NEWS · NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Why Mark J. Price's "C# 14 and .NET 10" Belongs on Every Modern .NET Developer's Desk

By Dr. Holger Flick

> A Comprehensive Update That Justifies Its Place on Your Shelf

This is a book review for C# 14 and .NET 10 – Modern Cross-Platform Development Fundamentals by Mark J. Price (Packt Publishing)

As someone who has followed the evolution of development platforms across decades, I can confidently say this is **the essential purchase** for any C# developer looking to stay current with .NET 10. Even if you own the .NET 9 edition, this book earns its place in your library.

Why This Edition Matters

Mark Price has put considerable effort into updating every page for this new version—and it shows. This isn't a lazy refresh with minor tweaks; it's a thorough revision that covers the meaningful changes in C# 14 and .NET 10, from the new `NumericOrdering` option and `OrderedDictionary` enhancements to field modifiers, partial events, and instance constructors.

The book excels at its stated purpose: providing an easy-to-follow guide through the fundamentals. It strikes that sweet spot between beginner-friendly and substantive enough for intermediate developers to learn something new.

Standout Features

Exceptional Detail: Price doesn't cut corners. The coverage is thorough without being overwhelming, walking you through object-oriented programming, LINQ, serialization, filesystem operations, and modern web development with ASP.NET Core 10 and Blazor.

Tooling Coverage: One feature I particularly appreciate is the inclusion of setup instructions for VS Code and JetBrains Rider alongside Visual Studio 2026. In today's polyglot development environment, this flexibility is invaluable.

Native AOT Focus: The emphasis on native AOT (Ahead-of-Time) compilation for Minimal API web services is perfectly timed, given the growing importance of microservices and containerized deployments.

A Strategic Approach to Modern .NET

Price has wisely split the comprehensive .NET ecosystem across multiple companion books rather than creating an unwieldy tome. This volume focuses squarely on C# language fundamentals and core framework concepts. For deeper dives into:

- **Web development** (ASP.NET Core MVC, Web API, OData, FastEndpoints, Umbraco CMS) '*Real-World Web Development with .NET 10*
- **Apps and services** (Avalonia, .NET MAUI, gRPC, GraphQL, SignalR) '*Apps and Services with .NET 10*
- **Developer tooling** (Git, debugging, testing, Docker, design patterns, interview prep) '*Tools and Skills for .NET 10*

This modular approach lets you invest in exactly the knowledge you need.

The Bottom Line

For C# developers working in the .NET ecosystem, this book is a must-buy. Whether you're updating legacy systems, building greenfield projects, or simply staying sharp with the latest language features, Price provides a clear, detailed, and practical guide to modern C# development.

The first half works best when read linearly to build solid foundations, while the second half functions more like a cookbook for specific scenarios—a structure that respects how developers actually work.

Highly recommended for anyone serious about professional C# development in 2026 and beyond.

Note: The book includes a DRM-free PDF version and access to Packt's next-generation Reader platform.

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