

INTRODUCTION

While collecting material for the first *AS/400 Programmer's Handbook*, I quickly realized that the sheer volume of information was far more than I could present within a single text. As time passed, I found myself thinking, "I wish I could have included database examples like SQL and trigger programs" and "I wish I had put in more API examples." I finally came to the realization that a sequel was in order.

When developing applications, I find myself drawing from a collection of coding examples as a starting point or template. Rarely will I begin writing a new application from scratch without having a previously written source member from which to draw on. This book is a collection of more than 70 prototypical techniques and coding examples that you can use and adapt for hundreds of potential applications. The material presented here encompasses the most useful and powerful features of the AS/400, and each example is backed by a thorough explanation of the techniques employed.

Each example begins with a quick synopsis that is followed by the supporting source code. This structure allows you to quickly get in, find what you need, and use the

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example code. If you need more information, detailed explanations of the employed technique are included.

Every effort has been made to make each example stand on its own. This makes some of the information redundant, but the last thing you want to do when you need an example is to have to read other chapters to build an understanding of the topic. Whenever possible, every example is designed to work as a standalone instrument to allow you get in, get what you need, and get back to work.

I hope you will find this book to be a useful and valuable programming tool.