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# Learn to Program, Third Edition

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The  
Pragmatic  
Programmers

Updated  
for Ruby 3

# Learn to Program

Third Edition



*Chris Pine*  
edited by Tammy Coron

The Facets  of Ruby Series



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Raleigh, North Carolina



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# Preface to the Third Edition

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I just realized that I've been working on this book, in one form or another, for 18 years. When I started, it was before smartphones, before Twitter and YouTube, and before Gmail and Google Maps. You couldn't visit MySpace in Firefox, because neither one existed yet. RSS feeds were the hot new thing.

The world has changed so much since then, and the changes keep happening faster and faster. This third edition was written under the shadow of COVID-19. As unemployment in the United States reaches heights not seen since the Great Depression, I still see lots of open programmer jobs out there. And programming is a job you can easily do from home.

Programming was a fun and interesting thing to learn in 2002. At the time not nearly as many programming jobs existed, but there were enough. And anyway, many of us did it for fun, for the joy of creating new things.

Today, surrounded by computers, programming increasingly feels like a critical skill to learn. It's still as fun and rewarding as it ever was. But as more industries become digital, and more companies become software companies with "an app for that," the importance of programming is greater than it has ever been.

I'm excited to embark on this journey with you.

## What's New in This Edition

For the third edition of this book, I've updated all the examples for Ruby 3, the latest version of the language. Since the second edition came out around when Ruby 2 did, it seemed like the right thing to do and the right time to do it.

It also gave me a chance to update the examples for the world we live in. Some of the jokes and references stopped being funny/cute around 2012 or so.

Best of all, though, I added a new chapter! It's about APIs and how to use them. I figured that since it's so *easy* now to write programs that talk across

the Internet to programs on the other side of the world, I just had to show you how it's done.

*AND...* I fixed a typo that no one had found in 18 years, which I kind of can't believe, but there it is.

**Chris Pine**

Portland, Oregon, USA, December 2020