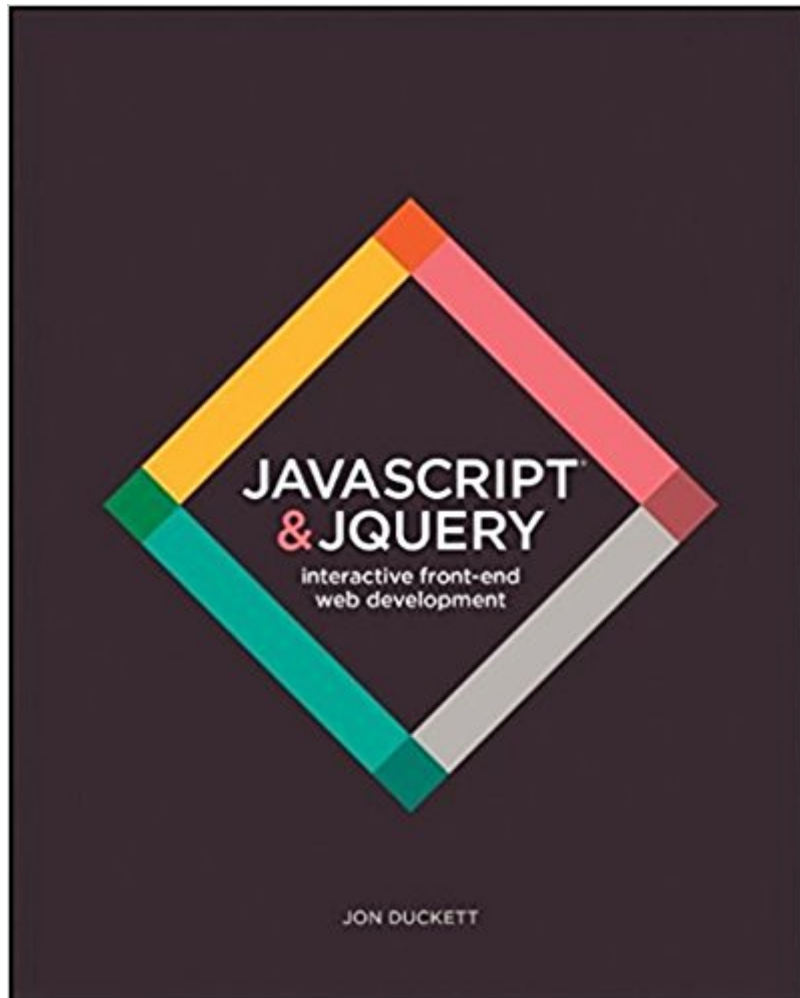




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# JavaScript And JQuery: Interactive Front-End Web Development



## Synopsis

This full-color book will show you how to make your websites more interactive and your interfaces more interesting and intuitive. **THIS BOOK COVERS:** Basic programming concepts - assuming no prior knowledge of programming beyond an ability to create a web page using HTML & CSS Core elements of the JavaScript language - so you can learn how to write your own scripts from scratch jQuery - which will allow you to simplify the process of writing scripts (this is introduced half-way through the book once you have a solid understanding of JavaScript) How to recreate techniques you will have seen on other web sites such as sliders, content filters, form validation, updating content using Ajax, and much more (these examples demonstrate writing your own scripts from scratch and how the theory you have learned is put into practice). As with our first book (the best-selling HTML & CSS: Design and Build Websites), each chapter: Breaks subjects down into bite-sized chunks with a new topic on each page Contains clear descriptions of syntax, each one demonstrated with inspiring code samples Uses diagrams and photography to explain complex concepts in a visual way By the end of the book, not only will you be able to use the thousands of scripts, JavaScript APIs, and jQuery plugins that are freely available on the web, and be able to customize them - you will also be able to create your own scripts from scratch. If you're looking to create more enriching web experiences, then this is the book for you.

## Book Information

Paperback: 640 pages

Publisher: Wiley; 1 edition (June 30, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1118531647

ISBN-13: 978-1118531648

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 1.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 439 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,885 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Web Programming > JavaScript #23 in Books > Computers & Technology > Web Development & Design #27 in Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Programming Languages

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inside it s beautifully designed, clearly laid out, and adds plenty of visual examples alongside the

instructive text (Web User, August 2014) Forget dry references and cheesy examples. This beautifully designed visual guide takes you from the basics to sophisticated JavaScript techniques for making websites interactive and engaging in a way that is, in itself, interactive and engaging (ZDNet, September 2014)

This book was written for anyone who wants to use JavaScript to make their websites a little more interesting, engaging, interactive, or usable. In particular, it is aimed at people who do not have a degree in computer science (well, not yet anyway). Programming books can be intimidating, so we wanted to create a book that taught readers how to use JavaScript in a gentler, more visual way. And importantly, we did not want to assume that the reader had any experience of programming beyond the ability to create a web page in HTML and CSS. (After all, many kinds of people are creating websites these days, and not all of us come from a programming background.) So, if you have ever struggled to get a script working on your web pages, want a better idea of how to customize scripts, or want to write your own scripts from scratch, this book was written for you. We can't promise to remove the unfamiliar terms that programmers use, but we do tell you what they mean (with the aid of visual examples and diagrams) so that JavaScript won't seem like a foreign language any more.

I love Jon Duckett's HTML and CSS book, it has been an invaluable resource in my career. I first started learning web development using it. I was eagerly awaiting this book for over a year. I couldn't wait to learn JavaScript any longer, so I picked up JavaScript: The Definitive Guide and learned a lot online thanks to Codecademy, CodeAvengers, and lots of other great online resources. So, I have a pretty good grasp of JavaScript and use it every day in my job. I still picked up this book when it was released because Duckett's previous book was so important to me and it never hurts to get different perspectives and reinforce my skills and knowledge. I'm about halfway through this book so far and I love it, I'm learning some new things and understanding some concepts from a different angle than I previously did. So, it's already worth the price. However, this book could have used another pass through by a technical editor. It seems like they switched up how they wrote variables and functions halfway through and forgot to fix all the examples in the book. I'm just finishing the events chapter right now and the final example has grievous errors that prevent the page from working as intended. See below:

```
function writeLabel(e) { if (!e) { e = window.event; } target = event.target || event.srcElement; textEntered = e.target.value; noteName.textContent = textEntered;}
```

Rather, it should be:

```
function writeLabel(e) { if (!e) { e =
```

`window.event; } target = e.target || e.srcElement; textEntered = target.value; noteName.textContent = textEntered;}`Go to the accompanying website and try it for yourself: the "Audio Note" text doesn't update. I ignored the first few errors like this but when I got to this point in the book I just had to let others on know of the problems (my first review!). I like Duckett and want this book to succeed, but it needs another pass by a technical editor before complete novices can get full utility out of it. Luckily, I have a good understanding of JavaScript so I can see where the errors are and correct them (maybe it's all a test!?). However, this book is intended for people who have never learned any JavaScript before and thus they will not realize the errors in the code. I'm sure the second printing or edition will fix some of these errors. If you're new to JavaScript, I want to recommend this but there are some gaping errors, so you should be careful and back up your learning with other resources.

I've studied Javascript in classes and on my own with other resources, and this book is definitely one of the best, clearest resources for understanding the language. It covers all the core elements clearly, and gradually adds more layers to what's being taught, which is especially important since so many people I know are overwhelmed with how complicated the language can be at times. The only downside, as I thought, is that there's a LOT to cover. One already needs a basic understanding of HTML and CSS, and then these are two more closely-connected languages that need to be covered. So it takes commitment and persistence to really get the language down. If you have that, though, this is one of the best ways to learn the language outside of a classroom.

Summary first: This book presumes some knowledge of HTML & CSS (look up Duckett' preceding book if necessary), and introduces main elements of Javascript adequate for basic web-design projects, with no claims to comprehensiveness, and it's certainly a success in that respect. PRESENTATION: Impressive. Looks more like a Wired issue than your typical introductory programming/scripting book, as the latter usually try to fit as much information as possible into limited space, which makes pragmatic sense, but makes you not want to pick up the book and proceed. This book uses space liberally, sacrificing limited space (~600 pages + index) for readability (devoting an entire page to the diagram of a for loop for instance), using very large fonts for summaries, etc. The design is elegant, and also well-thought: Different text colors, italics etc, are fully employed to make newly introduced syntax easier to comprehend. All code snippets are included in blue boxes clearly separated from the text, where necessary, javascript and html codes are presented side-by-side. For every method / syntax introduced, browser compatibility is given in

a table, and more compatible alternatives offered when necessary. SCOPE: As a corollary of the presentation approach, the scope is limited, albeit sensibly. The book aims to present JavaScript to the extent that it can be employed in basic web design, without trying to present the language in its entire functionality, as such important concepts/aspects are left out (Regular expressions, for instance). Also, HTML and CSS are NOT covered in the book (they're covered in Duckett's preceding book "HTML and CSS", prequel to this one), JQuery, Ajax & JSON are covered in a total of 150 pages, providing a decent, sensible introduction only. COMPARISON/SUGGESTIONS: If you want a more comprehensive guide at hand, consider getting Flanagan's "Javascript: The Definitive Guide", or an equivalent. If you want a more compelling and detailed approach to the language, supplement this book with "Eloquent Javascript", a book available, free of charge, online. ONLINE SUPPLEMENTATION: True to its claim, all code presented in the book are available online for bulk-download. Table of Content (CHAPTERS): 1 The ABC of Programming / 2 Basic JS Instructions / 3 Functions, Methods, Objects / 4 Decisions & Loops / 5 DOM / 6 Events / 7 JQuery / 8 Ajax & JSON / 9 APIs / 10 Error Handling & Debugging / 11 Content Panels / 12 Filtering, Searching & Sorting / 13 Form Enhancement & Validation / Index DURABILITY (WHENCE THE MISSING STAR DERIVES): I've read the entire book on the same bookholder & desk very gently, and still ended up with every page detached from the spine. (For comparison, other books I've read with the same method look almost unused). It's sad to see such a horrible spine/binding chosen for a book when so much care has obviously gone into its composition and design. Hope they revise the spine in future editions.

If you've seen or used this author's previous book, "HTML and CSS: Design and Build Websites", you know exactly what to expect from this one. The formatting is beautiful, as is the design of the information being conveyed to you. The first book was a required textbook for a Web Design course I took last year, and I found it so helpful and easy to learn from that I couldn't help but buy this one as soon as it came out. As far as the actual information and quality of information, both books provide insight into both the languages themselves and how to code with them, but also what the uses and applications are for what you're learning. There are several chapters dedicated to higher level development practices that go beyond simply writing code and focus on better design and efficiency on projects as a whole. Big thumbs up from me, a very good choice for anyone looking to self-study these two languages.

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