



The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows

By Raymond Chen

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen

"Raymond Chen is the original raconteur of Windows."

--Scott Hanselman, ComputerZen.com

"Raymond has been at Microsoft for many years and has seen many nuances of Windows that others could only ever hope to get a glimpse of. With this book, Raymond shares his knowledge, experience, and anecdotal stories, allowing all of us to get a better understanding of the operating system that affects millions of people every day. This book has something for everyone, is a casual read, and I highly recommend it!"

--Jeffrey Richter, Author/Consultant, Cofounder of Wintellect

"Very interesting read. Raymond tells the inside story of why Windows is the way it is."

--Eric Gunnerson, Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation

"Absolutely essential reading for understanding the history of Windows, its intricacies and quirks, and why they came about."

--Matt Pietrek, *MSDN Magazine*'s Under the Hood Columnist

*"Raymond Chen has become something of a legend in the software industry, and in this book you'll discover why. From his high-level reminiscences on the design of the Windows Start button to his low-level discussions of GlobalAlloc that only your inner-geek could love, **The Old New Thing** is a captivating collection of anecdotes that will help you to truly appreciate the difficulty inherent in designing and writing quality software."*

--Stephen Toub, Technical Editor, *MSDN Magazine*

Why does Windows work the way it does? Why is Shut Down on the Start menu? (And why is there a Start button, anyway?) How can I tap into the dialog loop?

Why does the GetWindowText function behave so strangely? Why are registry files called "hives"?

Many of Windows' quirks have perfectly logical explanations, rooted in history. Understand them, and you'll be more productive and a lot less frustrated.

Raymond Chen--who's spent more than a decade on Microsoft's Windows development team--reveals the "hidden Windows" you need to know.

Chen's engaging style, deep insight, and thoughtful humor have made him one of the world's premier technology bloggers. Here he brings together behind-the-scenes explanations, invaluable technical advice, and illuminating anecdotes that bring Windows to life--and help you make the most of it.

A few of the things you'll find inside:

- What vending machines can teach you about effective user interfaces
- A deeper understanding of window and dialog management
- Why performance optimization can be so counterintuitive
- A peek at the underbelly of COM objects and the Visual C++ compiler
- Key details about backwards compatibility--what Windows does and why
- Windows program security holes most developers don't know about
- How to make your program a better Windows citizen

 [Download The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughou...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughou...pdf](#)

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows

By Raymond Chen

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen

"Raymond Chen is the original raconteur of Windows."

--Scott Hanselman, ComputerZen.com

"Raymond has been at Microsoft for many years and has seen many nuances of Windows that others could only ever hope to get a glimpse of. With this book, Raymond shares his knowledge, experience, and anecdotal stories, allowing all of us to get a better understanding of the operating system that affects millions of people every day. This book has something for everyone, is a casual read, and I highly recommend it!"

--Jeffrey Richter, Author/Consultant, Cofounder of Wintellect

"Very interesting read. Raymond tells the inside story of why Windows is the way it is."

--Eric Gunnerson, Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation

"Absolutely essential reading for understanding the history of Windows, its intricacies and quirks, and why they came about."

--Matt Pietrek, *MSDN Magazine*'s Under the Hood Columnist

*"Raymond Chen has become something of a legend in the software industry, and in this book you'll discover why. From his high-level reminiscences on the design of the Windows Start button to his low-level discussions of GlobalAlloc that only your inner-geek could love, **The Old New Thing** is a captivating collection of anecdotes that will help you to truly appreciate the difficulty inherent in designing and writing quality software."*

--Stephen Toub, Technical Editor, *MSDN Magazine*

Why does Windows work the way it does? Why is Shut Down on the Start menu? (And why is there a Start button, anyway?) How can I tap into the dialog loop? Why does the GetWindowText function behave so strangely? Why are registry files called "hives"?

Many of Windows' quirks have perfectly logical explanations, rooted in history. Understand them, and you'll be more productive and a lot less frustrated. Raymond Chen--who's spent more than a decade on Microsoft's Windows development team--reveals the "hidden Windows" you need to know.

Chen's engaging style, deep insight, and thoughtful humor have made him one of the world's premier technology bloggers. Here he brings together behind-the-scenes explanations, invaluable technical advice, and illuminating anecdotes that bring Windows to life--and help you make the most of it.

A few of the things you'll find inside:

- What vending machines can teach you about effective user interfaces
- A deeper understanding of window and dialog management
- Why performance optimization can be so counterintuitive
- A peek at the underbelly of COM objects and the Visual C++ compiler
- Key details about backwards compatibility--what Windows does and why
- Windows program security holes most developers don't know about
- How to make your program a better Windows citizen

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #948653 in Books
- Published on: 2007-01-06
- Released on: 2006-12-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.40" w x 7.00" l, 1.70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 560 pages



[Download The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughou ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Old New Thing: Practical Development Through ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen

Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

""Raymond Chen is the original raconteur of Windows.""

--Scott Hanselman, ComputerZen.com

""Raymond has been at Microsoft for many years and has seen many nuances of Windows that others could only ever hope to get a glimpse of. With this book, Raymond shares his knowledge, experience, and anecdotal stories, allowing all of us to get a better understanding of the operating system that affects millions of people every day. This book has something for everyone, is a casual read, and I highly recommend it!""

--Jeffrey Richter, Author/Consultant, Cofounder of Wintellect

""Very interesting read. Raymond tells the inside story of why Windows is the way it is.""

--Eric Gunnerson, Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation

""Absolutely essential reading for understanding the history of Windows, its intricacies and quirks, and why they came about.""

--Matt Pietrek, "MSDN Magazine"'s Under the Hood Columnist

""Raymond Chen has become something of a legend in the software industry, and in this book you'll discover why. From his high-level reminiscences on the design of the Windows Start button to his low-level discussions of GlobalAlloc that only your inner-geek could love, "The Old New Thing" is a captivating collection of anecdotes that will help you to truly appreciate the difficulty inherent in designing and writing quality software.""

--Stephen Toub, Technical Editor, "MSDN Magazine"

"Why does Windows work the way it does? "Why is Shut Down on the Start menu? (And why is there a Start button, anyway?) How can I tap into the dialog loop? Why does the GetWindowText function behave so strangely? Why are registry files called "hives"?

Many of Windows' quirks have perfectly logical explanations, rooted in history. Understand them, and you'll be more productive and a lot less frustrated. Raymond Chen--who's spent more than a decade on Microsoft's Windows development team--reveals the "hidden Windows" you need to know.

Chen's engaging style, deep insight, and thoughtful humor have made him one of the world's premier technology bloggers. Here he brings together behind-the-scenes explanations, invaluable technical advice, and illuminating anecdotes that bring Windows to life--and help you make the most of it.

A few of the things you'll find inside: What vending machines can teach you about effective user interfaces A deeper understanding of window and dialog management Why performance optimization can be so counterintuitive A peek at the underbelly of COM objects and the Visual C++ compiler Key details about backwards compatibility--what Windows does and why Windows program security holes most developers

don't know about How to make your program a better Windows citizen

About the Author

Raymond Chen writes The Old New Thing, one of today's most influential technology blogs. A programmer at Microsoft Corporation, Chen has been involved in the evolution of Windows for more than a decade. He also writes *TechNet Magazine*'s Windows Confidential column and has been known to make appearances at technology events.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Much ink is devoted to describing the "how" of using and developing software for Windows, but few authors go into the "why." What might appear at first to be quirks often turn out to have entirely logical explanations, reflecting the history, evolution, and philosophy of the Microsoft Windows operating system. This book attempts to provide knowledge not so much in the form of telling what needs to be done (although there is certainly plenty of that, too) but rather by helping to understand why things came to be that way. Thus informed of the history and philosophy of Windows, you can become a more effective Windows programmer.

The emphasis here, then, is on the rationale behind Windows. It is not a reference or even a tutorial, but rather a "practical history," taking a conversational rather than didactic approach in an attempt to give you an appreciation for the philosophy of Windows through a series of brief, largely independent essays. You can therefore skip freely to topics of momentary interest (or technical expertise). Essays have been grouped into general themes, and there is the occasional sequential pedagogical treatment when a topic is explored in depth; even in those cases, however, the topic is confined to a single self-contained chapter.

Writer and commentator David Sedaris is often asked whether his stories are true. He responds that they are "true enough." Like David Sedaris's stories, the material in this book is also "true enough." The focus is on the big picture, not on the minutiae; on making a single point without getting distracted by nitpicking detail. Key details are highlighted, but unimportant ones are set aside, and potentially interesting digressions may be neglected if they do not serve the topic at hand.

The primary audience is technology-savvy readers with an interest in Windows history. About half of the essays require no programming background. Most of the remaining topics assume a basic background in software design and development, although nothing particularly advanced. Topics specifically related to Windows programming assume reader familiarity with Win32 user interface programming and COM. The table on page xxv provides a breakdown of the chapters for nonprogrammers and for general programmers who do not have an interest in Win32 specifically. Of course, you are welcome to skim chapters not explicitly marked as of interest to you. Perhaps you will find something interesting in them after all.

What will you get out of this book? As noted previously, the primary goal is to convey the philosophy and rationale behind what might at first appear to be an irrational design. You will also understand that when something can't be done in Windows, it's often for a good reason; and you will gain an appreciation of the lengths to which Windows goes to preserve backward compatibility (and why it's important that it do so). And if nothing else, you will be able to tell amusing stories about Windows history at cocktail parties (that is, cocktail parties thrown by other geeks).

Much of the short-essay material here has already appeared in one form or another on the author's Web site, The Old New Thing (<http://blogs.msdn.com/oldnewthing/>), but is substantially supplemented by new material better suited to book form.

Visit the Web page for this book (www.awprofessional.com/title/0321440307) to download two bonus chapters, "Tales of Application Compatibility" and "How to Ensure That Your Program Does Not Run Under Windows 95." Think of them if you like as the book version of a movie's unique and insightful deleted scenes. The Web page also contains the code samples from the book as well as errata.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Douglas Dossett:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or ideal book with you?

Jeremy Jones:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Jeffrey David:

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

Theresa Kuykendall:

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our know-how from it. Not only for students but additionally native or citizen need book to know the up-date information of year to help year. As we know those guides

have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By book The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows we can have more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? To become creative person must like to read a book. Only choose the best book that appropriate with your aim. Don't possibly be doubt to change your life at this book The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows. You can more desirable than now.

Download and Read Online The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen #MEO8N5ABZFQ

Read The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen for online ebook

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen books to read online.

Online The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen ebook PDF download

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen Doc

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen Mobipocket

The Old New Thing: Practical Development Throughout the Evolution of Windows By Raymond Chen EPub