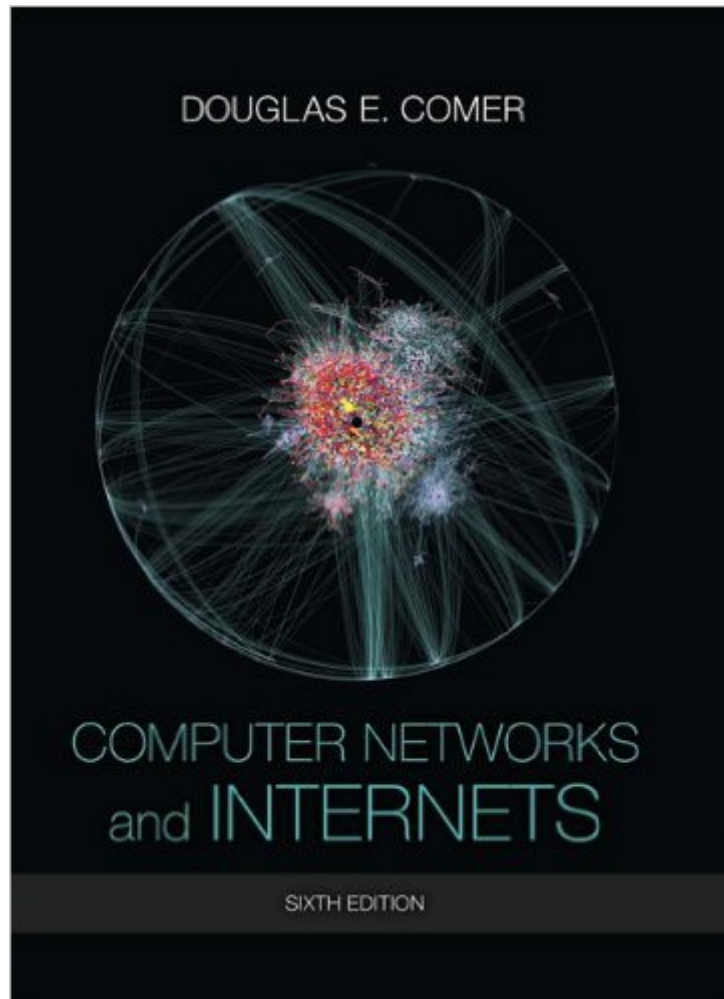


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Computer Networks And Internets (6th Edition)



Synopsis

Appropriate for all introductory-to-intermediate courses in computer networking, the Internet, or Internet applications; readers need no background in networking, operating systems, or advanced mathematics. A leading networking authority Douglas Comer presents a wide-ranging, self-contained tour of the concepts, principles, and technologies that enable today's Internet to support applications ranging from web browsing to telephony and multimedia. Comer begins by illuminating the applications and facilities offered by today's Internet. Next, he systematically introduces the underlying network technologies and protocols that make them possible. With these concepts and technologies established, he introduces several of the most important contemporary issues faced by network implementers and managers, including quality of service, Internet telephony, multimedia, network security, and network management. Comer has carefully designed this book to support both top-down and bottom-up teaching approaches. Students need no background in operating systems, and no sophisticated math: Comer relies throughout on figures, drawings, examples, and analogies, not mathematical proofs. Teaching and Learning Experience This program will provide a better teaching and learning experience for you and your students. Broad Coverage of Key Concepts and Principles, Presented in a Technology-independent Fashion: Comer focuses on imparting knowledge that students will need regardless of which technologies emerge or become obsolete. Flexible Organization that Supports both Top-down and Bottom-up Teaching Approaches: Chapters may be sequenced to accommodate a wide variety of course needs and preferences. An Accessible Presentation that Resonates with Students: Comer relies throughout on figures, drawings, examples, and analogies, not mathematical proofs. Keep Your Course Current: Content is refreshed to provide the most up-to-date information on new technologies for your course.

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Customer Reviews

This review compares the following four books: Computer Networks by Peterson and Davie (P & D) Computer Networks by Tanenbaum Computer Networks by Comer / Internetworking with TCP/IP Computer Networking by Kurose and Ross (K & R) By far the best book in the list is "Computer Networking" by Kurose and Ross. This book covers all of the essential material that is in the other books but manages to do so in a relevant and entertaining way. This book is very up to date as seen by the release of the 5th Ed when the 4th Ed is barely two years old. There are lots of practical exercises using Wireshark and the companion website is actually useful and relevant. The attitude of this book with regard to teaching networking concepts could be summed up as "try it out and see for yourself". One interesting thing to note is that the socket programming examples are all in Java. Next up is the Peterson and Davie book which covers everything that Kurose and Ross discuss but is slightly more mathematical in how it goes about things. There are a lot more numerical examples and defining of formulas in this book which is fine by me and in no way detracts from the book. Also the socket programming examples are in C which is a little more traditional. The points where this text loses ground to K & R is that it doesn't have the practical application exercises that K & R has and it also doesn't extend the basic networking theory that is covered to modern protocols like K & R. The two Comer books come next. Comer's "Computer Networks" book is probably the most introductory book out of this whole list and is more of a survey of networking topics that doesn't cover anything in any real depth.

I really like this little book as it fills in a niche in networking literature - that of providing a clear and quick picture of the main ideas and trends, great for cramming for a job interview or an exam. I recently bought many networking books, and although I primarily use the new editions of Steven's books "Unix Network Programming" + "Internetworking with TCP/IP" - recommended by the very best hackers around - this little book from Comer complements them nicely by giving a sweet overview without getting bogged down by technicalities as in a professional manual, and without getting lost in useless high-level business stuff as in many other books. So I mainly use these three books in my practice: Stevens UNP+TCP/IPv1, with this one for a quick, focused and very useful read. Reasons

for not getting 5 stars: The writing style is not the most elegant, but it is to-the-point, differently than many other networking books. The content is incomplete (mostly by design, to keep it short); it is just an overview. In some chapters, the level of overview works and is informative, but in others it is too shallow and can lead to misconceptions. For instance, in explaining UDP it doesn't say that many applications implement other communication features on top of it rather than using plain UDP, giving the false impression UDP can never be used for (semi-) reliable transfer. Despite this, the book does provide simple but useful semantic insight that is hard to extract from other books.

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