Pro JSP 2 (Expert's Voice In Java)
This is the first comprehensive guide to cover JSP 2 and 2.1. It supplies you with the tools and techniques to develop web applications with JSP and Java servlets. You'll learn to choose and implement the best persistence option for your web applications, and how to secure web sites against malicious attack and accidental misuse. You will improve the performance and scalability of JSP pages, as well as architect reliable, stable applications. The authors describe all of the rich JSP 2 features, and explain JSF integration with JSP. Completing the thorough package, this book examines how integration with open source projects like Ant, Struts, XDoclet, JUnit, and Cactus can make web development even easier.

This book is somewhat of an amalgamation between two other Apress books, "Beginning JSP 2: From Novice to Professional", and "Foundations of JSP Design Patterns", however there is more information in those two books in regards to their respective topics, and this book has much more detail in topics those other two books do not address. While this book is designated for intermediate to advanced developers, it could be used as an all-in-one for a novice if they have decent Java knowledge and are able to read at a relaxed pace. I found chapter quality to be consistently good.
The provided examples are useful and expertly selected (not too short, not too long). Topics discussed include JSP page "anatomy", servlets, expression language, the standard tag library (JSTL), a surprisingly concise and well done chapter on JavaServer Faces (JSF), custom tag development both from a legacy and modern approach, data access, filtering, security, performance, scalability, web application design and best practices, and Struts. The majority of topics are discussed in great detail. Some of the more detailed topics such as performance and scalability have as much detail as could be expected in a non-specialized book and at the very least provide you with information on where to learn more about the topic. I have been working with JSP and JSF for 2 years and I found this book useful to fill in some knowledge gaps. I recommend it without reservation.

Java’s web technology has always been my fascination. This book opened up a whole new perspective on Java and JSP for me. The book that I truly started learning JSP with is "More Servlets and Java Server Pages" by Marty Hall. That book breaks down piece by piece how it all works. It’s a really great book. "Pro JSP" shows you how to exploit that knowledge to turn it into something truly useful. If you are a Java web developer you know that Java web applications can be slow and clumsy. Have you ever wondered how the sites like [site URL] are written in Java and can handle millions of hits a day? Well, that book explains the technology behind those kinds of applications. The book makes very extensive use of EL (not something I am very fond of). It shows you how far you can go with JSTL by utilizing it in creating Java Server Faces. So it doesn’t just tell you how amazing JSTL is because it can connect to a MySQL db from a jsp page (I mean maybe hardcore PHP programmers would find that feature cool. I don’t). As far a JSF, the book shows very clearly how to do it. And you can easily try it out on your server. Still I do not believe the book does a good job providing examples of when you would really need the JSF technology. It’s pretty much up to the reader’s imagination. The book does a good job breaking down the use of managed beans in the context of JSF. I think the coolest chapter of the book is the chapter on filters. Let me tell you I still have hard time comprehending the entire filtering technology in JSP. It’s a really advanced topic. I had no idea you could control users’ requests to that extent. The book shows graphs on how requests to your web application travel through layers of filters. So it’s really clear as to when you need a filter in your applications. And it’s not hard to figure out how to optimize your application’s performance using filters. I can really go forever, so I will stop here and let you see the rest for yourself.
Best book for novice JSP/Servlets/JSF learners. As a matter of fact this book can serve as a reference on all Java web app development.

Good overview, having Kindle version certainly makes it more convenient than lugging around the paperback version.

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