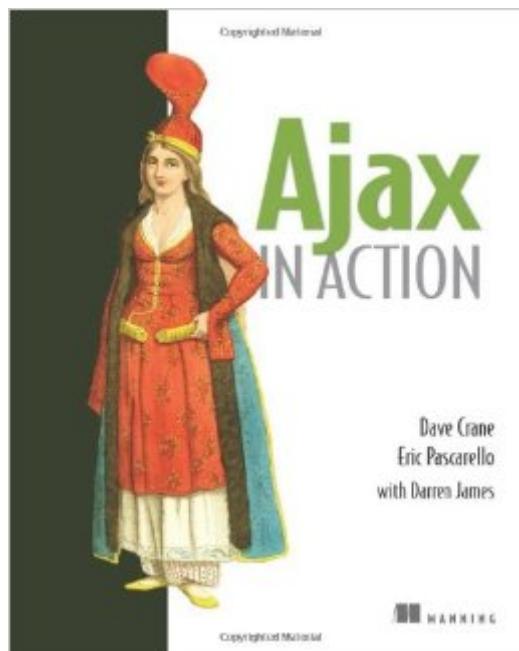


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# Ajax In Action



## Synopsis

Val's Blog "A tremendously useful field guide specifically written for developers down in the trenches...waiting for the killer solution..." Web users are getting tired of the traditional web experience. They get frustrated losing their scroll position; they get annoyed waiting for refresh; they struggle to reorient themselves on every new page. And the list goes on. With asynchronous JavaScript and XML, known as "Ajax," you can give them a better experience. Once users have experienced an Ajax interface, they hate to go back. Ajax is new way of thinking that can result in a flowing and intuitive interaction with the user. Ajax in Action helps you implement that thinking--it explains how to distribute the application between the client and the server (hint: use a "nested MVC" design) while retaining the integrity of the system. You will learn how to ensure your app is flexible and maintainable, and how good, structured design can help avoid problems like browser incompatibilities. Along the way it helps you unlearn many old coding habits. Above all, it opens your mind to the many advantages gained by placing much of the processing in the browser. If you are a web developer who has prior experience with web technologies, this book is for you. Purchase of the print book comes with an offer of a free PDF, ePub, and Kindle eBook from Manning. Also available is all code from the book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Let me first preface this review by saying this is the first technical book that I've read cover to cover TWICE prior to posting a review. I had to make sure the stuff stuck, because the material covered in

Manning's very excellent "Ajax in Action" is really deep. But bringing the next evolution of user experience, giving your web applications a rich client feel, isn't completely easy. This won't scare you away from using Ajax in your existing applications, but make you aware of exactly what to expect. The book first starts out by presenting a healthy discussion of the key components of remote scripting - CSS, the DOM, JavaScript's XMLHttpRequest object and client callbacks - and how they interact within the scope of your project. Before diving into full-on Ajax development, authors Dave Crane and Eric Pascarello discuss the need for object-oriented JavaScript programming, which will be foreign and awkward to most developers, even those coming from procedural backgrounds like Java and C++. The authors familiarize you with the various ways of composing the unconventional constructs available (JSON-RPC, prototypes) for optimizing remote scripting. Best practices are encouraged throughout the chapters and enforced in all code snippets. The use of patterns like Observer, Command and MVC and refactoring and module-based programming (mainly .NET assemblies and Java servlets) permeate the entire work. The actual meat of the book doesn't get started until Chapter 9, which the authors clearly state, dealing with the aforementioned discussion of raw JavaScript programming that'll be completely new to most people. But for those not wanting to engage in the massive task of writing syntax by hand, the major libraries available are thankfully referenced.

Huh? Kind of a weird title! What I mean by it though is that this is an excellent book that covers so many things that even if you aren't especially interested in Ajax but are interested in client-side coding, this book would be a valuable addition to your bookshelf. There is a good bit of "professional" Javascript coding here... Javascript, and client-side coding in general, has historically had a bad rap against it because it's so easy to throw together a ton of spaghetti code that is difficult to debug, extend and maintain. This book will show you how to avoid those pitfalls. Things like properly applying patterns, implementing clean separation of concerns, advanced debugging techniques and reusing all the good OOP techniques you use on the back-end are covered very well. Of course, Ajax is covered fantastically well too... while I would say this isn't a book for beginners (it dives in almost immediately with some code that would probably spin a beginners' head), if you already have a good grasp of Javascript, HTTP and web development in general then this will be the absolute perfect introduction to Ajax. The book starts by giving a solid description of what Ajax is, and more importantly, why it can represent such a paradigm shift for so many people. From there they dive into the theory behind it, how it works, how it differs from what you probably have done before, and also how to do the same thing without Ajax. After that it's example

city! Plenty of demonstrations of the techniques being talked about, and all the while they continue to explain it from a theoretical standpoint too so that you not only can copy the code as-is and use it, you understand why it is done how it is, so you can apply that knowledge on your own later.

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