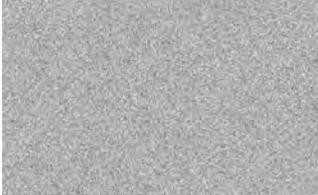




Foreword



Internet is going to be a dominant force in the 21st century. By the year 2010, it would be virtually impossible for any business to be completely unconnected with the Internet and, therefore, application development in the years to come will be predominately based on the Web Technologies. Web services, in particular, are going to play an extremely pivotal role in future applications development. However, this was not the case a few decades or even a few years back.

If the 1960s could be called decade of mainframe computing, the 1970s the decade of minicomputers, the 1980s the decade of the PC, the decade of 1990 was dominated by networking in general and the Internet in particular. The turn of the century not only faced and successfully overcame the Y2K menace, but also saw the bubble of the Internet and the dotcom finally burst.

At one time, people actually believed that the Internet could solve almost all the problems. Thanks to the media, everybody believed that almost all businesses could be conducted on the net and that the brick and mortar business model was almost breathing its last. The Java language and the web architectures started becoming popular. But, after the dotcom burst, the interest in the Internet started receding.

However, though, Internet is not the panacea for all the ills or business challenges, it is far from dead. While the Business-to-Consumer (B2C) model will have to undergo a number of major changes, the Business-to-Business (B2B) model is a very sturdy one. In fact, almost all the IT Systems that will be designed in times to come will have to be based on or be connected with the web in some fashion or other. Therefore, the basic understanding of web architectures—J2EE, .Net, the aspects related to performance, security, design, XML, Web services, WAP and many other aspects—is going to be extremely important for not only the programmer, but also project/business managers, designers and architects.

It is on this background that the present book written by Achyut S. Godbole and Atul Kahate is an extremely important contribution to the complete understanding of Web Technologies. The book is written in an extremely simple language with very good and illustrative figures, which enhance the understanding of the subject. The authors have succeeded in demystifying the subject by presenting a complex subject in a very simple and easy-to-understand manner.

The organization of the text, its sequence, the summaries and questions at the end of each chapter make this an ideal text for any student of Computer Science/Information Technology at Bachelor's or Master's level. It can also be used by the business managers/architects who want to get acquainted with this subject at a fairly deep level.

Web services and the related products are likely to create new paradigms in tomorrow's software world. This will give a tremendous boost to entrepreneurs around the world including India. I am sure this book will provide solid foundation for all such professionals.

I congratulate both Achyut and Atul for this work. I am very proud of Achyut because he is one of the rare CEOs who, apart from contributing to the growth of various companies and the IT business in general, has also managed to write serious technical books on Information Technology. I wish both the authors the best of success!

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