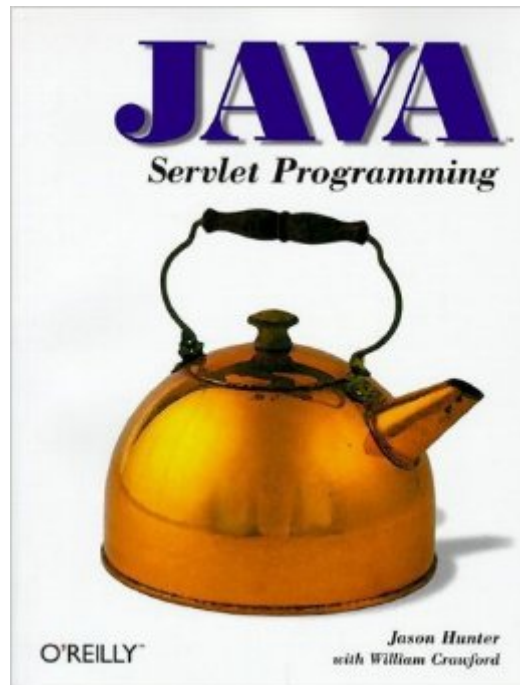


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Java Servlet Programming



Synopsis

A few years ago, the hype surrounding applets put Java on the map as a programming language for the Web. Today, Java servlets stand poised to take Java to the next level as a Web development language. The main reason is that servlets offer a fast, powerful, portable replacement for CGI scripts. The Java Servlet API, introduced as the first standard extension to Java, provides a generic mechanism to extend the functionality of any kind of server. Servlets are most commonly used, however, to extend Web servers, performing tasks traditionally handled by CGI programs. Web servers that can support servlets include: Apache, Netscape's FastTrack and Enterprise Servers, Microsoft's IIS, O'Reilly's WebSite, and JavaSoft's Java Web Server. The beauty of servlets is that they execute within the Web server's process space and they persist between invocations. This gives servlets tremendous performance benefits over CGI programs. Yet because they're written in Java, servlets are far less likely to crash a Web server than a C-based NSAPI or ISAPI extension. Servlets have full access to the various Java APIs and to third-party component classes, making them ideal for use in communicating with applets, databases, and RMI servers. Plus, servlets are portable between operating systems and between servers -- with servlets you can "write once, serve everywhere." Java Servlet Programming covers everything you need to know to write effective servlets and includes numerous examples that you can use as the basis for your own servlets. The book explains the servlet life cycle, showing how you can use servlets to maintain state information effortlessly. It also describes how to serve dynamic Web content, including both HTML pages and multimedia data. Finally, it explores more advanced topics like integrated session tracking, efficient database connectivity using JDBC, applet-servlet communication, inter-servlet communication, and internationalization. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

This book provides excellent and clear explanations of servlet programming but it is definitely not for the novice. Experience in programming with Java is essential to get the full benefit however experienced CGI programmers who are converting to Java/Servlets should also find it essential reading. However (potential) readers should be aware that published in October 1998 it is now slightly dated if you are using latest Servlet API, however nevertheless, still is the best Servlet book I have been able to find. It's initial explanation of the Server side of the equation was worth the cost alone by helping me to understand exactly how the servlets interact with the server, and hence how to maximise the performance of servlets which have to interact with various databases. (Also has a good section on JDBC - Java DataBase Connectivity - which most servlet writers will need). I would still recommend this book to the motivated novice but only after reading some other introduction to java, such as the 'Java Tutorial' (in book or on Sun's website).

We have a half dozen books on servlets lying around the office, and I've also read the online tutorial from Sun. Nothing compares in breadth, depth, or clarity to Hunter and Crawford's "Java Servlet Programming". Luckily, the second edition does not tinker with the tried and true formula of the first: brief overview, hello world servlet, a thorough overview of the HTTP protocol itself and the architecture of servlets, a discussion of thread and resource issues, and a standalone chapter on session management. Despite the 700+ pages of this book (are authors paid by the pound these days?), this core introduction remains only 200 pages and change. Each topic is presented with definitions and clear, yet realistic code examples. The authors not only provide advice on how to use servlets effectively, but also provide numerous suggestions on how to avoid common pitfalls and misconceptions. The remaining 500 pages cover topics such as security, internationalization, database connectivity and communicating with applets. Although these are not really servlet-specific issues, they are almost always present in some combination on web sites, and the authors indicate the peculiar way in which the standard Java approaches to these problems interact with the servlet architecture. Each is presented in its own clear chapter with several examples. The beauty of these chapters is that like good code, they're modular and can be read in any order. In what I think is a sensible organization, Java Server Pages (JSPs) and "application frameworks" are left for last. Both are well defined and illustrated. There's also 50 pages of reference, but frankly, I

prefer the javadoc.

that have been plaguing the online servlet interest group for months. In addition to covering all the topics of the first session, Jason (Will Crawford did not contribute to this edition) brings the content nearly up-to-date with all the dizzying array of developments in the servlet API, Tomcat , and the Web Applications Framework that have taken place since publication of the first edition (October 1998). In particular, he illuminates the dark recesses of XML deployment descriptors, Tomcat 3.2, J2EE, the Tea and WebMacro frameworks WAP, XMLC and the changes from JSDK 1.0 to 2.2. Every topic is accompanied by working code snippets and often the code builds on itself so the would-be servlet programmer can participate in the development of complex applications from simple beginnings. I say "nearly up-to-date" because Tomcat 4.0 beta, incorporating JSDK 2.3 has been released, but to Jason's credit, he devotes an entire chapter on 2.3! This is about as current as hardcopy gets these days! My copy of the first edition is falling apart from constant use as a reference and already my copy of the 2d Edition is showing signs of wear. I could not recommend this book highly enough. If more people bought and read it, my email from the servlet interest group would no doubt decrease by an order of magnitude! April 25, 2001

I read this after programming pure Java on the business logic layer for half a year, and had the need to learn EJB and Servlets because I'm evaluating app server like Weblogic. I found the materials in this book very appropriate in terms of the details and depth. However it doesn't indulge into particular Java language details so it's good for anyone who wanna know more about how this technology behind many production web sites' middle tier workflow logic works. Pros:- The first five chapters have very detailed introduction to the Servlet basics: again, great for beginners.- It then goes into a broad-based perspective to mention how to do various interesting stuff with servlets. I particularly like Chapters 7,8,9,11,13 - Session Tracking, Security and Database Connectivity, Interservlet Communication and other miscellaneous stuff such as how to do Regular Expression.- I like the examples where probably half of them are actually useful utilities which you can use to facilitate your own applications Cons:- Published back in 1998, the book works with Java Servlet API 2.0 which is now outdated. I tried to use the `getServlet()` call mentioned in the discussion of Servlet Reuse. It's not working since version 2.1. And the session tracking API also give deprecated warnings. The book is probably due for a second edition but for the time being it's still a good starter if you use it together with Sun's Java website or Weblogic's Servlet examples.

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