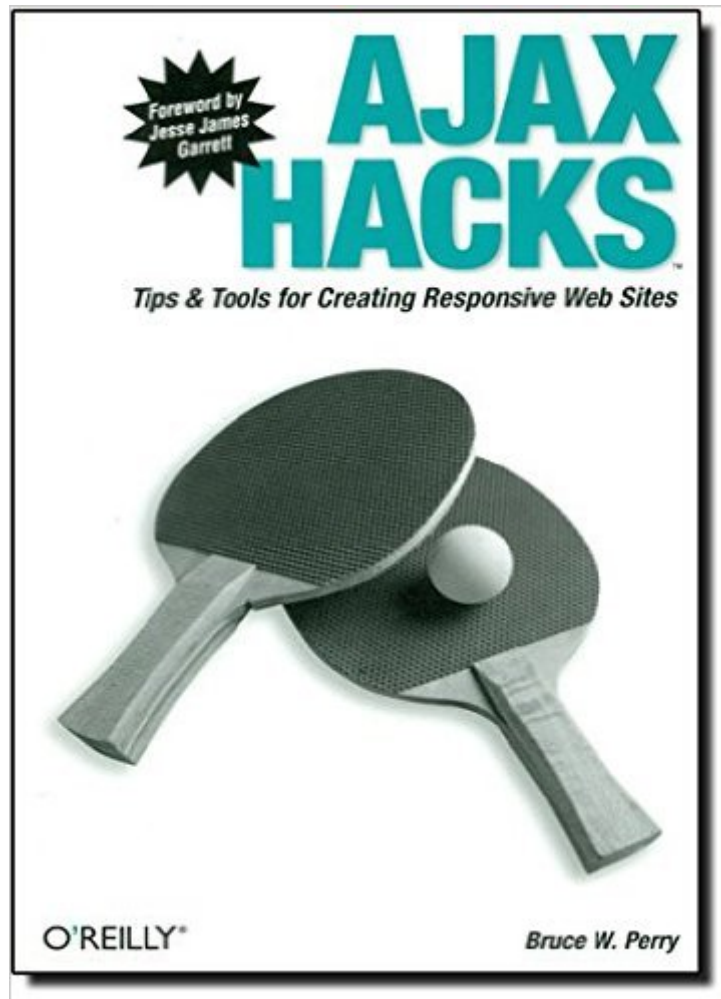


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Ajax Hacks: Tips & Tools For Creating Responsive Web Sites



Synopsis

Ajax, the popular term for Asynchronous JavaScript and XML, is one of the most important combinations of technologies for web developers to know these days. With its rich grouping of technologies, Ajax developers can create interactive web applications with XML-based web services, using JavaScript in the browser to process the web server response. Taking complete advantage of Ajax, however, requires something more than your typical "how-to" book. What it calls for is Ajax Hacks from O'Reilly. This valuable guide provides direct, hands-on solutions that take the mystery out of Ajax's many capabilities. Each hack represents a clever way to accomplish a specific task, saving you countless hours of searching for the right answer. A smart collection of 80 insider tips and tricks, Ajax Hacks covers all of the technology's finer points. Want to build next-generation web applications today? This book can show you how. Among the multitude of topics addressed, it shows you techniques for: Using Ajax with Google Maps and Yahoo MapsDisplaying Weather.com dataScraping stock quotesFetching postal codesBuilding web forms with auto-complete functionality Ajax Hacks also features a number of advanced hacks for accelerated web developers. Discover how to create huge, maintainable bookmarklets, how to use client-side storage for Ajax applications, and how to call a built-in Java object from JavaScript using Ajax. The book even addresses best practices for testing Ajax applications and improving maintenance, performance, and reliability for JavaScript code. The latest in O'Reilly's celebrated Hacks series, Ajax Hacks smartly complements other O'Reilly titles such as Head Rush Ajax and JavaScript: The Definitive Guide.

Book Information

Series: Hacks

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: O'Reilly Media; 1 edition (March 31, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0596101694

ISBN-13: 978-0596101695

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,765,046 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Ajax #80 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > XHTML #306 inÂ Books > Computers &

Customer Reviews

It's too bad this book came out ahead of "Head Rush Ajax", because after reading that book, this book seems much better. It is not meant to be a tutorial on Ajax, but just a supplemental text full of possibly helpful code. There are detailed descriptions of each hack, but I think you'll be lost if you don't already know XML, Javascript, and DOM pretty well. To me, the most useful hacks were in Chapter 4, where there are hacks that explore the Google Maps, Yahoo! Maps, and GeoURL APIs, and combine them, and also where you learn to use cookies in the Ajax environment. I also liked reading chapter 8 on script.aculo.us, and learning about how easily visual effects could be incorporated into Ajax applications. If you are not sure this book is for you, all of the code examples are available in a zipfile at the book's webpage on the publisher's site. I recommend you read "Head Rush Ajax" first, then come back to this book for some interesting extras. I notice that does not list the table of contents, so I do that here: Chapter 1. Ajax Basics Hack 1. Detect Browser Compatibility with the Request Object Hack 2. Use the Request Object to POST Data to the Server Hack 3. Use Your Own Library for XMLHttpRequest Hack 4. Receive Data as XML Hack 5. Get Plain Old Strings Hack 6. Receive Data as a Number Hack 7. Receive Data in JSON Format Hack 8. Handle Request Object Errors Hack 9. Dig into the HTTP Response Hack 10. Generate a Styled Message with a CSS File Hack 11. Generate a Styled User Message on the Fly Chapter 2. Web Forms Hack 12. Submit Text Field or textarea Values to the Server Without a Browser Refresh Hack 13.

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