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NetBeans

magazine



NetBeans Platform . Plug-in Modules . UML Modeling . Java EE 5 . Web Services . BPEL

Java EE 5 in Practice

Exploring Java EE 5 with NetBeans 5.5

Not Just an IDE

Modular development with the NetBeans Platform

UML Modeling in Action

Using the NetBeans UML Modeling Project

BPEL Designer

Creating BPEL processes and composite applications

Plug in to Google

Create a plug-in module with 3 lines of code

Java SE Web Services

Developing web services productively using the IDE

NetBeans Worldwide

A global sampling of the NetBeans community

Boosting Enterprise Productivity





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Enterprise Success

Keeping its tradition of offering seamless integration and extensive functionality out-of-the-box, NetBeans reaches its second major release in 2006. It took the developer team just six months to create a product that impresses by the sheer amount of new features it aggregates. Take the new Enterprise Pack, for example. You have features ranging from business process modeling to secure web services, to XML schema creation. Add to that a complete UML modeler, plus the full Java EE 5 support and other enhancements in the core IDE... and there's a whole new NetBeans world to explore.

This edition of NetBeans Magazine covers a range of new features in NetBeans 5.5 and its main extensions while also delving into core Java technologies. A thorough tutorial puts the new features in Java EE 5 through their paces, using NetBeans to build a complete enterprise application with JPA persistence, EJB 3.0 components and JSF. In it you see the way NetBeans IDE boosts productivity in enterprise development, and how the new features in Java EE measure up in real-world scenarios. In two other articles, you learn step by step how to use the new visual BPEL designer to create and test a business process, and also how to develop web services starting from Java SE projects.

Module development is one of NetBeans' strongest points, and in this edition a quick-start tutorial shows you how to develop a very useful plug-in module that connects to Google Code Search (just add three lines of code and NetBeans does the rest). And a comprehensive article about the NetBeans Platform presents the design ideas behind NetBeans' pluggable architecture. You see how to use the Platform to slash development time while improving software quality. Also watch modular development in action in an application that pushes the concept to the limit.

UML modeling is covered in a novel way. Instead of learning each feature mechanically, you'll see the modeling functionality at work by reverse-engineering a complete Java application. Starting from a non-visual model, the tutorial builds a set of UML diagrams that show all the relevant structure and behavior of an example app.

Finally, in our opening section, we highlight the pervasiveness of the NetBeans community, by showcasing a sampling of NetBeans-related projects and initiatives from around the world. NetBeans adoption is expanding on all continents, and the community is alive everywhere.

Happy coding!

Leonardo Galvão



A Long Way

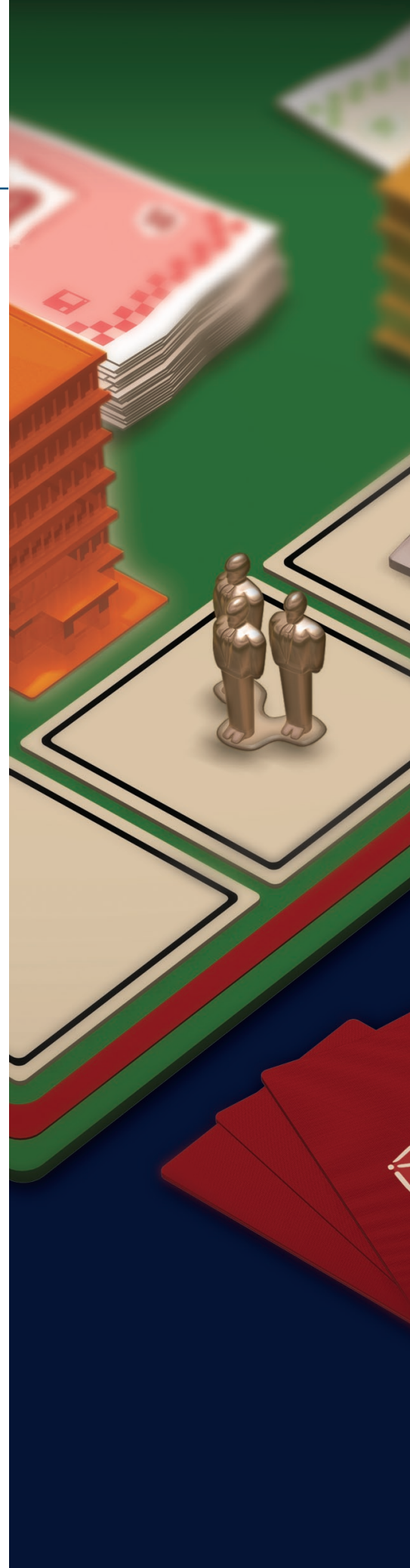
NetBeans has come a long way. When a handful of students, back in 1996, started the project that was to become NetBeans, did they know where it would all end? Aiming to write a Delphi-like Java IDE in Java, they began the long journey that has now come to NetBeans IDE 5.5. However, the most significant infrastructural change came in the 4.0 release. The old “mount” system was replaced by a new project system, fully based on Ant. Project tasks were carried out by Ant scripts, making them easily extendable and freeing applications from lock-in in the IDE. The window system was thrown out of... the window. It was rewritten, creating a state-of-the-art system that was a joy to behold, and smooth and easy to work with.

Now, with the release of NetBeans IDE 5.5, another giant leap has been taken. Initially aiming to provide “only” full Java EE 5 support, the 5.5 release now also provides “packs” that integrate the crown jewels of several other Sun tools into NetBeans IDE. For example, together with the 5.5 release, we also have the final release of the SOA-oriented Enterprise Pack, a preview version of the C/C++ Pack, and the Visual Web Pack, which brings an award-winning set of visual tools for web development. On top of that, UML modeling is supported and mobile developers have the Mobility Pack for CLDC and Beta 2 of the Mobility Pack for CDC.

But, significantly, NetBeans is more than a set of tools. It is also a community, a community which has grown exponentially over the past years. Many have testified that the breadth of the package offered by NetBeans IDE is unsurpassed. And now, while acquainting ourselves with the NetBeans IDE 5.5 release, we look forward to NetBeans IDE 6.0. The good rumors are many and the tension builds. Read through this magazine and realize... there is even more in store in the coming period. NetBeans has a lot to live up to and a growing community cheering it on.



Geertjan Wielenga



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