Book Review

*Advanced J2EE Platform Development: Applying Integration Tier Patterns*

by

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This is an ideal book for audiences with an in-depth understanding of software design and some Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) experience. The main focus of the book is on providing a methodology for extracting the business logic from a legacy system, and integrating those applications when building J2EE applications.

The cookbook-like approach works well, with each chapter representing a step in the recipe toward multi-tier software architectures implemented in J2EE. The first chapter explains how to develop a domain model to identify and capture the business entities of an enterprise. The second chapter builds on the domain model to create a design model, and describes the techniques for bridging legacy systems and J2EE. Chapter 3 implements these bridging techniques, and chapter 4 describes how to make them reusable. Here, the authors introduce the idea of a common domain model. This model uses an agreed-upon (standardized) idea of business entities to be shared across all software components. While the idea is neither new nor revolutionary, it is well presented in the context of the problem at hand, and is well articulated through the case examples. Chapter 5 provides an example of how J2EE applications can be designed using the methodologies described in the previous chapters.

Use case studies, with ample code listings and diagrams, are contained in the book. The chapter layout is well structured, with appropriate headings, figures, and tables. Academics may find the book shallow, with a disturbing deficiency of bibliographic and reference material from past and current research in computer science (where, in the area of software design, there are over 3,500 publications). Practitioners may be more forgiving, but may need to consult other publications if they require better coverage of the underlying theoretical foundation.

Overall, this book contains useful ideas and techniques for the seasoned software designer embarking on the integration of legacy systems in the J2EE environment. It could serve as a good roadmap for the steps required during design and integration, as long as the reader can keep the big picture in perspective and remain distant from the details provided in the analysis of the examples.