

## BOOK REVIEW

on

### **HARNESSING GREEN IT – PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES**

San Murugesan & G.R. Ganadharan (editors)

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Green Information Technology (IT) occurs frequently (and usually quite prominently) on most lists of important and/or emerging technologies of the next decade. Descriptions of “green data centers,” such as those operated by Google, often appear in both the technical and mainstream press. However, what actually constitutes Green IT is usually quite vague as it relates to overall “green awareness” efforts to achieve zero or minimal impact on the global environment and support environmental sustainability.

The editors of this book have compiled an impressive collection of works from notable researchers and practitioners who are all experts in various aspects of Green IT. Its scope includes hardware, software, networking, infrastructure, strategy, policy and more. All of the chapters are comprehensive and informative.

If this book has any one flaw, it is that it views all aspects of IT from a “green perspective” sometimes giving the reader the impression that the editors felt obliged to do so even when the connection might be tenuous. For example, the chapter on Semantic Web Technologies describes tools to increase data use efficiency that should (in this reviewer’s opinion) probably be a design goal even when not attempting to minimize energy usage. As a result, there are perhaps some topics that might be of little direct applicability to a traditional Web Engineering effort.

Overall, *Harnessing Green IT* would be a valuable addition to the library of an IT professional as the practices it discusses are of general use and applicability and are very well described. It could also prove to be a well-referenced source for students in academic or vocational curricula on this topic. The debate on Green IT is unlikely to go away in the foreseeable future so owners of this book may well find themselves referring to it frequently in order to inform themselves on particular issues and become involved in the evolution of these important technologies.

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