Windows Presentation Foundation 4.5 Cookbook

Synopsis

This book is written in an easy-to-read style, with a strong emphasis on real-world, practical examples. Step-by-step explanations are provided for performing important tasks. If you are C# developer looking forward to increasing your understanding and knowledge of WPF, then this is the best guide for you. Basic experience with Visual Studio 2010 is mandatory, as well as good C# skills. Previous experience with Windows Forms is not required.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Taking a look at the table of contents is enough to realize that the author took on a task of covering a very broad range of topics. What could easily be a daunting set of disconnected code recipes, actually turned out to be a well structured and thoroughly explained overview of WPF. Although the cookbook approach makes it easy to read only individual recipes of interest, I can strongly recommend to take the time and read the complete book. There are many small nuggets of knowledge given throughout it which are not directly related to the current recipe and you are bound to miss them otherwise.I was also pleasantly surprised by the fact that the code snippets are

accompanied by in depth explanations of related topics. They often even include alternative approaches to solving the same problem with pros and cons for each one of them. Due to the nature of WPF with many ways of achieving the same I find this very valuable. Since the book has only been written recently, it can take advantage of all the practices and experiences that have accumulated since the original release of WPF. As a bonus it doesn't forget about the new features included in .NET framework 4.5 and C# 5.On the other hand the book is not all that friendly to novices and you really need to have some previous experience with WPF before you start reading it. The wording is often very concise and in my opinion it could be challenging to get into without understanding at least the basics. Because of that I found it really strange that a couple of times the author starts explaining how to use certain Visual Studio features, such as code snippets and smart tags. I don't think this is really necessary for the intended audience.All in all I still like the book very much.

It is an introductory book, targeted at WPF newcomers or users with few experience, following the typical recipes or cookbook style. Like all Packt Publishing books on development, each recipe comes with sample code that is self-sufficient for understanding the concepts it tries to illustrate.It starts on chapter 1 by introducing the most important concepts, the XAML language itself, what can be declared in XAML and how to do it, what are dependency and attached properties as well as markup extensions and events, which should give readers a most required introduction to how WPF works and how to do basic stuff.It moves on to resources on chapter 2, which also makes since, since it's such an important concept in WPF.Next, chapter 3, come the panels used for laying controls on the screen, all of the out of the box panels are described with typical use cases.Controls come next in chapter 4; the difference between elements and controls is introduced, as well as content controls, headered controls and items controls, and all standard controls are introduced. The book shows how to change the way they look by using templates.The next chapter, 5, talks about top level windows and the WPF application object: how to access startup arguments, how to set the main window, using standard dialogs and there's even a sample on how to have a irregularly-shaped window.This is one of the most important concepts in WPF: data binding, which is the theme for the following chapter, 6. All common scenarios are introduced, the binding modes, directions, triggers, etc. It talks about the INotifyPropertyChanged interface and how to use it for notifying data binding subscribers of changes in data sources.

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