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Programmer Passport: OTP

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The Pragmatic Bookshelf

Raleigh, North Carolina

Programmer Passport

OTP



Bruce A. Tate

Edited by Jacquelyn Carter

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Bruce Tate

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The team that produced this book includes:

CEO: Dave Rankin

COO: Janet Furlow

Managing Editor: Tammy Coron

Development Editor: Jacquelyn Carter

Copy Editor: Vanya Wong

Founders: Andy Hunt and Dave Thomas

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ISBN-13: 978-1-68050-968-7

Encoded using the finest acid-free high-entropy binary digits.

Book version: P1.0—June 2022

Preface

OTP is one of the most consequential inventions in the entire Erlang and Elixir ecosystems. The library provides a common framework for reliably starting, stopping, and running concurrent workers. OTP is the reason many developers learn Erlang or Elixir. Elixir's wonderful management characteristics and seamless concurrency flow out of OTP. If you're looking to take the step from beginner to intermediate Elixir developer, OTP would be a great place to start.

With so much attention on OTP, you might wonder if the world needs yet another OTP book. The wonderful [Designing Elixir Systems with OTP \[IT19\]](#) I wrote with James E Gray II and the brilliant [Elixir in Action \[Jur15\]](#) by Saša Jurić provide excellent insight into how to design Elixir with OTP. If you're using OTP in conjunction with Phoenix, Lance Halvorsen's treatment in [Functional Web Development with Elixir, OTP, and Phoenix \[Hal18\]](#) might be just the ticket.

Still, this short book fills a nice niche. OTP is a behaviour, a program written by someone else. The only way to understand OTP is to know what the behaviour is doing under the surface. After teaching OTP for four years, I've learned that many developers don't understand the underlying behaviour, so they need more than the documentation. At the same time, they don't always have the time or attention for a longer text. This small companion to Groxio's OTP course¹ presents a no-frills treatment for those needing more than stock documentation or blog posts, without reading a more expansive OTP treatment.

If you find yourself in this niche, I'd love to join you in the journey. If you like what you see, who knows? You might decide to join us on Groxio for some video demonstrations of OTP and other Elixir concepts!

1. <https://grox.io>