

# Ship it! A Practical Guide to Successful Software Projects

By Jared Richardson, William A. Gwaltney

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**Ship it! A Practical Guide to Successful Software Projects** By Jared Richardson, William A. Gwaltney

*Ship It!* is a collection of tips that show the tools and techniques a successful project team has to use, and how to use them well. You'll get quick, easy-to-follow advice on modern practices: which to use, and when they should be applied. This book avoids current fashion trends and marketing hype; instead, readers find page after page of solid advice, all tried and tested in the real world.

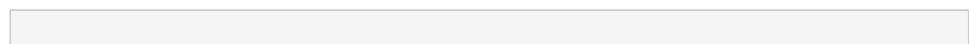
Aimed at beginning to intermediate programmers, *Ship It!* will show you:

- Which tools help, and which don't
- How to keep a project moving
- Approaches to scheduling that work
- How to build developers as well as product
- What's normal on a project, and what's not
- How to manage managers, end-users and sponsors
- Danger signs and how to fix them

Few of the ideas presented here are controversial or extreme; most experienced programmers will agree that this stuff works. Yet 50 to 70 percent of all project teams in the U.S. aren't able to use even these simple, well-accepted practices effectively. This book will help you get started.

*Ship It!* begins by introducing the common technical infrastructure that every project needs to get the job done. Readers can choose from a variety of recommended technologies according to their skills and budgets. The next sections outline the necessary steps to get software out the door reliably, using well-accepted, easy-to-adopt, best-of-breed practices that really work.

Finally, and most importantly, *Ship It!* presents common problems that teams face, then offers real-world advice on how to solve them.



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### Editorial Review

Review

*"It's rare to have this much fun reading a book about software. The ideas are smart, relevant, and fundamental. I can be a better programmer today because of the things I read **today**."*

—Joe, Fair Developer

*"A great book! The authors have done a great job in presenting the subject in a neutral way and avoiding any methodology-oriented traps."*

—Roberto Gianassi, IT Consultant

*"This is fantastic stuff. As I started reading, I almost fell out of my seat because the project I'm on right now is going through **exactly** the hurt you describe and would benefit greatly from material just like this."*

—Matthew Bass, Software Engineer

### About the Author

Jared Richardson is a developer-turned-manager who thinks a good day is having everything delegated so that he can sneak away and actually write code. He specializes in using off-the-shelf technologies to solve tough problems, especially those involving the software development process. With more than 10 years of experience, Jared has been a consultant, developer, tester, and manager, including Director of Development at several companies. He currently manages a team of developers and testers at SAS Institute, and is responsible for a company-wide effort to use test automation to improve the quality of SAS products. Will Gwaltney is a software developer with over 20 year's experience. In that time he hasn't quite seen it all, but he's seen most of it (and a lot of it hasn't been pretty). He's worked at both large companies and start-ups in the fields of electronics CAD, networking, telecommunications, knowledge representation, and web-based planning and scheduling for the enterprise. Will currently works on test automation at SAS Inc., the largest privately-owned software company in the world.

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