

## searching for yoda – a developer's tale

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Hello,

if there are any wise and knowing individuals reading this who might be able to set me on the true path, i'd be indebted.

So, the story goes: I've been a Java developer for a great long while, but in a *\*very\** sheltered community – I don't know and haven't used a great many of what have become standard technologies. Most every significant project involves a number of headaches that I believe have been solved by said technologies.

I code with vi and build with hand-made scripts. I handle versioning with hand-made scripts. I use no GUI builder and write JDBC to handle persistence.

I'm made aware of (and reasonably sold on) eclipse (<http://www.eclipse.org>). This can be made to include a GUI builder (<http://www.eclipse.org/vep/>) and handle versioning through cvs (<https://www.cvshome.org/>). There's also a thing called MyEclipse (<http://www.myeclipseide.com>) which I know nothing about.

I *\*hate\** writing SQL in seperate DAO's and worrying about a handcoded persistence manager, connection caching, etc. This should be automated. I search for a while and find the community has largely come to like Hibernate (<http://www.hibernate.org>). There are even plug-ins for Eclipse: Hibernate (<http://hibernator.sourceforge.net/>), Hibernate Synchronizer (<http://hibernatesynch.sourceforge.net/>), and Hiberclipse (<http://hiberclipse.sourceforge.net/>) are all mentioned in an article (<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2005/01/05/hibernate.html>).

Hibernate Synchronizer seems to have the largest community, so I look into it further. Looks like the empahsis is on going from a mapping file to a db and Java code. There is a thing called middlegen (<http://boss.bekk.no/boss/middlegen/>) that lets you start from the db — but what I'm good at is Java...

Ah ha, one can make Java generate the mapping file if one uses XDoclet (<http://xdoclet.sourceforge.net/xdoclet/index.html>), and the XDoclet hibernate plug-in (<http://xdoclet.codehaus.org/Hibernate+plugin>) ...sort of -- many references hint at bugs. XDoclet uses lower layers to do its work which I'm not sure one needs to master independantly, but they include Generama, Velocity, and Freemaker...

All of this of course requires Ant (<http://ant.apache.org/>), although the XDoclet example for Ant is missing -- no worries, it does include an example using Maven (<http://maven.apache.org/>). All of the set-up for darn near everything uses XML of course, and there's an xml editor plug-in for Eclipse -- XMLBuddy (<http://www.xmlbuddy.com/>)

Most of the Hibernate examples use the HSQLDB (<http://hsqldb.sourceforge.net/>) for development.

That's a boatload of technologies folks. I've got active projects for which I'd like to use Eclipse/Hibernate and don't have the time (I've wasted far too long already) to fully investigate and learn all this. What is the proper path through this open-source forest?

Kind regards,

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