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Head First Servlets And JSP, Second Edition



Synopsis

Looking to study up for the new J2EE 1.5 Sun Certified Web Component Developer (SCWCD) exam? This book will get you way up to speed on the technology you'll know it so well, in fact, that you can pass the brand new J2EE 1.5 exam. If that's what you want to do, that is. Maybe you don't care about the exam, but need to use servlets and JSPs in your next project. You're working on a deadline. You're over the legal limit for caffeine. You can't waste your time with a book that makes sense only AFTER you're an expert (or worse, one that puts you to sleep). Learn how to write servlets and JSPs, what makes a web container tick (and what ticks it off), how to use JSP's Expression Language (EL for short), and how to write deployment descriptors for your web applications. Master the c:out tag, and get a handle on exactly what's changed since the older J2EE 1.4 exam. You don't just pass the new J2EE 1.5 SCWCD exam, you'll understand this stuff and put it to work immediately. Head First Servlets and JSP doesn't just give you a bunch of facts to memorize; it drives knowledge straight into your brain. You'll interact with servlets and JSPs in ways that help you learn quickly and deeply. And when you're through with the book, you can take a brand-new mock exam, created specifically to simulate the real test-taking experience.

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Customer Reviews

Looking for either an enjoyable intro into JSP and Servlets or material on passing the Sun Certified Web Component Developer exam? Grab a copy of Head First Servlets & JSP by Bryan Basham, Kathy Sierra, and Bert Bates. It rocks...Chapter list: Intro; Why use Servlets & JSPs; Web app architecture; Mini MVC tutorial; Being a servlet; Being a web app; Conversational state; Being a JSP; Script-free pages; Custom tags are powerful; When JSTL is not enough; Deploying your web app; Keep it secret, keep it safe; The power of filters; Enterprise design patterns; Final mock exam; Index

I've stated my preference in the past to learning subjects with a bit of humor thrown in. OK... a *lot* of humor. If I have a chance to pick up a new tech skill with a study guide that makes me laugh and stay interested, I'm in heaven. Is it any wonder then that I absolutely love the Head First series? Bates and Sierra have created a concept that is unlike anything else on the market. Through the use of cartoons, hand-drawn examples, off-beat questions, and other various types of learning material, they engage your brain on a number of levels. And as a result, you're sucked in and learning stuff in spite of yourself. In this installment, they tackle the subject of servlets and JSPs. Rather than try and explain things "technically", they have a common cast of characters throughout the book making observations and points about the material. Using the hand-drawn notes around illustrations and code, you quickly understand the underlying concepts of what happens with servlet requests and responses, and how JSPs interact with the web server.

I bought Head First Servlets and JSP after enjoying Head First Java and learning a lot very quickly from it. I liked the authors' style in Head First Java and I appreciated the way they summarized the information for me and focused on the important things in order to get productive quickly. This book is very sub-par in comparison to Head First Java. Where was their editor in this book? The authors seem to be relying on their snappy style and illustrations in order to make up for the fact that the organization and consistency in the book is poor. For example, in Head First Java, every chapter has "Bullet Point" sections that summarize and point out the most important things in the chapter. They're helpful for reviewing content or reviewing the main points of the chapter and give enough details to be useful reminders for coding or other activities. Many chapters are completely lacking any "bullet points" sections at all while other chapters have them. The exam quizzes questions at the end of some chapters are NOT adequate substitutes for bullet point summaries (they appear sporadically in some chapters and not in others, also). The book has the feel of something that was conglomerated from various authors with different writing styles and abilities. Some chapters are short and manageable while some are monstrous and not well thought out. If I were to guess, I'd

bet that Head First Servlets and JSP was quickly conglomerated from multiple authors. It seems rushed to print with little time for revision and without editors that bothered enforcing attention to consistency, detail and technical accuracy. O'Reilly and the editors of this book, hang your head in shame for such mediocre work.

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