Showstopper!: The Breakneck Race To Create Windows NT And The Next Generation At Microsoft

Synopsis

Showstopper is the dramatic, inside story of the creation of Windows NT, told by Wall Street Journal reporter G. Pascal Zachary. Driven by the legendary Bruce Cutler, a picked band of software engineers sacrifices almost everything in their lives to build a new, stable, operating system aimed at giving Microsoft a platform for growth through the next decade of development in the computing business.Comparable in many ways to the Pulitzer Prizeâ "winning book The Soul of a New Machine by Tracy Kidder, Showstopper gets deep inside the process of software development, the lives and motivations of coders and the pressure to succeed coupled with the drive for originality and perfection that can pull a diverse team together to create a program consisting of many hundreds of thousands of lines of code.

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Customer Reviews

This book is a 2008 update to the original 1994 release. Unfortunately even that is a bit dated now

with references to Nokia being more influential than Microsoft in setting new digital standards especially in the wireless arena. That hat was passed to Apple and Nokia is now owned by Microsoft. In addition, the book mentions that David Cutler went on to work on the Cairo project but no mention is made in the update that the project was canceled in 1996.Overall it is an enjoyable read and reminds me a lot of "Soul of a New Machine" by Tracy Kidder. It is interesting to see the personalities at work on the NT project and the various clashes between the various teams. Much like what happened at Data General with the development of what become the MV/8000.

I was so happy this book was released in a Kindle version, I still actually have my hardcover copy but I much prefer the portability. This is one of the more interesting stories of the early 90s computing scene, and I love the little personal stories - you really end up with a sense of what the environment was like and who these people were that created the OS most desktop users still use a derivative of today.

I enjoyed reading this book. The work environment there was very bad. I hope it isn't like this today and I wouldn't advise anyone to work under such conditions unless there is a guarantee of a large financial incentive.At the end of the book, the author lists all the people he interviewed. Wow - that must have been a lot of work - the author seems too humble.

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