave it 4 stars because there are no page numbers but instead location numbers which are difficult to remember and do not correspond to homework assignments. The e-book provides live links to code snippets and websites that makes it convenient and allows quick access to material. I would recommend this e-book to other customers.

Many companies have changed to agile methodologies and many software engineering courses have transitioned to agile as well since it is much better suited to small projects like the ones done in a classroom setting. There are lots of books on agile methods and there are lots of textbooks covering software engineering but this is the first one that manages to do both. The authors chose to focus on SaaS applications, which is ideal for a college course in software engineering since there are no shortage of web-based projects for students to work on. The book also provides an introduction to the tools and languages needed, using Ruby on Rails. This allows a consistency between the software engineering concepts taught in class and the tools that the students will use to do their projects. The book website gives access to all the software tools in the book, making it easy for instructors and students to work through the examples and have a platform for class projects. The book is very information-dense but is also very engaging. I also can't imagine a better bargain than the Kindle version currently offered at $9.99! The book is an excellent choice for a software engineering course and also as a supplement to the EdX MOOCs that it goes with.

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