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JavaScript Patterns



Synopsis

What's the best approach for developing an application with JavaScript? This book helps you answer that question with numerous JavaScript coding patterns and best practices. If you're an experienced developer looking to solve problems related to objects, functions, inheritance, and other language-specific categories, the abstractions and code templates in this guide are ideal—whether you're using JavaScript to write a client-side, server-side, or desktop application. Written by JavaScript expert Stoyan Stefanov—Senior Yahoo! Technical and architect of YSlow 2.0, the web page performance optimization tool—JavaScript Patterns includes practical advice for implementing each pattern discussed, along with several hands-on examples. You'll also learn about anti-patterns: common programming approaches that cause more problems than they solve. Explore useful habits for writing high-quality JavaScript code, such as avoiding globals, using single var declarations, and more. Learn why literal notation patterns are simpler alternatives to constructor functions. Discover different ways to define a function in JavaScript. Create objects that go beyond the basic patterns of using object literals and constructor functions. Learn the options available for code reuse and inheritance in JavaScript. Study sample JavaScript approaches to common design patterns such as Singleton, Factory, Decorator, and more. Examine patterns that apply specifically to the client-side browser environment.

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Customer Reviews

It's often difficult to find good intermediate to advanced technical books that help you get over the

hump. This is most definitely one of those books, IMO, along with Javascript: The Good Parts by Crockford and High Performance JavaScript by Zakas. If you're a beginner, even an ambitious beginner, such as an experienced programmer in another language, you don't want to start here. For beginners, I'd recommend Zakas (Javascript for Web Developers) as the most complete introduction to Javascript, the DOM and browser scripting; or Simply JavaScript from Sitepoint for a gentler introduction that emphasizes the separation of structured content (HTML), presentation (CSS) and behavior (scripting the DOM with Javascript). OTOH, if you're more or less comfortable with core Javascript and the DOM but want to clarify and explore the many idiosyncracies and fine points of JS, this book really hits the sweet spot. The table of contents is available on [Amazon](#) or O'Reilly, so I won't recap it - but will mention that Stefanov both chooses his topics and covers and organizes his material very well. This is a precisely and well-written book, and the reader will infer that there must have been a lot of experience, previous history and discussions behind these 200+ pages. I've read the blogs of the majority of his technical reviewers and believe you're in good hands here. I'm really lovin' this book. The only caveat - don't expect a lot on browser scripting. However, I'd be surprised if the somewhat experienced, but non-ninja, Javascript programmer did not significantly take his/her knowledge to a higher level after reading JavaScript Patterns.

If you're a JavaScript developer, you would be wise to have this on your bookshelf--nestled nicely between JavaScript: The Good Parts and High Performance JavaScript (Build Faster Web Application Interfaces). The three make a nice little troika. And read them in that order: The Good Parts, Patterns, and then High Performance. Here's why: What Stefanov gives us with this book is effectively an overview [1] of best practices for JavaScript development, going over the benefits and gotchas of certain important language features, and translating those into design and implementation patterns. Many of these patterns are language-agnostic--and you're likely to recognize them from "The Gang of Four"--but Stefanov puts them in their JavaScript party dresses and takes them out to the ball. Wisely, Stefanov also presents these patterns in an environment/host-independent fashion, so the lessons you learn about encapsulation or inheritance or performance should be equally valid regardless of whether you're coding for the browser [2] or NodeJS or some image exporting automation for Adobe Illustrator. Stefanov is also a lucid and concise author, clearly illustrating his points about these design patterns; the text is accessible--easy to follow and digest--and he is careful to clearly define words and terms that might be ambiguous or commonly misunderstood (e.g., "function expression" vs. "function declaration" vs. "function literal").

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