Mastering XMI: Java Programming with XMI, XML, and UML. (Authors: Timothy J. Grose, Gary C. Doney, Stephen A. Brodsky)

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This book represents an authoritative exposition of much of the research and development on XMI (XML Metadata Interchange) that has been going on over the last few years at the IBM Silicon Valley Laboratory. This is most welcome as very little learning material on XMI is available currently. The authors have done an excellent job in accommodating in one single moderately sized (just over 400 pages) volume all the intricacies of XMI. They have been diligent in their efforts to lead an uninitiated reader to "mastering" it, and have almost achieved this Herculean task. However, the book is NOT for the faint-hearted, The enormity of this task has inevitably forced the authors to maintain a "galloping" pace throughout. They leave little respite for doing exercises to consolidate the conceptual wealth explained and illustrated by extensive examples.

Chapter 1 introduces XMI as a solution to the problem of representing objects in XML by using UML models. Chapter 2 provides a resume of much of the relevant XML and UML basics on which XMI is built. Chapter 3 explains XMI concepts in detail. This is a long chapter and an experience with XML schema is imperative. Chapter 4 discusses the XMI process using XMI Framework with UML models and Java code. Chapter 5 shows how to create models for XMI. Chapters 6, 7 and 8 deal with the use of XMI framework in creating and reading XMI documents. An on going example of a car rental agency illustrates these issues. Chapter 9 is on XMI schemas. Use of XMI Framework for validation of documents and generation of schemas is illustratred here. Chapter 10 expounds on the use of Model Driven Architecture (MDA) for XMI. Chapter 11 applies the Websphere Studio Application Developer for a real world use of XMI. A comprehensive appendix describes the XMI Framework.

The style of the book is good. The book is well-written and will form a valuable reference to users of XMI.

The price tag of £37.50 is somewhat expensive. This does include a CDROM with the Java files for book examples, and handy XMI Tools (XMI Framework, IBM XML4J Parser) as well as the IBM Websphere Studio Application Developer. Currently, not much appears on the web pages for the book.

Star Rating: 4