Foreword

Something about this book needs to be short, so I guess it's going to have to be the foreword. Seriously, though, this is a very good book. In fact, it's the best introduction to J2EE that I've seen. It's well written, covering all the information you need to succeed with J2EE. And it's presented in an order that makes sense — the chapters provide an end-to-end overview of J2EE. The book starts by showing you how to build the frontend of your application, then describes your connectivity options, then shows you how to build your business logic using Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB), and finally explains how to connect to the backend databases. In other words, this book is architecturally layered.

Why should you read this book? First, because the authors know what they're talking about and can explain it in ways that you can understand. Second, because it really does cover the fundamentals of J2EE incredibly well. The first five parts of this book are oriented toward people learning to work with J2EE technology, and in my opinion they do an incredibly good job of explaining exactly what you need to know. Third, because the book goes beyond J2EE. Part VI is a great overview of using Web services with J2EE, a critical issue most developers need to understand. Part VII is a great overview of common J2EE patterns, and Part VIII covers such important topics as performance and frameworks. In many ways this book is a "one-stop shop" for J2EE information.

In the end the thing that I like most about this book is that it's practical. Yes, it's pretty darn big, but as a result it provides a significant amount of real-world advice. Isn't that what good books are supposed to do?

Scott W. Ambler
Senior consultant, Ronin International, Inc. (`http://www.ronin-intl.com`)
Author, *Agile Modeling, Agile Database Techniques*
Coauthor, *Mastering EJB 2/e*