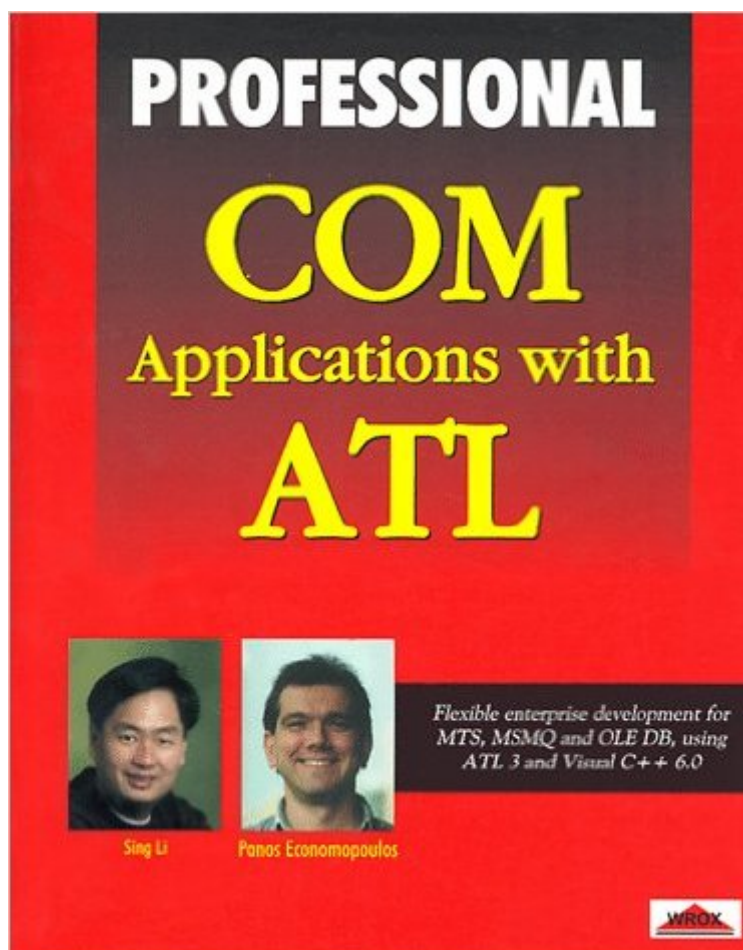## The book was found

Professional Com Applications With Atl

Synopsis

This book examines how and why you should use COM, ActiveX controls and DNA Business Objects, and how these components are linked together to form robust, flexible and scalable applications. A key part of the book is the extended case study in which we produce a distributed events calendar that fits Microsoft's Distributed interNet Applications (DNA) model. This three-tier application uses flexible browser-based controls for the client user interface, business objects on both client and server to process the required information efficiently and Universal Data Access to perform the queries and updates. It depends on the support for component-based development now available for Windows NT server.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The main thing that I have against this book is that its is neither "Professional" nor "Beginning" book. Authors spend a lot of time talking about things that should be familiar if not obvious for professional COM programmer, but fail to spend enough time on subjects that really matter like ATL. Although they stated that no prior knowledge of ATL or COM is required, if this is a case you probably won't understand the book at all. Good example is OLE DB chapter: talking a lot about relational database theory, ODBC, OLE DB but not enough about ATL database access templates. It's a typical bloated book teaching you how to repeat the project that authors did and nothing else. If you have some COM experience this book is a waste of time (you won't learn ATL from it - at least not as much as

you would like). If you are new to COM you won't use it either, as it will not explain COM or ATL enough for you to understand.

As someone with a basic knowledge of COM (gained through VB, VJ++ and MTS) this book cleared up several nagging questions that I had about low level COM and COM terminology. It also got me started with ATL. However, I found that the book suffered from being both too detailed and too selective. When the authors tackled a topic they tackled it in excruciating detail. Unfortunatley the topics where chosen from too many different subject areas resulting in incomplete coverage of any one subject area. In the end I felt that I learned a lot about certain topics but I hadn't learned enough core ATL to build a real application. The back cover states that "no prior knowledge of COM or ATL is assumed, as the book gives a full tutorial on both." It is true that this book begins with the very basics of COM and ATL but the coverage is by no means 'full'. After about 300 pages I made a list of all of the _basic_ things that I thought I would need to know to work with ATL on a daily basis. This list was based on my experience with VB, Java, C++, and OO in general. At the 300 page mark this book had covered between 1/4 and 1/3 of my list. I just didn't get what I needed from this book fast enough.

I bought this book looking for a beginning text on COM and ATL 3. I know this is in Wrox's "Professional" series but the back of the book claims it is suitable as an introduction to ATL/COM for the experienced Visual C++ programmer. Also, neither of Wrox's ATL/COM "Beginning" books covers ATL 3. Well, It proved to be a very poor introduction. I was overloaded with details from the first few pages of the book and ended up absorbing little until I gave up. A coworker of mine had the same complaint.I've since read Inside COM (which is a good introduction) and done some COM programming. Now I use Professional COM/ATL as a reference and it is a good book in that regard. It contains the best coverage I've found for using MTS and MSMQ in C++.So if you use this book as a reference and to get pieces of information as you need it, you'll probably find it pretty good. But if you try to read it straight through as a learning tool you're likely to be frustrated.

The book contains grammar errors, inconsistencies, and incorrect function names (DoCreateInstance) which make a complex topic even more confusing. Also, the book is worded poorly and written in a very unclear manor which makes it hard to understand. After reading four chapters in this book, read some chapters in a MS Press book on a similar topic, and the difference in readability was very obvious. When a technical book contains these types of errors, it makes the

reader lose credibility for the authors. It makes one wonder, if they have errors in their documentation, do they also have errors in their instructions?

I read this bood as an introduction to COM. The back of the book says that anyone with a strong understanding of programming and C++ can learn COM from this book. The first two chapters were good, but in chapter three the author went into developing a COM application. For someone with no COM experience it was too much of a jump. I stopped reading the book about half way through chapter three and read Inside COM. It was a great introduction. I then went back to this book and found it to be a very good tutorial on using ATL, MTS and MSMQ in developing and using ActiveX and OLEDB COM applications. The As these are all very important things to know, I highly recommend the book; however, only after one receives a thorough introduction to COM elsewhere.

I found this book especially helpful with MTS and MSMQ. There were also a great deal of examples on how different paramter types were passed to COM objects created in ATL.I would suggest this book to anyone who is developing COM objects in ATL and is using MTS.I did however find mistakes in the debugging procedures for components in MTS. For the correct way to do it, you need to see the MSDN documentation of debugging VC++ components.I was also a little disappointed that the book seemed to be a re-hash of their ActiveX/COM Control programming book with the added features of MTS/MSMQ. Overall though, this is acceptable knowing the new information I gained from the book.

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