

*The Rational Unified Process: An Introduction*, by Phillippe Kruchten, Addison-Wesley, 1998, 255 pages.

This book offers an introduction to the concepts and motivation of the Rational Unified Process. Note that this text is about the PROCESS of developing software, not the development of software itself. The PROCESS itself attempts to help software professionals produce, within schedule and within budget, high quality software that meets the needs of the user.

Part I of the text includes chapters on software development basics, introduction to the Rational Unified Process, static process description, dynamic iterative development, architecture-centric processes, and use-case processes. Part II of the text includes detailed descriptions of each of the artifacts (produced by workflows) necessary to produce the deliverables in software development including project management, business modeling, requirements, analysis and design, implementation, test, configuration and change management, environment, deployment and iteration.

The intended audience for this book is software professionals whose organization has adopted the Rational Unified Process. This book assumes a basic understanding of software development but does not require previous knowledge of any specific language, OO method or the UML. In an academic setting, this book (and the design methodology) is most appropriate for large group projects, lengthy senior projects or graduate study.

The most interesting chapter is the last one, which describes how to configure and implement the Rational Unified Process in a step-by-step manner. One section, entitled “Implementing A Process is a Process”, details some of the effort required to implement this process.

Reviewed by Ronald Finkbine, Ph.D.