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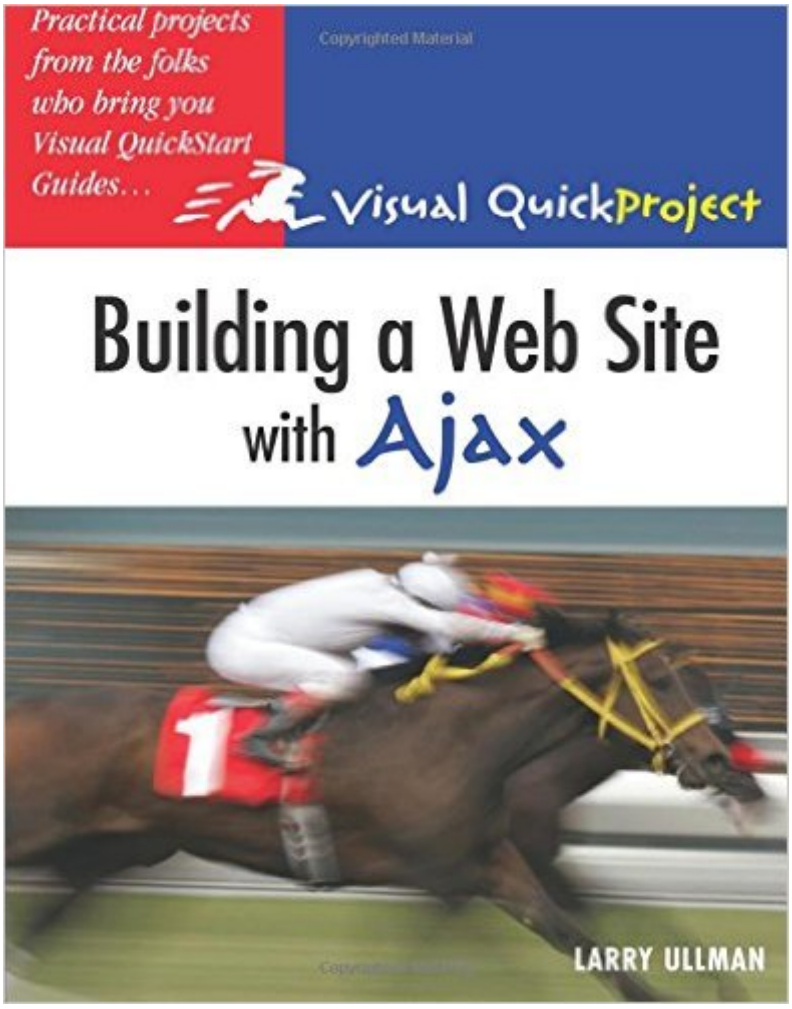
Building A Web Site With Ajax: Visual QuickProject Guide



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Synopsis

Ajax is at the heart of the Web 2.0 revolution. It isn't a technology but, rather, is a technique that leverages other technologies and techniques, such as CSS, XML, DHTML, and XHTML. Many Web designers and programmers would like to incorporate Ajax in their projects because of the amazing functionality it can add to a Web site, but they can't because of the steep learning curve. That's where this book steps in. It makes learning Ajax fun and easy -- a great place to start! Visual QuickProject Guides focus on a single project. In this case the project is creating a business employee directory, like an address book. What's being created is a better, new kind of Web site.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Peachpit Press; 1 edition (October 13, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0321524411

ISBN-13: 978-0321524416

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

The author succeeds in leading the reader through an example application utilizing techniques that have been lumped under the name "Ajax". I suspect that many readers learn as I do by testing and experimenting with code examples. To get the most out of the book, these readers should have access to a desktop or ISP web server with Php capability.Throught out the book, the author refers the reader to other resources that cover topics referred to briefly or noted as simply not in the scope of the book. Examples are installing Apache/PHP, verifying data input, security considerations etc.The book is a excellent read for those who have already delved into one of the pre-Ajax volumes that covered MySql/PHP in depth and want an Ajax upgrade. Others with basic application implementation needs will benefit from the overview, example code and resource tips provided.

The book jacket lists it as a beginner level book. It says: "Familiarity with HTML, JavaScript, PHP and CSS would be helpful but is not required." It’s true that the project doesn’t involve anything terribly complicated in any of these areas. Still, if ALL of these are unfamiliar to you, I’d guess it would be quite difficult to follow what is going on simply because there are so many components interacting. (Actually there are a few more involved as well: MySQL, SQL and XML).Every step of the project is explained at a level that assumes you might not have seen that type of code before. But the exact syntax of each line of code isn’t always explained so you may have to follow up with more reading and research if you want to adapt what you’ve learned to your own project later.Several things I thought were particularly good about this book. One: given that browsers do a good part of the processing with AJAX through JavaScript, and given that you can’t count on consistent behavior across browsers--or even on JavaScript being enabled, I was pleased to find that the project was designed to create a non-AJAX version first and then to add the AJAX layer on top of that.Two: there was a good amount of error-checking built in to the application even though it is a fairly simple one. That’s something as a not-so-proficient programmer I often find myself overlooking.And three: tips on debugging in PHP and in JavaScript are included. Although they are pretty basic tips, if you are a beginner, they will be helpful.I’d say this book can give you as much for your investment of time as many a day-long workshop would and at much lower cost.

I already have a book from Larry Ullman (on PHP5 and SQL). So I know the man is both a great programmer and an excellent teacher. I already know the basics of Ajax (XMLHTTPRequest object, asynchronous requests etc). But I’m always interested in studying case studies. The book was unexpensive and short so I went for it. And I’m really happy I did. The project developed in this book clearly shows how to deal with server side problems and even to deal with a client on which javascript is disabbled (or blocked by a security app).Two thumbs up for this book.

I had eagerly awaited the release of this based on the quality of Larry Ullman’s other books and outstanding support, and a niggling desire to learn about Ajax.This is written in the same easy-to-follow style of the author’s previous publications and well worth the purchase price. It takes the reader through creating a single Ajax example with PHP and MYSQL, and clearly explains the concepts as you go. As usual, there is an accompanying web page with downloadable files and other information.Highly recommended!

I have to agree somewhat with Charlie, who gave this book one star. While this is a good introduction to Ajax, parts of the code were missing in the Ajax versions, so after I typed in all the code in the Ajax-based chapters and tested them, they only brought up the non-Ajax versions. However, when I replaced the code I typed from the Ajax-based chapters with the downloadable code from the book's website, it worked. I compared that code with the Ajax examples in the book and sure enough, there were missing snippets of code. Of course, this book isn't the ultimate "bible" of Ajax and the author didn't mean it to be that way. It's just an introduction to Ajax with a real-world application for HR departments. This book was my introduction to Ajax, which I'll follow up with more in-depth books on the Ajax/PHP combination. I give this book 3 stars.

I own this book, it is a good book on designing visual pleasing php based sites with easy updating of pages without needing to refresh the page for new content, updating databases etc.. BUT with the recent advances in jQuery and Twitter Bootstrap this book is rather outdated as AJAX by itself as a term you really don't need to code for anymore as others have done all that for you.I wouldn't spend a whole lot of money on this book, more than 10 dollars and it wouldn't be worth the price in my opinion. When it first came out, YES but now I don't think so. There are other books of Larry's that go into what this book does and so much more.

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