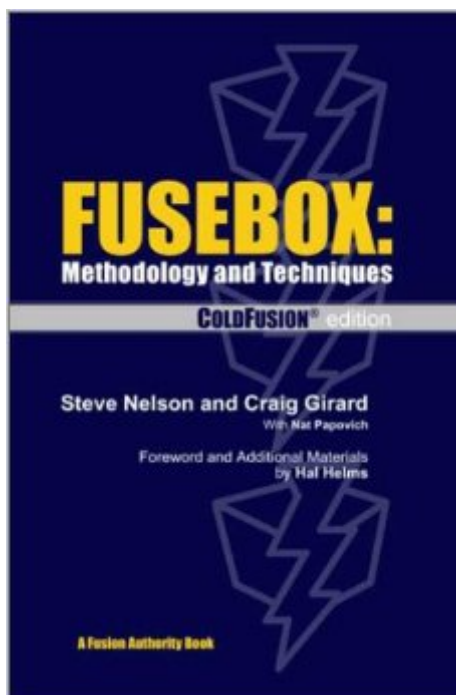


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Fusebox : Methodology & Techniques, ColdFusion Edition



Synopsis

The Fusebox architecture is the collaborative research result of over 200 professional web developers. The result is a simple yet elegant structure that will work in any web application. This edition looks at how to apply this structure to applications in Allaire(TM) ColdFusion(R). Increase teamwork efficiency, boost productivity and radically reduce the time it takes to build any web application

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First of all, I want to say the techniques outlined in this book will make you a much, much better ColdFusion programmer. There is no question that Fusebox makes the entire programming process in ColdFusion easier and more controlled. It also means that you write code that is easier to modify, reuse, and debug. My programming skills have increased dramatically since learning Fusebox, and the projects I am able to work on are much more complex and powerful. That being said, I consider this to be a somewhat poorly written book. Steve Nelson is a brilliant programmer, but he is not the best writer, and this is demonstrated in the prose of this book. Demand and pressure for a book about Fusebox meant that this book was printed before it was ready. I'm not sure whether a professional editor was ever brought in to go over this book. I want to be clear: the content itself is not difficult to understand, and allows a firm grasp of Fusebox techniques. I highly recommend that if you are a ColdFusion programmer, that you purchase this book. However, you may find (as I did), that the overall presentation of the content comes off as amateurish, especially in the layout of the book and in its writing style. It's the ideas in the book that make it worth it; Fusebox isn't just about

naming conventions or directory structures--it's a complete methodology of software development. The introduction by Hal Helms, who is a pretty good writer, is predictably eloquent with a slight scholarly kick. By the way, if you're starting out in ColdFusion, I would recommend that you get your hand on one of Ben Forta's books first. He provides the best introduction to ColdFusion; this book assumes some familiarity with ColdFusion.

Reading through this book, I didn't realize that it was for the 2.0 version of this methodology. Version 3.01 is out now and is dramatically different from 2.0--almost to the point where this book is unusable. However, it did help me understand what Fusebox is all about, which I was able to apply to the 3.0 version. I recommend waiting till the authors update their book to the 3.0 version of fusebox. ...

First, fusebox is great. I started using it and I am doing more with less code. I have been programming web apps for about 3 years and fusebox is the best methodology for WEB programming because of its various levels of implementation and open-source approach...now, about the book...I will say I commend the authors/editors for publishing a fusebox book, but I wish they had more time to edit and organize it. It has good content, but is hard to follow because it is not clearly organized. In addition, some areas stop short of discussing each point involving a method in fusebox. For example, CF_ReuseForm has three different usages, but NONE are THOROUGHLY explained. Save some dough and get the PDF version. I guess the first edition/version of some books turn out better in future editions, and here is hoping that Steve, et al, create a more clear and organized book for version 3 of fusebox.

This is more in response to the review 'a waste of pulp' than anything. 1) "tries so hard to make components of even the simplest ColdFusion application fit within the analogy of a household circuit" response: To hold the methodology so rigorously to the name is silly. 2) "I remember when beer had that effect on me." response: This actually makes no sense whatsoever. 3) "I mean, come on, these guys act like they INVENTED piping content through a central template." response: Actually Fusebox is modeled after a 'MAIN' file in languages like C++ and JAVA. The authors make no claim to have invented this style, only transported it to web programming. 4) "And that four hundred line Switch statement that FuseBox encourages within the index.cfm file? That's clunkier than bag of rocks. Even Ben Forta has criticized this aspect of FuseBox." response: If you are making your switch statements 400 lines long, your doing it wrong. 5) FuseBox, as a methodology,

was designed by a couple of illiterate ninnies...who don't know very much about electricity."response: Do the authors have to understand electricity to make a web methodology?6) "While any methodology is better than none, and while FuseBox has caught on in a mild way despite it's crippling simplicity."response: Actually Fusebox has caught on in a BIG way and its simplicity is to credit for it. Who is it that stated programming has to be difficult?6) "...the kind of fuse boxes alluded to throughout this book are against electrical code in most states. They've been deemed UNSAFE."response: This matters why? The word "analogy" means "Similarity in some respects between things that are otherwise dissimilar." If you wanna learn about electricity read a book about electricity.For a level headed review read "A reasonable introduction."

Where's the beef?If you think that the fusebox methodology will be discussed in its entirety, very thoroughly and completely, with real world expamples for things like user and form validation, error handling, etc. Forget it, you will be totally disappointed.The authors gloss over every topic.Some books can cover a technical topic in 199 pages (including the index) and due a terrific job of it. This book isn't one of them.In total, there are approximately 65 pages of the 199 page book that actually discuss Fusebox techniques-- incompletely. The rest of the book, contrary to what the authors might think, is filler. The author's spent almost two chapters hyping and selling the fusebox methodology; which is sort of like preaching to the choir.It is, however, better than nothing-- but not by much.This book should be rewritten by a professional technical writer, be at least 500 pages long, so that some detail can be gone into, and all buyers of this book should get a FREE upgrade.Come on, fellas, you should take a course on becoming a five-day book writer.

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