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Programming PHP



Synopsis

This updated edition teaches everything you need to know to create effective web applications with the latest features in PHP 5.x. You'll start with the big picture and then dive into language syntax, programming techniques, and other details, using examples that illustrate both correct usage and common idioms. If you have a working knowledge of HTML, the authors' many style tips and practical programming advice will help you become a top-notch PHP programmer. Get an overview of what's possible with PHP programsLearn language fundamentals, including data types, variables, operators, and flow control statementsUnderstand functions, strings, arrays, and objectsApply common web application techniques, such as form processing, data validation, session tracking, and cookiesInteract with relational databases like MySQL or NoSQL databases such as MongoDBGenerate dynamic images, create PDF files, and parse XML filesLearn secure scripts, error handling, performance tuning, and other advanced topicsGet a quick reference to PHP core functions and standard extensions

Book Information

Paperback: 540 pages

Publisher: O'Reilly Media; 3 edition (February 25, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1449392776

ISBN-13: 978-1449392772

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #374,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Web Programming > PHP #1716 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Internet & Social Media #2415 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Web Development & Design

Customer Reviews

While not an important part of the book itself-the foreword was one of the best I have read in a technical book. It really describes how many people get started with PHP-it is accessible. This book provides a lot more structure than randomly placing PHP statements that have been googled together. I have not had the chance to review other editions, but it was noted that the material had been updated for the latest features of PHP version 5. With over 500+ pages, this feels like the

O'Reilly books from the past that covered a lot of material and feels like a solid reference all around. One example was learning about Traits. While I knew of them from other languages, I had no clue that they were part of PHP until this book since I am only a causal user of the language. Chapter 7 dealing with Web Techniques will probably be immediately useful for someone trying to get a site out quickly. SQLite and MongoDB coverage was welcomed and showed that current updates are indeed included. While of course not complete by any means in scope, Chapter 12 Security was a great introduction to the various security concerns developers need to think about including XSS, filtering input, and session fixation to name a few. One minor complaint was the debugging chapter was very short and did not seem to add that much value to me. I would have liked to see the chapter about extending PHP with C from the 2nd edition, but that subject probably had a limited audience and I understand why it was likely removed. Overall conclusion: Solid reference and learning guide for PHP. I don't think you could go wrong with "Programming PHP". Disclaimer: I got a copy of this book for review as part of O'Reilly blogger program.

I have a bad habit of buying programming books on a whim. That being said, this turned out to be a pleasant surprise.* The examples are immediately useful. I've already been able to code minor things for work and home in the past 3 days; I've barely used PHP seriously in 10 years.* Its modern. A lot of books tend to be obsolete by the time they come to print. This book has updated stuff for MySQL + NoSQL; object-oriented behavior; graphics; PDFs; etc. I expect to get much use out of it on some upcoming projects.

I wouldn't recommend this book to people with no scripting/programming experience as it dives right in. It feels more like a reference book. The subject matter is more about the language itself rather than using examples on how to use php. It's a decent book for someone who knows how to program and needs a reference on PHP, but if I was a complete novice I'd feel overwhelmed as it assumes previous knowledge/experience in programming fundamentals.

I wish I had found this book earlier. Most PHP programming books teach the language by example programs such as online ordering software or database access. This is fine for getting a grasp on a new language, but it skips a lot of details and fundamentals. The only thing the reader learns to do is "cookbook" style programming. Kevin Tatroe's PHP Programming starts out with language basics in great detail -- constructs, variable types, expressions, flow control, and how PHP can be mixed with HTML. When the index is consulted, details are found within a few pages of each other instead

of scattered in dribs and drabs among multiple examples. Beginners in a language may need that first "Hello, World" example book, but a book like Tatroe's is needed as the second book if one wants to create original programs for which examples do not exist.

I really like the way the book covers a lot of ground in an organized fashion. I did not like the way examples are thrown around without much consideration to actual use cases. Let's be upfront about it: You'll probably never write a class called SupernaturalPerson, so it may take you a little bit more thinking to come up with your own example and then connect it to the concepts being taught. There are examples of this all over the book. I'll probably never need to create a PDF file that demonstrates where things can be positioned, but I may need to create some letterhead. If I try to adapt the "positioning things" demo to the letterhead project, I may quickly realize there are little things that would have been really helpful to have printed in the book. So examples, appropriate examples, count for a lot. With all that said, good book for people who are trying to solidify their PHP knowledge. Kind of bathroom-reference material more than "give you new ideas about cool stuff you can do" material.

Organization is good, format is good and content is good. That being said, PHP is a complex and, at times, perplexing programming language. The language designers, by including syntax from Perl and C, have muddied the waters. The endless rules, substitutions and exceptions to rules are dizzying. The writers of this manual seem "confused" by the language, offering up examples that are sometimes incomprehensible because of the "overlapping" syntax. The text at times feels rushed with new terminology thrown into the mix without appropriate clarification. It feels like the authors are saying "just google it, I don't have time to explain it clearly". The in-depth coverage suffers from the "this is my favorite language and I cannot point out its weaknesses" philosophy. I recommend this volume as an essential reference for PHP. It is not a "teaching text".

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