Foundation Flex For Developers: Data-Driven Applications With PHP, ASP.NET, ColdFusion, And LCDS
In Foundation Flex for Developers, Sas Jacobs explores in detail how to create professional data-centric Flex 2 and Flex 3 applications. In the first half of the book, she starts off with a brief exploration of Flex and ActionScript 3.0, before looking at application essentials in detail, including creating custom components, user and web browser interactions, binding, formatting and validating data, debugging, and more. The second half of the book focuses on connecting Flex to data sources and covers XML, Flex Data Services, PHP, ASP.NET, and ColdFusion in detail, via a series of step-by-step case studies.

This is not a good book to learn from unless you learn best by thinking very deeply about what the teacher says and correcting errors. I am up to Page 27 and have worked through the first example with FlexBuilder3. The book is riddled with problems, including typographical errors, imprecise explanations, and even a conceptual error. Example page 21: click="txtResult.text= = String(cboUnit.selectedItem.data ...

While reading this I wasted about two minutes trying to puzzle out why there would be two equals signs in a row before deciding that this is probably a typo. By working the example on my computer I confirmed this. Example page 23: The book refers to both a NumberValidator and NumericValidator. An engaged student will have to wonder, are there two different kinds of Validator, or is the teacher lazy? No one wants a lazy teacher but that appears to

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**Customer Reviews**

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be the case here. Example page 23: "The CDATA declaration prevents Flex Builder from parsing the contents of the..." I believe this is an imprecision that can seriously throw someone off who is trying to learn this stuff. In fact the CDATA declaration prevents the "compiler" from parsing the contents of the... Flex Builder only gets involved because it happens to invoke the compiler, but the compiler is a separate agent here, and the critical one that should have been named. Example page 26: "This event object will also be dispatched when the user clicks the Convert button because the validator uses the click TriggerEvent." I don't mean to be an impertinent student, but I would suggest that this is just plain wrong and it reveals a conceptual misunderstanding on the author's part.

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