

So You Want to Learn to Program?

Third Edition

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For BASIC-256 Version 2.0.0.0 or later

So You Want to Learn to Program?

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Dedications:

To my wife Nancy and my daughter Anna.

Credits:

Some public domain clip art from <http://www.openclipart.com>.

Preface

The first edition of this book was created as an introduction to programming in the BASIC language for middle to high school students who wanted to create code on their own. Over the last couple of years the text has evolved to be used in secondary and post-secondary education.

This second edition keeps most of the material in the first edition and includes the modernization of BASIC-256 to include Subroutines, Functions, and better error handling. In addition to updating the language and cleaning up the text and programs, exercises have been added to the end of each chapter to reinforce the techniques discussed and to give the readers/students an additional challenge.

The third edition is updated to include new features of the BASIC-256 language. These include: the new dynamic nature of arrays and variables being of a variant type.

This book chapters can be structured for use in a variety of ways:

1. a 9 or 18 week introduction to programming
 - chapters 1, 2, 3, 4*, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for the first 9 week term
 - chapters 10, 11, 12, 13*, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19* for the second 9 week term
2. a brief introduction to the concepts of programming
 - chapters 1, 3**, 4*, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 14
3. an introduction to data structures for non-programmers
 - chapters 1, 3**, 4*, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15*, 16*, 17 and 20
4. a brief programming project for a database system course
 - chapters 1, 3**, 4*, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15*, 16*, 19 and 21
5. and a brief programming project for a networking course.
 - chapters 1, 3**, 4*, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15*, 16*, 19 and 23

The most important part of this book is the ability to mix and re-mix the material to fit your very specific needs.

I wish you nothing but success.

-Jim

* Denotes Optional Chapter

** Numeric Variables Section Only