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Sams Teach Yourself Cisco Routers In 21 Days

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Synopsis
Sams Teach Yourself Cisco Routers in 21 Days is an in-depth, straightforward tutorial. It covers configuring a router from the ground up, alerts the reader to the most common problems, and offers tested solutions when they are applicable. Readers will learn how to: install the IOS; perform the initial configuration; configure the router for protocols such as TCP/IP, IPX, RIP, and IGRP, avoid common pitfalls working with routers.

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Customer Reviews
This book gave me the information I was looking for. I generally don’t have time (or money) for Cisco classes, so this book was perfect. I can easily recommend it to any who wants to learn about routing. I use the command reference all the time now.

I bought this book because it promised not to be yet another exam cram book. I'm not interested in Cisco certification at this time; I just want to know the basics of configuring a router. Like all of Sam’s "... in 21 Days" books, the material is organized into 21 chapters, each designed to be covered in a day or less and to be studied sequentially. And that's just where the book runs into problems. Although the author tries to present the material in an orderly way, he's either too familiar with the material or too disorganized to pull it off. As a result, he frequently uses ideas before he introduces them. More than once I found myself flipping back through the pages to see if I'd missed something, only to find that the subject wasn't formally introduced until a later chapter.
security -- which is bound to be of interest even to novices -- is the shortest lesson in the book and is held until the next-to-last chapter. It would have worked better in Week 2. Add in the numerous typos (was there a copy editor?), and you get the feeling the book was rushed to press. Which isn’t to say it was a total waste. The book does a decent job of introducing routing concepts and presenting the Cisco IOS interface. But ultimately it tries to do too many things without doing any of them really well.

I got this book as a crash course to do my CCNA certification, and because I know some networking through another Network+ study guides, I realise this book has too much errors. The diagrams in pages 146, and 148, is the same where it should be different, (I actually verified it with my friend who is a CCNP). The text in page 147 is totally misleading to Diagram 7.2 in page 146. It seem obvious that the author was working on a totally different diagram. In page 185, the answer the the quiz question 4 is 120.0.0.1, which is incorrect, it should be 127.0.0.1. If you are an absolute beginner, you have no idea this has got to do with the TCP/IP loopback testing. The errata notes for this book is still not out yet. Otherwise is book is still okay for someone like me who can actually point out the errors. So in subtracting the errors, this book is worth the read without any insurance. For insurance, find someone who is certified, like my CCNP friend, or perhaps get another textbook where the errata notes are available. Ain’t worth the read, if you ain’t got knowledge.

I feel that the errors were meant to be there. Because if you pick them up. Then you must understand packet structure and IP to binary division, which the book teaches you. Memorising commands is dead headwork compared to actually understanding the TCP/IP structure. Which is also simple, But the book makes you question and find mistakes then double check I believe its a great learner and periodical reference.

I found the lessons to be just the right speed for me. I am just learning Cisco routers and used several books to help me on my way. Luckily I have a router to practice on and the lessons in the book were easy to follow while using my practice router, best of all they made sense. The chapter on the Cisco IOS had tons of good info that my other books skipped over.

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