

Fritz Anderson



Xcode 6

Start to Finish

iOS and OS X Development



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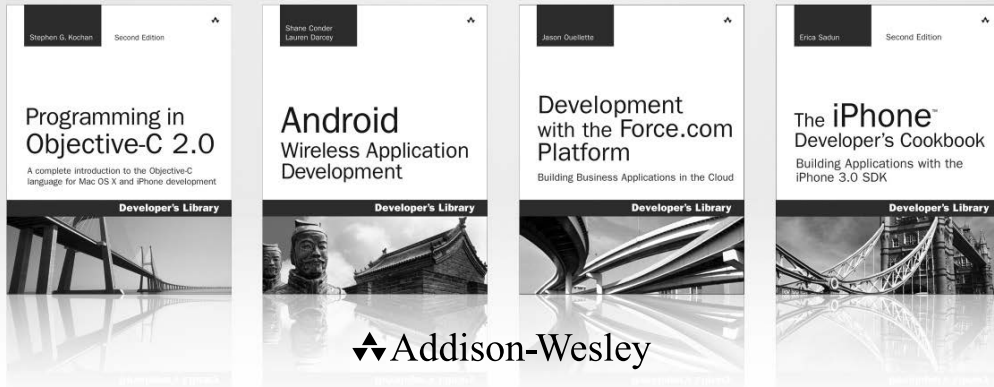
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iOS and OS X
Development

Fritz Anderson

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*For the Honorable Betty Shelton Cole,
a tough old broad*



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Bess and Kate bore more than daughters should of my doubts and frustrations, and were simply confident that I would do fine—which was all they needed to do.

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About the Author

Fritz Anderson has been writing software, books, and articles for Apple platforms since 1984. This is his fifth book.

He has worked for research and development firms, consulting practices, and freelance. He was admitted to the Indiana bar, but thought better of it. He is now a senior iOS developer for the Web Services department at The University of Chicago. He has two daughters.

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Introduction

Welcome to *Xcode 6 Start to Finish*! This book will show you how to use Apple’s integrated development environment to make great products with the least effort.

Xcode 6 is the descendant of a family of development tools dating back more than 20 years to NeXT’s ProjectBuilder. It started as a text editor, a user-interface designer, and a front end for Unix development tools. It has become a sophisticated system for building applications and system software, with a multitude of features that leverage a comprehensive indexing system and subtle incremental parser to help you assemble the right code for your project, and get it right the first time.

That much power can be intimidating. My aim in *Xcode 6 Start to Finish* is to demystify Xcode, giving you a gradual tour through examples that show you how it is used day to day. Don’t let the gentle approach fool you: This book will lead you through the full, best-practices workflow of development with Xcode 6. There are no “advanced topics” here—I’ll show you version control and unit testing in their proper places in the development process.

How This Book Is Organized

First, a word on my overall plan. This is a book about developer tools. If it teaches you something about how to use the Cocoa frameworks, or something about programming, that’s fine, but that’s incidental to showing you the Xcode workflow. There are many excellent books and other resources for learning the frameworks; you’ll find many of them listed in Appendix B, “Resources.”

Every tour needs a pathway, and every lesson needs a story. The first three parts of this book demonstrate Xcode through three applications—a command-line tool, an iOS app, and an OS X application—that calculate and display some statistics in American football. None of the apps are very useful; the graphical apps run almost entirely on sample data. But they demand enough of the development tools to give you a solid insight into how to use them.

Xcode supports some technologies, like Core Data and OS X bindings, that are *not* for beginners. *Xcode 6 Start to Finish* dives straight into those techniques, ignoring conceptually simpler approaches, so I can demonstrate how Xcode works. Other “advanced” techniques, like unit testing and version control, appear at the points where best practices require them. This will be the workflow as Xcode supports it.

I'm using applications for iOS and OS X as examples, but read both Parts II and III, even if you're only interested in one platform. The applications are only *stories*; the techniques apply to both platforms.

First Steps

In Part I, I'll take you from installing Xcode and running your first project through basic debugging skills. You'll work through a small command-line application. The application may be simple, but you'll learn foundational skills you'll need before adding the complexity of graphical apps.

- **Chapter 1, Getting Xcode**—Some things to consider before you download Xcode 6; two ways to download and install it.
- **Chapter 2, Kicking the Tires**—Your first look at Xcode, setting up a trivial project and running it.
- **Chapter 3, Simple Workflow and Passive Debugging**—Write, build, and run a simple application, and respond to a crash.
- **Chapter 4, Active Debugging**—Take charge of debugging by setting breakpoints and tracing through the program. I'll show you how to organize your workspace.
- **Chapter 5, Compilation**—A pause to describe the process of building an application.
- **Chapter 6, Adding a Library Target**—Add a library target to a project, and learn how to build a product from multiple targets.
- **Chapter 7, Version Control**—Why source control is important, and how to take advantage of Xcode's built-in support for versioning through Git and Subversion.

The Life Cycle of an iOS Application

Part II tells the story of a small iPhone app, and how to use Apple's developer tools to build it. It introduces you to the graphical editor for user interfaces, and shows how to profile an app to optimize its speed and memory burden.

- **Chapter 8, Starting an iOS Application**—You'll start by creating an iOS project, and learn the Model-View-Controller design at the core of Cocoa on iOS and OS X alike.
- **Chapter 9, An iOS Application: Model**—Design a Core Data schema and supplement it with your own code.
- **Chapter 10, An iOS Application: Controller**—Create a controller to link your model to the on-screen views. On the way, I'll tell you about refactoring, and Xcode's continual error-checking.
- **Chapter 11, Building a New View**—Design the user-interface views for your app with the integrated Interface Builder, and take advantage of source-code completion.

- **Chapter 12, Auto Layout in a New View**—In Xcode 6, Auto Layout is more about getting things done than fighting the tools. Learn how to make Cocoa layout do what you want.
- **Chapter 13, Adding Table Cells**—While adding an in-screen component to your app, you'll debug memory management, and control how Xcode builds, runs, and tests your apps through the Scheme editor.
- **Chapter 14, Adding an Editor**—Add an editor view, and get deep into Storyboard.
- **Chapter 15, Unit Testing**—Unit testing speeds development and makes your apps more reliable. I'll show you how Xcode supports it as a first-class part of the development process.
- **Chapter 16, Measurement and Analysis**—Use Instruments to track down performance and memory bugs.
- **Chapter 17, An iOS Extension**—Create a system-wide extension and a shared library to bring your app's value beyond its own screen.
- **Chapter 18, Provisioning**—Behind the scenes, the process of getting Apple's permission to put apps on devices is complicated and temperamental. I'll show you how Xcode saves you from most of the pain, and give you a few tips on how to get out if it backs you into a corner.

Xcode for Mac OS X

Part III shifts focus to OS X development. Some concepts are more important to OS X than iOS, but you'll be learning techniques you can use regardless of your platform.

- **Chapter 19, Starting an OS X Application**—Carrying iOS components over to OS X; what the responder chain is, and how Interface Builder makes it easy to take advantage of it.
- **Chapter 20, Bindings: Wiring an OS X Application**—As you build a popover window, you'll use OS X bindings to simplify the link between your data and the screen. You'll also encounter autosizing, a legacy technique for laying out view hierarchies.
- **Chapter 21, Localization**—How you can translate your Mac and iOS apps into other languages.
- **Chapter 22, Bundles and Packages**—You'll master the fundamental structure of most Mac and iOS products, and how both platforms use the `Info.plist` file to fit apps into the operating system.
- **Chapter 23, Property Lists**—Learn the basic JSON-like file type for storing data in both OS X and iOS.

Xcode Tasks

By this point in the book, you'll have a foundation for digging into the details of the Xcode toolset. Part IV moves on to topics that deserve a more concentrated treatment than Parts II and III.

- **Chapter 24, Documentation in Xcode**—How Xcode gives you both immediate help on API, and browsable details on the concepts of Cocoa development. Find out how you can add your own documentation to the system.
- **Chapter 25, The Xcode Build System**—I'll show you the fundamental rules and tools behind how Xcode goes from source files to executable products.
- **Chapter 26, Instruments**—Using Apple's timeline profiler, you can go beyond basic performance and memory diagnostics to a comprehensive look at how your program uses its resources.
- **Chapter 27, Debugging**—How to use breakpoint actions and conditions to eliminate in-code diagnostics. You'll also find a tutorial on the lldb debugger command set, for even closer control over your code.
- **Chapter 28, Snippets**—A roundup of tips, traps, and features to help you get the most from the developer tools.

Appendixes

The appendixes in Part V contain references to help you master the build system, and find help and support.

- **Appendix A, Some Build Variables**—The most important configuration and environment variables from Xcode's build system.
- **Appendix B, Resources**—A compendium of books, tools, and Internet resources to support your development efforts.

About Versions

This book was finished in the fall of 2014. *Xcode 6 Start to Finish* is written to early versions of 10.10, iOS 8.2, and Xcode 6.2.

About the Code

Xcode 6 Start to Finish has many examples of executable code—it's about a system for creating code and running it. My goal is to teach *workflow*. What the code itself does is practically incidental. In particular, be aware: **Much of the code in this book will not run as initially presented.** *Xcode 6 Start to Finish* is about the development process, most of which (it seems) entails prosecuting and fixing bugs. You can't learn the workflow unless you learn how to respond to bugs.

So I'll be giving you buggy code. You may find it painful to read, and if you try to run it, it will be painful to run. Trust me: It's for a reason.

Also, sample code for this book is available at informit.com/title/9780134052779 (register your book to gain access to the code). You'll find archives of the projects in this book as they stand at the end of each chapter. With very few exceptions—I'll make them very clear—if you want the project as it stands at the *start* of a chapter, you should use the archive for the *end* of the previous chapter.

The chapter archives do not include version-control metadata. If you are following along with the examples, and using Git (or Subversion) for your work, copy the changes into your own working directory. If you replace your directory with a sample directory, you'll lose your version history.

Conventions

This book observes a number of typographic and verbal conventions.

- Human-interface elements, such as menu items and button labels, are shown **like this**.
- File names and programming constructs are shown `like this`. This will sometimes get tricky as when I refer to the product of the “Hello World” *project* (plain text, because it's just a noun) as the *file* `Hello World`.
- Text that you type in will be shown **like this**.
- When I introduce a new term, I'll call it out *like this*.

I'll have you do some command-line work in the Terminal. Some of the content will be wider than this page, so I'll follow the convention of breaking input lines with backslashes (\) at the ends. I'll break long output lines simply by splitting them, and indenting the continuations. When that output includes long file paths, I'll replace components with ellipses (...), leaving the significant parts.

For its first 20 years, the Macintosh had a one-button mouse. (Don't laugh—most purchasers didn't know what a mouse *was*; try pushing the wrong button on an old Mac mouse.) Now it has four ways to effect an alternate mouse click: You can use the right button on an actual mouse (or the corner of the mouse where the right button would be); you can hold down the Control key and make an ordinary click; you can hold down two fingers while clicking on a multi-touch trackpad (increasingly common even on desktop Macs); or you can tap at a designated corner of a multi-touch trackpad. And there are more variations available through System Preferences. Unless the distinction really matters, I'm simply going to call it a “right-click” and let you sort it out for yourself.

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Simple Workflow and Passive Debugging

This chapter begins your use of Xcode in earnest. Here's where I introduce the problem that is the basis for all of the example code in this book.

The problem is the calculation of *passer ratings*. In American/Canadian football, quarterbacks advance the ball by throwing (passing) it to other players. The ball may be caught (received, a good thing) by someone on the quarterback's own team, in which case the ball is advanced (yardage, more is better), possibly to beyond the goal line (a touchdown, the object of the game); or it may be caught by a member of the opposing team (intercepted, a very bad thing).

But those are four numbers, and everybody wants a figure-of-merit, a single scale that says (accurately or not) who is the better passer. The National Football League and the Canadian Football League have a formula for passer ratings, yielding a scale running from 0 to (oddly) 158.3. A quarterback who rates 100 has had a pretty good day.

Creating the Project

As in Chapter 2, “Kicking the Tires,” you'll start with a command-line project. Start Xcode and click **Create a new Xcode project**, or select **File** → **New** → **Project...** (⌘ ⌘ N). In the New Project assistant sheet, select an OS X Command Line Tool, and name the tool **passer-rating**; for **Language**, once again choose **C**.

Another difference: When you are shown the get-file sheet to select the location for the new project, check the box labeled **Create Git repository on**, and select **My Mac**. Git is a *version-control system*, an essential part of modern development. You'll learn all about it in Chapter 7, “Version Control,” but now is the time to start.

Note

Are you ever going to change anything in a project? Get it under version control. Seriously. Your work will be safer, and you'll do it faster.

Again, you'll be shown target settings, which you can ignore for now. Instead, mouse over to the Project navigator at the left side of the Workspace window, and select `main.c`.

Delete everything in the `main()` function but its outer braces, and replace the body of the function so the file reads thus (keep the comments at the top of the file):

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "rating.h"      // Yet to create; initially an error

int main(int argc, const char * argv[])
{
    int          nArgs;
    do {
        int          comps, atts, yards, TDs;
        printf("comps, atts, yards, TDs: ");
        nArgs = scanf("%d %d %d %d %d",
                      &comps, &atts, &yards, &TDs);
        if (nArgs == 5) {
            float rating = passer_rating(comps, atts, yards, TDs);
            printf("Rating = %.1f\n", rating);
        }
    } while (nArgs == 5);

    return 0;
}
```

You'll notice that as you type closing parentheses, brackets, and braces, the corresponding opening character is briefly highlighted in yellow.

The rating calculation itself is simple. Put it into a file of its own: Select **File** → **New** → **File...** (⌘N). You'll be presented with the New File assistant sheet; see Figure 3.1. Navigate the source list on the left, and the icon array on the right thus: OS X → Source → C File.

Click **Next**, and use the save-file sheet that appears to name the file **rating** (Xcode will append `.c` automatically).

The save-file sheet has two custom controls. The **Group** popup lets you place the new file in the Project navigator (the source list at the left of the project window). Roughly, groups are simply ways to organize the Project inspector list; they have no influence on how the new file will be placed on-disk. Make sure the **passer-rating** group is selected.

Second is **Targets**, a table that for now has only one row, **passer-rating**. A target is a group of files and settings that combine to build a product. A file that isn't part of a target isn't used to build anything. Make sure that **passer-rating** is checked.

Note

It's easy to get the target assignment wrong. Xcode 6 sets the same targets for new files as the ones for the last files that were added. If you forget to set the proper targets, you won't know about it until your app fails to build or mysteriously crashes because a needed resource wasn't included.

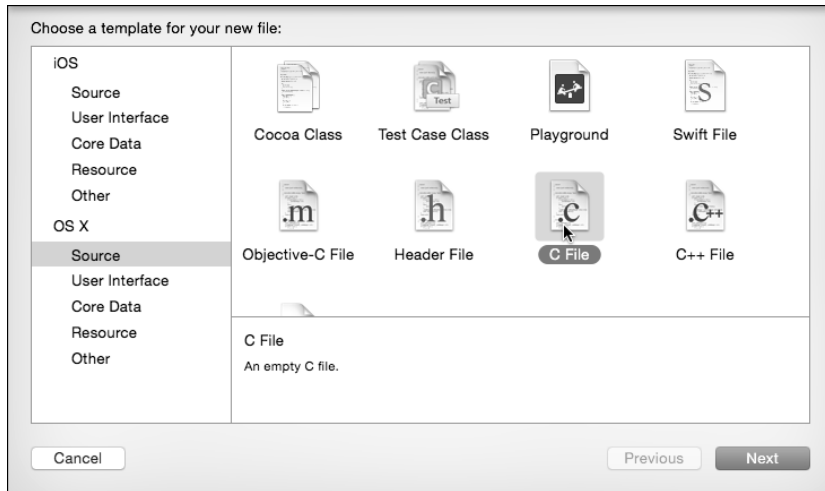


Figure 3.1 The New File assistant sheet offers many templates you can use to start a new file. Select the category from the source list on the left, and pick the template from the array of icons on the right.

Here's what goes into `rating.c`:

```
#include "rating.h"

static
double pinPassingComponent(double component)
{
    if (component < 0.0)
        return 0.0;
    else if (component > 2.375)
        return 2.375;
    else
        return component;
}

float
passer_rating(int comps, int atts, int yds, int tds, int ints)
{
    // See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quarterback\_Rating

    double    completionComponent =
        (((double) comps / atts) * 100.0 - 30.0) / 20.0;
    completionComponent = pinPassingComponent(completionComponent);
```

```

double    yardageComponent =
            (((double) yds / atts) - 0.3) / 4.0;
            // intentional bug
yardageComponent = pinPassingComponent(yardageComponent);

double    touchdownComponent =
            20.0 * (double) tds / atts;
touchdownComponent = pinPassingComponent(touchdownComponent);

double    pickComponent =
            2.375 - (25.0 * (double) ints / atts);
pickComponent = pinPassingComponent(pickComponent);

double retVal = 100.0 * (completionComponent +
                        yardageComponent +
                        touchdownComponent +
                        pickComponent) / 6.0;

return retVal;
}

```

Note

You see a few bugs in this code. Well done. Throughout this book, I'm going to give you some buggy code to illustrate debugging techniques. Just play along, okay?

By now, you've missed a couple of braces, and you are tired of tabbing to get the extra level of indenting. Xcode can do this for you—it's among the features I had you turn off in the last chapter.

Open the Preferences window (**Xcode** → **Preferences**, ⌘ comma) and select the **Text Editing** panel. In the **Editing** tab, check **Code completion: Automatically insert closing “”**. In the **Indentation** tab, check **Syntax-aware indenting: Automatically indent based on syntax**.

Now type an open brace in your code, at the end of a line. So what, it's a brace. Now press Return. Xcode adds two lines: Your cursor is now at the next line, indented one level, and a matching closing brace appears on the line after that.

Finally, you've noticed that both `main.c` and `rating.c` refer to a `rating.h`, which notifies `main()` of the existence of the `passer_rating` function. Press ⌘ N again, and choose Header File from the source files. Name it **rating**, and put this into it:

```

#ifndef passer_rating_rating_h
#define passer_rating_rating_h

float passer_rating(int comps, int atts, int yds,
                    int tds, int ints);

#endif

```

Note

Place header files wherever you like among the project groups, but don't add them to any targets. There are exceptions; if you need to do it, you'll know. Chapter 6, "Adding a Library Target," has more.

Click **Create**.

Building

That's enough to start. Let's try to run it. It's easy: Click the **Run** button at the left end of the toolbar, or select **Product** → **Run** (⌘R). It doesn't matter if you haven't saved your work; by default Xcode saves everything before it attempts a build. Xcode chugs away at your code for a bit... and stops.

- A heads-up placard flashes, saying "Build Failed."
- The Navigator area switches to the Issue navigator, which shows two items under `main.c`. (If the Issue navigator doesn't appear, click the fourth tab at the top of the Navigator area.) One is tagged with a yellow triangle (a warning), and the other with a red octagon (an error). These include descriptions of the errors (Figure 3.2, top).
- When you click one of the items, the editor highlights two lines in `main.c`. The line that triggered the warning is tagged in yellow, with a banner describing the warning; the error line is in red, with a banner of its own (Figure 3.2, bottom).

It seems the only place where I remembered about interceptions was the format string of the `scanf` call. The compiler was smart enough to match the number of format specifiers to the number of arguments of the `scanf` and complain. Similarly, I left off the last parameter to `passer_rating`, which is an outright error.

Note

For a compiler, an *error* is a flaw in your source that makes it impossible to translate your code into executable form. The presence of even one error prevents Xcode from producing a program. A *warning* indicates something in your source that *can* be translated but will probably result in a bug or a crash when you run it. Experienced developers do not tolerate warnings; there is even a compiler option to make a build fail upon a warning just as though it were an error. Don't ever ignore a warning.

Note

Need a reminder of what `passer_rating` does with its parameters? Try this: While `main` is visible in the Editor area, hold down the Command key and point the mouse at the symbol `passer_rating`. You'll see it turns blue and acquires an underline, as if it were a link on a standard web page. Click it: The editor jumps to the declaration of `passer_rating`. You can jump back by clicking the back-arrow button in the upper-left corner of the editor; by pressing **⌘ ←**; or by swiping right across the editor area with two fingers, if you've enabled the gesture in System Preferences. (Option-clicking the name

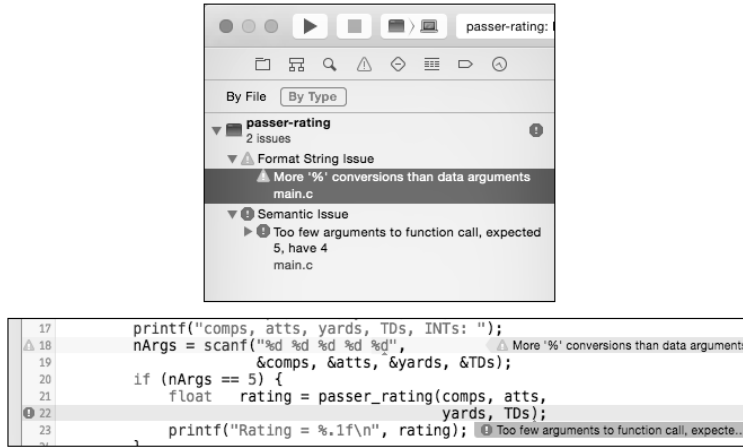


Figure 3.2 (top) When Xcode detects build errors, it opens the Issue navigator to display them. (bottom) Clicking an issue focuses the editor on the file and line at which the issue was detected.

gets you a popover that tells you `passer_rating` was declared in `rating.h`. More on this in Chapter 24, “Documentation in Xcode.”)

You can dash off a fix very quickly:

```
do {
    int        comps, atts, yards, TDs, INTs;
    printf("comps, atts, yards, TDs, INTs: ");
    nArgs = scanf("%d %d %d %d %d",
                  &comps, &atts, &yards, &TDs, INTs);
    if (nArgs == 5) {
        float  rating = passer_rating(comps, atts, yards,
                                      TDs, INTs);
        printf("Rating = %.1f\n", rating);
    }
} while (nArgs == 5);
```

To be conservative (I don’t want Xcode to run the program if a warning remains),

Product → **Build** (⌘B) will compile and link `passer-rating` without running it. You needn’t have worried: It compiles without error, displaying a “Build Succeeded” placard.

Note

The Issues navigator will show a warning or two. Let’s play dumb and carry on.

Running

Now you have something runnable. Run it (**Run** button, first in the toolbar; or ⌘R).

There is a transformation: The Debug area appears at the bottom of the window; and the **View** control in the toolbar highlights its middle button to match the appearance of the Debug area (Figure 3.3).

The right half of the Debug area is a console that you'll be using to communicate with the `passer-rating` tool. If all has gone well, it should be showing something like this:

```
comps, atts, yards, TDs, INTs:
```

... which is just what the `printf()` was supposed to do. `passer-rating` is waiting for input, so click in the console pane and type:

```
10 20 85 1 0 <return>
```

Something went wrong. `passer-rating` crashed. `lldb`, the debugging engine, takes control, and the debugging displays fill up.

- In the Navigator area, the Debug navigator appears, showing the status of the program when it crashed. The upper part of the navigator contains performance bar charts that will be useful when you get to more complex projects. Ignore them for the moment.

What's left is a *stack trace*, showing the chain of function calls that led to the crash. The top line, labeled 0, is the name of the function, `__svfscanf_l`, where the crash occurred; if you click it, you can see the assembly code (the source isn't available) focused on the very instruction that went wrong. The next line is `scanf`, which you recognize as the function you called from `main`, the function on the next line. Xcode identifies `main` as your work by flagging it with a blue head-and-shoulders icon. Click that line to see what your code was doing when the crash occurred.

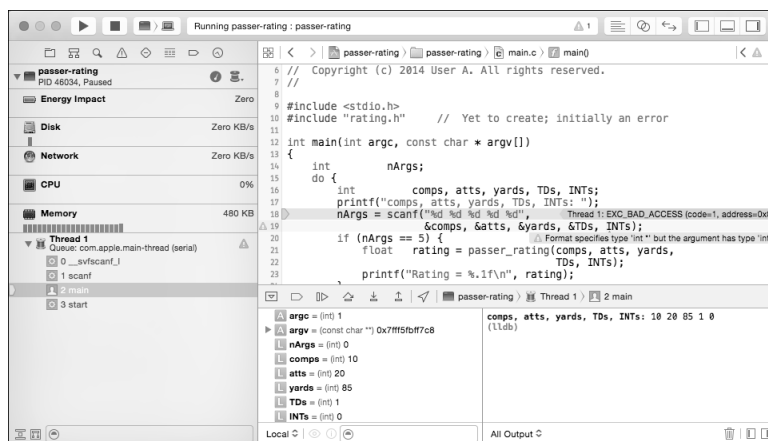


Figure 3.3 Running an app in Xcode opens the Debug area (at the bottom of the project window).

- In the Debug area at the bottom of the window, the left-hand pane fills with the names of variables and their values. You see, for instance, “**atts** = (int) 20,” which is just what you entered. Chapter 4, “Active Debugging,” discusses this more.
- The Editor area has the most interesting change: A green flag at the left margin and a green banner at the right of the call to `scanf`. The banner says, “Thread 1: EXC_BAD_ACCESS (code=1, address=0x0).” The message may be truncated; you can see the full text in a tooltip that appears if you hover the mouse cursor over the banner.

Note

Xcode has a lot of these banners; often they are the only way it will convey important messages. You will probably set your editor fonts to the smallest you can comfortably read so you can see more of your work at once. The banners are one line high, and their margins take up some space, so the text in them may be *smaller* than you can comfortably read. The only solution is to select larger fonts for everyday use; see the **Fonts & Colors** panel of the Preferences window.

Simple Debugging

EXC_BAD_ACCESS entails the use of a bad pointer, perhaps one pointing into memory that isn’t legal for you to read or write to. (The 64-bit virtual-memory management on OS X and modern iOS is set so any address that might be derived from a 32-bit integer is illegal, making it harder to cross ints and pointers.) Reexamine the line in `main` that crashed the application and allow a scale to fall from your eyes:

```
nArgs = scanf("%d %d %d %d %d",
              &comps, &atts, &yards, &TDs, INTs);
```

`scanf` collects values through pointers to the variables that will hold them. This call does that for all values except `INTs`, which is passed by value, not by reference. One of the warnings I had you ignore said exactly that: “Format specifies type ‘(int *)’ but the argument has type ‘int’.” Simply inserting an `&`

```
nArgs = scanf("%d %d %d %d %d",
              &comps, &atts, &yards, &TDs, &INTs);
```

should cure the problem. Sure enough, running `passer-rating` again shows the crasher is gone:

```
comps, atts, yards, TDs, INTs: 10 20 85 1 0
Rating = 89.4
comps, atts, yards, TDs, INTs: <^D>
```

With the `^D` keystroke, the input stream to `passer-rating` ends, the program exits, and the Debug area closes.

You ordinarily wouldn't want to run or debug a program under Xcode if another is running. Instead, you'd like the incumbent app to clear out. There are four ways to do this.

- Simply let the app exit on its own, as you did when you used **⌘D** to stop `passer-rating`, or would by selecting the **Quit** command in an OS X application. But this doesn't work for iOS apps, which in principle never quit. You'll have to use one of the other techniques.
- Click the **Stop** button in the toolbar.
- Select **Product** → **Stop** (⌘period).
- Tell Xcode to run an application, the same or a different one, and click **Stop** in the alert sheet that appears. See Figure 3.4.

That alert sheet also offers an **Add** button, which will run and debug the new process without quitting the old one. Xcode will start a new execution context: You can switch between them using the jump bar at the top of the Debug area, and the **Stop** button in the toolbar becomes a menu you can use to select which instance to stop.

Note

Don't check the **Do not show this message again** box. There will come a time when you want to continue the execution of a program you are debugging, and rather than clicking the tiny button the debugger provides, you'll go for the large, friendly **Run** button in the toolbar. That time comes to me frequently. The add-or-stop sheet is the only thing standing between you and the ruin of your debugging session.

For the moment, you're done: The `scanf` call will return fewer than five inputs if the standard input stream ends. You end it as you would in a terminal shell, by pressing **⌘D**.

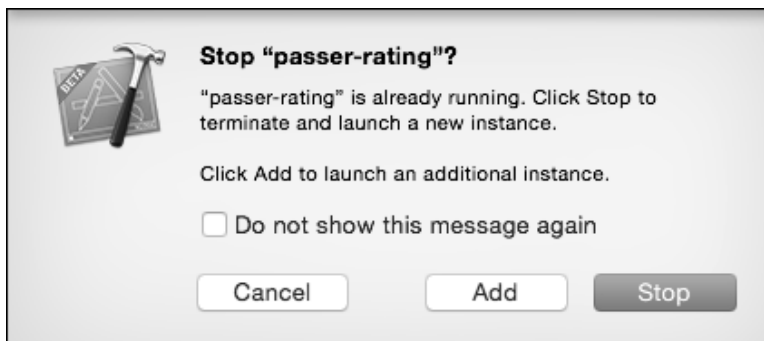


Figure 3.4 When you tell Xcode to run an application while it already has an application running, it displays a sheet asking what you want to do with the existing app. Normally, you'd click **Stop**, but there is also the option to **Add** the new instance to run concurrently with the old one.

Note

M and **A** badges are accumulating in the Project navigator. These have to do with version control. Nothing is wrong. Patience! I'll get to it in Chapter 7, "Version Control."

Summary

This chapter stepped you up to writing and running a program of your own. It introduced the first level of debugging: what to do when your program crashes. It turns out that Xcode offers good facilities to help you analyze a crash without you having to do much. You accepted Xcode's guidance, quickly traced the problem, and verified that your fix worked.

But we're not done with `passer-rating`. There are still bugs in it, and this time you'll have to hunt for them.

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