

Preface

The *XML Programming Bible* provides a single source for developers who need to implement XML and Web service solutions on an MS or J2EE platform, or both.

A recent Amazon.com search returned 393 book titles that contain the keyword “XML.” However, most of them are introductory books that are heavy on XML theory and light on practical examples. After reading them, you could explain to your boss and colleagues what XML is, but you would be hard-pressed to be able to develop a practical XML solution. In addition, very few books provide practical examples of both XML and Web service solutions on both the J2EE and MS platforms. Programmers would most likely have to buy a minimum of four other books to match the same content that is found in the *XML Programming Bible*.

The *XML Programming Bible* is a comprehensive guide to architectural concepts and programming techniques for XML. We cover the mainstream industry XML and Web service technologies as well as tools and techniques for developing real-world XML solutions. The examples and techniques are designed to be useful for all skill levels of XML programmers, from beginner to advanced. We have endeavored to make the material understandable for beginners at the same time that specific topics are “shedding new light” on XML for experienced professionals. The intention is that a developer could use the information in the book to go from zero knowledge of XML and related technologies to designing and developing industrial-strength XML and Web service applications.

Being programmers, we know that theory can be tedious, and you probably want to get straight to work developing XML and Web service solutions. You are in luck, because this book is full of working examples, tips, and techniques to enable you to do that. We have distilled the theory down to the essentials and scattered it through the book, between the practical examples. The examples are constructed incrementally when possible. By following the examples, programmers will actually follow several applications that are developed from scratch using several different XML technologies.