

Preface to the First Edition

Java is yet another computer language but with a difference. It is the only language that is purely object-oriented. Java's designers have borrowed the best features of many existing languages such as C and C++ and added a few new features to form a simple, easy-to-learn and object-oriented language. It is the most complete programming language available today. It is also a secure language, making it well-suited for Internet programming. One of the important reasons for Java's success, apart from its object-orientation, is the amazing functionality it adds to the World Wide Web.

Java has two lives, one as a stand-alone computer language for general-purpose programming and the other as a supporting language for Internet programming. The general-purpose programs are known as applications and programs written for Internet are known as applets. Till recently, C++ has been considered as an industry standard language for object-oriented programming. Now the battle between Java and C++ has begun. We must get ready for an industry starving for Java programmers.

This book is for novice as well as experienced programmers. While the book assumes that the reader's ultimate goal is to develop Java programs, both applications and applets, it does not assume any significant knowledge of programming on the part of the reader. If the reader is a C or C++ programmer, he or she may probably be able to read through some of the initial chapters quickly. However, a novice reader will need to go through the whole book carefully.

This book comprehensively covers all aspects of Java language. Beginning with an introduction to the language and its relationship with the Internet and World Wide Web, it explores Java's object-oriented features, and then moves on to discuss advanced topics that are unique to Java.

The concept of learning by example has been stressed throughout the book. Each major feature of the language is treated in depth followed by a complete program example to illustrate its use. Wherever necessary, concepts are explained pictorially to facilitate better understanding.

The book contains a large number of example programs. All programs have been tested and, wherever possible, the nature of output has been discussed. These programs also demonstrate the general principles of a good programming style. This book has all that a reader needs to start programming in Java right away.

Finally, this book is for everyone who is either excited about Internet or interested in Java Programming.

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