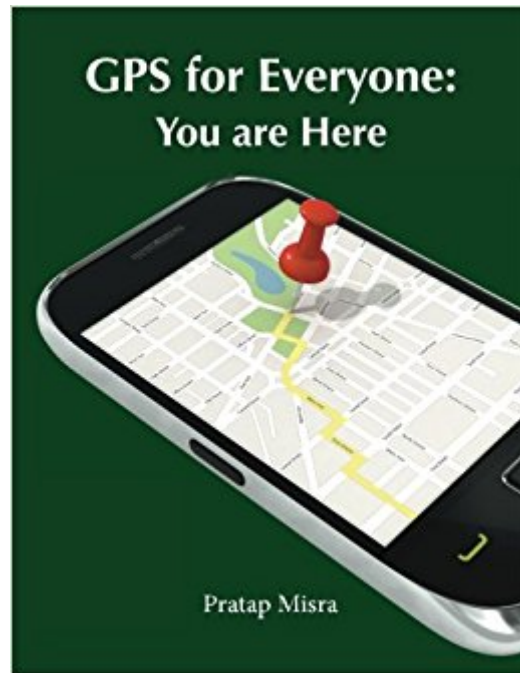




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GPS For Everyone: You Are Here



Synopsis

GPS seems to have come out of nowhere. There was no progression like eight-track tape to cassette to CD to MP3 player. One day we were driving around clueless of where we were, struggling with roadmaps bought at gas stations that couldn't be folded back neatly once opened, and suddenly there was an amiable female voice coming out of the dashboard offering directions to our destinations and showing no signs of impatience when we made wrong turns. Actually, GPS is based on simple ideas that have been around for centuries, but their implementation had to wait until the required technologies matured and came together. This book discusses these principles, technologies, and how GPS came to be developed. The only prerequisite for this book is curiosity about a technology that has insinuated itself into our lives in a way that we can't imagine how we ever lived without it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pratap Misra, Ph.D., has worked in the field of satellite navigation for 25 years, starting with a project at MIT Lincoln Laboratory to combine measurements from GPS and GLONASS, the Soviet answer to GPS, to improve navigation for civil aviation. He is a coauthor with Professor Per Enge of Stanford of a widely used graduate-level engineering textbook on GPS. Misra is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Navigation (ION), which honored him in 2014 with the Kepler Award "for sustained and significant contributions to the development of satellite navigation." Misra is a Professor of the Practice of Mechanical Engineering at Tufts University and a staff member at Applied Research Lab of the Penn State University.

Within 30 seconds of hearing about this book, I had the Kindle version (free for Prime members) up on my computer, and finished reading it about 90 minutes later. It really is very well done. Great images. Seems to have all the facts straight. My only quibble would be with Misra's negative predictions about the longevity of GLONASS and Galileo on p98. Many of the 1 billion smartphones that track GPS, already track GLONASS as well. My prediction is that within a few years, once the Galileo & BeiDou constellations are complete, smartphones will be tracking those as well. Redundancy (in number of satellites used, and in constellations used) is ALWAYS a good thing (in my opinion).

The book is very well written, interesting, and informative, and is almost entirely at the lay person's level with only a few short, more technical sections. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the history and technology behind this incredibly useful and pervasive system.

I'm always looking for a brief and engaging book to describe the global navigation satellite systems to regular people -- everyone uses the technology, but it seems as if rocket scientists are the only ones who try to explain it - mostly to each other. Pratap Misra's short book tells all - he knows the players and he knows the technology and he's an engaging writer.

Very informative.

I really like this book. At 100 pages it is a quick read, but it still provides an incredible breadth of information about GPS. It is broken up into short (~4-8 pages) chapters, which alternate between technical details, human stories, history, and perspective. This makes the book easy to follow, and allows the reader to get the experience that they are looking for. For a reader more interested in the technical details, like myself, you can skip or skim the chapter about legal and privacy issues or the story of Basher 52, and you won't lose the thread of the story (although I'm not sure why you would want to because they are fascinating). Likewise, for a reader less interested in the technical details of GPS, you can skip or skim the chapter on the math of calculating your position from the signals. Pratap Misra manages to provide an in depth discussion of the incredible engineering feat that is GPS, while keeping the book readable and interesting for all. His mixture of personal stories, history, and science make the book a fun and interesting read. I highly recommend it.

As one of the builders of GPS, this the kind of book I keep on the shelf to help explain the system to inquisitive newcomers. In fact, it's the best one currently on the shelf! The way it reads, I could pass it to my (obviously precocious) ten-year old granddaughter and have her read the first few chapters--or to my 14-year old grandson to read a couple of chapters further. Or to friends--even liberal arts majors--for the whole thing.

This is an entertaining introduction to one of the "miracles" of modern technology. The book combines technology, engineering and history in a way that engages the reader. I recommend it to the "lay" person and the "seasoned" technologist.

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