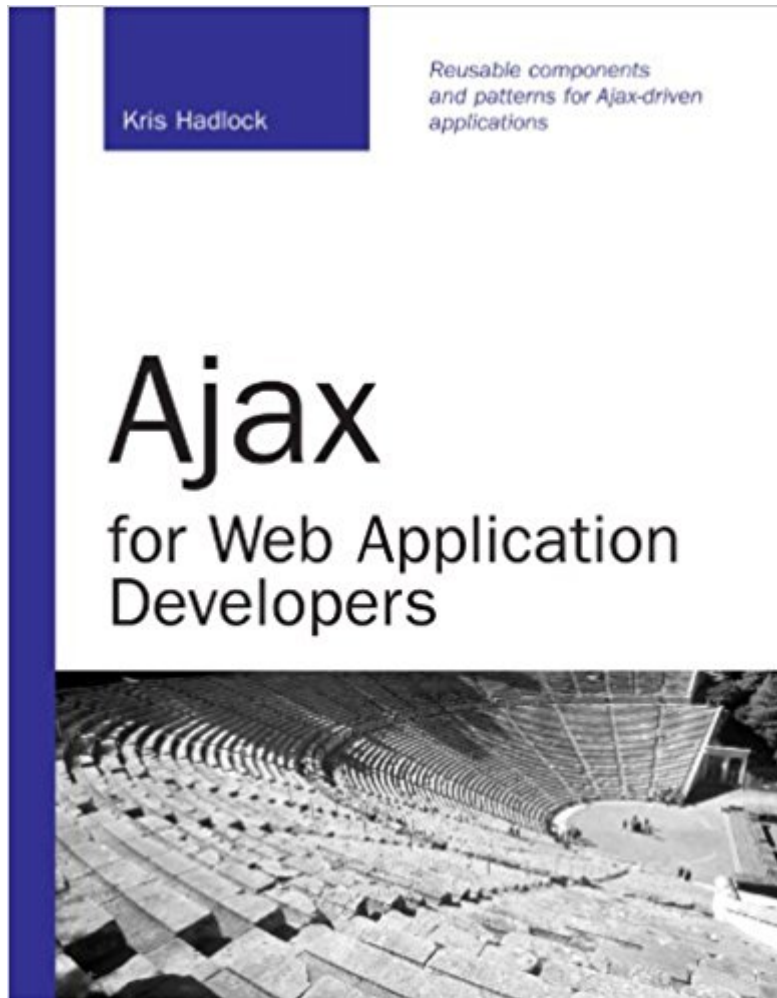




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Ajax For Web Application Developers



Synopsis

Reusable components and patterns for Ajax-driven applications Ajax is one of the latest and greatest ways to improve users' online experience and create new and innovative web functionality. By allowing specific parts of a web page to be displayed without refreshing the entire page, Ajax significantly enhances the experience of web applications. It also lets web developers create intuitive and innovative interaction processes. Ajax for Web Application Developers provides the in-depth working knowledge of Ajax that web developers need to take their web applications to the next level. The book shows how to create an Ajax-driven web application from an object-oriented perspective, and it includes discussion of several useful Ajax design patterns. This detailed guide covers the creation of connections to a MySQL database with PHP 5 via a custom Ajax engine and shows how to gracefully format the response with CSS, JavaScript, and XHTML while keeping the data tightly secure. It also covers the use of four custom Ajax-enabled components in an application and how to create each of them from scratch. The final section of the book combines the individual code examples and techniques from earlier chapters of the book into one larger, Ajax-driven application—an internal web mail application that can be used in any user-based application, such as a community-based web application. Readers will learn not only how to create and use their own reusable Ajax components in this application but also how to connect their components to any future Ajax applications that they might build. Web Development/Ajax/JavaScript

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Customer Reviews

I've been working on the Web for a handful+ of years, but save for a brief stint back in the late 90s, I haven't had much use for JavaScript (with the exception of a few one/two-liners). As such, I came to this book as a new-comer to Ajax. I also like to learn by way of example, instead of explanation, so code examples are a big plus, if not a requirement. Unfortunately, from this background, my expectations for this book appear to have been set too high. Granted, it may be because of the lack of full examples in the book (and that they are not available online - more on this momentarily). In fact, that's probably the only thing holding me back. There's minor errors in code in the book as well, but that's to be expected, and a second edition/printing will fix most of these. By itself, this shouldn't hold you back. But as a beginner's resource, I'm not sure that this is the book you'd want to pick up. I actually recommend that you take a look elsewhere, particularly online, for how to start with Ajax. Once you've got the basics down, then you can take a look at this book, as it does provide from very good tips as far as keeping your code standardized. Had I been the first reviewer, I would have given this book four stars. Since I was not, I have decided to give it three. This is because I feel it's a good book, but not for as large an audience as you may think, based upon reading the description. Again, I feel that this book is more for if you've worked with Ajax, but not in a standard/formal way. Regarding the code I mentioned above, while it's true that there is a zip file of the code files, I don't feel that it truly contains all of the necessary code.

First, let me agree with the previous reviewer who noted that this isn't an AJAX book for beginners. It isn't. I don't think anyone claimed that it was. It's a book for web application developers seeking to incorporate AJAX technology into web applications. I wouldn't expect a book with that kind of scope to be appropriate for beginners. This one certainly isn't, and I'm glad, having read enough beginner AJAX books that go over what an XMLHttpRequest is and explain some of the commonly used "stupid JavaScript tricks", dropping the names of popular frameworks and toolkits along the way without really supplying much information about them. Having said that: I've been seeking a book with the scope of this book for quite a while now. Not since Nicholas Zakas' book "Professional JavaScript for Web Developers" (which I still highly recommend) has this kind of in-depth coverage of the inner workings of AJAX been offered up. Zakas' book (only two years old) went into great detail about using Javascript to do all the cool things we now know as "AJAX"... without once using the word. (Two years ago the word "AJAX" hadn't reached its present buzzword saturation level, if it had been used much at all.) Hadlock revisits the technology now that AJAX and the various toolkits and frameworks supporting it (Dojo, script.aculo.us, Google Web Toolkit, etc.) have become

commonplace. He doesn't provide a tutorial on how to use a particular toolkit or framework; instead, he explains how you can write an "engine" of your own. He starts with a good intro to AJAX, including explanations of how to use both XML and JSON in the response, moves on to the basic principles of object-oriented JavaScript, and then provides examples of reusable JavaScript components to include in your own JavaScript/AJAX engine.

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