Naked Objects: Richard Pawson & Robert Mathews

Ananda M. S. Amatya

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

This is a compact (270 pages), well organised and very readable volume by two enthusiastic practitioners of Object Oriented Software Development in Business Systems using Framework based Java technology. The authors advocate a novel approach using what they call Naked Objects. They have developed a framework for it (see *http://nakedobjects.org*). The book is effectively a guide for using the framework for development work. Each chapter is accompanied by a realistic case study. The underlying philosophy behind Naked Objects is what the authors refer to as "behavioural completeness", and is based on the flavour of object-oriented approach as advocated by Rebecca Wirfs-Brock. The authors claim that traditional OO approach to Business Systems development fail to integrate data and processes. Naked Objects on the other hand bind them together and encapsulate the essence of the real world business objects they represent. The user interface provided by the framework makes users and developers see the system in a synergetic way that leads to the agility of the system. The authors claim that the use case driven approach much used in traditional OO development is the cause of much "Analysis Paralysis". Apparently, user stories result as specifications of Naked Objects during exploratory work (prototyping) and lead to acceptance tests that document them. The framework supports this and the unit tests on the Naked Objects. The book includes a description of a Naked Object system development process consisting of Exploration, Specification and Development. Issues of persistence handling are discussed adequately, though fuller descriptions with examples will probably be included in later editions of the book. Naked Objects as described in this book very much supports the Agile Process approach to systems development.

The style and the format of the book is very appealing. The explanations are clear. The framework and case studies are freely down-loadable (including source code). Also, a browser version of the book is available in its web-site. However, some experience with Java is essential for fully benefiting from the book.

A price tag of £32.50 for a hard-cover book with fully coloured pages of high quality cannot be considered exorbitant.

Star Rating: 4