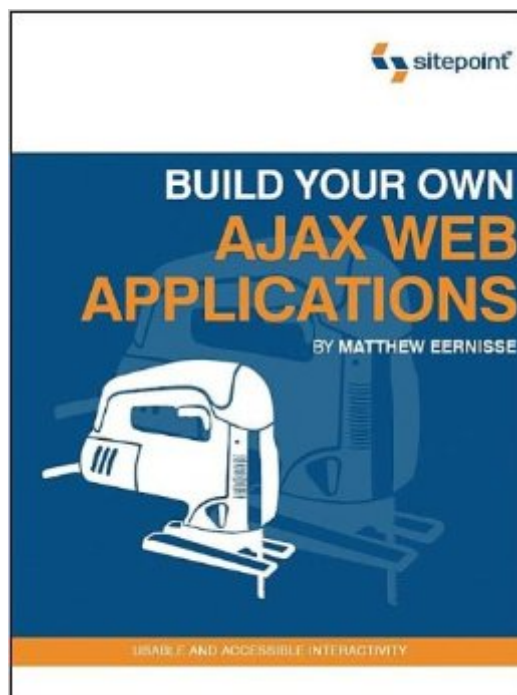


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Build Your Own AJAX Web Applications



Synopsis

AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML) is a new approach for developing web applications. It essentially permits users to interact with a Webpage without forcing a slow & tedious reload of the entire page after every action. This means web applications become more responsive, easier to use, and more intuitive. Build Your Own Ajax Web Applications uses a step-by-step tutorial format that's so easy to follow, you'll be able to build sophisticated and intuitive Ajax web interfaces in no time! Read this book, and you'll: Get an overview of the basic technologies you'll need to use to build Ajax applications. Understand the XMLHttpRequest object, the core of Ajax applications. Build a cross-browser XMLHttpRequest wrapper that you can use in all of your Ajax projects. Build an Ajax application monitor that works in real time. Learn how to use Ajax without breaking older browsers or causing accessibility issues. Get your Ajax application working with screen readers. Use dynamic animations to improve usability. Build edit-in-place functionality. Create an Ajax search application that pulls data from , del.icio.us, and Google. Fix the "Back button" problem. Use JSON, YAML, and XML to communicate with the server. Build an Ajax drag 'n' drop chess game. And a whole lot more! Throughout the text, the author stresses usability, accessibility, and graceful degradation for older, less-capable web browsers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The craze of Ajax has publishers rushing their own Ajax books to market to get a piece of the Ajax pie so to speak. This book sets itself apart from the other Ajax books for one reason...Clear, concise

explanations with no confusing terminology! The author uses code snippets, browser results snapshots, and nice white space to allow the reader to digest what the author is talking about without getting overloading with techno-babble. In my opinion, the most important part in learning Ajax is not the fancy DOM effects or the server-side coding to pull the data; it is understanding how you need to use the XMLHttpRequest object in sending and receiving requests from the server. The way we program our web applications to send and receive data from the server has changed with Ajax and this book shows the reader in gradual steps how to utilize the Ajax pieces in creating some useful editions to your website. This book assumes you have knowledge of CSS and JavaScript, but that's it. You don't have to be a guru in either, just have a good basic understanding of each. The rest will be supplied by the author's code examples. Actually reading this book and learning Ajax will help you create better accessible website (even if you don't use Ajax), because it focuses on using technologies where they can degrade nicely if the user of the site does not have the most up-to-date browser or is using a screen reader which would definitely hinder on the web experience. The most important chapter(s) in my opinion are Chapters 2, 3 and 4 where the author explains in great detail the XMLHttpRequest object and how it is used to send a request asynchronously in getting requests from the server.

I bought this book seeking for an in-depth AJAX reference as it was described by its editors as well as by other reviewers on the net. I found myself reading an entry-level, low-horizon compilation of Google results, stuffed with lots of duplicate, narrow-scoped, non-optimal and non-reusable code chunks. From a technology point of view, AJAX is a deep, narrow domain: as you discover it, it seems simple, but as you explore it further in attempting to build complex applications there are lots of traps and gotchas to look after. Most of them are documented online in various articles and tutorials, the deeper ones are covered by some AJAX libraries available to download, but there isn't any coherent all-in-one book to cover all of them -- such as I hoped to find this book. The book opens with an XMLHttpRequest presentation at-large that ends with the popular IE5/IE6/Others try-catch implementation hastily dubbed a "cross-browser XMLHttpRequest wrapper". The code presented here lays the foundation for an incremental application presented throughout the book. This triggers a first alert: you can only read this book from page 1 to the last in order to get a coherent message. Otherwise you'll end up finding references to code presented in an earlier chapter, which you won't understand unless you read the previous chapter and so on. The code itself is very particular, not at all elegantly or optimally written, and from my point of view useless in the scope of a big web application. This is why you'll find chapter titles like "Handling the Result with

showPoll", "The toggleButton method", "The displayOpacity Method" etc. that have nothing to do with AJAX but present Javascript chunks from the book application.

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