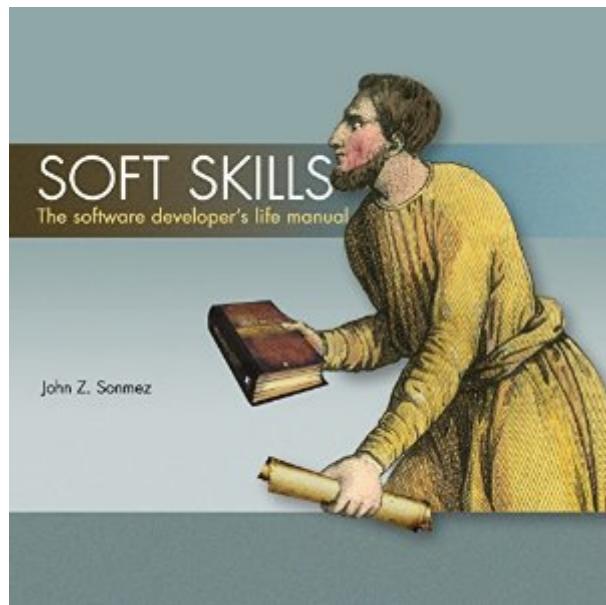


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# Soft Skills: The Software Developer's Life Manual



## Synopsis

For most software developers, coding is the fun part. The hard bits are dealing with clients, peers, and managers and staying productive, achieving financial security, keeping yourself in shape, and finding true love. This book is here to help. *Soft Skills: The Software Developer's Life Manual* is a guide to a well-rounded, satisfying life as a technology professional. In it, developer and life coach John Sonmez offers advice to developers on important subjects like career and productivity, personal finance and investing, and even fitness and relationships. Arranged as a collection of 71 short chapters, this fun listen invites you to dip in wherever you like. A "Taking Action" section at the end of each chapter tells you how to get quick results. *Soft Skills* will help make you a better programmer, a more valuable employee, and a happier, healthier person.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The first thing that rubbed me the wrong way was the foreword by Robert Martin. In it Martin discusses that John emailed him a zip of the book and wanted a foreword written by a certain date. Martin wasn't able to do so because John only gave him 3 days notice. John sent Martin cheese and a ham and sent Martin multiple emails in which he was "imploring" Martin to write a foreword. Eventually Martin says he skimmed some of the book in a few hours and wrote a shallow foreword for it. It just befuddles me that it would be included in the book as it is hardly glowing and doesn't put John in a very good light. I'm guessing having a half good foreword by a very well known member of the community beats a great foreword by someone that has no name recognition. The biggest thing that struck me about this book is how shallow it is. In a book with 71 chapters, it is a bit

hard to avoid this. Yet as I read it, I kept thinking about how each chapter could be summarized with a single paragraph in the way that it was written. Each chapter spanned 5-20 pages and contained the same amount of fluff. All of the knowledge in each of the chapters could be learned by doing a single Google search on the topic. It certainly combines it all into a single place which might be convenient for some but the lack of true insight on the topics was very off putting. In books like these, the value is in the application and new ideas that come about from the author's experience and knowledge. I just didn't see any evidence of this regardless of how much John says that his ideas are brand new and better than the researchers and people that devote their lives to these topics. The book is comprised of 7 sections: Career, Marketing, Learning, Productivity, Financial, Fitness and Spirit.

John Sonmez has divided the book into seven sections with between 7-17 chapters in each, a total of 71 chapters all in all. They are short and to the point (5-10 pages each), and most of them can be read individually, i.e. you can read the book from cover to cover, or jump to the parts you are interested in and continue on from there. The "Career" section is, that you can imagine, useful tips on how to setup career goals, gain people skills, write a good resume and pass the interview. But it's also about what different type of options you have (employee, independent consultant, or entrepreneur) and how to think if you want to switch. Section 2, "Marketing yourself" was a real eye opener for me personally. I never had thought about it in this way. I tried out some of the stuff mentioned, and it didn't take long before I could see positive result! You have to read the section yourself to fully understand, but I can give you some quotes: "marketing is a multiplier of talent", "a brand is a promise" and "follower to fan". In this section you can also find the advice that you should give away 90% of what you do for free (that personified John's willingness to help me). "Learning" is a very important section, given the ever evolving world we live in. I like the idea with the 10-step process for learning, though I haven't had the time to try it out yet. "Productivity" is another personal favorite of mine. Who doesn't want to be productive? I really like chapter 37 - "My Personal Productivity Plan". It has a personal touch that I like, with great examples and pictures. The do's and don'ts from chapter 41 about multi-tasking are also very good.

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