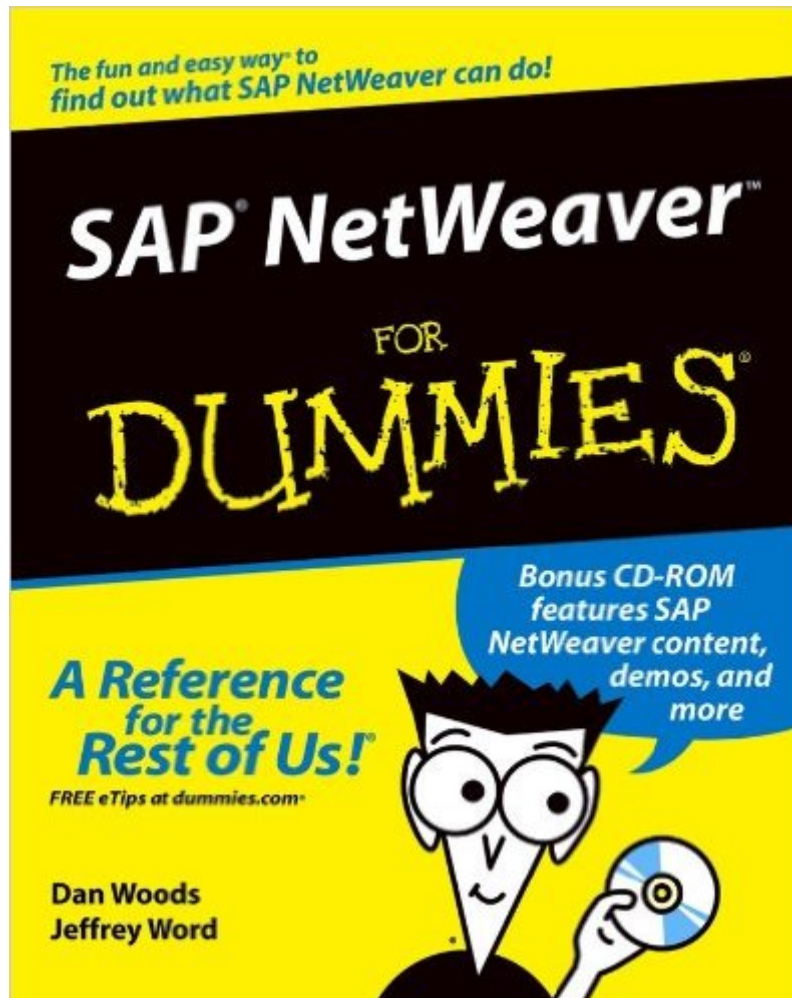


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SAP NetWeaver For Dummies



Synopsis

* Shows IT directors and managers how to get up and running with Netweaver, SAP's Web services-based business integration and application platform * SAP, the world's third-largest independent software supplier, has nearly 20,000 corporate customers in 120 countries, including sixty-five percent of the Fortune 100 * Explains how SAP Netweaver can integrate existing applications; serve as the foundation for mySAP Business Suite and SAP xApps; work with .NET, J2EE, and Websphere; and enable portals, collaboration, data management, and development environments * Offers plain-English explanations along with a dash of humor and fun-the perfect antidote for people overwhelmed by the complex SAP Netweaver documentation * Cowritten by the SAP technology evangelist for Netweaver, this book provides inside information on new product revisions that will not be available anywhere else * Includes SAP-provided Netweaver content on CD-ROM
Note: The Kindle edition of this book does not include any CDs or DVDs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book presents a very useful overview of NetWeaver's various components and capabilities. Be

aware, though, that it only covers *what* NetWeaver can do, not *how* to actually do it, so don't expect a technical reference guide. This is, however, a necessary primer before rolling up your sleeves and digging in. (Besides, NetWeaver is such a huge beast that a thorough technical reference guide printed on paper would probably mean the end of the rainforest. Look for such a guide in electronic format). The book is heavily SAP biased (not surprising, given that one of the authors works for SAP) and hypes NetWeaver almost as the culminating achievement and ultimate destiny of IT. This tone almost became too much for me at times - using phrases such as "The bad news? There IS no bad news!" when describing software does dent the credibility a bit for me. Read it for the useful technical overview; take the hype with a grain of salt. Finally, this slightly twee approach can be dangerous: readers with a technical background can read between the lines and easily imagine the blood, sweat and tears it takes to implement a system of this magnitude, but the non-technically oriented can easily become seduced by the tone of this book, which glosses over all the gory details and focuses on the happy end results and TCO benefits. This might very well build up unrealistic expectations for readers with a non-technical background. So if you're in that group, please keep in mind that properly installing and configuring the entire NetWeaver platform for any reasonably sized company will not be quite the happy lark the book hints at - even though the book barely mentions this, it WILL be a HUGE effort - even though the end result may very well be worth it. However, with those caveats in mind, this is still a useful overview and primer, once you look past the over-the-top hype.

While true the author hits more on what rather than 'how', this is one of those books every sap project manager and technical team member should have, if not just so we can all speak the same language. No, it's not an implementation book (pick up Anderson's SAP planning/best practices book). And no, it's by no means a guide for administrators (see Burleson, Hernandez, or Liane Will's books, among others). It's more important, in that it's the consistent foundation you can all build upon.

I got this book to get myself more educated on what SAP Netweaver is all about. I've been doing SAP consulting for over ten years but, like others, feel like I'm not up-to-date with the latest SAP Technologies and products. After carrying this book around with me for over two months, I'm still not done with it. This is because I keep on getting irritated when I read this book and then I put it down. And I'm not easily irritated. I think I'm at the point where I'm going to put it in a box (with many other books that I DID read) and read something else instead. This book is just wasting my time. Here's

my problems with this book:1. The writers try to be funny/entertaining all the time. I do like humor, but they do it way, way too much and they are not funny at all.2. Some of the things they discuss are simple, basic, worthless information that any IT person knows.3. They make Netweaver seem easy, all-good and the future of IT. I love SAP and I think Netweaver is probably a good platform. But I think this book is overselling it and making unproven claims that may mislead less-experienced people. This book could have been good if the (useful) content was offered in a different way. Some suggestions if a second edition materializes.1. Don't try to be funny. Just present the material.2. Leave out all the unnecessary, useless information. You're not obligated to go over 400 pages. I'd prefer to read a thinner book with just the relevant information. I don't always give the lowest rating for things I don't like. And this book does have some useful information here and there. But the presentation is just so terrible to me that it makes whatever good it has worthless.

While the book's attempt at humor irritates me, I still manage to find good information. The author covers a lot of material. Some of it is way too simplistic. Some of it is not deep enough in my opinion. I've picked it up a few times and put it back down, but won't toss it. That being said, I'm still looking for something better (SAP Press doesn't have anything actually good either, despite some new titles).

This book is a good overview of SAP Netweaver, although it takes some careful sifting to determine what is there right now, and what is futureware (I won't call it vapourware because I have little doubt that SAP will deliver on it). Unfortunately the laboured attempt to appear non-technical and more businessy is delivered by means of a jokey cuteness that rapidly becomes irritating and detracts from the overall package. All of the elements of Netweaver, with the possible exception of Master Data Management are already present in competing technologies, and thankfully for the most part the book does mention the generic name (e.g. Bulletin board) so that the elements of Netweaver can be understood in their context. This saves a lot of brain strain trying to find your way through the marketing.

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