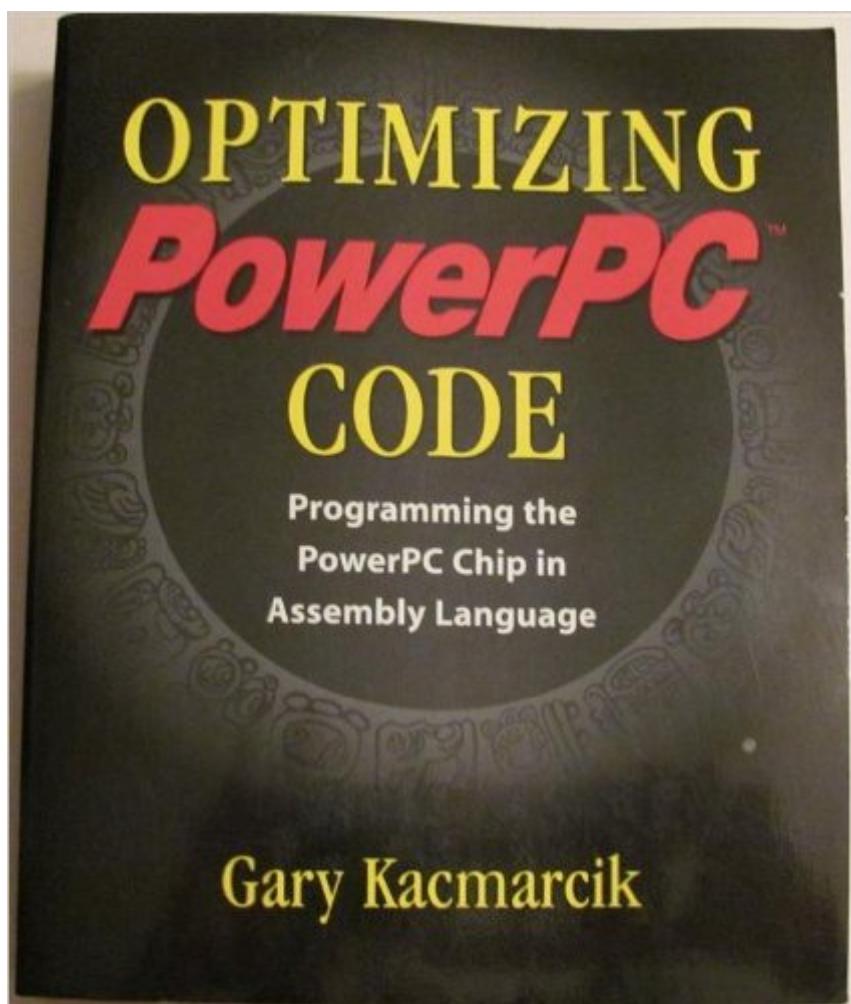


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Optimizing Powerpc Code: Programming The Powerpc Chip In Assembly Language



Synopsis

To take full advantage of the potential of the PowerPC chip, developers need to master assembly language techniques. Written by one of the few experts in the area, this guide shows how to use assembly language in PowerPC programs to produce faster, more robust software. All developers of PowerPC-based computers, including both IBM and Apple machines, will find this book invaluable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was an excellent book when it came out; however, recent changes in the PowerPC architecture have made it significantly less useful. Specifically, this book covers the (no longer current) PowerPC 601 and 603 chips, the (obsolete) POWER architecture, and a draft spec of PowerPC 32- and 64-bit implementations. No sign of the 604, let alone the G3 processors (740, 750, etc.) I really wish that he'd do an updated version... if it covered those two processor types, and maybe some of the embedded versions of the PowerPC processor, this book would be a 10!

This book is a great reference for the PowerPC instruction set and architecture. The discussion of timing and pipelining issues, with charts of cycles spent in each subunit, is useful. Even for high-level programmers, knowing how the processor works can greatly improve your code. (From the most basic stuff like using FPRs for copying large chunks of data, to knowing how many local variables can fit in registers, etc. up to instruction scheduling, pipelining, etc. -- even though the

compiler usually takes care of that for you). This book has detailed information on each instruction and all the mnemonics and how they work. If you already know assembly, it's a wonderful reference. If you don't know assembly, you'll be pretty lost with this book. (You don't have to know hardware architectures -- the book does a nice job of explaining this). Personally, I use it mostly when I'm reading disassembled code in MacsBug, but use it for writing code when I need to go down to that level. Oh, also it explains that whole business about the TOC and also stack frames on the PPC which had always confused me a bit before for some reason.

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