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The Java Programming Language, 4th Edition



Synopsis

Direct from the creators of the Java® programming language, the completely revised fourth edition of *The Java® Programming Language* is an indispensable resource for novice and advanced programmers alike. Developers around the world have used previous editions to quickly gain a deep understanding of the Java programming language, its design goals, and how to use it most effectively in real-world development. Now, Ken Arnold, James Gosling, and David Holmes have updated this classic to reflect the major enhancements in Java® 2 Standard Edition 5.0 (J2SE® 5.0). The authors systematically cover most classes in Java®'s main packages, `java.lang.*`, `java.util`, and `java.io`, presenting in-depth explanations of why these classes work as they do, with informative examples. Several new chapters and major sections have been added, and every chapter has been updated to reflect today's best practices for building robust, efficient, and maintainable Java software. Key changes in this edition include

- New chapters on generics, enums, and annotations, the most powerful new language features introduced in J2SE 5.0
- Changes to classes and methods throughout to reflect the addition of generics
- Major new sections on assertions and regular expressions
- Coverage of all the new language features, from autoboxing and variable argument methods to the enhanced for-loop and covariant return types
- Coverage of key new classes, such as `Formatter` and `Scanner`

The Java® Programming Language, Fourth Edition, is the definitive tutorial introduction to the Java language and essential libraries and an indispensable reference for all programmers, including those with extensive experience. It brings together insights you can only get from the creators of Java: insights that will help you write software of exceptional quality.

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Customer Reviews

I have worked with Java for two years, and have a six-year background in C++. I didn't seek an introduction to Java when I bought *The Java Programming Language Third Edition*, and I would use many of my own notes, and the book chapters in a different order, with beginning programmers (although it would make an excellent university programming text, supported with tutorials and workshops). Experienced programmers will love this book, but beginners (first-time programmers) should come back to it. But the book's strength is its concise, comprehensive unfolding of insight into the Java language model -- more than just the object model. Serious programmers will not regret reviewing everything they thought they knew about Java (especially those of us who regularly work in C++ and Object Pascal as well as in Java). I will read this book every six months, and dip into it daily, if necessary. It offers me a nice blend of terse explanation and illustrative examples of the language core. This is clearly one of the few "5 star" Java core language books available: good scope, well written, trustworthy -- expert knowledge at my fingertips. Use this book to polish your insight.

This is one of the best java programming books that I have read. The book concentrates ONLY in java concept and programming language, it does not cover networking, no Graphics, etc... Its advantage is to help newbie concentrated on the core language first. Novice might find the topic a bit too advanced and terse to digest, more advanced programmer will find the book concise and can be used as a reference for later used. Advanced programmer will find the book a bit too verbose--unlike the C programming language from Dennis and Brian which is very terse, great as reference. The book offers enough depth that it requires few different re-reads for most people. I think the book is on par with the "C programming language" as a reference of the language, I also like the layout of the page, very easy on the eyes to help the reading. It comes with good examples. The book is printed on high quality paper...A must have JAVA book, but not the first java book for novice.

If you're looking for a more academic approach to learning Java, as well as one written by *the* authorities in the Java world, you'll be interested in this title... *The Java Programming Language, Fourth Edition* by Ken Arnold, James Gosling, and David Holmes. Contents: A Quick Tour; Classes and Objects; Extending Classes; Interfaces; Nested Classes and Interfaces; Enumeration Types;

Tokens, Values, and Variables; Primitives as Types; Operations and Expressions; Control Flow; Generic Types; Exceptions and Assertions; Strings and Regular Expressions; Threads; Annotations; Reflection; Garbage Collection and Memory; Packages; Documentation Comments; The I/O Package; Collections; Miscellaneous Utilities; System Programming; Internationalization and Localization; Standard Packages; Application Evolution; Useful Tables; Further Reading; Index

From a content standpoint, this book is very comprehensive. If it's something you need to know to learn Java, you'll find it covered. Given that the authors were deeply involved in building Java, that's not surprising. There's not an overabundance of coding samples, but the discussion of features and concepts is extensive. I got the feeling I was reading a college level textbook on the Java language instead of a more mainstream version that would talk to people of lesser skills. I don't necessarily consider that a bad thing, as there are some people who don't like their material doled out in a "Head First" fashion. If that describes you, then this might be a better choice. I also consider this to be an excellent choice for someone who wants both a tutorial and a reference book rolled into a single volume. In fact, this almost tends more towards the reference side than the tutorial side. Good coverage of material and subject matter. It may not be the most entertaining read, but you'll be well equipped to go forth into the world of Java development when you finish.

After reading this book and working many of the exercises within, you'll know the basics of the Java language better than most Java programmers do. The authors don't waste time on explaining the basics of object-oriented programming or details of the Java class library. If you already know OOP and feel comfortable with reading the online documentation then this is the book for you! This book is ideal for C++ programmers who don't know Java, but I'd also highly recommend it to programmers who already know Java but want to jump to the expert level or want to learn the new features of Java 2.

Although I have been programming with Java for three years, I still found this book (third edition) valuable. However, if you are looking for a good introductory Java book, I would recommend Bruce Eckel's *Think in Java* (2nd Edition) instead.

If you are already a developer and wanted to learn Java then this is the book for you. This book clearly explains the language its nuances (this book is not verbose). The examples used by authors to demonstrate the concepts are excellent. I programmed a lot in C/C++ and the books I used to learn those languages are "The C Programming Language" and "The C++ Programming Language"

respectively. Ironically, when I started learning Java I did not take up this book. Instead I tried several books and there are some good books out there but nothing that suited me well. I prefer "to the point" discussion that this book provides when learning a language and also like to know why a certain feature was included in the language. This book did exactly that. But if you are new to programming, then this book may not be for you. Other books that you may like to take a look at are: 1) Thinking in Java. This is available on the for Free (But its too verbose for my tastes). 2) Taming java threads (By Allan Holub. A very nice discussion of Java Threads and Caveats)

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