

Book review: CMS Design Using PHP and JQuery

Posted At : 22 March 2011 09:48 | Posted By : Shaun McCran
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I was recently approached by [Packt Publishing](#) to review one of their new books, CMS Design using PHP and JQuery. They mentioned that I'm always talking about JQuery so thought I'd be an ideal test subject.

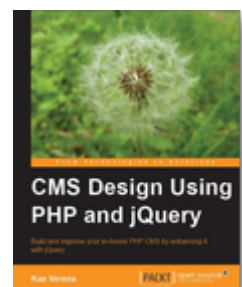
I've dabbled in some PHP, and JQuery is an everyday tool in my arsenal so I was more than happy to give it a read.

The book is structured in such a way as to try and explain the business logic for Content Management Systems. It goes into the flow of the application logic first, which I think gives more clarity to the code sections that follow on.

Each of the sections is written in a the style of a tutorial. There is an explanation on what you are trying to do, and a relatively in depth technical breakdown of how to go about it. Some of the sections are a little long, but then the book does cover a lot of ground.

The general layout of each of these sections lends itself well to tackling each component part of the CMS build. Each of the code snippets is well explained, using not only the code syntax, but also explaining the actual workings of the code which personally is what helps me remember it.

I'm no PHP expert, but the book appears to cover everything you would need to build a database interface in it. As a ColdFusion developer it is always interesting to be exposed to other languages, and reading through this has certainly given me some inspiration for upcoming projects.



The JQuery content was well written and well constructed. As with most languages there are several different ways of accomplishing the same task. Where the book differed from my thinking I could see the reasoning behind it, personally I think that is much more important than the code syntax. Developers new to JQuery may find it a bit of a steep learning curve, but it is worth the perseverance.

Despite the title it does cover a wider range of technologies than just PHP and JQuery. As you are building an entire platform it also covers http.ini files and URL re-writing, MySQL databases and a reasonable level of CSS.

I found the 'URL rewriting' section to be quite helpful as this was something I was looking at anyway, and it is relatively platform independent.

New developers may find the book a little daunting based on the breadth of knowledge covered, but then building an entire CMS system isn't really a small project.

I found the book to be an interesting read, mainly from the business logic involved, as it is always good to see a variety of approaches to an application. I have designed and written several Content Management Systems so it was interesting to see a different angle on the design and UX.

You can view a sample PDF chapter here: <https://www.packtpub.com/sites/default/files/2527OS-Chapter-7-Plugins.pdf>