The Java Class Libraries: An Annotated Reference (Java Series) (v. 1)
Synopsis

Providing coverage of the Java API and the Window Toolkit and Applet packages, this text features detailed examples that are drawn from the author's experience of programming with the API.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a great book, but you want the second edition, which covers up to Java 1.1. Its ISBN is different.

I have the book by my side at all times when working on my Java code. It is indispensable. All the classes are list alphabetically which helps in locating what you need. The 2nd edition is out now that covers Java 1.1 classes. A must have!!!

It will take you no more than a second or two after opening this book to realize that your search for the perfect Java reference guide is over. Co-authored by one of the founding members and lead developer of the Java project at Sun, this book weighs in at almost 1700 pages, over 140 of which are used for the comprehensive index, and all of which are put to good use. The book covers all the class libraries, including the AWT and applet packages, and includes brief overviews of each package. The bulk of the book is made up of the class library reference section. The classes are organized alphabetically, with their member methods following. Each class is introduced with a
diagram showing it's place within the class hierarchy, along with its syntax, a description, a member summary, and example code. Each member entry includes sections on purpose, syntax, description, parameters, see also, and an example (some of which refer back to the class example). According to the book cover there are more than 600 examples and over 20,000 lines of code. (There is no CD-ROM included but the code can be downloaded from the Web.) If all this sounds like a dream come true for Java programmers, it is. Although I haven’t spent enough time with the book to be able to judge its accuracy, I would recommend it without hesitation to anyone programming in Java. It’s the reference guide you've been waiting for.

Though the authors say that this book is a reference than a tutorial, I have used it as a tutorial for learning Java. Anybody who has a little understanding of the Java language can benefit immensely from going through this book. Though this book does not cover JDK 1.1 related changes it should not matter much since there are hardly any browsers which support JDK 1.1 as yet. Moreover, a version of this book for JDK 1.1 seems to be in the offing. In my opinion anybody who wants to get a thorough grasp of Pre JDK 1.1 Java needs to read this book after getting acquainted with the language from an introductory book like the Java Tutorial by Mary Campione and Kathy Walrath.

If you are doing JDK 1.02 programming, this book is required. I can find anything I need about any class quicker with this book than with any other Java class reference. I need to know specific return values from methods, its there. I need to look at an example of how to use a class or method, it there. This is the easiest (but heaviest) Java reference book I have used. However...If you plan on coding exclusively with JDK 1.1 I would wait for the upcoming two volume set (by the same title) from these authors. If they are as good as this volume, they will be worth the money in the time that they save.

I have been using this book ever since I have had it with me. I think with some programming background and the concept of OOP, I have been able to grasp the structure and ways of Java much faster. The examples illustrating the classes have become the basis on which I write my Java programs. I found these examples much illustrative of Java and OOP than those in other books (compared to 4 other books I have referred to). I think this book should be beside the computer of any Java programmers! --James B D Joshi

After browsing a broad range of Java books for several days or so, and visiting some technical
bookshops that offers hundreds of Java books, finally I found the best one. I think there is no Java book that can be compared to this one. All classes have been described very clearly with some program examples... It is a straightforward designed book that allows you to find what you need directly since the material is organized in an alphabetical order....... Ow... what a Java book !!!!!!!!!!!

This book is an excellent reference book. Every bundled Class Libraries is covered in an easy to read format. It is trivial to find the information you are looking for in this book. The book part is that the book has an unbelievable number of example programs. It's great; you just look up what you need and get syntax, explanation and example code all in one spot. It is my favorite Java reference book and highly recommend it to any serious Java programmer.

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