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Active Server Pages Black Book: The Professional's Guide To Developing Dynamic, Interactive Web Sites With Microsoft ActiveX



Synopsis

Covers Active Server Pages, HTML (including Dynamic HTML), scripting, ActiveX controls, Java applets, Internet Information Server, and Internet Explorer. Compares the differences between Microsoft's JScript and Netscape's JavaScript. Covers pacesetting, yet hard-to-find, information on DHTML and IIS 4.0 technologies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been in IT for 15 years and every 5 years or so I move to a different technology. Recently I moved into e-Commerce. To get to speed quickly I need to find books and classes that progress through the technology in increasingly more complex levels. This book helped me understand the concept of Microsoft's Internet technology. It allowed me to progress from what is referred to as a newbie to someone who could hold somewhat intelligent conversations with experienced eCommerce developers. It's unfortunate that they decided to call the book Active Server Pages: Black Book as this seems to imply that it will provide you with all you need to know about ASP. It doesn't. If you're looking for a book that gives you detail then you'll want to purchase WROX Active Server Pages 2.0. I bought both books and I'm glad I did. The Black Book allowed me to ease into the WROX book. Keep in mind though that the ASP:Black Book is a one time read while the WROX book will become my main source for reference.

The title and jacket suggest this book is some ASP "real-world problem" solver. At more than 500 pages this book appears to really get deep in ASP applications. However, the first line of chapter 9 gives good insight into the true nature of the book: "Previous chapters focus on client-side scripting..." The next paragraph is entitled: "What is an Active Server Page?" This is in chapter 9! However good this book may be on its own terms, please, please, go to a "real-world" bookstore and examine this book before buying.

I bought this book thinking it was about Microsoft's Active Server Page (ASP) technology in its Internet Information Server. (Something about the title must have tripped me up). The ASP portion of the book starts on page 341. The first 340 pages are about HTML. If you want an introduction to HTML this book is for you. If you want a book on ASP then if this book or a tattoo with the acronym ASP on it are your choices, I would get the tattoo.

I found this book quite good. True it isn't really about ASP per se. Instead, it is a complete approach to activating web sites using lots of technologies including ASP, client-side, DHTML, etc. As someone who had to create "real" web sites, this is just what I needed -- not some theoretical treatment of ASP. This book could probably use a different title, but overall is well written and very useful. The writers are obviously experienced and the examples are good.

A fine book if you want the practical side of writing an Active web page. Lots of practical examples. True it isn't just about ASP, but it is about using ASP to develop a whole Web site. Best of 3 books I have on the subject.

As a book on general web scripting, particularly scripting for folks who are not used to doing such things, this is a very good book. It introduces, in clear, intelligible text, what you need to know about VBScript, JavaScript and DHTML. Examples are plentiful, and the tables are laid out in a manner that makes it good for later reference. There are a couple of chapters on server-side scripting. Basics, uses, components, even the obligatory text about Visual Interdev. Ultimately, though, this book is not about "Active Server Pages." It's about scripting your web site. Maybe they should have called it "Web Scripting Blue Book". But....oh!...that's it!....if they associated it with "Blue Book" then *everyone* will read about the real history of the internet (page 11). And we wouldn't want *that*, would we?

Chapter 9 .. That's where they ask the question "What is an Active Server Page?", a question you presumably asked BEFORE reading chapters 1-8. The truly sad part is that the book can't even competently answer the question. Maybe I should write a book about the mating habits of giant squid and call it "ASP Secrets Revealed!" ... At least you would get to read about giant squid doing the dirty.

I was very disappointed in the content of this book. I got most of the ASP book with me. I buy this because it says it is an intermediate to advanced use, but in my opinion, if for a beginner is too brief, for an advanced user is nothing new here.. try to look for Wrox published books.. they are nice and give you more detail.

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