Java Tools Using XML, EJB, CORBA, Servlets and SOAP. (Authors: Andreas Eberhart, Stefan Fischer)

Ananda Amatya PhD. MSc. MBCS

Department of Computer Science, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, U.K.
Email: Ananda.Amatya,@dcs.warwick.ac.uk

This is a welcome Java Tools book that spans much of the Java based distributed technology of value to researchers, teachers and practitioners. The basic principles of the Java applications, the valuable information on most freely down-loadable tools support for them, and their actual usage for a running example of web book shop make up the bulk of the volume. Further useful reference material on the tools appear as appendices. The down-loadable files containing all the source codes for the running example appear in the web page for the book. Java Tools for HTML, JDBC, Servlet, JSP, CORBA, EJB and XML are covered. There is enough on each of these applications for the reader to make a start and acquire its flavour. Providing all this in a single volume of moderate size (under 500 pages) is an enormous achievement on the part of the authors.

Much of the introductory part dealing with motivation, basic understanding of distributed applications, HTML, Java and JDBC could be skipped by all but a novice reader, who however will still find the later parts of the book a rather difficult read. The book is really a sequel to a Java primer.

Java Servlet technology forming the second part is the most readable part of the book. Other parts CORBA, EJB, XML, etc. each contain a wealth of valuable and practical information which a serious first time user will find useful, albeit after several careful reads.

The style of the book leaves much to be desired. Desultory comments that appear here and there in the book are somewhat distractive. Adoption from its German inception into English could have contributed to reduced clarity. The book is a hard read, and certainly not a tutorial. Logical organisation of the disparate applications into a unified whole has been far from successful.

The price tag of £29.95 is somewhat expensive. A CDROM (with PDF or HTML format for the book) would have enhanced the usability of the book. Despite this, for Java based distributed internet applications the whole book is likely to be useful, and so represents value for money.

Star Rating: 3.5