

## Re: Books reviewed

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**From:** Earl (*brikshoe*)

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Hehe ... if they weren't on my list, I just haven't gotten to them yet. However, I'm cognizant of Bill Vaughn's stuff (I have read some of his stuff online), as well as the "recommended reading list" on devbuzz. Also, the Tiffany SQLCe book I've seen touted well, but just have not gotten to it yet.

There have been a few books I read before .Net that are so good that I hate letting go of, including "PocketPC Dvelopment in the Enterprise" by Christian Forsberg and Andreas Sjostrom (simply invaluable for pulling all of the PPc concept together) and "ADO: ActiveX Data Objects" by Jason T. Roff (a heckuva ADO reference).

Thanks for the advice — so when are you writing yours?

"William Ryan eMVP" <dotnetguru@comcast.nospam.net> wrote in message news:OXxG9VZREHA.3452@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...

> *I appreciate your intent here, but you've left off a few books that are so good and such must haves I have to chime in.*

>

> *If you are going to do any serious VB.NET Development, Francesco Balena's Visual Basic .NET Core Reference is the one book to have. There are a ton of*

> *other books that address certain areas better than this book does, but it's*

> *the most thorough book on VB.NET there is, and there's always enough discussion and samples of any topic to get you over the hump. However it by*

> *no means only caters to newbies and there are plenty of examples that more advanced developers would find useful*

>

> *As far as ADO.NET goes, I totally agree with your statement on Sceppa's book*

> *and from my observation, it's one of the most universally loved books there*

> *is. However Bill Vaughn's ADO & ADO.NET Best Practices is another must have. He's got a ton of insights in that book that only Gurus like Vaughn have I think these two books, although on the same subject, compliment*

each

> *other well. Learning ADO.NET wouldn't have been nearly as much fun without*

> *both of them.*

>

> *As far as CF Books go, there's a good list and discussion on them here*

> <http://www.devbuzz.com/content/books.asp>

> *On the Compact Framework, Dan Fergus and Larry Roof's Definitive Guide to*

> *the Compact Framework can't be left out of any must have list. Andy and*

> *Steven's book is the first one I bought on the subject and it's a first*

> *rate book from start to finish. Dan and Larry's Book though is quite*

*large*

> *and had the benefit of being published a little later on. As such they*

*have*

> *some more examples and they elaborate more on many subjects. If you think*

> *that Andy and Steven's book is dry, I don't know that I'd agree but I will*

> *say that they stay very focused on any given topic. Dan and Larry's book*

> *definitely injects a lot more of the author's personality's into it. But*

> *it's as good of a book as it gets. I wouldn't want to write CF apps*

*without*

> *both of them.*

>

> *Not everyone using the compact Framework will be using SQL Server CE, but*

*if*

> *you are, Rob Tiffany's Sql Server CE Development with the .NET Compact*

> *Framework is a must have for two reasons. 1) It's a great book, has a*

*bunch*

> *of great examples and is easy to follow 2) It's the only one out there on*

> *SQL CE and CF Development.*

>

> *Dan Fox and Jon Box's Building Solutions with the Microsoft .NET Compact*

> *Framework is another great one to have in the collection. It's smaller*

*than*

> *the above two are, but that in a way is its strength. The fact they get*

*so*

> *much info across in a relatively small amount of space is testimony to how*

> *good they communicate. It's not a definitive reference like the other*

*two*

> *are, but it touches upon many important issues and the examples are*

> *excellent as well..*

>

> *As far as General .NET books, you can't leave out Jeffrey Richter's*

*Applied*

> *.NET Framework Programming, the quintessential text on understanding how*

*the*

> *framework works. It's a must have if you care about understanding how the*

> *framework works behind the scenes, and this one has a picture of Jeff and*

> *his new helicopter which should provide plenty of incentive to learn the*

> *framework as best you can.*

>

> *Then there's the whole Addison-Wesley .NET Developer's Series. Everything*

> *in there is pure gold and although I admit it came out a bit late in the*  
> *game, they totally got it right*  
>  
> *Anyway, I just figured I had to chime in on this one b/c each of those*  
*books*  
> *has saved my butt more than a few times and definitely helped me quite a*  
> *bit.*  
>  
> *cheers,*  
>  
> *Bill*  
> --  
> *W.G. Ryan MVP Windows – Embedded*  
>  
> <http://forums.devbuzz.com>  
> <http://www.knowdotnet.com/dataaccess.html>  
> <http://www.msmvps.com/williamryan/>  
> *"Earl comcast net>" <brikshoe<at.> wrote in message*  
> *news:uHTOQUYREHA.3528@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...*  
> > *I've been on a mission this past year to move from VB6 to .Net. I'm*  
> > *fortunate(!?) not to have the big catalog of some long-time VB*  
*developers,*  
> > *although I have some CE apps that have to be entirely rewritten in CF. A*  
> *lot*  
> > *of what I develop has to be written for the PPc, so I knew I would be*  
> > *looking for information in .Net, ADO.Net, CF -- and SQL Server.*  
> >  
> > *So in the spirit that others might benefit from my journey, here are my*  
> > *observations. Having been a tech writer many years ago (and a page*  
> *designer*  
> > *before that), I give these reviews with the caveat that I know how*  
> *difficult*  
> > *it is to write technical literature and also how difficult it is to pull*  
> > *together all the aspects of a book. Thus I'm not going to give much*  
*about*  
> > *any specific errors or bugs, but a general feel for the book and how it*  
> > *helped me.*  
> >  
> > *I will also give the caveat that I've never read ANY book that didn't*  
*give*  
> > *up some useful bits of information -- no matter how bad that book might*  
*be*  
> > *otherwise. Final caveat is that I'm not there yet -- I'm still learning*  
> *much*  
> > *as I develop and I'll still have many questions here. But I don't see my*  
> > *opinions changing on the books I'm reviewing here.*  
> >  
> > *The following list is in no particular author order:*  
> >  
> > *Introducing Microsoft.Net 2nd Ed (note: the 3rd Ed is out now), David S.*  
> > *Platt*

> > *As its title implies, its a great book to get you started in the .Net way*  
> *of*  
> > *thinking. There are some examples, but that is not really the focus of the*  
> > *book. Touches briefly on all areas of .Net. I wish I had read this book*  
> > *first.*  
> >  
> > *VB.Net, Matthew McDonald*  
> > *Strange, I've never seen any reviews of this book, and I got it for \$10*  
> *at*  
> > *the half-price bookstore, but its chock-full of information and*  
> *examples.*  
> > *The book is aimed at developers moving from VB to .Net, so it was right*  
> *up*  
> > *my alley. If you can find it, buy it.*  
> >  
> > *Visual Basic.Net, Matt Tagliaferri*  
> > *Another out-of-the-mainstream book (spell that c-h-e-a-p) with some good*  
> > *stuff in it. If you are interested in GDI, this might get you*  
> *kickstarted.*  
> > *Also gave me some intro to the datareader and datasets.*  
> >  
> > *Visual Basic.Net Database Programming, Evangelos Petroustos, Asli Bilgin*  
> > *I've seen this book slammed in a few reviews, but I feel that's totally*  
> > *undeserved. This is a very good book for those just starting with*  
> *ADO.Net.*  
> > *Its deep enough, it gives you a lot of great examples, and is fairly*  
> *well*  
> > *illustrated. I do have some minor heartburn as follows. Some of the*  
> *examples*  
> > *that required the Command Builder to be used did not show those in the*  
> *code*  
> > *example. Literally, those examples would not run (I'm thinking this was*  
> *one*  
> > *of the places that William Ryan straightened me out). Next, a few of the*  
> > *illustrations were actually screen shots of the code that were too small*  
> *to*  
> > *read (altho in fairness, you have a CD to pull the code up in front of*  
> > *you -- I'm not much on using the CDs unless I do not understand the*  
> *written*  
> > *word). Finally, the layout of the book is kinda goofy as regards the*  
> > *DataReader (you have to look in a couple of different areas where the*  
> > *material should have been pulled together). I have about a dozen pages*  
> > *tabbed for future reference, so that may give you some idea that despite*  
> *my*  
> > *misgivings about a few errors, I still find the book very useful.*  
> >  
> > *Microsoft ADO.Net, David Sceppa*  
> > *In the lingo of the 20-something crowd, this book is "the bomb". I'd*  
> *read*

> > reviews of how good this book is, and its reputation is well-deserved. I  
> > have not finished the book yet, but after several chapters (and some  
peeks  
> > ahead into the "Questions that should be asked more frequently"), I can  
> see  
> > already that I'll feel more secure in my knowledge of ADO.Net once I'm  
> > finished. I'm thinking that this is probably the only book I've ever  
paid  
> > full-price for. If you were to be stuck with the task of creating a  
robust  
> > application with just any 3 books, this would be 1 of the 3. More about  
> this  
> > anon.  
> >  
> > .Net Compact Framework, Craig Morris, et. al.  
> > One of the first books I bought and should've been one of the last.  
> Examples  
> > all in C#, and since I had no .Net experience at the time, I didn't  
spend  
> > much time with it. Fairly lightweight tome, but I'm hanging on to it and  
> > intend to get back to it  
> >  
> > Microsoft .Net Compact Framework Kick Start, Erik Rubin, Ronnie Yates  
> > This book helped me out tremendously, not only with the CF, but on how  
to  
> > work with the datagrid and datatables. I do not claim to being there  
> > completely, but using some pieces of this book in conjunction with  
answers  
> > from the afore-mentioned William Ryan in the forums, I can at least  
> > visualize most of the concepts I need to pull things together.  
> >  
> > Microsoft .Net Compact Framework, Andy Wigley, Stephen Wheelwright  
> > I have not finished this book. Examples all in C#, and highly technical  
> > (these guys might be wound a little too tight, and might want to check  
out  
> > [www.moosehead.com](http://www.moosehead.com)). I'm counting on this to fill in the holes in my  
> > technical knowledge once I have the nuts and bolts down.  
> >  
> > C# Text Manipulation Handbook, Francois Liger, et. al.  
> > I found this book also at the half-price book store and oh I love it as  
a  
> > reference! This little gem has helped me tremendously with casts,  
parsing,  
> > math manipulations, numbers to strings, strings to date, you name it.  
Even  
> > if you write only in VB.Net, the examples are easy to read/convert. This  
> > book will save you hours and hours of frustration with casting issues.  
Buy  
> > it.  
> >  
> > Professional SQL Server 2000 Database Design, Louis Davidson

> > *How did books about SQL Server land on the .Net list? Frankly, you will miss more than half the journey if you try to learn .Net in a vacuum without some knowledge of SQL Server. This book is so language-agnostic, it is an excellent resource. Written in a very user-friendly conversational tone, I have been enjoying it tremendously -- while learning much along the way.*

> > *Troubleshooting SQL, Forrest Houlette*

> > *I found this book totally by accident. It deals exclusively with troubleshooting SQL statements. Heck, while I realized the depth of SQL, I never envisioned that someone could write such a "troubleshooting" book that was language-independent. Using this book in conjunction with "The Practical SQL Handbook", "SQL Queries for Mere Mortals" and "Database Design for Mere Mortals" will make you much more confident in your SQL abilities.*

> > *SQL Server Black Book, Patrick Dalton, Paul Whitehead*

> > *I really appreciate the "black book" series of books. They helped me tremendously with VB and got me started with understanding C++. But for some reasons, this particular black book has not been as helpful. Its just as big, has just as many examples in it, but for some reason, I feel disconnected and the descriptive material feels lightweight. This book will remain a reference for me, but I'm somewhat scratching my head about some topics in the book.*

> > *ADO.Net Step-by-Step, Rebecca Riordin*

> > *Of all the tech books I've bought over the last 4 years, this is the only one I've ever returned and I did that last night. Because I consider books I buy to be such a repository of reference material, I struggled with even returning it, but something about the book just did not fit my way of thinking (which cannot be considered a knock on the author at all!). I've read some reviews about the book that it has errors and buggy code, but I did not get past the 2nd chapter nor even crack the CD, so I'll not lay that out as an issue either. I think that maybe part of the problem was that I had some knowledge already and clunking around with a "step-by-step" manual*

