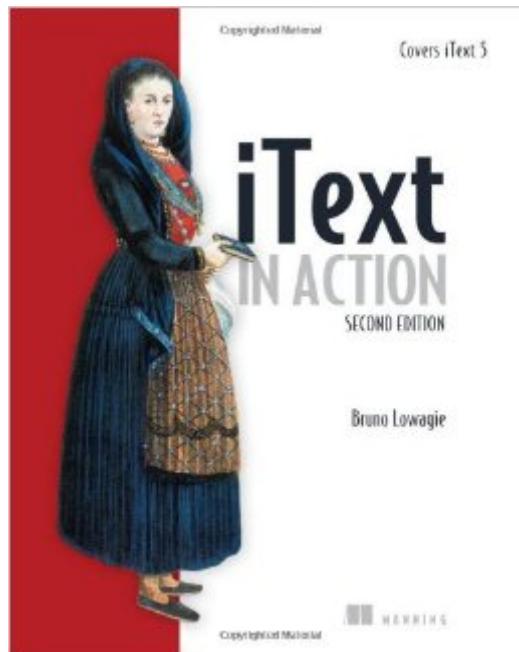


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iText In Action



Synopsis

With iText, one can transform PDF documents into live, interactive applications quickly and easily. This free and open source library for Java and .NET is the leading tool of its kind, and was primarily developed and maintained by Bruno Lowagie, the author of this book. *iText in Action*, Second Edition offers an introduction and a practical guide to iText and the internals of PDF. While at the entry level iText is easy to learn, there's an astonishing range of things you can do once you dive below the surface. This book lowers the learning curve and, through numerous innovative and practical examples, unlocks the secrets hidden in Adobe's PDF Reference. This totally revised new edition introduces the new functionality added to iText in recent releases, and it updates all examples from JDK 1.4 to Java 5. The examples are in Java but they can be easily adapted to .NET. Purchase of the print book comes with an offer of a free PDF, ePub, and Kindle eBook from Manning. Also available is all code from the book.

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The iText library is a bit too preoccupied with pass editing. There's too much event oriented code. In contrast, Adobe Illustrator has no issues opening up a complex PDF and offering full editing tools in place. In my opinion, the iText API design is more than a little off. The code is heavy. Namespace conflicts occur left and right. (YARC- Yeah, another rectangle class)The javadocs are non-existent. Even the parameters aren't documented well. Example:"public void addTemplate(PdfTemplate template, float a, float b, float c, float d, float e, float f)Adds a template to this content. "This book won't solve many of the javadoc shortcomings. It's a little too much cookbook on the simple obvious items, and not enough detail on the esoteric.STILL, iText is likely the finest Java PDF API out there. Definitely a love hate relationship, but if you're going to use it, you'll need this book.

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This book does what it says on the description. It gives a good in-depth, step by step review of the iText framework. I used this for a project I had at work to edit PDFs (using .net and iTextSharp.) This gave a good insight into how the framework works and doesn't get too buried in how a PDF actually works.

If you're a software developer working with the ubiquitous PDF format, you have probably heard of the iText library for Java developers (or it's cousin, the iTextSharp library for C# developers). iText/iTextSharp is the de facto standard toolkit for working with PDFs--fast, relatively easy, comprehensive. If you need to stuff an Acrobat Form with data, iText is for you. If you need to parse a document into pages, iText is for you. If you need to assemble thousands of pages of construction documents in various sizes and forms, ship them halfway around the world for local printing and delivery--iText is indispensable. (Been there, done that, used iTextSharp.) But--iText is not perfect. iText is pseudo-free software, in the sense that the library can be downloaded for free--but the library is next to useless without the documentation. And the documentation is this book--iText in Action (Second Edition). To put it another way, to use iText you have to RTFM--and this is the, ahem, manual you have to read. Lots of examples, lots of explanation, lots of help with your project--I highly recommend this book.

This book provided many good examples, plus good references, and lots of good examples. It covered all the things that are important, plus others. It gave me all I needed.

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