



Robert C. Martin Series

# The Clean Coder

A Code of Conduct for Professional Programmers

Robert C. Martin



Foreword by Matthew Heusser,  
Software Process Naturalist

## Praise for *The Clean Coder*

“‘Uncle Bob’ Martin definitely raises the bar with his latest book. He explains his expectation for a professional programmer on management interactions, time management, pressure, on collaboration, and on the choice of tools to use. Beyond TDD and ATDD, Martin explains what every programmer who considers him- or herself a professional not only needs to know, but also needs to follow in order to make the young profession of software development grow.”

—Markus Gärtner  
Senior Software Developer  
it-agile GmbH  
[www.it-agile.de](http://www.it-agile.de)  
[www.shino.de](http://www.shino.de)

“Some technical books inspire and teach; some delight and amuse. Rarely does a technical book do all four of these things. Robert Martin’s always have for me and *The Clean Coder* is no exception. Read, learn, and live the lessons in this book and you can accurately call yourself a software professional.”

—George Bullock  
Senior Program Manager  
Microsoft Corp.

“If a computer science degree had ‘required reading for after you graduate,’ this would be it. In the real world, your bad code doesn’t vanish when the semester’s over, you don’t get an A for marathon coding the night before an assignment’s due, and, worst of all, you have to deal with people. So, coding gurus are not necessarily professionals. *The Clean Coder* describes the journey to professionalism . . . and it does a remarkably entertaining job of it.”

—Jeff Overbey  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“*The Clean Coder* is much more than a set of rules or guidelines. It contains hard-earned wisdom and knowledge that is normally obtained through many years of trial and error or by working as an apprentice to a master craftsman. If you call yourself a software professional, you need this book.”

—R. L. Bogetti  
Lead System Designer  
Baxter Healthcare  
[www.RLBogetti.com](http://www.RLBogetti.com)

# **Clean Coder, The: A Code of Conduct for Professional Programmers**

## **Table of Contents**

Cover	
Half Title	
Title Page	
Copyright Page	
Contents	
Foreword	
Preface	
Acknowledgments	
About the Author	
On the Cover	
Pre-Requisite Introduction	
Chapter 1 Professionalism	
Be Careful What You Ask For	
Taking Responsibility	
First, Do No Harm	
Work Ethic	
Bibliography	
Chapter 2 Saying No	
Adversarial Roles	
High Stakes	

# **Table of Contents**

Being a Team Player

The Cost of Saying Yes

Code Impossible

## **Chapter 3 Saying Yes**

A Language of Commitment

Learning How to Say Yes

Conclusion

## **Chapter 4 Coding**

Preparedness

The Flow Zone

Writers Block

Debugging

Pacing Yourself

Being Late

Help

Bibliography

## **Chapter 5 Test Driven Development**

The Jury Is In

The Three Laws of TDD

What TDD Is Not

Bibliography

## **Chapter 6 Practicing**

Some Background on Practicing

The Coding Dojo

Broadening Your Experience

Conclusion

# **Table of Contents**

Bibliography

## **Chapter 7 Acceptance Testing**

Communicating Requirements

Acceptance Tests

Conclusion

## **Chapter 8 Testing Strategies**

QA Should Find Nothing

The Test Automation Pyramid

Conclusion

Bibliography

## **Chapter 9 Time Management**

Meetings

Focus-Manna

Time Boxing and Tomatoes

Avoidance

Blind Alleys

Marshes, Bogs, Swamps, and Other Messes

Conclusion

## **Chapter 10 Estimation**

What Is an Estimate?

PERT

Estimating Tasks

The Law of Large Numbers

Conclusion

Bibliography

## **Chapter 11 Pressure**

# **Table of Contents**

Avoiding Pressure

Handling Pressure

Conclusion

## **Chapter 12 Collaboration**

Programmers versus People

Cerebellums

Conclusion

## **Chapter 13 Teams and Projects**

Does It Blend?

Conclusion

Bibliography

## **Chapter 14 Mentoring, Apprenticeship, and Craftsmanship**

Degrees of Failure

Mentoring

Apprenticeship

Craftsmanship

Conclusion

## **Appendix A: Tooling**

Tools

Source Code Control

IDE/Editor

Issue Tracking

Continuous Build

Unit Testing Tools

Component Testing Tools

# **Table of Contents**

Integration Testing Tools

UML/MDA

Conclusion

Index