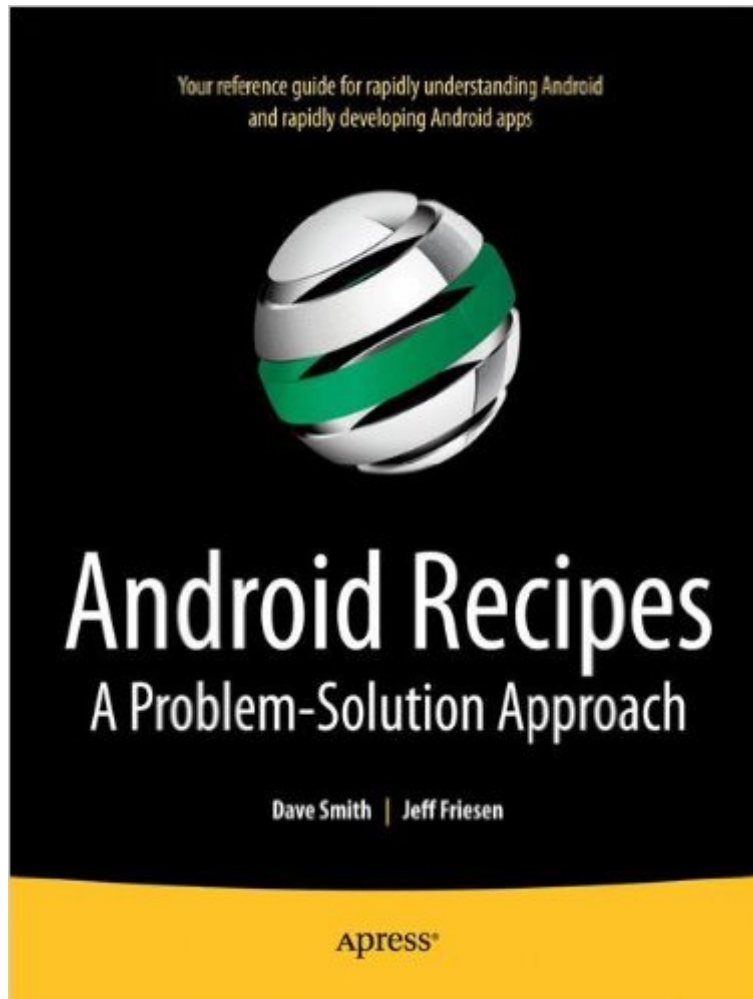


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Android Recipes: A Problem-Solution Approach



Synopsis

Android continues to be one of the leading mobile OS and development platforms driving today's mobile innovations and the apps ecosystem. Android appears complex, but offers a variety of organized development kits to those coming into Android with differing programming language skill sets. *Android Recipes: A Problem-Solution Approach* guides you step-by-step through a wide range of useful topics using complete and real-world working code examples. In this book, you'll start off with a recap of Android architecture and app fundamentals, and then get down to business and build an app with Google's Android SDK at the command line and Eclipse. Next, you'll learn how to accomplish practical tasks pertaining to the user interface, communications with the cloud, device hardware, data persistence, communications between applications, and interacting with Android itself. Finally, you'll learn how to leverage various libraries and Scripting Layer for Android (SL4A) to help you perform tasks more quickly, how to use the Android NDK to boost app performance, and how to design apps for performance, responsiveness, seamlessness, and more. Instead of abstract descriptions of complex concepts, in *Android Recipes*, you'll find live code examples. When you start a new project, you can consider copying and pasting the code and configuration files from this book, then modifying them for your own customization needs. This can save you a great deal of work over creating a project from scratch!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I own several Android/Java books, and even a couple from Apress, however, this Android Recipes book is now my favorite. I tend to do a lot more iOS programming versus Android/Java programming, so often I'm looking how to do the analogous programming task in the Android world which I'm already familiar in iOS. This book really is a complete solution for my situation. The UI recipes covers topics like animation, proper image assets, workflow, lists, dialogs, and dozens more. I was really pleased to see an introduction/overview to the tool DroidDraw, which I was unfamiliar with first-hand prior to reading the book. It exposed me to a really cool tool that is a real time saver and pretty neat. There are quite a few recipes on networking/communications. Items like SMS creation, parsing data with JSON/XML, utilizing a web service, Bluetooth connectivity, etc... Really great nuggets of info that get down to the nitty gritty of how to accomplish the task. There's not a lot of overview, so the book assumes you know the technology and don't need to be hand-held. The book has some great info on the device hardware like camera interactivity, recording audio/video, map location (GPS) type of recipes, etc... Most applications need to persist their data, so file writing and SQLite are covered in depth with a bunch of recipes. Services, scheduling tasks, interaction with other apps, background operations, and other system tasks are covered quite nicely with a few dozen recipes broken down in task-based instruction sets. I don't really do a lot of JAR "stuff" and/or Scripting (Python) so I didn't concentrate too much on those chapters, however, the coverage seemed to be pretty comprehensive and it's nice to know it's there if I ever have the need. I really appreciated the chapter on the Android NDK. This is one of those areas where the information on the Internet can be a bit overwhelming and scattered about. So I found it really useful to have a pint-size barrel of information that pretty much is all you need to get up & running with the NDK. I gave the book 5 stars, however, I do feel there is one area which could be improved, but I'm not sure it has anything to do with the author(s). I wish the layout of the book was more like a recipe book, one page containing a screenshot of the desired approach and text describing the intent, and subsequent pages laying out the solution. And have a hard-break between recipes, for easy of readability. I know this might make for a longer printed book, but in the e-format it sure would be a nice option.

This book is an excellent addition to the bookshelf of any serious android developer. Android Recipes is primarily geared toward an experienced android developer. However, even a beginning android developer (with a solid understanding of the Java programming language) will find it beneficial. What sets this book apart from most is its clear, concise explanations. I have tested and implemented many of the solutions in this book. After reading Chapter 5: Persisting Data, I was able

to implement a content provider of my own in no time. Pros: Clear, concise explanations of complex topics. Code examples available on-line. Cons: None This is the best android book I have read so far, and I definitely recommend it to anyone serious about Android development.

If you are an Android developer, this is book you want on your shelf. Android Recipes gives you examples of working code to solve real world problems. Sure you can find the information on-line, but where else will you find all of this information in single, easy to use source, without spending hours digging through random web pages looking for a working example. While reading the book, I found myself frequently stopping to make notes or sending myself an email so I could try something new at work the next day. I can say that my understanding of what is possible has grown and my apps are better as a result. Like many recipe books, the layout is a problem and solution format. The chapters are logically divided into things like system services, communications and networking, and working with libraries. Each chapter gives a multitude of problems which Android developers face daily. Then, an example is given of how to solve the problem. Best of all, the examples are thorough. Many books gloss over simple things like the layout of a screen. The authors have obviously taken the extra effort to provide a complete example of each solution. So what can you expect to learn? This is a VERY short list of some of the problems which this book helps solve. UI challenges such as manually handling UI rotation and creating pop-up menu actions. Parsing XML and JSON. Receiving SMS messages and capturing notification events. Capturing and playing back audio and video. Using the scripting layer to run shell and python scripts. Persistent data and working with the SQLite database. Integrating 3rd party JARs into your project. If you are on the fence about this book, I encourage you to take the plunge and buy it. You will not be disappointed.

I have a number of Android books and this is among the best for reference and getting pointed in the right direction on how to do a specific task. BUT, the code examples are incomplete -- both in terms of not being run-able projects, as well as individual sample files often missing things like needed import statements. Since the primary benefits that a "recipe" book adds over just googling for snippets are completeness and correctness of the examples, and this book is wanting in both, I've taken 2 stars off. Still, the book is worth buying. [Edit] After using this book for a while, I'm revising my rating up to 4. It has basically become my go-to book for most tasks. If it had complete working examples, it'd be nearly perfect for beginner topics. I'd also like to see a second edition covering more advanced topics.

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