

JAVA™
FOR RPG PROGRAMMERS



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Phil Coulthard
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Java™ for RPG Programmers

Phil Coulthard and George Farr

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OS/400 V4R3 and higher

For the three beautiful ladies in my life: my wife Chris, and my daughters Cassandra and Jennifer. They are the joy of my life. Since the first edition, Cassandra has become a competitive dancer and Jennifer has got all her teeth! I remain the person tapping on the keyboard all night. I also dedicate this book to my father Frederick Coulthard, and my brother Wayne Coulthard. I thank my whole family for their encouragement, and for putting up with my “humor.”

— *Phil S. Coulthard*

To my loving wife, Diana, for encouraging the first book, putting up with the second one, and her unending support for this one.

To my beautiful children: Angelica, who wants to quit her weekend paper-route job! Michael, who started calling me “buddy” instead of “Dad!” And AnnaLisa, for putting up with both of them!!!

In addition, I would like to dedicate this book to my big brothers, Ibrahim and Elias. They continue to lead the way in education, career success, and most importantly, good family values.

— *George N. Farr*



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FOREWORD

The AS/400, and the RPG programmers (you!) who have made it the most successful business system in the world, face the biggest change ever to occur in their intertwined histories.

As former AS/400 General Manager Bill Zeitler has said, IBM is “betting the ranch” on Java.

IBM has irrevocably linked the future success of the AS/400 to Java because

- Java offers a way to add the graphical interface so urgently needed for AS/400 applications.
- Java provides the core technology for IBM’s attempts to sell the AS/400 as an e-business server.
- Java is the only viable answer IBM has to the Microsoft Visual Basic juggernaut.

FOREWORD

If you haven't already gotten the word, here it is: IBM is making the AS/400 a best-of-breed Java server, and is no longer basing the AS/400's future on RPG alone.

Considering IBM's bet on Java, the industry-wide rise of the Web, and Microsoft's push to capture the traditional business market, an RPG programmer has three choices:

1. Learn Java now.
2. Abandon the AS/400 for Windows and learn Visual Basic.
3. Become one of the last living RPG programmers doing maintenance on legacy applications.

If yours is the first choice, reading this book is one of the first steps you should take. Get yourself a copy of IBM's VisualAge for Java or Inprise's JBuilder, prop this book up on your desk, and follow two of the best guides you'll find to lead you into the exciting world of Java programming. You'll never turn back.

Phil Coulthard and George Farr have spent years immersed in IBM's RPG development, working with AS/400 programmers. They're also key developers in IBM's Java platform and tools. They have the perfect combination of skills and experience to explain the practical use of Java for AS/400 development. Now, they've delivered a unique book that presents Java and object-oriented programming in terms familiar to RPG programmers. No RPG programmer who wants to become proficient in Java should be without this essential resource.

—Paul Conte, Paul Conte Educational Services
Consultant, Author, Editor,
Java Advocate, WebSphere Advocate