Best Delta Book on C# 2.0 Out There

So, You are a seasoned C# 1.x developer very much looking forward to learn the lean mean C# 2.0, great. But as much as you want to learn the language enhancements, you despise the fact that any book you pick seems to start teaching you the old things over and over again; all the features you already knew (or should know); the for loop, the if statement and therefore you'd have to skip several hundred pages to get to learn a new feature...that is painful.

Like you, I was looking for a book which will teach me delta, i.e. the differences and enhancements to the new language and not the features which I already know as a C# developer for several years. Written with this upgrade-only concept in mind, seasoned author Jesse Liberty’s "Visual C# 2005" came to the rescue. As series creator Bret McLaughlin says "People don't have time (or the income) to read through 600 page books, often learning 200 things of which only about 4 apply to their current job."

I found this to be a very true statement. From very beginning, this book is targeted towards explaining generics, iterators, anonymous methods, partial types, static classes,, nullable types, limiting access to properties, delegate covariance, contra-variance, enumerators etc; things you'd want to learn as these are new to C# 2.0.
Next chapter talks about IDE enhancements (not necessarily a language feature but it helps), visualizers, refactoring and debugging tools provided with Visual studio.NET 2005. It gets better from here; Web apps, data driven forms, asynchronous tasks, one click deployment...you name it. In a little over 200 pages, it is a concise upgrade guide to C# 2.0 and Visual Studio.NET 2005 enhancements to support this update.

Developer's notebook also talks about security controls, personalization, authentication, master pages, themes and other ASP.NET enhancements you'd find ubiquitous in all ASP.NET 2.0 books, without the fluff. I made myself sound almost like the marketing person for O'Reilly but the truth is, I found this book really exciting. As Bret further said "the often-frantic scribbling and notes that a true-blue alpha geek mentally makes when working with a new language, API or project. It's the no-nonsense code that solves problems....". See it for yourself; download the source from http://www.libertyassociates.com/pages/Books.htm and check out the code samples and labs.

I've also just attended Juval Lowy's workshop on Visual C# 2.0 in DevConnections 2005 conference held in Las Vegas. Along with conference notes handout, I used Developer's Notebook as a follow up reference. Example labs like CreateATypeSafeList, GenericEnumeration, ImplementingGenericInterfaces were similar to those among the demos performed. Also, the author, Jesse Liberty is a Microsoft .NET MVP and author of Programming C#, Programming VB 2005, Programming ASP.NET, Programming .Net Windows Applications and various other books which explains why the book is so cohesive and contemporary.

Like any other book, it has some shortcomings too. For instance the level of detail at certain topics but the link section covers references if you are interested in learning more about a specific subject. I think this comes hand to hand with being to-the-point and concise.

If you are not an existing C# developer or want to learn old language features over again, this book is NOT for you. However, if you want to adapt to the new awesome features of C# 2.0 without further ado, there is only one thing to do, add to cart.
Adnan Masood works as a web architect and technical lead for Green Dot Corporation where he develops SOA based middle-tier architectures, distributed systems, and web-applications using Microsoft technologies. He is a Microsoft Certified Trainer holding several technical certifications, including MCPD (Enterprise Developer), MCSD .NET, and SCJP-II. Adnan is attributed and published in print media and on the Web; he is technical editor for "Microsoft Windows Server AppFabric Cookbook" and also taught Windows Communication Foundation (WCF) courses at the University of California at San Diego.

Adnan regularly presents at local code camps and user groups. He is actively involved in the .NET community as cofounder and president of the San Gabriel Valley .NET Developers group. Adnan holds a Master’s degree in Computer Science; he is currently a doctoral student working towards PhD in Machine Learning; specifically interestingness measures in outliers using Bayesian Belief Networks. He also holds systems architecture certification from MIT and SOA Smarts certification from Carnegie Mellon University.