
Preface

THIS book is about creating applications for cell phones and other small devices.

Help Me Help You

The best way to learn programming is by doing it. Try something, and if it works, tweak it and try again. A good book gives you lots of things to try and tweak.

If you just read the text of this book, you'll miss about half of the content. I put just as much sweat into making the examples clear and instructive as I put into writing the text. The best way to read this book is sitting in front of your computer, trying out the examples as you go along. You can download the source code for the book from the Web site:

<http://kickbutt.jonathanknudsen.com/download.html>

The examples are available for NetBeans Mobility and the Sun Java Wireless Toolkit. You can read about these tools in Chapter 2. The following instructions describe how to load and run a chapter's sample code in either tool.

Running Examples Using NetBeans Mobility

Download the zip file for the chapter. Unzip it to a location of your choice. In NetBeans, choose **File > Open Project...** from the menu. Navigate to the

project and open it. You can run the project by choosing **Run > Run Main Project**.

Running Examples Using the Sun Java Wireless Toolkit

Download the zip file for the chapter. Unzip it to the apps folder under the toolkit's installation directory. For example, if the toolkit is installed in `c:\WTK2.5.1`, and you've downloaded the examples from Chapter 11, unzip the file to create the directory `c:\WTK2.5.1\apps\kb-ch11`.

Now, in KToolbar, open the kb-ch11 project. Run the project by clicking **Run**.

Finding API Documentation

As you read through this book, you should also have immediate access to the relevant API documentation. This book explains how to use APIs in practical terms, while the API documentation is a definitive reference for classes and methods.

Documentation for many of the APIs discussed in this book is online here:

<http://java.sun.com/javame/reference/apis.jsp>

For the remaining APIs, you can download the relevant specifications from the Java Community Process Web site:

<http://jcp.org/>

The Real World

Many of the APIs described in this book are quite new. The MSA specification is so new that real devices do not yet implement it, and the MSA subset is just beginning to make its way to the real world. That means that some of the features described in this book will be available to you only in the desktop emulator, at least in the near term. Whenever possible, I have tested the examples in this book on the real devices I have available.