
***Book Review: Delphi Client/ Server Developer's Guide* by Joseph D Booth**

This book is one of the rare titles dedicated to client/server database development concerns for the Delphi programmer. Unfortunately, it is a weak attempt.

Client/Server Developers Guide does have a few good chapters on database design issues, transaction processing and the SQL language, including some good tips for optimizing SQL code. However, the remainder of the book essentially duplicates the material found in the product documentation – frequently verbatim.

The book focuses on InterBase as the backend server. The author goes on at length about installing and administering the server, creating databases and tables, and managing users and security, all of which can be found in the InterBase documentation and online help. The chapter on InterBase SQL is actually quite good and surpasses the documentation, but is still superficial.

Three chapters are devoted to the BDE, SQL Links and ODBC, but we learn little more than how to operate the BDE Configuration Utility. The remaining chapters focus on Delphi's database components, data controls, and even a chapter on the Internet components. All of these are straight out of the online help with the

exception of some background information on the various Internet services.

If you are a stone-cold beginner to Delphi client/server, this book may be helpful to you, especially if you're using InterBase. It consolidates the product documentation and improves upon it in the case of SQL. It also illustrates every step needed to get up and running with Delphi and InterBase and will give you some tips for client/server development that you might not get otherwise. However, you won't learn much more than you would from the existing manuals and help. Examples are scarce, the material is superficial and the book is riddled with minor but annoying editing errors.

Scores out of 5:

Technical Contents	3
Quality of Writing	3
Value for Money	2
Overall Assessment	2

Reviewed by Steve Troxell. Published by M&T Books, ISBN 1-55851-492-9, 624 pages with CD-ROM. US\$44.95