

## Preface

**M**y first book, *Getting Down to e-Business with AS/400* was based on my early work with the Internet starting in 1994. When I wrote this book, my objective was to familiarize other users with the Internet-based technologies and features that the AS/400 had to offer. If you've read the book, I hope you have found it helpful. The book was constantly updated with features and changes in our environment through 1999.

In terms of the Internet, 1994 was an eternity ago. It has also been a very long time since 1999 in terms of new developments and new technologies. Not only has the technology changed, the entire focus of e-business has changed. Back in 1994, we were concerned about building Web sites and delivering interactive content beyond the static glitzy Web sites that were the rage of the time.

This book focuses on the new world of B2B (business to business), advancements in B2C (business to consumer), and pervasive computing devices.

During the period that has evolved since I first started building e-business applications, I've been forced to work with other platforms that find their way into my company and integrate applications with my beloved iSeries machines. I have become convinced even more than before that the iSeries (formerly AS/400) is by far the world's best choice for e-business applications.

In this book, I hope to define what is possible in terms of e-business applications at the moment, present and explain the incredibly robust array of tools we have available to us on the iSeries, and demonstrate the ease of use of this incredible machine.

This is not a how-to book, although I will provide references to materials that show you how to use the tools I describe. What I hope to accomplish is to paint a picture that provides a blue print for developing robust state of the art e-business applications. I will show you how to leverage existing skills and legacy systems while migrating and taking advantage of new tools and technologies.

This book is for anyone who has a role in designing, implementing, and deploying e-business applications or is thinking about doing so.