

# Getting Started with IBM FileNet P8 Content Manager

*William J. Carpenter*

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## Getting Started with IBM FileNet P8 Content Manager

Install, customize, and administer the powerful FileNet  
Enterprise Content Management platform

William J. Carpenter

**[PACKT]** enterprise<sup>88</sup>  
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**William J. Carpenter : Getting Started with IBM FileNet P8 Content Manager** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Getting Started with IBM FileNet P8 Content Manager:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book for getting started into P8 installation  
By Axel Ramirez  
I've been using filenet for a long time now but never had the chance to install it. This book resumes the installation process in some chapters and explains the process very well. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand the installation process.  
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. differs from database or source code packages  
By W Boudville  
If you have previous experiences with database management or with using some type of source control system, then the tasks described in Carpenter's book will seem generally familiar. But running this implementation of an Enterprise Content Management package might go well beyond the those tasks. One big difference is that the underlying data is not [in general] structured. A departure from database management, with its underlying SQL premises. Thus in this book, there is no or little talk about designing tables or queries. The ECM data objects are typically documents, with free flowing textual content. The second difference is with source code control. Implementations of the latter are often specialised to certain programming languages. Typically with an accompanying

Integrated Development Environment [IDE]. But for ECM, the documents, or more to the point, the text in them, have no such subject restriction. Now FileNet P8 does have a graphical user interface for its administrator, which you might take as the closest analog to a source code IDE. And the book demonstrates quite a complexity to its GUI, which reflects the generality and complexity of the object management tasks possible. One point of overall functional commonality is versioning. FileNet allows major and minor version numbers, as well as associated auditing data about who made the changes and when. You as the administrator can also define which users are allowed to change a given document, or set of documents. The latter often occurs when all the documents are in a directory or folder, so there is the concept of permissioning on a directory. Another key idea is that a document version can be frozen; e.g. for public release after it has been vetted by all relevant parties. FileNet also has considerable support for Java and .NET clients. Within the Java context, J2EE, the enterprise version, seems well handled. Which should be expected, given that FileNet's remit is to span an enterprise. Specifically within J2EE, IBM's Websphere is available [no surprise], but it is nice to see that JBoss [now a part of Red Hat] and the Oracle WebLogic can be used too. While at the underlying database level, the IBM DB2, Oracle and Microsoft's SQL Server can be run. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good book for people new to the P8 ECM Suite. By Thomas Woodward. This is a well written book, but I imagine that it got a bit tedious to write. There's just no way one book can cover all facets of the product suite and all the components as well. There are a number of GAPS; nothing on Workplace, BAM, Active Case Management, etc. Also, the product itself is in constant flux, new versions, new labels, new features and functions and while he does touch on technologies primarily with regards to compliance issues it's often done in the barest fashion. Certain functions and tools such as ICC and eForms for P8, IBM forms are notable in the lack of detail. The book is actually pretty pricey when you consider and compare it to the IBM Redbooks which are free and to which William also contributed. It is a good primer though, especially if your focus is ECM as a compliance solution. I have the ebook in my library and recommend it, but with some caveats, after two years in print it's starting to age. But it's a good primer, there are few options and I hope he's active on a new version that might be a bit more complete and perhaps offer some best practices, deployment and planning guides.

The book is written in a straightforward style and avoids sales and marketing hype. William J. Carpenter is an Enterprise Content Management architect at IBM who spends every day doing product development and helping others make the best use of the Content Manager product. The numerous tips and notes arise from his years of practical experience with FileNet products. Most of the book consists of specific recipes for installing and using Content Manager, and it also provides you with clear and precise explanations of the most important features and components. It is written in a conversational style without being "dumbed down", and the book can be read straight through, from cover to cover. It emphasizes the things you need to know, presented in a logical progression. If you are a CIO, an IT manager, an IT staff engineer, or perhaps a business leader, business analyst, or even an end user who wants to better understand the role that Content Manager plays in your enterprise, irrespective of any previous knowledge of IBM FileNet P8 Content Manager or Enterprise Content Management in general, then this book is a must have for you. And if you are someone who is just starting to work with Content Manager or who is facing a decision about whether to use Content Manager or another solution, be assured you will not find a better guide. Even if you have years of experience, you can still enrich your knowledge with the clear, practical explanations of basic and advanced features. Although it is not a developer's guide, per se, the API and sample application will help you as an enterprise developer or architect to get your bearings in Content Manager technologies.

About the Author William J. Carpenter is an Enterprise Content Management Architect with IBM in the Seattle, Washington, area. He has experience in the Enterprise Content Management business since 1998, as a developer, development manager, and architect. He is co-author of the books *IBM FileNet Content Manager Implementation Best Practices and Recommendations* and *Developing Applications with IBM FileNet P8 APIs*, is a Contributing Author on IBM developerWorks, and is a frequent conference presenter. He has experience in building large software systems at Fortune 50 companies and has also served as the CTO of an Internet startup. He has been a frequent mailing list and patch contributor to several open source projects. He holds degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.