Core Data: Data Storage and Management for iOS, OS X, and iCloud

By Marcus S. Zarra

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Core Data is Apple's recommended way to persist data: it's easy to use, built-in, and integrated with iCloud. It's intricate, powerful, and necessary--and this book is your guide to harnessing its power.

Learn fundamental Core Data principles such as thread and memory management, discover how to use Core Data in your iPhone, iPad, and OS X projects by using NSPredicate to filter data, and see how to add iCloud to your applications.

Cocoa expert Marcus Zarra walks you through developing a full-featured application based around the Core Data APIs. You'll build up a single application throughout the book, learning key Core Data principles such as NSPredicate, thread management, and memory management.

Geared toward intermediate to advanced developers, this book gets you comfortable with the basics of Core Data. Then you'll delve deep into the details of the API. You'll explore not only how to get Core Data integrated into your application properly, but even better, how to work with the API's flexibility to create convenience methods to improve your application's maintainability. Learn how to reduce your number of mapping models, integrate your Core Data app with Spotlight and Quick Look, connect your application with sync services, and find out how to use Core Data in a multithreaded environment. By the end of the book, you'll have built a full-featured application, gained a complete understanding of Core Data, and learned how to integrate your application into the iPhone/iPad platform.

This second edition updates all examples for OS X Mountain Lion and iOS 6, gets you up to speed on changes in multithreading, and provides new chapters covering iCloud and NSFetchedResultsController.

What You Need Mac OS X Mountain Lion and iOS 6. This book is for intermediate-level iOS developers.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Q&A with "Core Data, 2nd edition" author Marcus Zarra

Q. Why is Core Data important? Why do developers need to know it?

A. Core Data is Apple's recommended model management and persistence framework. By learning and using Core Data, you can save yourself a significant amount of development time on every application you build. In some cases, you can save as much as 30 percent of the application development time by using Core Data.

Q. How has Core Data changed since the first edition of this book?

A. Starting with iOS 5.0 and Mac OS X 10.7, the majority of Core Data has remained remarkably consistent since the first release of this book. It has become even more friendly with threading. In addition, the framework has solved a few difficult issues that existed since its inception. However, our understanding of Core Data on iOS has grown significantly since its initial release. That increased understanding is included in this book.

Q. What's new in this edition?

A. Significant portions of the book have been rewritten with a new focus primarily on iOS, and secondarily on OS X. Since iOS has all of the features that are available on OS X, you can learn the entirety of Core Data through iOS. The portions of the book that focus solely on iOS are clearly marked.

Q. What kind of background do readers need to get the most out of this book?

A. A reader interested in this book should be familiar with Objective-C and Cocoa. The book assumes you have a basic working knowledge of Objective-C and have developed one or more iOS/Mac OS X applications. It cannot be stressed enough that this book is written for developers at an intermediate level and could be quite difficult for a beginner to consume.

Q. What kind of application do you build in this book, and what does Core Data add to it?

A. From the beginning of the book, we will develop a recipe iOS application and then refine it as our knowledge and understanding grows. Core Data is an integral part of the application that we develop and handles the management of the data structures as well as the persistence of the data. Without Core Data, we would need to write a significant amount of code to replace it.

Q. What should readers expect to take away from the book?

A. A solid understanding of Core Data and how to use it in both future and existing applications. Once you become comfortable with Core Data, you won't want to use any other persistence framework.

Review

"I learned Core Data reading the first edition of this book. It has long been my go-to reference, but a lot has changed since the first edition hit the shelves. The coverage of iOS and iCloud is a welcome addition, and the updated chapters on versioning and threading are a must-read. Those getting started with Core Data and those already using it owe it to themselves to read this fantastic book."

—Kirby Turner, Chief Code Monkey, White Peak Software, Inc.

"If you need to know Core Data inside and out, you need this book. Marcus not only communicates what you need to know but has deep experience in making Core Data applications. That experience shines through in every chapter and example."

—Bill Dudney, Gala Factory Software, LLC

"If you're using Core Data and haven't read this book, you're doing yourself and your customers a disservice. Marcus Zarra explains the fundamental components of the Core Data framework and shows how the framework is used in real-world programming. This book is a must-read for anyone new to Core Data, but there's plenty of great information even for seasoned veterans."

—Jeff LaMarche, Author and Co-Founder, MartianCraft, LLC

About the Author

Marcus S. Zarra is the owner of Zarra Studios LLC. He has spoken at numerous conferences around the globe and has taught Objective-C at top U.S. colleges. Marcus has been developing iOS applications since day one and was one of the few developers to have an application available in the App Store on the first day.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa McCann:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information today can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Core Data: Data Storage and Management for iOS, OS X, and iCloud as your daily resource information.

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