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Java XML Programmer's Reference



Synopsis

XML is rapidly becoming the standard representation format for data interchange, data verification, configuration, RDBMS interaction, remote procedure invocation, and the representation of transformation processes. In all these areas the Java language provides the programming interfaces and tools needed for driving the underlying machinery. The intersection between Java and XML is wide-ranging, and the knowledge required to use them together effectively is expanding daily. The API section of this book provides quick access to the essential Java XML programming interfaces: SAX, DOM Core, DOM Extensions, JDOM, JAXP and TrAX, together with dozens of illustrative examples. The Tools section includes chapters on Oracle XDK, IBM Web Services Toolkit, Apache XML Project, XML tools for lightweight/mobile devices, and an overview of Sun early access XML projects, all packed with examples and reference material. The final Techniques section explores Java XML over five projects, developing a distributed business casestudy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent reference for the Java XML API's. It is up to date on SAX 2 and DOM/DOM extensions. It also gives a good intro to many recent developments like SOAP and IBM WebServices Tools. An advantage of reading such a book is that it makes you familiar with many of the good features of API's - which otherwise I would have never bothered to look up. The chapter on JAXP is particularly well presented. I liked the case study in Chapters 12-15 which highlight

techniques for configuring, querying, storing and transmitting XML - these can be put to use straight away. On the flip side, I would have liked to see more examples in each chapter on the usage of API's. I would have also liked some more focus on XSLT. Ant has been used extensively - and at first I found this a little disconcerting as I had not used Ant earlier.

I found it to be a very comprehensive and complete book on XML. One of the biggest problems with XML related books in general is that I have to refer to 2-3 books to solve a 'business problem' as the books seem to be focused on one or two aspects of XML. With this book though the authors seem to have taken the approach of solving real life business problems with XML going into just the right level of details and providing great examples, I really liked the business case study and the Apache chapter. In short, it was just what I was looking for as a person who is learning XML and most importantly trying to use it to solve real world problems.

Being a Java developer and wanting to learn how to use XML technologies with that language I had high hopes for this book coming in. I had read the editorial review, have a high opinion of Wrox books in general, and was looking for a book that covered the scope of topics this book claims to cover. I was disappointed. For the most part the text covering the various technologies, e.g. XML, SAX, DOM, JDOM, JAXP, etc., is a reformat and JavaDoc of the specifications. Almost every chapter opens with something like this from chapter two, 'This chapter contains the same information as the SAX 2.0 API specification...', and indeed it does. At least they're up front about it. The saving grace of each chapter are the small utility code bits, written in Java, that demonstrate the syntax of doing things but there is little elaboration. As a reference this book pulls together a lot of technology into one place and puts it at your fingertips. Of course, by the time you've learned a couple of these sections the rest of the technologies in the book will be out of date ;) so you might be better off just bookmarking the reference pages on the web. The Wrox motto is 'Programmer to Programmer'. They must mean mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after you've tried to plow your way through a few chapters of this book.

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