

Windows® 95 Unleashed, Professional Reference 1998 Edition. Paul McFedries, SAMS Publishing. \$59.95, hardbound, 1,586 pages plus companion CD-ROM. ISBN 0-672-31039-2.



If you're like me, you started with a "Dummies" introduction to Windows 95 edition for a quick overview, but as you needed more you became overwhelmed by the choices. Where could you find a comprehensive, useful, yet readable reference? My first choice was Microsoft's own Windows (r) 95 Resource Kit, but I found that very unsatisfying; it was like a guided tour of the Black Forest, leaf by leaf. By contrast, McFedries' latest "Unleashed" reference is the one to buy. Always a good reference, it has become an excellent one whether you are supporting Windows 95 or simply trying to learn its myriad features better. McFedries doesn't simply paraphrase Help files; he writes from experience.

What's new in the 1998 Edition? Many more tips and notes; coverage of Microsoft's OEM Release 2, improved networking coverage, expanded Internet material, and more appendixes.

I'd been looking for a helpful multimedia reference, and Unleashed pleasantly surprised me with its offerings here too: Primers on HTML and lots of information on Windows (and Internet) multimedia sound, animation, graphics and video. McFedries has devoted an entire chapter to multimedia.

The companion CD-ROM contains dozens of pieces of shareware, including games and more serious Win95 support or companion software. McFedries has added even more value by including two bonus books in HTML format: **Teach Yourself Outlook in 24 Hours** and **Teach Yourself Office 97 in 24 Hours**.

While even this reference won't solve all your learning and support needs, Unleashed is an excellent value and built to last.

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