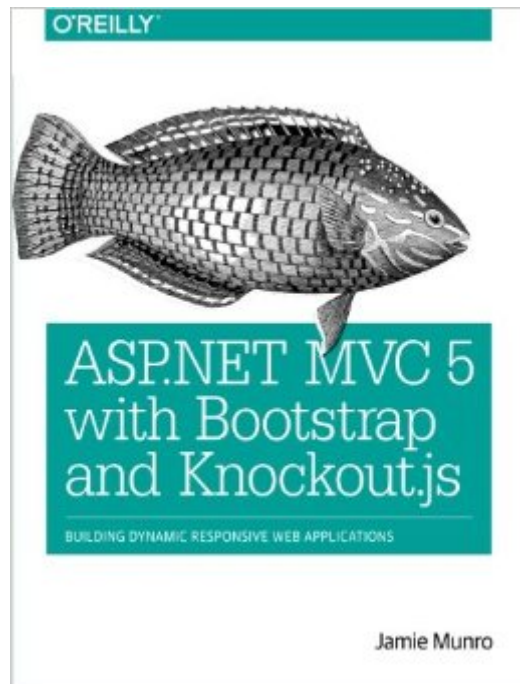# ASP.NET MVC 5 With Bootstrap And Knockout.js: Building Dynamic, Responsive Web Applications

Synopsis

Bring dynamic server-side web content and responsive web design together to build websites that work and display well on any resolution, desktop or mobile. With this practical book, youâ ™ll learn how by combining the ASP.NET MVC server-side language, the Bootstrap front-end framework, and Knockout.jsâ ”the JavaScript implementation of the Model-View-ViewModel pattern.Author Jamie Munro introduces these and other related technologies by having you work with sophisticated web forms. At the end of the book, experienced and aspiring web developers alike will learn how to build a complete shopping cart that demonstrates how these technologies interact with each other in a sleek, dynamic, and responsive web application.Build well-organized, easy-to-maintain web applications by letting ASP.NET MVC 5, Bootstrap, and Knockout.js do the heavy liftingUse ASP.NET MVC 5 to build server-side web applications, interact with a database, and dynamically render HTMLCreate responsive views with Bootstrap that render on a variety of modern devices; you may never code with CSS againAdd Knockout.js to enhance responsive web design with snappy client-side interactions driven by your server-side web application

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Customer Reviews

I'm very frustrated with this book. After completing chapter 8, the application doesn't work properly. After wasting days trying to troubleshoot, I went in search of the code to download, which I found on a github repo. I cloned the repo and loaded the project in Visual Studio. Turns out the problems I was having are IN THE PROJECT still. That means the tutorials in this book just don't work, in the

end and you're left to figure it out, which I gave up on. I learned very little with this book, except how to use KnockoutJS, which is pretty cool but there are free tutorials on how to use it. The author flies through the chapters with little explanation. It seems you're meant to just copy down the code and then it doesn't even work. While I wouldn't say don't buy this book, I'll say don't buy it if you're looking for a beginning to intermediate book on ASP.NET MVC, this book isn't for you. It expects you to know MVC very well.

This book has several problems that make it a poor choice for someone trying to learn the technologies it purports to teach. In no particular order, they are:1) The code is presented in top-down order instead of bottom-up. This means that you're working on the presentation layer first, before the data you're going to present, or the methods you need to access that data, exist. The upshot is that you have to get all the way through a chapter before you find out whether you've made a mistake (or mistakes) along the way, and then if the project doesn't work, you have a much harder debugging project than if you had started from the bottom and been able to check your progress frequently along the way.2) There is very little explanation of what's going on under the covers, or of how the interactions between the different layers works. In a Web application, with HTML and JavaScript happening on the client, C# code on the server, and a database backend, there is a LOT of complexity even in a sample application, and the programmer needs to understand what's happening if they're going to move on and build their own projects. "Create this file here and put this code in it" just can't convey that understanding.3) In many cases, the actions required to configure the development environment and add resources are described without consideration of logical flow; this means the reader who is trying to code along with the book gets to a step like, "Right-click the Scripts folder and select the Add submenu followed by New Folder. Once the new folder is created, create a new JavaScript file called AuthorFormViewModel.js", and then has to track backward in the text to find out what the folder was supposed to be named. (This is a representative example from the text, there are many others like it.) In some cases, necessary steps are apparently completely missing.4) When refactoring of existing code files is required, sometimes the necessary code changes are highlighted in the book, but sometimes the reader is presented with the final code without highlights, forcing the reader to compare the new code line-by-line with the existing file, a time-consuming and error-prone activity. Even worse, sometimes the new code is presented as a snippet, with no clear indication of where it fits in the file, or whether it is a replacement of or addition to existing code.5) The sample code associated with the book (downloadable from github) contains only the final versions of the projects created in the book. With

the significant refactoring that happens in each chapter of previous work, this means that there is no way to compare what you have at the end of, say, Chapter 5, with a working version of the project at that stage, and much of the code you put into the project during Chapter 5 has been removed or replaced with completely new code.The author clearly has a great deal of experience with his subject matter. However, I suspect that in this case, that's part of the problem, because he doesn't appear to have an understanding of what a less-experienced developer will need to know, or in what order they will need to learn it, and the result is that the book is a disorganized mess.For the record, I've been working in the software business since the early '90s, building network and Internet solutions. I am primarily a tester, but I've done a fair amount of programming along the way, so I'm neither a complete neophyte nor a guru. I *should* be right smack in the target demographic for a book like this, but it's not remotely meeting my needs.

EditI was able to find my issue (with some special help) and it turns out that MVC 5.2.3 is required! I just jumped right in from VS 2013 and the version of MVC is 5.0. Once I updated, everything was seamless. Sure, having to work a little bit backwards was a bit strange, but I jumped around the pages so much that it didn't really matter.======================The project in chapter 6 simply does not work. It will not save a new author without an error. Specifically self.author in AuthorFormViewModel.validateAndSave contains null values. The form parameter has the correct values. I ended up adding self.author.firstName = form[1].value; self.author.lastName = form[2].value; self.author.biography = form[3].value;under self.author.__RequestVerificationToken = form[0].value to make it work but I am not sure if this is the "correct" way to do it and it seems hackish. I want to give this book a higher rating, but little stuff like this can make following along difficult.

This book is not an encyclopedia on the mentioned technologies, but I am very glad for that. I just wanted a book that helped me get some situational awareness on the topics covered in here. The meat of the information is in the working examples. I saw some harsh reviews and feel they are totally undeserved. This book is very useful if wanting to make a MVC 5 app using Bootstrap and Knockout. Kudos to the author.

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