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Adobe ColdFusion 8 Web Application Construction Kit, Volume 1: Getting Started



Synopsis

The ColdFusion Web Application Construction Kit is the best-selling ColdFusion series of all time—the books that most ColdFusion developers used to learn the product. This Getting Started volume starts with Web and Internet fundamentals and database concepts and design, and then progresses to topics including creating data-driven pages, building complete applications, implementing security mechanisms, integrating with e-mail, building reusable functions and components, generating data-driven reports and graphs, building Ajax-powered user interfaces, and much more. Complete coverage of ColdFusion 8 continues in • Volume 2, Application Development • (ISBN 0-321-51546-3) and • Volume 3, Advanced Application Development • (ISBN 0-321-51547-1).

Book Information

Paperback: 600 pages

Publisher: Adobe Press; 1 edition (September 27, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 032151548X

ISBN-13: 978-0321515483

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 1.1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,452,934 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Web Programming > Cold Fusion #2802 in Books > Computers & Technology > Web Development & Design > Web Design #4774 in Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Programming Languages

Customer Reviews

For years, the Web Application Construction Kit has been the gold standard by which ColdFusion books are judged. This new edition, updated for the latest version of ColdFusion, continues in that tradition. Previous editions have been a bit daunting, so the authors this time wisely decided to split into three volumes instead of the normal two. Volume 1 introduces readers to the basic concepts behind setting up ColdFusion and beginning to write their first applications. Once the basics are covered, it moves on to show how to connect to databases and display that information, create and use forms and their data, make printable content, and set up a basic application framework - pretty much, everything a newcomer to the language would need to know. The thing that struck me, an

advanced ColdFusion developer, about this edition was that many books claim to preach accepted best practices but then sacrifice them in the name of simplicity. These authors, on the other hand, practice what they preach. For years, ColdFusion developers have been stressing the need to create multi-tier applications using ColdFusion Components, and yet most introductory materials on the language have relegated CFCs to advanced courses. This book introduces them as soon as it reasonably can - about half way through - and then follows the "proper" format of using multi-tier applications from then on. So this is not another book that just shows how to create ColdFusion applications, but is rather a book that shows how to build them correctly. The ColdFusion Web Application Construction Kit: Volume 1 is a book that no beginning ColdFusion developer should be without, and even the most experienced developers are bound to learn a few things along the way. It is quite simply the book that no ColdFusion developer at any level can do without.

I have been coding CFML since Coldfusion 5, and I have long used the Cold Fusion MX book as a reference in my daily work, so I was happy to get the new books to help with using some of the newer features. So this is a large jump from my book for version 6, there is a lot more in the book, but also a lot less. I went ahead and got all three books in the series, and one of the things that I found was missing was the CFML tag reference at the end of the book. I know that sometimes I do work while on the road, and so do not have internet access, but they seem to only want to have that information on-line. In my review of Volume 3, I did complain about half the book being on-line only and not actually in the print book. When you buy a book, it is nice to actually get the book. I am far from a new user of Coldfusion so I can not speak of how well it teaches the language, but as a long time user, I do find this series as a nice reference. One thing that does seem to be missing is talking about which of the features are new to 8, which were added in 7, and so on. I know that in my development, I need to constantly support customers who are on old version of Coldfusion, so that would be a great thing to have with the Tag reference. Hope this helps people out there...

Like the book says "Getting Started". I would say that this book it's good for beginners who wants to know the ColdFusion 8 technology and get a bit deep into it. You will learn about the configuration, dreamweaver wizard, database fundamentals, datasource, basic ColdFusion tags, basic forms and search, basic validations, understanding components, some ajax examples, generating reports, how to configure your Application.cfm/cfc, a bit of how to plan an Application, and will know the basics of Session. The book has an project that you can follow if you want or just use it to learn what chapter do you really need. It's incredible the Power of ColdFusion 8 for Web Applications. Instead of

learning other languages such php/asp, go and learn ColdFusion and get your application finished sooner than ever before, you won't regret about CF8. I would recommend this book if you are starting this ColdFusion World, and the others (volume 2, 3) as well.

this is mostly the same as 7.0 book, but for 7.0 it covers more than this one. No ajax function, have to wait until the Volumn2 to come out and it seems not coming as scheduled.(it delayed two times)

I was one of many reviewers that write on reviews that Forta is the most respected and skillful technical writer ever borned. His writing style is not only a joy of reading but also an effective educational style. So far so good. But in the last 8 series books I'm almost sure that Forta hasn't write more than 2-3 chapters and he just marketing these books by his name in the front cover. No more the funny style of writing, no more logical sequence in the chapters and many many others. Sorry Ben but the old quality has been lost. I wouldn't suggest the 8th edition books because they are not from Ben or Ben has lost his style, or maybe his name name has to be written in the same size as the other writers.

I've been around the CF community for over 12 years. In the early days, there were numerous authors and there was compenion so I think folks were more customer oriented. Forta, et. al., have become the gurus so they just keep curning out their brand of book, which are less than stellar. I think they know the subject matter so well that they can't bring it down to the mortal level. Another complaint is that you have to work really hard to find all the info about a give subject and there is no guarantee that you may ever find that piece one bit that you really need. Finally, the 3 volume set has no overall index so you are forced to look in every book for whatever you are trying to find. More often than not, it is the overflow chapters that are offline, so to speak. They used to include a CD with these chapters. I finally download all of their online stuff so I can quickly reference it off of my harddrive, but it is less than satisfying.

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