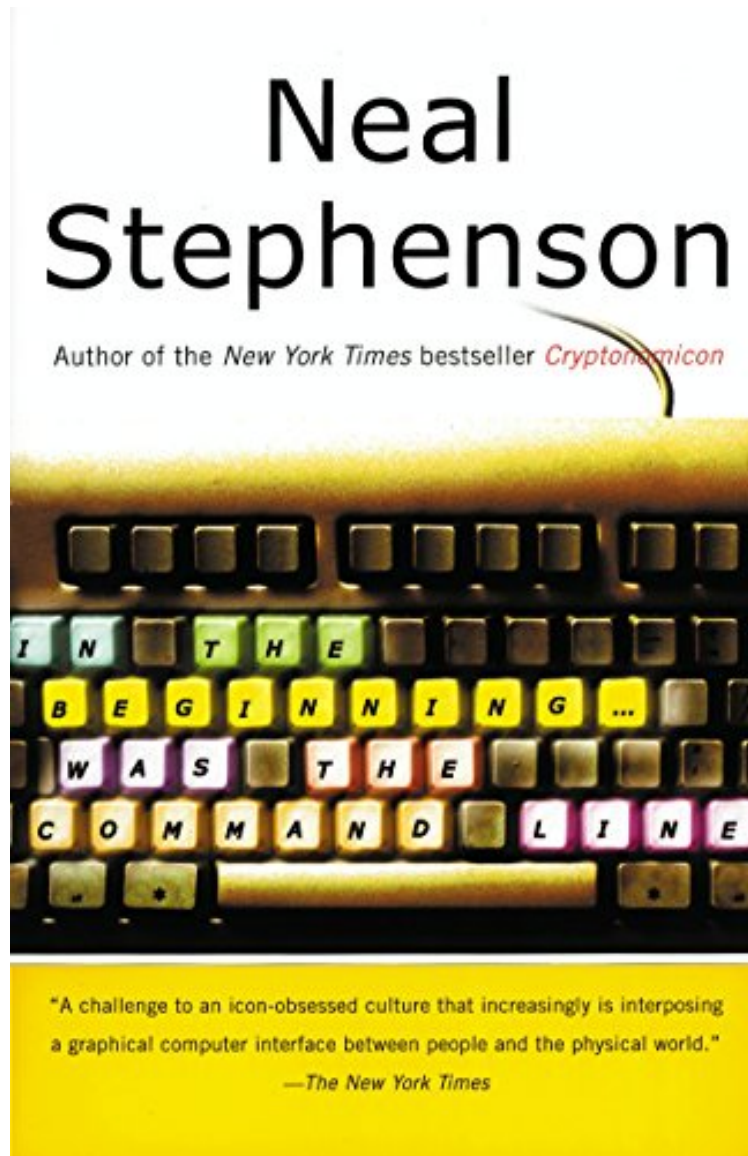


[Read now] In the Beginning...Was the Command Line

## In the Beginning...Was the Command Line

Von Neal Stephenson

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**Von Neal Stephenson : In the Beginning...Was the Command Line** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Beginning...Was the Command Line:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Required reading for all computer usersVon L. AlperWarning: I am a die-hard Neal Stephenson fan. If this bothers you, don't read further!That aside, "In the Beginning Was the Command Line" should be required reading for anyone who a) regularly uses a personal computer b) has expressed an opinion on the current DOJ vs. Microsoft case. Most

computer users are as unfamiliar with why they use Windows (or Macs) as they are with the history of the elevator. The elevator did not significantly change the world; GUI's PC's have. I know half of you are already yawning, looking for another book to purchase, but wait...this is a really quick read, , better yet, it's hysterically funny! Yes, folks, you not only get informed, are given some concepts to contemplate, you actually enjoy the process! Stephenson admits this book is simply an essay, his musings on the 4 main operating systems currently in use (MacOS, Windows, Linux, BeOS) how they can be viewed in the context of global culture. He gives examples from personal experience, unlike most techno-geek/hacker types, he doesn't appear to view Bill Gates as the anti-christ (which is probably why some people hate this book). But please, don't let that scare you off. This book is an easy read for those who have never typed a single line of code in their life, while still being thought provoking for even the "Morlocks" (Stephenson's term) of the world. Let's face it: if you're reading this, you're an Internet user. Thus, you use computers. You need the information in this book. It's only \$6. BUY IT!

6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. witzig aber zu kurz  
Von Michael Schalla Neal Stephenson ist fr seine Science-Fiction Romane bekannt, dieses Buch ist dagegen eher ein Essay ber die Geschichte von Computern und Betriebssystemen. Dabei nimmt Stephenson das Thema aber nicht zu ernst, anstelle trockener Informationen findet man unterhaltsame Anekdoten. Man erfahrt zum Beispiel, warum die Kommandozeile immer einer grafischen Benutzeroberflche berlegen ist oder warum trotzdem jedermann das MS Windows Betriebssystem benutzt. Man muss kein berhacker sein, um dieses Buch zu verstehen, denn es geht weniger um die technischen Aspekte als vielmehr um den Einfluss, den einige Softwarefirmen auf unsere heutige Gesellschaft haben. Stephenson ist dabei erfreulich parteiisch und er scheut sich nicht, seine Meinung in klaren Worten auszudrcken. Zusammenfassung: Dieses Buch ist witzig, kontrovers aber leider zu kurz.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Metaphor King  
Von Kerry Rutherford I bought this book because I have read everything that Neal has written and I am always entertained by his knowledge, his sense of humor and his use of simile and metaphor . Of course I knew that this book would be different since it was described as an "essay" and not a novel. I really liked the honest, open, conversational tone of the book and felt like I was in his living room enjoying the evening, laughing at the jokes and getting a kick out of the Time Machine and Disney World metaphors. I just sat back in my easy chair and enjoyed myself. The last chapter, another metaphor, ends the book on the perfect philosophical note. I come away confident that freedom, independence, innovation, and making and being responsible for our own decisions and choices are clearly necessary for our salvation as an evolving species and our future on a "wired" planet.

Kurzbeschreibung This is "the Word" -- one man's word, certainly -- about the art (and artifice) of the state of our computer-centric existence. And considering that the "one man" is Neal Stephenson, "the hacker Hemingway" (Newsweek) -- acclaimed novelist, pragmatist, seer, nerd-friendly philosopher, and nationally bestselling author of groundbreaking literary works (Snow Crash, Cryptonomicon, etc., etc.) -- the word is well worth hearing. Mostly well-reasoned examination and partial rant, Stephenson's *In the Beginning... was the Command Line* is a thoughtful, irreverent, hilarious treatise on the cyber-culture past and present; on operating system tyrannies and downloaded popular revolutions; on the Internet, Disney World, Big Bangs, not to mention the meaning of life itself..

de Neal Stephenson, author of the sprawling and engaging *Cryptonomicon*, has written a manifesto that could be spoken by a character from that brilliant book. Primarily, *In the Beginning ... Was the Command Line* discusses the past and future of personal computer operating systems. "It is the fate of manufactured goods to slowly and gently depreciate as they get old," he writes, "but it is the fate of operating systems to become free." While others in the computer industry express similarly dogmatic statements, Stephenson charms the reader into his way of thinking, providing anecdotes and examples that turn the pages for you. Stephenson is a techie, and he's writing for an audience of coders and hackers in *Command Line*. The idea for this essay began online, when a shortened version of it was posted on Slashdot.org. The book still holds some marks of an e-mail flame gone awry, and some tangents should have been edited to hone his formidable arguments. But unlike similar writers who also discuss technical topics, he doesn't write to exclude; readers who appreciate computing history (like *Dealers of Lightning* or *Fire in the Valley*) can easily step into this book. Stephenson tackles many myths about industry giants in this volume, specifically Apple and Microsoft. By now, every newspaper reader has heard of Microsoft's overbearing business practices, but Stephenson cuts to the heart of new issues for the software giant with a finely sharpened steel blade. Apple fares only a little better as Stephenson (a former Mac user himself) highlights the early steps the company took to prepare for a monopoly within the computer market--and its surprise when this didn't materialize. Linux culture gets a thorough--but fair--skewering, and the strengths of BeOS are touted (although no operating system is nearly close enough to perfection in Stephenson's eyes). As for the rest of us, who have gladly traded free will and an intellectual understanding of computers for a clutter-free, graphically pleasing interface, Stephenson has thoughts to offer as well. He fully understands the limits nonprogrammers feel in the face of technology (an example being the "blinking 12" problem when your VCR resets itself). Even so, within *Command Line* he convincingly encourages us as a society to examine the metaphors of technology--simplifications that aren't really much simpler--that we greedily accept. --Jennifer

BuckendorffPressestimmen"A powerful voice of the cyber age."--"USA Today"Stephenson is a literary visionary of the technological future."--"Seattle Weekly"In the network world of the silicon samurai Stephenson is a big-time."--  
"Cleveland Plain Dealer