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Head First Servlets And JSP: Passing The Sun Certified Web Component Developer Exam (SCWCD)



Synopsis

Imagine a world without eBay...unthinkable! How would you get that Farrah Fawcett poster, retired Beanie Baby, or first-edition pet rock? Handling over a gazillion (OK, we exaggerate--it's actually only 1 billion) page views each day, server-side Java makes eBay work. Isn't it time you learned the latest (J2EE 1.4) versions of Servlets & JSPs? 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 Sun Certified Web Component Developer (SCWCD) 1.4 exam. If that's what you want to do, that is. Maybe you don't care about the exam, but need to use Servlets & 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). No problem. Head First Servlets and JSP's brain-friendly approach drives the knowledge straight into your head (without sharp instruments). You'll interact with servlets and JSPs in ways that help you learn quickly and deeply. It may not be The Da Vinci Code, but quickly see why so many reviewers call it "a page turner". Most importantly, this book will help you use what you learn. It won't get you through the exam only to have you forget everything the next day. Learn to write servlets and JSPs, what makes the Container tick (and what ticks it off), how to use the new JSP Expression Language (EL), what you should NOT write in a JSP, how to write deployment descriptors, secure applications, and even use some server-side design patterns. Can't talk about Struts at a cocktail party? That'll change. You won't just pass the exam, you will truly understand this stuff, and you'll be able to put it to work right away. This new exam is tough--much tougher than the previous version of the SCWCD. The authors of Head First Servlets and JSP know: they created it. (Not that it EVER occurred to them that if they made the exam really hard you'd have to buy a study guide to pass it.) The least they could do is give you a stimulating, fun way to pass the thing. If you're one of the thousands who used Head First EJB to pass the SCWCD exam, you know what to expect!

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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; IndexI'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. And given that there are exercises and questions at the end of each chapter (along with the answers), you have a chance to reinforce your learning immediately. There are two uses for this book. The primary goal is to help you pass the Sun Certified Web Component Developer exam. If you already know about servlets and JSPs, get the book for the mock exam and the questions at the end of each chapter. The authors helped write the actual Sun test, so you'll get a good feel for the types of questions you'll face. The other use of this book would be to learn and understand the subject matter, like a tutorial. Once again, an excellent choice for that purpose. You'll still need to get some sort of "official" reference book of some sort if you get deeper into the material, but this is a perfect way to get

started. Once again, another winner from the warped minds that created the Head First concept. May they continue to thrive for a long time!

Written in the now familiar light and funny style of the Head First Series, this text is also extremely precise, clear, correct and informative. Be warned though, it has the wrong title. (that's why I give it 4 star instead of 5). It should be called Head First SCWCD and not Head First Servlets & JSP, since the scope of this text is to prepare you for the SCWCD exam, and it succeeds in that brilliantly. As a first book to learn Servlets & JSP programming though, I think it is a terrible, if funny, book. In fact it is very good on conceptual matters and especially on the tricky cases and questions that you might encounter in the exam, but it lacks the hands on and by example approach necessary to learn how to actually DO things.[...] This said, it is still a great book if you intend to refresh or improve your Servlet and JSP knowledge, or to actually take the exam and get certified. Only, please, enough with this style, let's find another funny one, if I read another Java book with martial arts characters in it I will feel sick ! ;)

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. Aside from the editorial and multiple-authors problems, this book

might be useful if you're looking for something long, entertaining, sometimes unfocused and inconsistent, but with some good information. Just don't expect it to live up to the high standards of Head First Java. It doesn't meet these high standards.

I have read the book and pass the SCWCD exam. Overall speaking, this is an excellent book for prepare the exam. However, there are two issues with the book¹. The layout of the book content is very uncommon. It is good, but you need time to get used with it.² There are too many error in the first edition. You can find the errata on Oreilly website, which is about 16 pages!

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