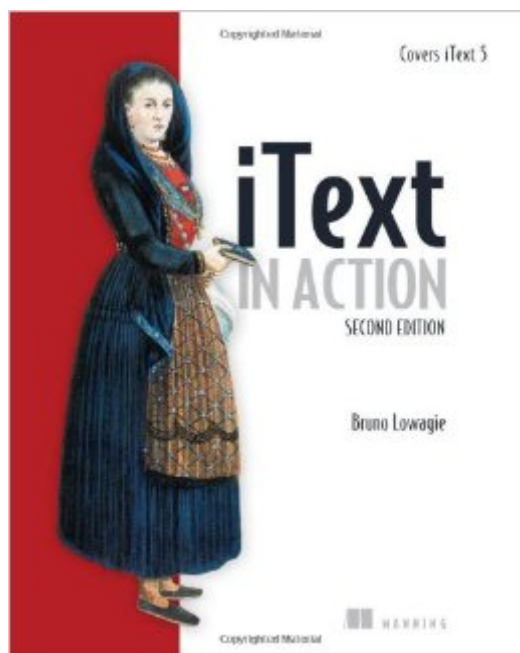


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iText In Action



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.

When it comes to producing a PDF from on-line data (generally a database) I found only two open source alternatives: Jasper Reports and iText. I chose iText and I'm glad I did. I needed a light weight (easy to install) PDF report generator. I am running some fairly complex SQL queries to generate the data and I need to deploy this code on a number of systems. I don't want it to fail because something in the infrastructure is missing. iText gave me all of this (well, I had to do the complex SQL myself, of course).iText in Action allowed me to develop this application on a very aggressive schedule (aren't all schedules aggressive?) The book clearly lays out how to use itext, fonts, tables and almost everything else I needed. On occasion I had to search on line to figure out how to do something, but most of the time I could find what I needed in the book.In summary, I recommend iText if you need something light weight. Jasper Reports would be a good way to build an enterprise report generator. But it's problematic if you want to deploy it on lots of systems. If you choose to use iText, then this book will be worth every penny you pay for it.[Later]As of 2014 I have not seen a good alternative to iText. The iText API is the best that I've seen for creating PDFs (if you just want to read PDFs there are other alternatives). iText appears to be used is a vast array of software products that create PDFs(although in some cases the version of iText is the earlier non-GPL encumbered open source version).iText is released under a combined GPL/Commerical license. As I understand the iText software license, if you use the GPL license you must open source the code that makes use of iText. If you're going to use iText for an open source project then it is reasonable to purchase this book.If you are not open sourcing your code you need to purchase a license, which starts at \$1325 (in 2014). As a software engineer I think that software engineers

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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 burred 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.

I was not familiar with the format of PDFs and this book made me productive within a few days. Well worth the \$.

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