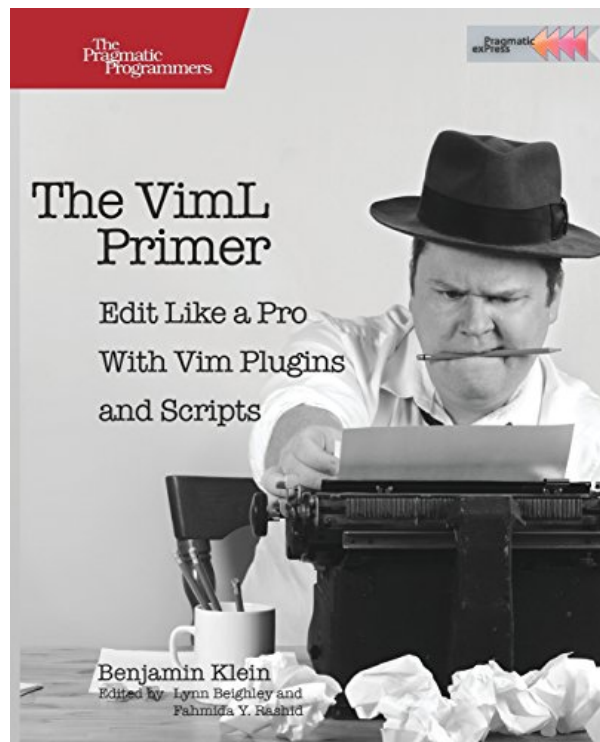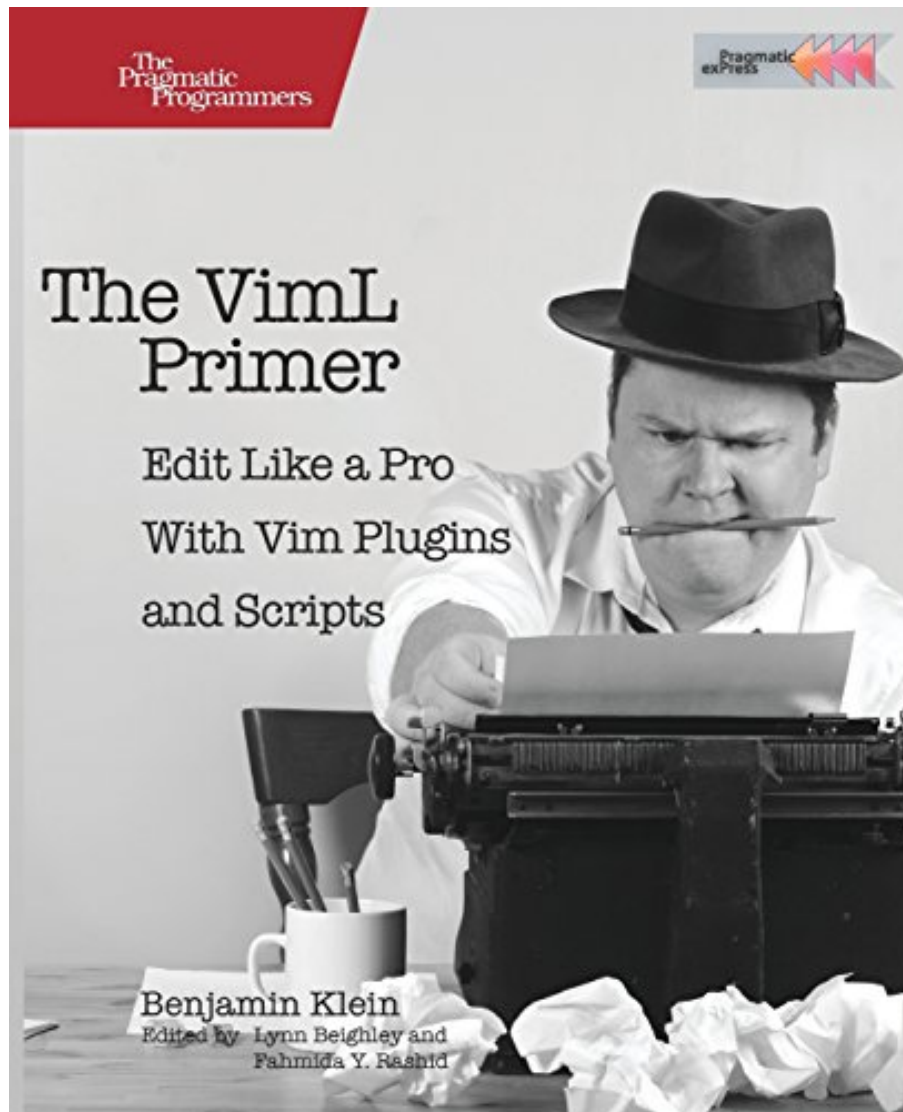# THE VIML PRIMER: EDIT LIKE A PRO WITH VIM PLUGINS AND SCRIPTS BY BENJAMIN KLEIN

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About the Author

Benjamin Klein is a software developer at Silver Chalice, LLC, where he works with Grails and uses Vim for anything text-based that he can. He has been a longtime writer for GroovyMag and a contributing author to Grails 2: A Quick-Start Guide.

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Visualize that you get such specific amazing encounter as well as understanding by just checking out a book **The VimL Primer: Edit Like A Pro With Vim Plugins And Scripts By Benjamin Klein**. Just how can? It appears to be greater when a book could be the most effective thing to find. E-books now will certainly show up in printed as well as soft file collection. Among them is this publication The VimL Primer: Edit Like A Pro With Vim Plugins And Scripts By Benjamin Klein It is so common with the published e-books. Nonetheless, lots of people in some cases have no space to bring the e-book for them; this is why they cannot check out the publication anywhere they really want.

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Build on your editor's capabilities and tailor your editing experience with VimL, the powerful scripting language built into Vim. With VimL you can configure basic settings or add entirely new functionality. Use this quick and easy introduction to create your own Vim plugin while learning the concepts and syntax of VimL.

VimL is the scripting language of the Vim editor. If you've ever edited or saved a vimrc file, you've written VimL. And VimL can do much more than simply configure settings and specify option values--you can write entire plugins in VimL. But without a background in scripting Vim, it can be hard to know where to start.

The VimL Primer gives you the tools and confidence you need. It gets you comfortable in VimL quickly, walking you through creating a working plugin that you can run yourself as you write it in Vim. You'll learn how to script common commands and buffer interaction, work with windows and buffers from within a plugin script, and how to use autocommands to have Vim recognize entirely new filetypes. You'll discover how to declare filetype-specific settings and define your own syntax elements for use with Vim's syntax highlighting. And you'll see how you can write your own command-line commands and define new mappings to call them.

With this introduction to scripting Vim, your own Vim extensions are only plugins away. Take control of your editor!

What You Need::

Vim version 7 or later is required, and it's available on any of the major operating systems. This book uses the "Huge" version of Vim 7.4.

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About the Author

Benjamin Klein is a software developer at Silver Chalice, LLC, where he works with Grails and uses Vim for anything text-based that he can. He has been a longtime writer for GroovyMag and a contributing author to Grails 2: A Quick-Start Guide.

Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.
Advanced Vim for beginners.
By Paul
[Note: I have received a free copy of the book to write this review.]

This book is an introduction to VimL (aka Vimscript), the language that allows
you to script the Vim text editor. Since Vim is also scriptable in, among
others, Perl, Ruby or Python, one might have doubts about the relevance of
learning yet another language, let alone a language that is useless outside
the text editor, and, according to some, a not very well-made language at
that. The answer is that all (not too old) versions of Vim support VimL,
whereas support for other languages depends on the installation; in other
words, a plugin in VimL is portable. As a personal note, I used to script Vim
mostly in Lua before I ran into trouble with Vim on another computer. Since
then, I use VimL exclusively.

Add to that that VimL is really simple to learn, and integrates perfectly with
the rest of Vim (whereas the mixing of Vim commands and non-VimL scripting can
be painful), and you'll definitely want to use it more than any other language
of whatever reputation. Oh, you might choose to use no language at all, and
not script Vim; but then, it's like driving a sports car (an SUV, really) and
choose to remain in second gear.

Now, given that Vim has an excellent help system, why would you need a book to
learn VimL? Because Vim's help is a reference manual and isn't meant as a
practical introduction. This book, on the other hand, is not a reference at
all, but takes you by the hand to build a real working plugin step by step. In
other words, you'll learn by doing, here creating an interface to MPC, itself
an interface to MPD, itself a great way to listen to music.

The book addresses everything from variable types to mappings, including
autoloading (postponing the reading of script files until necessary, thus
avoiding long startup), working with file types, or highlighting code. A lot
is reviewed in the process, and there is a lot to learn if you're new to VimL.
As this is a primer (so the author don't spend too many pages on explanation),
you'll probably scratch your head from time to time, getting stuck in some
places; but then Vim's ":help" command will be exactly what you need. In other
words, this book is like a map: you know where everything is, although you
don't know the details. The details are in Vim itself.

And now for the big question: should you buy this book? The answer is no if
you're looking for a way to learn Vim in general (this is a book about VimL
only!), or if you already know you way in VimL (though you might learn a few
things). But it is a yes if you want a simple yet systematic approach to VimL:
after reading this book, you'll be able to write a plugin, and if you ever do
so, you'll be able to review each and every step and make sure you forget
nothing. With time, you'll probably turn more and more to Vim's internal help,

and forget about this book: but isn't it what a primer is about?

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
[Note: I have received a free copy of the book to write this review]
By m.r.
"The VimL Primer", by Benjamin Klein, takes the reader for a guided tour inside the Vim scripting language, touching upon a selection of topics while putting together an example of Vim plugin.

The book is concise, nicely typeset and easy to read.

I appreciate the choice of the various topics: from the classical details of the vim scripting language, such as data types and looping constructs, to the vim configuration, such as the layout of the .vim directory, down to more editing specific aspects, such as buffers, windows and syntax highlighting. Details are tastefully cherry-picked from the vim documentation, and whenever you want more ":help xyz" is your friend.

All in all, a nice contribution, well suited both for reading while sitting at the terminal, experimenting with the many code snippets, as well as for "half-asleep-train-or-underground-reading" while heading towards/back from a day full of exciting vim editing!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
I liked the book but don't have anything very specific to ...
By nicolas dermine
TL-DR: I liked the book but don't have anything very specific to say about it.

I had heard about his book in the Pragmatic Bookshelf newsletter, and I had looked at it a little, being very interested by the Vim text editor.

But at that time I had such a long backlog of ebooks I'd bought but not read yet that I refrained from buying yet another one.

That said, when Ben Klein asked on the vim_use mailing list if anybody would be interesting in reviewing his book I jumped on the occasion, and so the book leapfrogged the many others on my waiting list.

I started reading it right away, then got sidetracked, then started reading it again, then again left it for a few months.
Finally I started again and read it all, a couple of pages a day, over a little less than a month.

It's a pretty short book (about 60 pages), so you could really read it much faster, in one or two evenings I guess.

I liked it a lot. It gives a very good overview of the various things that can be involved in making a Vim plugin.

The example the book used (interacting with a music library, displaying the list of songs and playing them from the editor) is well-chosen, it's very easy to get your head around and allows us to learn many aspects that might be needed in a Vim plugin.

Not everybody will want to write a Vim plugin, but most Vim users will probaby want to customize their .vimrc, and learning a bit about how plugins are structured is interesting in its own way.

See all 4 customer reviews...

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Based upon the **The VimL Primer: Edit Like A Pro With Vim Plugins And Scripts By Benjamin Klein** information that we provide, you might not be so confused to be here as well as to be member. Obtain currently the soft data of this book The VimL Primer: Edit Like A Pro With Vim Plugins And Scripts By Benjamin Klein as well as wait to be your own. You conserving could lead you to evoke the simplicity of you in reading this book The VimL Primer: Edit Like A Pro With Vim Plugins And Scripts By Benjamin Klein Even this is kinds of soft data. You could actually make better possibility to obtain this The VimL Primer: Edit Like A Pro With Vim Plugins And Scripts By Benjamin Klein as the advised book to read.

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