

THE EXPERT'S VOICE® IN WORKFLOW

Workflow in the 2007 Microsoft Office System

*Using workflow in SharePoint and Office 2007
to enforce and enhance business processes*

David Mann

*Foreword by George Hatoun,
Program Manager, Workflow 2007 Microsoft Office system*

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To my family

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Foreword

On behalf of the engineers on the Microsoft Office and Windows Workflow Foundation teams who spent over three years building workflow into the 2007 Microsoft Office system, I would like to thank you very much for your interest in Microsoft Office and workflow. I am pleased to recommend this book to you as a roadmap and tutorial for getting started designing and building workflows for Microsoft Office.

While we've prebuilt the most common review and approval workflows into Microsoft Office, I know well that we did not scratch the surface of all the important processes that organizations will need to build as they modernize the *way* their information workers get their jobs done. That is because a primary goal in building workflow into Windows SharePoint Services and Microsoft Office was to provide a platform for developers to build a wide range of People-Ready Processes. When I say *People-Ready Process*, I mean to emphasize Microsoft Office's focus on *human*-centric workflow scenarios—those business processes that will reduce clutter in your inbox, help you track and correlate information automatically, and hopefully help you get home to your family a bit earlier each day.

Speaking of saving time, David Mann has done a heroic job of synthesizing large volumes of information into a well-organized reference for developers and IT administrators alike. I would particularly commend his focus on connecting the topics in this book to real-world scenarios, which makes the technical information even more valuable. In many cases, such as his primer on writing workflows for mobile devices, he explores new scenarios that can be built on the Microsoft Office platform that go beyond our out-of-the-box feature set—but are quite doable if you follow his step-by-step instructions.

Although this is a comprehensive book about the workflow features in Microsoft Office, it's not the only reference that you will need as you build your own workflows. I would encourage you to also consult the Microsoft Office developer resources available on MSDN (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/office>), especially the SDKs for Windows SharePoint Services and Microsoft Office SharePoint Server.

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About the Author

■ **DAVID MANN** is the principal architect for portal and collaborative solutions at Anexinet, a Microsoft Gold-Certified partner headquartered in Philadelphia. Anexinet provides solutions for customers spanning the entire Microsoft stack. Dave has been working with portal, information worker, and content management technologies for just shy of 300 years (OK, really for 12 years). He has designed and delivered solutions for Fortune 500, international conglomerates, small family-run businesses, and everything in between—always with a focus on end users and making their lives easier.

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About the Technical Reviewer



GEORGE HATOUN is a program manager on the Microsoft Office User Experience team. For the 2007 Microsoft Office system release, he defined Office workflow engine requirements and the integration of Windows Workflow Foundation into Windows SharePoint Services. He worked closely with customers and IT departments to understand how workflow in Microsoft Office could improve their efficiency. George has been working on collaboration products at Microsoft for over a decade, including seven years on Microsoft Office. His previous roles at Microsoft include lead program manager for Outlook Express and MSN Explorer. George holds a BA in computer science from Rice University. He lives in Bellevue, Washington, with his wife Angela, where he enjoys kayaking, snowshoeing, and hiking in the great Pacific Northwest, and traveling abroad when the weather there is not so great.

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Finally, a request to you, my reader: please support autism research and autism awareness. It's an epidemic that is stealing our future. Thank you.

