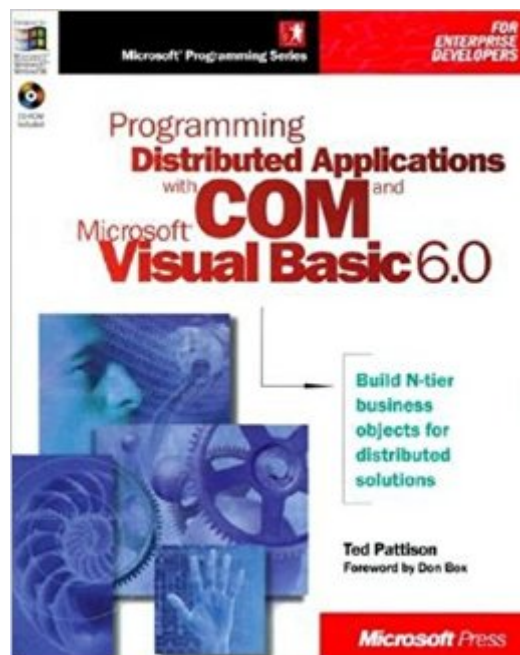


The book was found

Programming Distributed Applications With Com And Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 (Programming/Visual Basic)



Synopsis

This reference speaks to the huge base of Visual Basic developers who, until now, could only learn about COM by reading books written for C++ programmers. Now they can get up to speed quickly and participate in Microsoft's strategy for distributed computing. The Foreword is by Don Box, the industry guru for COM technology.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (61 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Probably a two-and-a-half, but I couldn't get any change. It would be amazing to this reviewer how anyone could walk away after reading this book and believe that they have gained anything but the most cursory and scattered explanation of what underlies VB ActiveX DLLs and EXEs (ActiveX Controls not covered). Only the most superficial details, if any at all, are presented concerning virtual base classes, class factories, proxies, or stubs. The scattered mini-listings of IDL and the attempts at explaining IDispatch and dual interfaces surely leave the COM ignorant thinking that they have arrived in the middle of a bad movie. Perhaps one can take solace in having picked up some computer buzz words. This book does not discriminate against VB programmers in providing mystical explanations. Even for a person steeped in C++/Win32 the explanations are simply inadequate. For example take the notion of apartments. The author starts mildly enough with good old Win32 processes and threads and then jumps into an admittedly artificial COM construct called

an apartment. If there is a coherent tie-in to processes and threads it is undetectable to this reviewer. Does it mean something to say that a thread "enters" an apartment? Is a thread a little man? Not one line of sample code is presented. Not one underlying Win32 API call that COM may use is detailed. This is definitely explanation light. But it can be said that the book is not without merit. It is just not what it purports to be. The actual use of Implements, TypeOf, & CreateObject keywords is shown and discussed. The book is also somewhat informative on N-tier business solutions using MTS. The author states that his background in C++ and COM is of very recent vintage.

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