

# About the Editor

*Matthew Moodie*

**Matthew Moodie** enjoys a life of fun in Glasgow, Scotland. He's a keen novice gardener with a houseful of plants. He'd like to thank Laura for her love and friendship.

# Introduction

**WELCOME TO** *Beginning JSP 2: From Novice to Professional*. This book is for novices and teaches JavaServer Pages (JSP) 2 using basic principles. You don't need to know any Java to use this book because JSP 2 is a significant development of the JSP technology that has greatly reduced JSP's reliance on Java knowledge. However, to get the most out of supporting technologies and maximize your JSP applications, you need to know some basic Java techniques. We'll teach you these techniques and show you when and where to use the Java language.

The JSP 2 specification is the biggest revision of JSP since its creation. It's now easier for nonprogrammers to build powerful, dynamic Web applications. The authors of this book realize that JSP 2 is a tremendously powerful tool but that it's also a daunting prospect for many nonprogrammers. In response to this, the authors have written an easily accessible guide for those who are beginning their career in Web programming. This book introduces all the important concepts without fuss or overcomplication and always keeps the readers' best interests at heart.

Chapter 1 takes you through the Java and JSP installation processes so you're ready for the rest of the book. Chapter 2 is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) recap, which will act as a useful reference for those who already know a little HTML. After running through the basics, the book moves through simple JSP pages in Chapter 3 to working with data in Chapter 4, probably the most common and important task you'll have to undertake when using JSP. After all, what's the point of using dynamic Web pages if you have no dynamic data on which to work?

Chapters 5 and 6 introduce your first Java and show you how to use simple Java utility code to enhance your JSP pages. The emphasis is always on JSP and how Java fits into the new JSP 2 framework. Throughout these chapters you'll slowly build and incrementally improve an application that uses HTML forms, databases, and validation. The book explains each stage and introduces good practice as you learn new techniques.

Chapters 7 and 8 introduce more advanced JSP techniques and use the newly incorporated JSP Tag Library (JSTL) tags to work with dates, times, and formatting. Chapter 8 introduces Extensible Markup Language (XML), the ubiquitous data description specification, and JSP's tools for dealing with it. XML is such an important part of modern Web applications that it's essential in any beginner's handbook. You'll soon find that XML is an inescapable part of today's Web.

Chapters 9 and 10 cover topics that will ensure your applications are well designed and flexible. Specifically, Chapter 9 covers servlets and filters, both of which are Java classes that run alongside JSP pages and add robust functionality to any Web application. Chapter 10 introduces the Model-View-Controller

design concept and the Struts framework, which implements it for JSP pages. By using Struts you instantly add good design and flexibility without any of the hard work usually associated with scalable Web applications.

By the time you've finished the book, you'll have an example Web application for taking data, validating it, storing it in a database, and reporting back to the user. However, the real benefit will be in the design under the covers. Your application will use good practice throughout and can form the basis for many similar applications in the future.

I hope you enjoy reading this work and that you have every success in the future.

Matthew Moodie, Editor