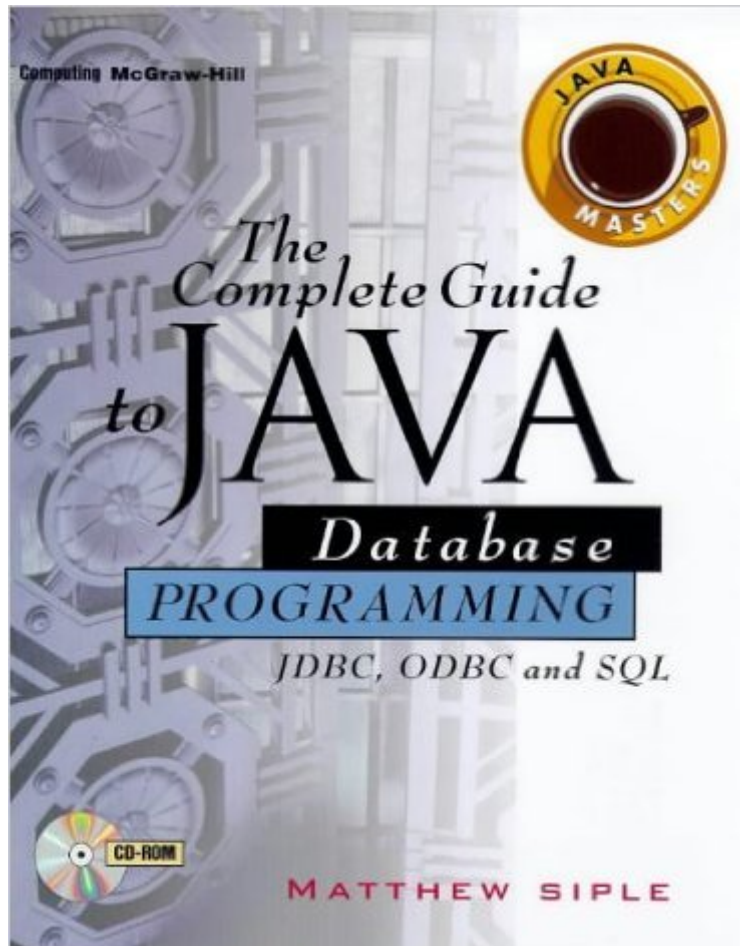


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The Complete Guide To Java Database Programming With JDBC



Synopsis

This is a comprehensive guide to using Java for accessing and using databases on Intranets and the Internet. The book covers several ways of doing this: using a new specification called JDBC (Java Database Connectivity - the Sun Microsystems specification), or using a tried-and-tested specification called ODBC (Object Database Connectivity - the Microsoft specification) using Java. JDBC has been the subject of much hyperbole. It is likely to be the tool of choice, but it has not been put to use yet so no one can be sure. Version 1.0 is released, but there are no drivers tools, or databases that support it yet so much is still unknown. This title covers the first real implementations. ODBC offers a known way of accessing and using databases coupled with Java. ODBC may prove to be better than JDBC. The book gives equal weight to both. There is also important coverage of SQL, the backbone of both technologies. The CD includes test-driven demos of commercial software and sample code in C, Java and SQL code written for specifications that can be put immediately to work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Don't waste your money on this book. The book starts out good. The first two chapters are well written and informative. Unfortunately, this book is peppered with errors. The errors are so obvious that the author and McGraw-Hill should be ashamed to publish it in its current state (the first programming example won't even compile!).

This book has a lot of errors and I would not pay more than \$1 for it. But this book is a (not great) paper weight

I felt the need to add a few comments about this book directed to those who may be looking for a primer on Java database programming. Having read several JDBC books, I feel that this is the best written of the bunch! Though there may be some typos in the code examples, nobody that I've read explains JDBC concepts as well or as simply as this author does. Because of the book's age, you may want to read another reference for the new method syntax along with this one. But don't shortchange yourself, read this book if you're trying to gain an understanding of Java database programming. If you're only looking for code examples, you can find those on the web.

Although the book does have good information, I can't help but think that the author didn't intend on having his hard work put to print with all the errors! Clearly the publisher and the editor are at fault here; the writer is responsible for the content, but has little control over his changes being applied to the final script. If you can get passed the type-o's and code errors, Siple does offer good time saving advice in a simple manner that even novice JAVA programmers like me can understand.

I was looking for a book to fill in some holes with GUI (Swing) interfaces for JDBC. I purchased the book because it appeared to have some GUI examples. In chapter 1 (page 4) the author stated, "All user interface components used in this book are contained in the Java Abstract Windowing Toolkit (AWT) or in the Java Foundation Classes (JFC)". Then in chapter 12 (page 180), there is a note that states, "Being a UNIX hack, I prefer simple command line interfaces whenever possible. I leave the development of a GUI front end to this class as an exercise for the reader." The first two examples don't work; both contain syntax errors, and the second calls methods that don't exist. Flipping through the book it appears there are numerous examples, however all of the examples (except for the first two) build up to the only GUI app in the book. The CD-ROM has little useful data: JDK 1.1.4 (1.1.6 is available), examples from the book (which are corrected, Hmm), and a few links that most Java developers already are aware of. The author does cover the basics of JDBC, however I was hoping for more real-world examples, instead of one application that I would not consider real-world.

This book is from the Java Masters series, but that does not mean that you'll master Java and database connectivity from reading it. For starters the text and code examples are full of errors. The

author provides some useful rules to follow in designing database code and then fails to implement these in the examples. His treatment of RMI seems to be thrown in to fill pages. No mention of a JDBC/RMI bridge for example. The SQL used in the book is basic with no coverage of more advanced features. The database browser, the final showcase of the book, uses an outdated version of JFC (0.4) and won't work with JFC 0.7 or later. This is perhaps inevitable with the rapid changes coming from Javasoft but the author works at Sun and given the publication date I had expected more up to date coverage. If you are looking for a good introduction/reference to the JDBC API I'd recommend 'JDBC Database Access with Java' from Addison Wesley. That doesn't cover developing real applications but at least it is an accurate reference and comes from the folks who wrote JDBC.

Although I am only 5 chapters into the book, it does have a lot of good information and it is well-explained. The book has a good progression from basic to advanced topics and doesn't waste a lot of words as many computer books do. My only complaint is that it is obvious they didn't run a spell checker on the text. There are many misspellings and many grammatical errors. The author also has a few typos in some of the source code. For example, there is no function getColumnSize() in the ResultSetMetaData interface, it's getColumnDisplaySize(). In spite of this, the book is still good. Although I would rather have paid less and gotten no CD because there isn't much worthwhile on the CD unless you're too lazy to type the source code (better yet, why doesn't the publisher just post the source on their web page like Osborne does?)

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