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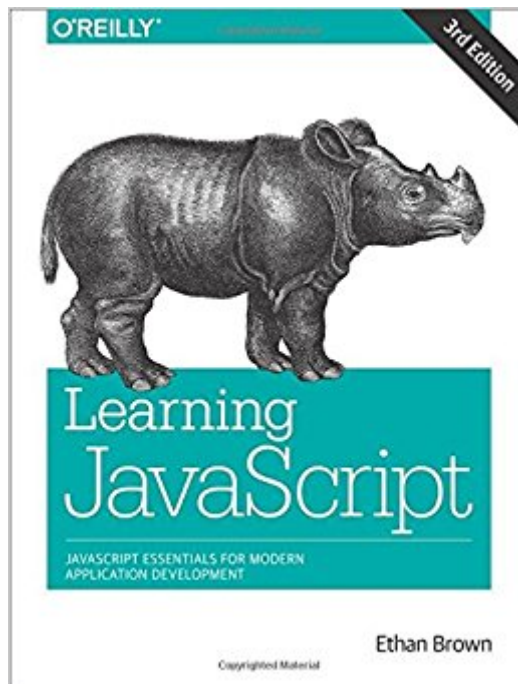
Learning JavaScript: JavaScript Essentials For Modern Application Development

Synopsis

This is an exciting time to learn JavaScript. Now that the latest JavaScript specificationâ "ECMAScript 6.0 (ES6)â "has been finalized, learning how to develop high-quality applications with this language is easier and more satisfying than ever. This practical book takes programmers (amateurs and pros alike) on a no-nonsense tour of ES6, along with some related tools and techniques.Author Ethan Brown (Web Development with Node and Express) not only guides you through simple and straightforward topics (variables, control flow, arrays), but also covers complex concepts such as functional and asynchronous programming. Youâ ™ll learn how to create powerful and responsive web applications on the client, or with Node.js on the server.Use ES6 today and transcompile code to portable ES5Translate data into a format that JavaScript can useUnderstand the basic usage and mechanics of JavaScript functionsExplore objects and object-oriented programmingTackle new concepts such as iterators, generators, and proxiesGrasp the complexities of asynchronous programmingWork with the Document Object Model for browser-based appsLearn Node.js fundamentals for developing server-side applications

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Customer Reviews

Who This Book Is For   This book is primarily for readers who already have some experience with programming (even an introductory programming class, or an online course). If youÃ¢Â Â™re new to programming, this book will be helpful, but you might want to supplement it with an introductory text or class. Those who already have some JavaScript experience (especially if itÃ¢Â Â™s only in

ES5) will find a practical and thorough coverage of important language concepts. Programmers who are coming from another language should feel right at home with the content in this book. This book does attempt to comprehensively cover the language features, related tools, techniques, and paradigms that drive modern JavaScript development. Therefore, the material in this book necessarily ranges from the simple and straightforward (variables, control flow, functions) to the complicated and esoteric (asynchronous programming, regular expressions). Depending on your level of experience, you may find some chapters more challenging than others: the beginning programmer will no doubt need to revisit some of the material more than once.

First, this book is clearly and explicitly for people with some knowledge of programming in general and desiring to learn the ES6 JavaScript environment. Experienced JavaScript coders will probably find other, more helpful resources. Typical of OÃ¢Â Â™ReillyÃ¢Â Â™s introductory books, the author begins at the beginning and patiently and slowly works his way through JavaScript. He ends with subjects like Regular Expressions, jQuery and Node which arenÃ¢Â Â™t places sissies will want to go. Author Ethan BrownÃ¢Â Â™s writing style is clear and thorough. IÃ¢Â Â™ve havenÃ¢Â Â™t tested every code snippet, so canÃ¢Â Â™t comment on them. But OÃ¢Â Â™Reilly is quite good at publishing errata for their books. I havenÃ¢Â Â™t needed to use JavaScript for a while, having switched over entirely to Python. My knowledge needs are somewhat limited in that I need to know enough to supervise the work of coders working on my projects. But I have drifted so far that I need a crash course in ES6, not to mention ES5. And for that, this book will do an excellent job. I like it.Jerry

I'm trying to learn Javascript to get better at front-end development and have purchased and read several books, including "Eloquent Javascript", "Speaking Javascript" and some other titles as well. This one blows them all away. One of my favorite chapters is chapter 7: "Scope". It taught me a lot about hoisting, var and let. And after having read this chapter I will probably not use var again. Other chapters of interest were chapter 13: "Functions and The Power of Abstract Thinking" and the chapters on arrays, objects and sets/maps.This book can also be used a reference, but so far I've preferred reading it chapter to chapter and testing all the code.As for chapter 1 which some readers seem to dislike, I have to agree with the negative reviews. It was an unnecessary chapter, especially because there are websites out there offering Javascript (ES6) interpreters which should suffice for running the examples in this book. I've been using one of said sites to run the code examples in this book with no problem. Furthermore, those 30 pages spent on introducing various

tools would have been better spent on jQuery which I felt didn't get enough coverage, or even the DOM Model and element manipulation. Those things would benefit new Javascript learners far more than introducing tools like package managers etc. So I will have to subtract one star for that.If you're new to programming, then this book is not for you. If you're sufficient in Javascript (ES5) then this book will have too much fluff for you. If you already know a programming language and what to learn Javascript then this book is the best. It's up to date, has great code examples, and explains thoroughly the mechanisms behind Javascript pecularities such as hoisting and vars.

I'm excited to find this book, which looks forward to the (near) future of JavaScript, rather than being mired in the past.While I have worked with JavaScript in the past, my skills have gotten rusty and there are new ways to think about JavaScript's capabilities, such as Node that I needed to become acquainted with. I love that this book is not talking about just JavaScript, but multiple facets of how to work with JavaScript and code in general, such as its brief introduction to git and gulp.The decision to jump on into ES6/Harmony is only slightly awkward. If you're here to update your skills, looking ahead and not at "today" is exactly the right idea. There is only a slight a bump in terms of needing to us Babel to compile the ES6 code into the ES5 that can work with today's browsers.This is a relatively compact O'Reilly book at ~300 pages, and ~100 pages of it are basic programming things... although one needs to be fuzzy about how much of that is "basic programming", since, for example, even if you know about loops, you need to know how they work in JavaScript. About halfway through the book, we learn about newer stuff, such as how ES6 does maps (dictionaries to python folks), sets, catch/throw, iterators and generators.In general, the book contains some "basics" that are yawners for seasoned programmers (but not irrelevant since we need to make sure we know how ES6 does these things) and then a lot of good information about how to think about your code and your process.

This is a terrific book. I learned a lot just following the instructions in Chapter 2 about the development environment on my Macbook Air. Like a lot of software engineers, I suspect, my knowledge of JavaScript has been learned on the job and from reading the greatÂ JavaScript: The Good Parts, and so there is a lot here that I had not been exposed to previously.The book uses the new JavaScript standard ES6 but shows how you can setup your development environment to automatically generate ES5 code using Babel. The author also provides a quick introduction to Git (of which I am very familiar) but also npm, a package manager similar to apt, gulp, a build tool, node.js, and eslint. All the work I have done previously in JS has been browser-based using a

Python Flask server and Bootstrap, so I am particularly excited about doing standalone JS development with Node.Novice programmers may find all this intimidating but if you can get through this book you will learn and master a ton of good stuff. I ran into one issue with the examples that I managed to solve by checking the online errata (more like a forum post actually), and that was because I failed to note (on page 26) that the template strings are delimited with back-ticks and not apostrophes. Once I caught that error (on my part) everything just works. I'm very excited about this book.

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