

Canvas 3.0 The Book

by Deke McClelland, \$21.95 from Peachpit Press.

I started reading this book with three prejudices; #1 I have not in the past been impressed by Deke McClelland's books, #2 Peachpit Press publishes wonderful reference books, and #3 my office is a Beta test sight for Canvas consequentially my knowledge of the program is strong. Since I truly know the program, I felt that I could not learn anything from a Canvas 3.0 book. I was wrong!

The singularly most impressive tool in the Canvas 3.0 pantheon is the Combine Tool and Mr McClelland follows his past failures by failing to cover this tool (which should have probably been given a chapter of it's own) in all but a perfunctory manner.

Another important tool which is slighted by Mr. McClelland is his limited description of the Smart Mouse Tool. This tool should have been given a much broader exposure of at least half a chapter.

Now that I have reported the negatives of this book, I must say that both of the aforementioned features are very difficult to describe and may have been beyond Mr. McClelland's understanding.

This book other than the two weak parts mentioned above is a fine reference book for a very complex and powerful program. The table of contents and index are both very good, which of course is critical in any reference book. The graphic clues and accents in this book are also excellent. Mr. McClelland has used 5 different symbols to highlight beginning, intermediate, expert, keyboard shortcuts, and hot insights; these symbols make it very easy to skim through this book and pick out the hottest features and best tips. Another good feature of this book is the twelve listing of all the keyboard shortcuts and mouse operations. The book also is packed with good examples which of course make the explanations of the various tools much clearer.

This is another winner from Peachpit Press, all Canvas users need this book!!!

Here's how it scores:

Information vs. Cost: A

Reference Material: B+

Quality: A+

Overall: A-

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— Gary P. Fields