The first part of any application that the end user will see is the installer. While the part of the program that gets the application onto the users system may not seem that complicated, it can be just as difficult to write as the rest of the application. This is where deployment software comes in. These programs create installers that can be customized by the programmer, while doing all the underlying difficult work itself. This new book provides full instruction in how to use InstallAnywhere, the leading installation application in the field. The book covers everything from How to Build your First Installer to how to expand the programs capabilities yourself. It covers all four editions of InstallAnywhere, and makes clear which features are available in which edition. It begins with a basic tutorial and explains the essential wizard features of the program, before providing a quick reference section and detailed description of how to use the advanced designer. This book can serve as an instruction manual for those just learning the program, or as a reference guide for the experienced developer.

My Personal Review:
This book is an excellent guide to using InstallAnywhere no matter which platform you are running or how much experience you have with the product. This is the kind of documentation that you wish that the company would provide especially when you consider the price of the software. According to the introduction, the book was produced from the handouts that Zero G had produced for their three day InstallAnywhere course.

The book starts with a quick introduction and some screen shots showing what running an installer would look like from a customers point of view. The authors next show a simple example of building an installer. Unfortunately, and this remains true for the rest of the book, no screen shots are included. This means that you must be running the software to take full advantage of the book. No reading this book in the bathtub. The book works well as both a tutorial and reference guide. The authors take
you step by step through an exercise explaining each of the options even if they aren't used in this exercise. The instructions for each exercise are very clear. The use of the product is clearly explained while you are using it, which makes the learning stick.

The book covers everything from the most basic installer all the way up to writing your own custom plug-ins. If you are interested in taking full advantage of the InstallAnywhere software and don't want to spend the money for three days of training, then this book is for you.

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