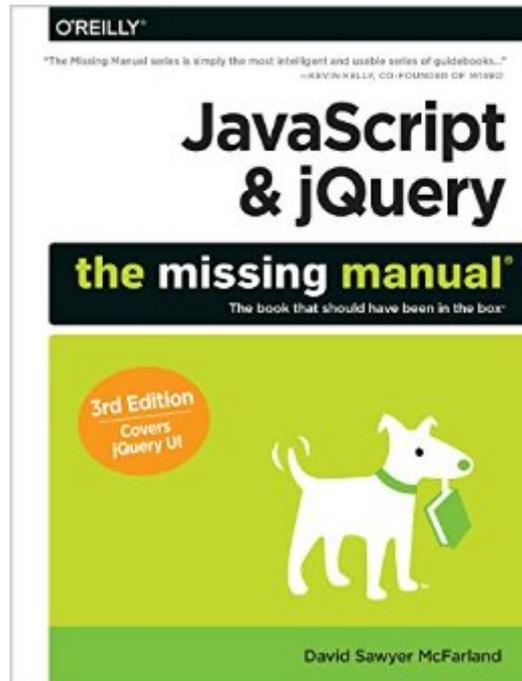# JavaScript & JQuery: The Missing Manual (Missing Manuals)

Synopsis

JavaScript lets you supercharge your HTML with animation, interactivity, and visual effectsâ"but many web designers find the language hard to learn. This easy-to-read guide not only covers JavaScript basics, but also shows you how to save time and effort with the jQuery and jQuery UI libraries of prewritten JavaScript code. Youâ ™ll build web pages that feel and act like desktop programsâ"with little or no programming.The important stuff you need to know:Pull back the curtain on JavaScript. Learn how to build a basic program with this language.Get up to speed on jQuery. Quickly assemble JavaScript programs that work well on multiple web browsers.Transform your user interface. Learn jQuery UI, the JavaScript library for interface features like design themes and controls.Make your pages interactive. Create JavaScript events that react to visitor actions.Use animations and effects. Build drop-down navigation menus, pop-ups, automated slideshows, and more.Collect data with web forms. Create easy-to-use forms that ensure more accurate visitor responses.Practice with living examples. Get step-by-step tutorials for web projects you can build yourself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a great place to begin if you want to learn the basics of using JavaScript for website design and interactivity. However, as books go this is not really a text for web developers and programmers as much as it is for web designers.If youâ ™re a novice in any of these fields, or

maybe you've begun down the path of learning HTML and CSS, this is a logical next step. As McFarland notes: â œThis book is meant to familiarize web designers with the ins and outs of JavaScript and then move on to jQuery so that you can add really useful interactivity to a website as quickly and easily as possible.â •In general, I found this text quite rudimentaryâ "a bit too much for meâ "although that shouldn't take away from the fact itâ ™s also well written. Anyone wishing to start from scratch will most definitely find the book packed with valuable information. It also gets into using developer tools in Chrome to test JavaScript early, a great practice to note for a book like this. Too often, books teach people how to write code but not how to understand and debug it. Those latter skills are invaluable and the book does a good job of showing how to do this and what to look for.The last half of the book got pretty awesome because it actually takes a look at AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML), and breaks down topics like JSON (JavaScript Object Notation), the XMLHttpRequest object, and the HTTP protocol. Frankly, I wasn't expecting such a discussion in the book and on that I must highly commend the author and editors.The truth is that outside of the fact the book was mostly basic in content, I didn't find many cons to the text. There were plenteous screenshots and code samples. I think given the breadth of subject matter and the target audience, this book does the trick.

As a web developer for some 20 years, Iâ ™ve read a ton of books on the subject. JavaScript and jQuery The Missing Manual was definitely one of the better ones, but there are a couple of things to note about it right off the bat so as to ensure that the book is geared towards you.The author makes it clear in the first sections of the book that it is geared more for web designers rather than programmers. This doesnâ ™t mean that you need to have design skills, but rather that this isnâ ™t a book for programmers with advanced object oriented programming skills who are now taking a crack at web development. As such, you will find fairly basic explanations for programming concepts that keep things understandable for those who donâ ™t have a background in programming theory.Just as the book doesnâ ™t assume a programmerâ ™s background, it does assume facility with the two other aspects of web development that make up the trifecta of at least front end development, HTML and CSS. If you arenâ ™t familiar with those, then you probably will be a little lost with this book.As a web developer for some 20 years now, yikes, I do appreciate both the content and style of this book. While it can be fairly basic at times, especially when going over JavaScript (this book is really more about jQuery with only the most basic intro to JavaScript as a stand-alone language), itâ ™s still very useful for myself (and Iâ ™m sure possibly still a majority of web developers) who never did actually study development formally, but came by it almost by

accident, by hobby, etc.

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