

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **BOOK TITLE**

Evans, A., Martin, K., & Poatsy, M.A. (2016). *Technology in Action Complete, (12th Edition)*. Pearson Publication. ISBN: 978-1-292-09967-5, USD 193.20.

### **REVIEWED BY**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Alan Evans is currently a faculty member at Moore College of Art and Design and Montgomery County Community College teaching a variety of computer science and business courses. He holds a B.S. in Accounting from Rider University and an M.S. in Information Systems from Drexel University, and he is a certified public accountant. After a successful career in business, Alan finally realized his true calling was education. He has been teaching at the college level since 2000. Alan enjoys giving presentations at technical conferences and meets regularly with computer science faculty and administrators from other colleges to discuss curriculum development and new methods of engaging students.

Kendall Martin has been teaching since 1988 at a number of institutions, including Villanova University, DeSales University, Arcadia University, Ursinus College, County College of Morris, and Montgomery County Community College, at both the undergraduate and master's degree level. Kendall's education includes a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Rochester and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. She has industrial experience in research and development environments (AT&T Bell Laboratories) as well as experience from several start-up technology firms. At Ursinus College, Kendall developed a successful faculty training program for distance education instructors, and she makes conference presentations during the year.

Mary Anne is an adjunct faculty member at Montgomery County Community College, teaching various computer application and concepts courses in face-to-face and online environments. Mary Anne holds a B.A. in Psychology and Elementary Education from Mount Holyoke College and an MBA in Finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Mary Anne has more than nine years of educational experience, ranging from elementary and secondary education to Montgomery County Community College, Muhlenberg College, and Bucks County Community College, as well as training in the professional environment. Prior to teaching, Mary Anne was a vice president at Shearson Lehman Hutton in the Municipal Bond Investment Banking department.

### **SUMMARY OF THE BOOK**

Technology in Action is an introductory course in computer concepts, digital literacy, or computer literacy, often including instruction in Microsoft Office. It focuses on explore, discover, and experience technology with the immersive and adaptive Technology in Action—the book that uses technology to teach technology! Technology in Action is a learning system that pushes the envelope of what is possible in technology, and what is helpful in teaching. It is a system that fits the way learners are learning today.

This book featuring of *Motivate Learning* with the *Progressive Approach*: the *learning approach* which fits the way the learners are learning today cutting through all that boring history of microchip. The content is complemented by hands-on technology and latest update news feeds to enrich the learner learning experience; *most of the content is up to date* given learners the content focuses on the material they wanted to learn and staying engaged; the *sequence of topics* is set up to mirror the typical learner learning experience; and the *progressive approach* which introduces topics as a basic level in the earlier chapters and gradually expands to more details level according to the learners pace.

This book also *Engage Learners* with *Fun, Timely In-text Features* by technology-focused world, computer literacy which is important to any readers. The use of social media and sending text messages has becoming the necessary skills in today digital era. To engaged learners and help them understand why and how technology works, the approach which

makes the content; the visual chapter table contents with images on chapter headings and summary; the question and answer format keeping the learners engaged; the objectives of each chapter provides a more integrated learning tool.

Technology in Action also provides a *Comprehensive End-of-Chapter Material* which support *projects solving* learned from the real-world cases in corporate application; *Multiple Choice, True/False Questions* to reinforcement and review of learners understanding of the Chapters; *developed mini-projects and assignment* to further help learners on how to apply computer concepts in real-world situation; *critical thinking questions* to foster learning beyond the content provided; *ethics* issues and figuring out how to research and address them; *team time* allowing learners to explore the collaboration with other peers; and *chapter quiz* which covers the whole chapter and can be used as learners assessment.

There are several cautions that readers need to keep in mind while reading this book. Authors is only presenting an approach on how technology are being applied in United State generally and may not be suitable or applicable locally especially the data statistic results analyzed. The book may leave the impression that all the features mentioned and presented to us is reliable and meant to guide learners to have full understanding of the technology infrastructure; however some local legality may applied. Though the tagline of the book is “The book that uses technology to teach technology!”, it does not review much about technology hands-on especially hardware but at least it explained some technicality of how infrastructure can be applied, and the type of hardware are being used correctly. Probably, the use of word Technology helps in getting more eyeballs attracted to the book.

This book serves the purpose of the pace of technological change is ever increasing. In education, it impacts us more than ever in the past year – eLearning, MOOCs, touch-screen mobile delivery, and social computing are now fixed parts of our environment. Even the most agile of learners and educators need support in keeping up with this pace of change.

The book consists of three parts with thirteen chapters. The brief outline is enlisted below.

#### Introduction

1. Using Technology to Change the World

Part 1. General Understanding

2. Looking at Computers: Understanding the Parts
3. Using the Internet: Making the Most of the Web's Resources
4. Application Software: Programs That Let You Work and Play
5. System Software: The Operating System, Utility Programs, and File Management
6. Understanding and Assessing Hardware: Evaluating Your System

Part 2. How Things Work

7. Networking: Connecting Computing Devices
8. Digital Devices and Media: Managing a Digital Lifestyle
9. Securing Your System: Protecting Your Digital Data and Devices

Part 3. Advance Understanding

10. Behind the Scenes: Software Programming
11. Behind the Scenes: Databases and Information Systems
12. Behind the Scenes: Networking and Security in the Business World
13. Behind the Scenes: How the Internet Works

## EVALUATION OF THE BOOK

The book starts with the *Introduction* of presently used of technology that changes the world. It reviews the current standing of technology are put into action. It started with the perception of world stage of the issue of political and other global issues by applying ethic in Information Technology from the digital divide results and the use of mobile bridge. Next it investigates the impacts from the society point of view. Follow by how technology has improved individually from home to career including; retail, arts, education, law enforcement, medicine. science, and psychology.

In part one on *General Understanding*, the author has divided the chapters carefully, so the readers will not be confused about the technology of computer systems. The chapters are arranged as follows; *understanding the computer parts* – which includes the understanding of digital components, processing, storage and connectivity; *using the internet* – how it works on working, playing and using the web effectively; *types of application software* – the programs that let you work

and play; *types of system software* – the understanding of system software and using them; and last but not least *understanding the hardware system* – evaluating the key subsystems and other subsystems including making an effective decision.

In second part on *How Things Work*, there are three chapters where the author focuses on how the new technologies are apply in the digital components. It started by explaining the *networking* – how it functions and connecting the computing devices including the basic of how the installation and configuring of *home network*. Follow by managing the type of *digital devices* and media available in this *Digital Information Age*. Ending the section by elaborating the importance of *securing and protecting the digital data and devices*. Explaining how cybercrime uses viruses to infect and hacked into other computer system and ways of preventing this event to happen. It further touches on some technique on how to protect oneself in *Digital Property*.

In the last part on *Advance Understanding*, the author shifts gears to present deeper into technical aspect of digital technology. Most of the time users would only know how to use the applications generally but unable to understand how the logic of the programs works. Here, the following 4 chapters, the authors explained how things work *Behind the Scenes*. It starts from *Software Programming* – by understanding the logical of how it works and the type of programing languages, it gives a deeper understanding to the readers of how a simple click on the smartphone icon and the actual process behind the systems. Follow by the basics of *Databases types and structure*, and the uses of database in business including *Data Warehousing* and *Business Intelligence Systems*. Next it touches on *Networking and Security in the Business World* – providing a wide knowledge of the type of *Client/Server Networks and Topologies* available, and how it can be implemented into *Business Networks*. In the last chapter, it explains on *How the Internet Works* digging it deeper into the *Inner Working of Internet*, and *Coding and Communicating on the Internet*.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded the authors are make great efforts to achieve or obtain the text as current as publishing timelines allow, and constantly looking for the next technology trend or gadget and explain to the readers. The result is a learning system that sparks learner interest by focusing on the

material they want to learn (such as how to integrate computing devices into a home network) while reaching out to the material they need to learn (such as how networks work). The structure of this book is in a “spiraling” manner, intentionally introducing on a basic level in the earlier chapters concepts that students traditionally have trouble with and then later expanding on those concepts in more detail when learners have becoming more comfortable with them. Thus, the focus of the early chapters is on general practical uses for the computer, with real-world examples to help the learners place computing in a familiar context. In addition to extensive review, practice, and assessment content, each chapter contains several problem-solving, hands-on activities that can carried out in the classroom or as homework for the learners. It has been the past 12 years (12<sup>th</sup> edition) presenting and explaining new technologies to learners and showing them the rapidly growing importance of technology in our world. This book is designed to reach the learners of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and prepare them for the role they can take in their own community and the real-world. Furthermore, it will be helpful in identifying potential biases of publisher and improving critical thinking skills of readers to make decisions and understanding without required of technical knowledge and skills.