The Java Developers Almanac 1.4, Volume 2



JAVA开发人员年鉴

影印版 (第1.4版, 第2卷)





Java 开发人员年鉴

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THE Java Developers ALMANAC 1.4

Volume 2

Examples and Quick Reference

Patrick Chan

★Addison-Wesley

内容简介

本年鉴是 Java 类库的一幅全图。它覆盖了几乎所有的库,可以从本书中方便 地查找方法名、参数及其他细节,还可以快速地了解类和类之间的关系。

本年鉴是所有 Java 程序开发人员必备的参考书。

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Patrick Chan

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To Kevin and Melissa
For the things that really matter.

Preface

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Java™ Developers Almanac.

There was a time when I intimately knew all of the Java class libraries. I knew how it all worked and exactly how everything fit together. I knew what subclassed what, what overrode what, and so on (of course, it helped that I was one of the original developers :-). But aside from the occasional inability to remember which argument of Vector.insertElementAt() is the index, I rarely had to refer to any reference documentation.

Version 1.1 added 250 classes and my mastery of the Java class libraries was reduced to half. This left me feeling a little disoriented since I no longer knew my way around, and the increased size of the libraries exceeded my ability to recall the details of the signatures.

Since I make my living writing Java code, it was important that I find an efficient way of "navigating" the new libraries. What I wanted was a quick overview of all of the libraries; something that covered every class and briefly showed their relationships; something that would allow me to explore and quickly learn about new packages. This need led to this book.

The JavaTM Developers Almanac is like a map of the Java class libraries. It's a compact and portable tool that covers almost all¹ of the libraries, if only from a bird's-eye view. It's great for reminding you of things like method names and parameters. With today's class count at 3000, you're bound to forget a few details now and again. The almanac is great for discovering the relationships between the classes, such as determining all methods that return an image. It's also great for quickly exploring a new package.

While this book is comprehensive, the libraries are so vast that there simply isn't enough room to provide equally comprehensive documentation. So if you're working with a package that is new to you, you'll probably also need a tutorial book such as *The Java Tutorial, Third Edition* (Campione and Walrath, Addison-Wesley, 1998). a detailed reference such as *The Java Class Libraries, Volumes 1 and 2* (Chan, Lee, and Kramer, Addison-Wesley, 1998), and/or the on-line documentation at http://java.sun.com/docs.

^{1.} Due to size constraints, the javax.swing.plaf.* packages are left out of Volume 2.

The book is divided into four parts, briefly described next.

Part 1: Packages

This part covers each package in alphabetical order: a brief description of the package, a description of each class and interface in the package, and a hierarchy diagram showing the relationship between the classes and interfaces in the package. This part is useful when you need an overview of a package or want to see what other related classes are available in a package.

Most packages provide a number of examples demonstrating common usage of classes in the package. The examples are designed to demonstrate a particular task using the smallest amount of code possible. Their main purpose is to show you which classes are involved in the described task and generally how they interact with each other. The code for the examples are available on http://javaalmanac.com.

Part 2: Classes

This part contains 500 pages of class tables, one for each class in all the covered packages. Each class table includes a class tree that shows the ancestry of the class and a list of every member in the class. Also included in the member lists are inherited members from superclasses. Thus you have a complete view of all members made available by a class. This part is useful when you're already working with a particular class and want a quick reference to all of the members in the class. New for this edition are example numbers on some of the members. This number refers to an example that demonstrates the use of the member (or a related member).

Part 3: Topics

This part is a set of quick-reference tables on miscellaneous topics. For example, the topic title "Java 1.4" contains a detailed analysis of the API differences between Java 1.3 and Java 1.4.

Part 4: Cross-Reference

This part is a cross-reference of all of the Java classes and interfaces covered in this book. This part is useful when you have questions such as What methods return an Image object? or What are all the descendents of java.io.InputStream?

Updates

As the title suggests, this book is intended to be updated whenever a new major version of the Java class libraries is released. However, before a new version is published, I will be placing any new material that I manage to write on the http://javaalmanac.com website. Since this book is designed for you to use in your everyday programming-related work, I would love to hear how I could improve it for the next version or simply what you thought about it. Although I'm afraid I probably won't be able to reply, I promise to read and consider each suggestion I receive. You can reach me at the following e-mail address:

almanac14@xeo.com

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Patrick Chan July 2002

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