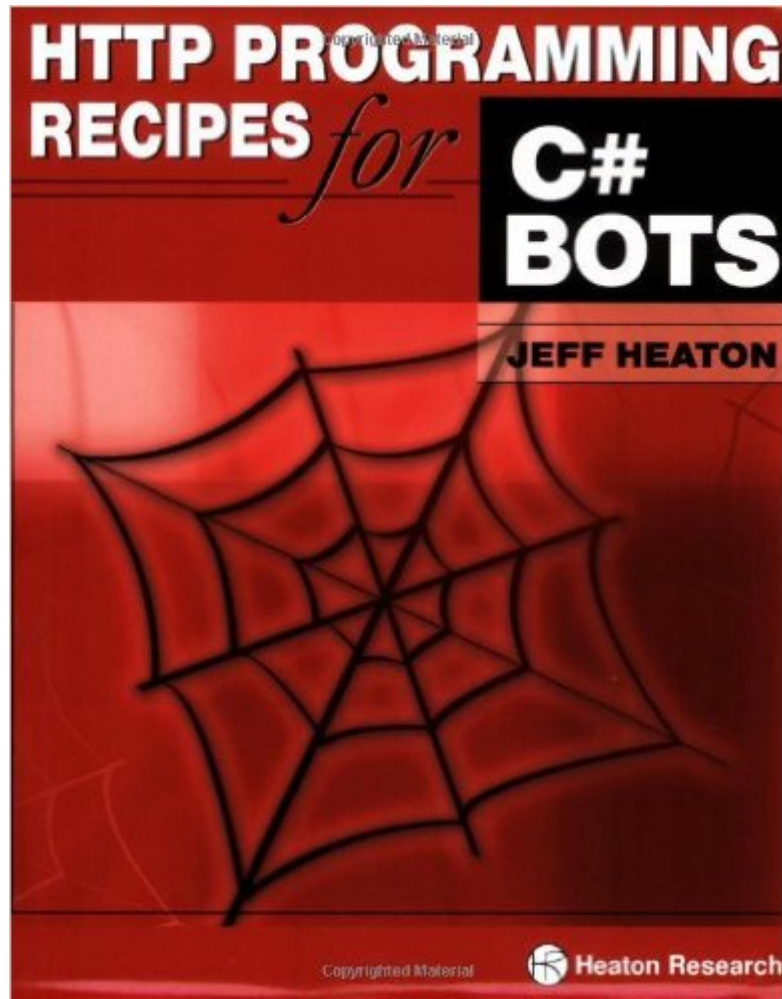


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HTTP Programming Recipes For C# Bots



Synopsis

The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) allows information to be exchanged between a web server and a web browser. C# allows you to program HTTP directly. HTTP programming allows you to create programs that access the web much like a human user would. These programs, which are called bots, can collect information or automate common web programming tasks. This book presents a collection of very reusable recipes for C# bot programming. This book covers many topics related to C# HTTP programming. Both secure and insecure HTTP communications are covered, as well as HTTP authentication. Learn to interact with HTTP forms and support both HTTP POST and HTTP GET requests. Collect data from a wide array of HTML constructs, such as tables, and lists. Learn about advanced topics that complicate the life of a bot, such as AJAX and Javascript. Also learn about the ethical use of bots, and when bots should not be used. This book also introduces the Heaton Research Spider. The Heaton Research Spider is an open source spider framework. Using the Heaton Research Spider you can create spiders that will crawl a web site, much like a real spider crawls the web. The Heaton Research Spider is available in both Java and Microsoft Dot Net form.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I was looking for something not necessarily to make bots but analyze webpages and do automated searches. I found the information I needed here, plus learned a lot of tips if I ever wanted to make a serious bot. It mixes theory and practical application very well. I would think if you were writing a

serious in depth but this would be the bible for doing so. It has many examples of the concepts it discusses. It talked a bit over my head in some areas but it's a great book. The author clearly knows the subject very well. I did have a hard time with some of the code getting it to work, but I don't blame the book. The examples were set up in such a way that I could figure it out and make it run. I think this author mainly sells books by word of mouth, which is how I found it, which probably explains why there aren't many reviews for it. Don't let that sway you, this is a great book.

I've had this book for a few months and it is the best published bot book. It tells you need to know about the http protocol to extract data from a site which use javascript and ajax! The parsing libraries are very help, though some tweaking is always necessary given the magnitude of sites. If you need to write a bot, but don't know how, this book it for you.

If you know some c# and want to write a bot it is fine. Recipes work, logic is clear. It clearly explains what you need to do.

First half of the book I noticed that there are a few code smells, for instance most of the objects, like "parsers" could have been refactored as static method groups instead of objects. I don't know if there is code later on in the book which uses these same implementations, only giving them purpose to be implemented in that manner, but I am beginning to doubt that's the case. I think this code smell is called "the stateless object" but am unsure. Also, there are other frameworks out there for parsing HTTP, such as the HTML agility pack. This pack might not have been around when this book was written, I would have to look up the dates. I will continue reading this book, it is still a fairly good introduction to web spiders, but everybody should be aware of the code smell.

Mr. Heatons books always take a sensible and practical approach to programming. Very good read. I always seek out his writings on these subjects.

Good. I like.

the author website do not have his last spider in dotnet, only java and the source code of his spider is only available in java. but even tough, the recipes are helpful and save time. to get the most of this book you needs to be a self-learner.

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