

# Foreword

Java APIs have been growing steadily in number and complexity over the last few years. Understanding and using some of these APIs purely by reading the specification is not an easy task. Implementations tend to vary in behaviour, features and for that matter, bugs!

The Java Media Framework API does not mandate any specific media formats to be supported. So it becomes important to understand exactly what features are provided in a specific implementation and what its characteristics are. I have had the pleasure of working briefly with the author during his visit to California. His experience in using JMF and in writing extensive applications such as the Cosmophone have provided him with invaluable knowledge and understanding of the inner workings of JMF.

The section introducing multimedia concepts is essential for any developer who has a Java development background but lacks a deep understanding of multimedia formats and transport mechanisms. The overall progression of the chapters from basic usage to advanced topics makes it a useful book for developers of all experience levels.

The generous use of example code all over the book gets the point across more effectively. I particularly like the detailed coverage of the RTP API, which hasn't been represented well enough in previous books on JMF. Content delivery over wired and wireless networks is a key requirement in multimedia applications of the present and future.

A detailed book covering the JMF 2.0 API has been long overdue. I believe this book will be a valuable resource for anyone creating non-trivial multimedia applications for the Java platform. Thank you, Dr. Venkatesh.

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