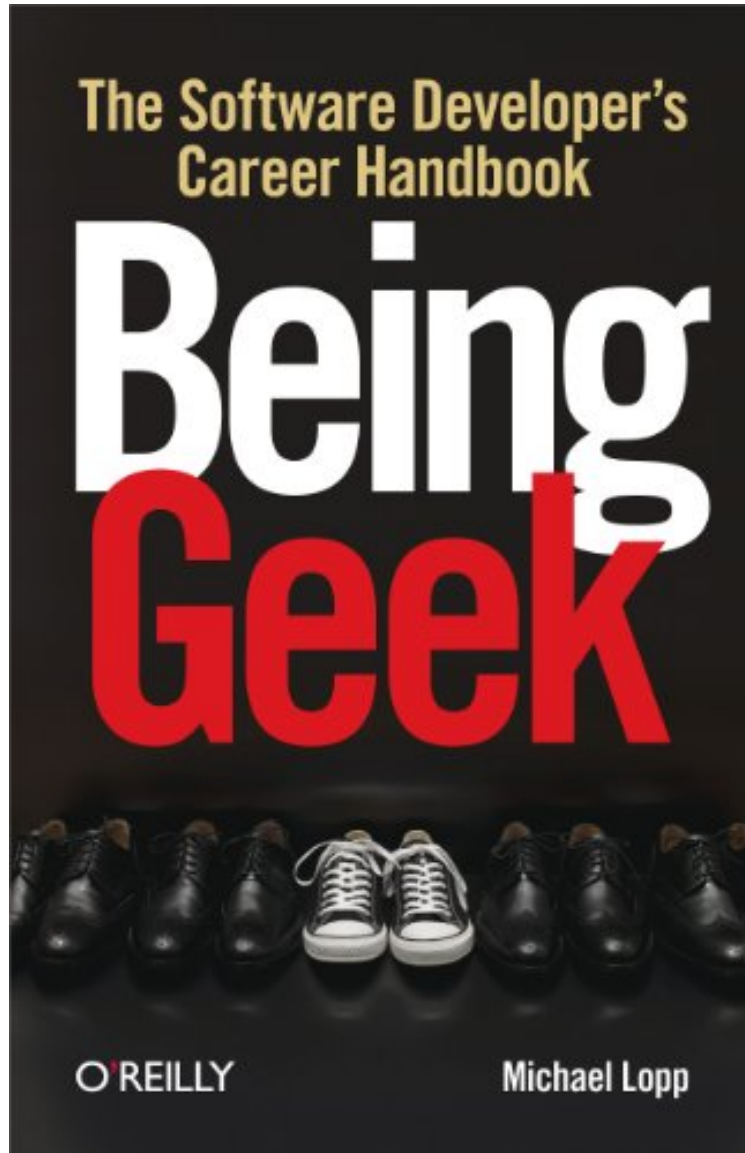


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## Being Geek: The Software Developer's Career Handbook

*Michael Lopp*

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**Michael Lopp : Being Geek: The Software Developer's Career Handbook** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Being Geek: The Software Developer's Career Handbook:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Most useful career guide for college student, recent grad, or new hire in the tech industryBy finalfantasyfreak15This is one of the most useful career books to read for people new in the tech industry. If you are in college or just starting your career, this is a must read book. It covers every topic from looking for a job, writing a resume, interview tips, offer negotiation, and what to do once you get the job. The one thing I don't like about it is the crass language, but if that doesn't bother you, then this book might be entertaining as

well. Even for people who aren't in software engineering will find useful tips because he writes it in a way that his advice is true for a variety of careers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Managing Humans was BetterBy Scott CromarThe author of this book writes the popular "Rands in Repose" blog. IT people will recognize the situations Lopp describes, and may find some of his advice and insights to be useful. The chapters are strongly influenced by posts on the blog. While the chapters are interesting of themselves, there is little coherence between chapters, and some of the chapter headings are not a good description of the contents. Lopp's other book, "Managing Humans," may be a better choice for many readers. In that book, the chapters are more coherent, and the stories are more on-point. This was an enjoyable, quick read, which is why I gave it 4 stars. I just think the other book is better, which is why I gave that one 5.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for anyone that prefers to write in a fixed with fontBy Ben SchwartzGreat book that delivers what it promises. Being Geek lays out both the big picture of career management as well as some of the finer points of controlling your tech career in an industry where everyone around you assumes you would prefer to be left alone and code. Everything is covered from how to set goals within your current gig and beyond, to how to interact with a notoriously hard to read brand of co-worker. It covers topics that one might think taboo to ask a boss; simultaneously answering those questions and making them seem less inappropriate to talk with a manager about (e.g. your life after your current company or what your next position within the company could be.) Being Geek also brings into light the false assumption that developers should graduate into management. It points out what should be obvious but isn't: developers don't necessarily make good business liaisons. It goes on to elaborate on more "tech" geared career paths. The abstract discussion of how geeks interact with themselves and business, what to look for and expect in these interactions, and what tools there are to facilitate these relationships is also very useful. As you learn from the book, geeks like to organize things into systems; even their relationships. Having the relationships I experience with my coworkers outlined provided a surprising amount of clarity and perspective to my own work environment. The chapters can largely stand alone (I think the book is mostly an edited compilation of the author's blog) and make for an easily digestible "cover to cover" read that also can serve as a reference. At times the book became a little too "self-helpy" for my taste, but then again that's exactly what Being Geek is supposed to be.

As a software engineer, you recognize at some point that there's much more to your career than dealing with code. Is it time to become a manager? Tell your boss he's a jerk? Join that startup? Author Michael Lopp recalls his own make-or-break moments with Silicon Valley giants such as Apple, Netscape, and Symantec in Being Geek -- an insightful and entertaining book that will help you make better career decisions. With more than 40 standalone stories, Lopp walks through a complete job life cycle, starting with the job interview and ending with the realization that it might be time to find another gig. Many books teach you how to interview for a job or how to manage a project successfully, but only this book helps you handle the baffling circumstances you may encounter throughout your career. Decide what you're worth with the chapter on "The Business" Determine the nature of the miracle your CEO wants with "The Impossible" Give effective presentations with "How Not to Throw Up" Handle liars and people with devious agendas with "Managing Werewolves" Realize when you should be looking for a new gig with "The Itch"

About the Author Michael Lopp is a Silicon Valley-based engineering manager. When he's not worrying about staying relevant, he writes about pens, bridges, people, and werewolves at the popular weblog, Rands in Repose. Michael wrote a book called "Managing Humans" which explains that while you might be rewarded for what you produce, you will only be successful because of your people.