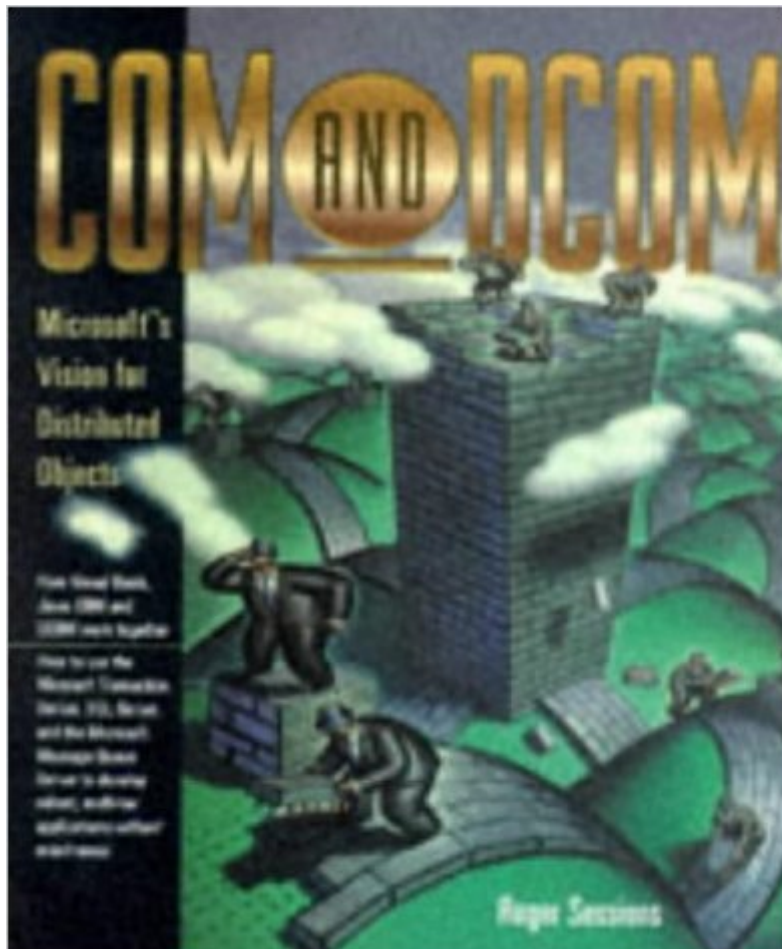


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COM And DCOM: Microsoft's Vision For Distributed Objects



Synopsis

An expert's unbiased appraisal of Microsoft's object technologies and how they can work for your enterprise In COM and DCOM, internationally recognized object-technology expert Roger Sessions offers a lucid, unbiased appraisal of Microsoft's distributed objects strategy. Focusing on issues of crucial concern to both developers and managers, Sessions considers all of Microsoft's object technologies and explains the huge impact they are likely to have on the future of enterprise computing. Microsoft has targeted the mainframe market and this book explains exactly how they plan on doing it. Topics include: How Visual Basic, Java, COM and DCOM work together Creating highly efficient object pools Using the Microsoft Transaction Server, SQL Server, and the Microsoft Message Queue Server (Falcon) to develop unbelievably robust, multi-tier applications without mainframes Integrating legacy database systems into your system design Using Wolfpack to create highly available clusters of workstations that outperform mainframes at a fraction of their cost Security issues for components 10 Rules for distributed component programming Extensive program examples include complete Java, Visual Basic, IDL and batch files, and can be downloaded from our Web site at www.wiley.com/compbooks/ Visit our Web site at www.wiley.com/compbooks/

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Customer Reviews

The book miraculously avoids going into technical stuff. So I would guess it was meant to be for managers, and dummy ones for that matter! I'm not here to say Microsoft does not have anything to

offer; it sure does. But to get a handle on that, you will have to go somewhere else, e.g. on the technical side, books by Don BOX, as an introduction to COM 'Inside COM' by Dale ROGERSON, as an introduction to DCOM 'Inside DCOM' by Guy EDDON...And for good measure, don't forget to listen to the other side of the story: read books on CORBA and JAVA, too!

The author presents himself as a visionary who can tell Bill Gates where Microsoft is heading. However, the so called "Microsoft's vision" apparently seems to exist only in the author's mind. I tried to find any independent proof of the fact that Microsoft sees Java/DCOM/VB as its long-term strategy, but could not. In fact, Java still is a Microsoft's stepson, and not the loved one. VB is very different from Java and both are syntactically very different from COM/DCOM. Hard to imagine how such trinity can constitute a solid framework for enterprise development. If this is a Microsoft's vision of the future this is a gloomy future. I also got tired of constantly translating from gnomish to human (substituting gnomes for objects, rooms for address space, etc.). I believe, gnome analogy is a good analogy and could help a beginner programmer - but the book is obviously not for beginners. For professionals, gnomes only obscure the subject, and professionals don't have extra time to read gnome stories and translate them into professional language. They prefer straight talk on the subject.

Reading the various customer reviews, it is clear that people either love this book, or hate it. I think this is because it is difficult book to classify. Given the title, one would suspect that it is a technical primer -- and for those who expected a book to help them program DCOM applications, they have come to completely the wrong place. THIS IS NOT A BOOK FOR PROGRAMMERS! For those who have given the book a 1 star review because it doesn't explain the technical details: I agree - go buy "Inside Distributed COM". However, what the book is extremely good at is explaining what all this COM and DCOM stuff is to non-technical people. Developers and Programmers often forget that there are many people in their organisation who have no idea what they are really working on, and there is a real need to help educate this constituency. Is it biased? Yes. Does it present the CORBA v. COM debate fairly? No. Is it a Microsoft PR piece? Yes. But if you are a Microsoft house, who cares? Today, I had a product manager come to me asking for an explanation of the "architecture" we developers keep talking about. We keep on going on about how great "Three-tier" is, and how it will make everything better - but most of the organisation has no idea what we are really talking about. I had absolutely no hesitation in suggesting that my colleague read Session's book, and I have no doubt she will walk away from it with a better understanding of what we are doing. What

more can you ask?

I wanted to learn about COM and DCOM. The back cover was completely misleading. Mr. Session's is extremely biased toward Microsoft. The organization of the book is maddening. The author takes the approach of creating an analogy between COM/DCOM and furry little creatures called "gnomes". At first it was amusing. Eventually I felt as though I was reading a bad children's story. I'm a technical person, and this book is not for the technical minded.

This book put my boss and myself to sleep in no time!!! I wonder if the author is serious about delivering the concepts. He talks about Gnomes and other beings to present information- A style not appreciated by geeks like me. I like the facts straight.

The book covers some interesting topics...unfortunately, it's padded with endless storytelling and lousy jokes. I'd look elsewhere - there must be other books out there that present the same topics more thoroughly with fewer pages.

Roger Sessions' book was quite enjoyable a read, and a good high level intro to Microsoft Transaction Server. I can't give this book a passing grade due to its PROLIFIC biases. People have said this book is inaccurate - I don't know if that's the right word. He "omits" things to suit his opinion a lot. I.e. Object Oriented Databases are "BAD". Why? No one wants to migrate their data from RDBMS'. (duh! no kidding) He doesn't mention if they're good for NEW applications! (But Microsoft doesn't support them, so they must be bad) His CORBA assessments (CORBA doesn't scale, etc) are strawmen arguments, and are down right *WRONG*. Everything you can do with MTS you can do with CORBA and an application server like Netscape Kiva, Tuxedo M3, Gemstone or NetDynamics. Mr. Sessions' makes it sound as if you couldn't scale an object in CORBA if you tried. Seems like the secondary reason for this book was Roger's way of lashing out at bad experiences with the CORBA community [The CORBA persistence service, which he co-wrote, was....crap.] Roger also seems to gloss over how annoyingly complex COM can get... COM is a very usable model, it works and is fast, but let's be honest about its current state.

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