

J2SE (Java Standard Edition) - Recommended Reading

I maintain this book list for use of my readers, customers, attendants of my courses, and everybody else who is interested. The list does not aim to be complete in any way; it contains titles that I personally find worth reading. The order in which titles are listed does not imply any judgement of the books; instead the ordering is by topic from essentials of common interest to titles devoted to more esoteric, special-interest issues.

Introduction to the Java Programming Language



[REVIEW](#) (3rd Ed.)

The Java Programming Language, 4th ed.

Ken Arnold, James Gosling, David Holmes
Addison-Wesley, August 2005
ISBN: 0321349806

From the creators of the Java programming language, this 4th edition of The Java Programming Language is a valuable resource for both novice and advanced programmers. It explains the basic design goals of the language and the application of the language in real-world development. It provides unique insights into why and how the language was designed and intended to be used.



Core Java 2 : Volume 1: Fundamentals, 7th ed.

Cay S. Horstmann, Gary Cornell
Prentice Hall, August 2004
ISBN: 0131482025

Core Java 2, Volume 2: Advanced Features, 7th ed.

Cay S. Horstmann, Gary Cornell
Prentice Hall, November 22, 2004
ISBN: 0131118269

Several volumes covering the core language as well as the JDK. A sound introduction, readable, well-organized, accurate, and comprehensive.



Thinking in Java, 4th ed.

Bruce Eckel

Prentice Hall, February 2006

ISBN: 0131872486

A sound introduction Java written by the author of "Thinking in C++". Available for [DOWNLOAD](#) at Bruce Eckel's website.

Best Practice Java Programming



REVIEW

Effective Java(tm) Programming Language Guide

Josh Bloch

Addison-Wesley, June 2001

ISBN: 0201310058

A helpful book containing an excellent collection of rules that reflect today's Java practice. It is a second-generation Java title (a la Scott Meyers) written by an engineer at Sun and gives insights into the programming techniques used for implementation of some of the Java platform libraries. Some of the advice given in the book is debatable. Nevertheless a thorough and excellent book.



REVIEW

Practical Java: Programming Language Guide

Peter Hagggar

Addison-Wesley, March 2000

ISBN 0201616467

Contains an excellent collection of rules that reflect today's Java practice. Some time in the near future most of the "tips" from this book will actually become "rules" in programming guides for Java projects.



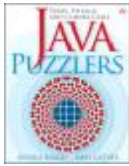
Hardcore Java

Robert Simmons

O'Reilly & Associates, March 2004

ISBN: 0596005687

I haven't had a chance to read the book yet, but from its table of contents it looks like an advanced Java book that is worth reading. The chapters that caught my eye are: "Coverage of all types of nested classes, including how to optimize anonymous and inner classes.", "Detailed discussion of immutable objects, including tips on when to use them (and when not to).", "Use of reflection and dynamic proxies, in both Java Standard and Enterprise editions.", "Expansive coverage of weak references, including usage patterns and their role in garbage collection and memory management."



Java Puzzlers: Traps, Pitfalls, and Corner Cases

Joshua Bloch & Neal Gafter

Addison Wesley Professional, June 2005

ISBN: 032133678X

The authors present pitfalls and quirks of the Java programming language in terms of a quiz. Most of the puzzles take the form of a short program whose behavior isn't what it seems. Can you figure out what it does? Part of the examples are instructive, quite a number are just corner cases. By and large the book is entertaining.



[REVIEW](#)

Java in Practice : Design Styles and Idioms for Effective Java

Nigel Warren, Philip Bishop

Addison-Wesley, January 1999

ISBN: 0201360659

Another title on Java idioms, not as good as [Haggar] and relatively thin. It has nice introductions into a couple of problem domains discussed in this course, but does not provide a detailed discussion of corresponding solutions. Pretty basic and valuable only for novices to object-oriented programming.



Java Performance and Scalability, Volume 1: Server-Side Programming Techniques

Dov Bulka

Addison-Wesley, June 5, 2000

ISBN: 0201704293

The author shares his experience in server-side performance tuning and discusses techniques to improve the performance and scalability of Java code.



[REVIEW](#)

The Elements of Java Style

Allan Vermeulen et.al.

Cambridge University Press, 2000

ISBN 0521777682

Covers base knowledge required of every Java programmer by providing a list of rules, each with a brief explanation and examples of correct use. Each rule is sensible, hardly any are debatable, and there is no excuse for ignoring any of them. Short, concise, with a strong focus on the essential and necessary.

Java 5.0 - New Language Features



**only available in
German**

Fortgeschrittene Programmierung mit Java 5

Johannes Nowak

Dpunkt Verlag, November 2004

ISBN: 3898643069

A book that according to its title claims to cover "advanced programming with Java 5". Despite of that claim the book lacks depth. The coverage of the new language features and APIs remains superficial and hardly provides more information and insights than can be found in the next best online tutorial. The book has lots of code examples, but the examples are very, very simple. Many of the more challenging effects of Java generics are not even touched on. Coverage of the concurrency utilities is neither up-to-date nor complete. (Seemingly the book went to print before the finalization of Java 5.0; it mentions classes that do not exist and omits others that do exist). By and large it is a tutorial that gives an introduction to Java 5.0.



**only available in
German**

Das Tiger-Release: Java 5 im Einsatz - Generics, Enums, Concurrent Programming

Friedrich Esser

Galileo Press, September 2004

ISBN: 3898424596

The book covers Java 5.0 with a reasonable level of depth and comprehensiveness. It devotes 100 pages to generics, addresses some of the minor new language features (such as autoboxing, enum, for-each, etc., but nothing about annotations), and covers the concurrency utilities including the new memory model. Apparently the author has a sound understanding of the new language features, but unfortunately he communicates poorly. The examples are usually overloaded and more academic than illustrating, and the text is often convoluted and lacks clarity. By and large, the book is useful and valuable for its content, but difficult to read and digest.



Java 1.5 Tiger: A Developer's Notebook

Brett McLaughlin and David Flanagan

O'Reilly & Associates, June 2004

ISBN: 0596007388

A very brief overview of the new language feature in Java 5.0. Well written, with lots of examples. It is extremely short on generics and the concurrency utilities, but covers the remaining new features in more detail.

JNI - Java Native Interface



Essential JNI - Java Native Interface

Rob Gordon and Alan McClellan

Prentice Hall, March 1998

ISBN 0-13-679895-0



The Java Native Interface - Programmer's Guide and Specification

Sheng Liang

Addison-Wesley, June 1999

ISBN: 0-201-32577-2