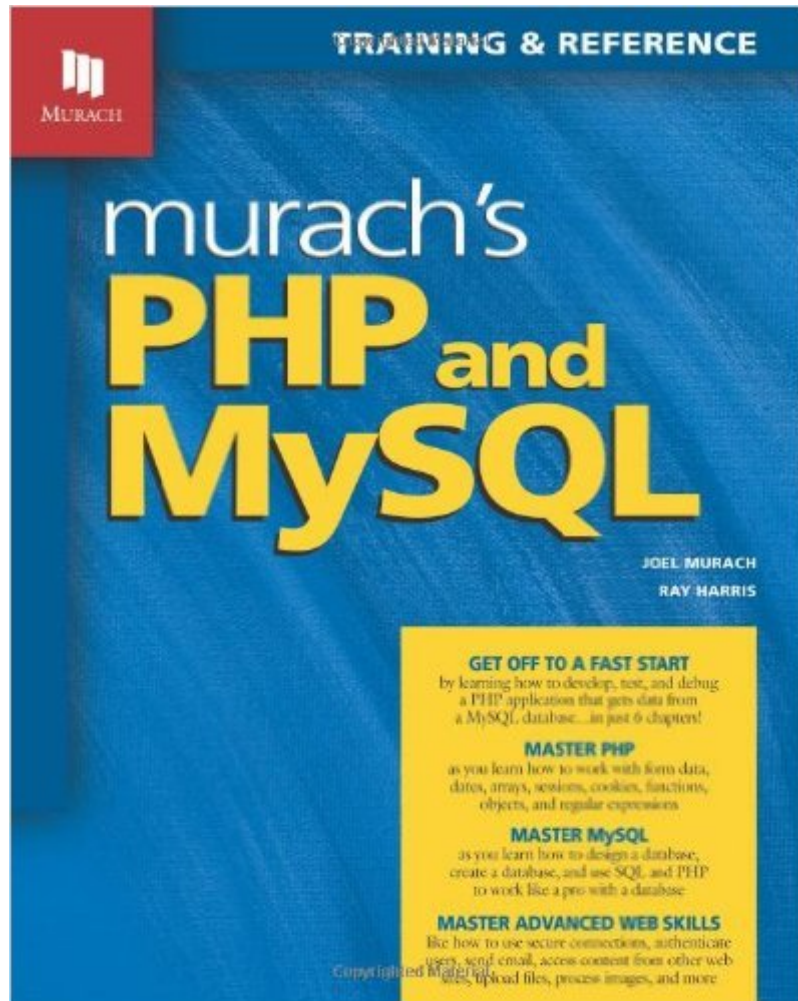


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Murach's PHP And MySQL (Murach: Training & Reference)



Synopsis

This book was developed by the same team that authored Murach's JavaScript and DOM Scripting, and it has the same strong content organization that lets you focus on what you need to know, when you need to know it. So it's a great first book in web programming if you're just starting out. It shows you how to get an Apache web server environment set up, so you can test the apps on your computer. It gives you a quick-start course that shows you how to develop, test, and debug PHP applications that get data from a MySQL database...in just 6 chapters. Then, whether you're a beginning or experienced web developer, the rest of the book gives you a full set of professional PHP and MySQL skills. The 9-chapter section on PHP teaches you how to build web applications using all the skills that make for a smooth user experience...like how to handle forms, strings, dates, arrays, cookies, sessions, and exceptions. The 5-chapter section on MySQL teaches you all the standard features you need to know for working with databases...like how to design and create a database and how to use SQL and PHP to work with database data. The 4-chapter section on advanced skills teaches you how to handle professional requirements, like ensuring security, generating email, processing images, and working with code from other web sites (like YouTube videos)...and it culminates with a Guitar Shop web site that shows how everything in the book ties together. Regardless of what you're learning next, each chapter covers skills from the simple to the complex. So you can go deeper and deeper to gain a sophisticated set of web and database skills, at your own pace. So don't wait! Get your copy right away. I think you'll be delighted at how quickly you'll be creating your own database-driven websites using PHP and MySQL.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've now read 3 of the Murach's titles - Java 6, Servlets and JSP, and now PHP and MySQL, and I've loved each one. I have to say I love the Murach's style and organization, along with the clear, easy to understand writing. The organization of having descriptive text on the left side of the seam, and code samples and bullet points on the right side is perfect for both the newbie and the experienced alike, both as a step by step tutorial, and as a very convenient reference for professionals. As for this particular title, we have a programming language that is pretty easy (PHP), and we also have an overall web platform and database. So the book has to explain general web programming and the difference between client side programming and server side programming, and the http messages that go between the two. And it has to explain database programming and in particular, MySQL, and then how PHP interacts with it. Finally, the book has to explain Apache and what it does as a web server. Then, the book has to tie it all together as a comprehensive whole, presenting it as an overall platform, and explain how to set up a development environment (nice choice in using XAMPP combined with NetBeans with the PHP plugin). It does all of this with the greatest of ease and logical flow, making it exceedingly easy for the newbie and the experienced alike to get up and running quickly, and have a thorough understanding of the the overall technologies. Then, as an added bonus, and sadly missing in a lot of PHP/MySQL books, is thorough coverage of the MVC design pattern, which any web application of any decent size and functionality should implement in one form or another. The book also gives good coverage of object oriented programming, something also missing in many PHP books (OOP is something that has really taken greater hold in PHP over the last 5 years or so). So, not only does the book get one up and running with PHP, Apache, and MySQL easily, quickly, and thoroughly, it also teaches and encourages solid design principles (MVC) and programming paradigms (OOP). Finally, along with all of the great organization, ease of learning, and thorough coverage of the technologies and programming practice, this book is simply a pleasure to read. Any developer/techie/geek should enjoy it. This book gets a solid 5 star rating all the way. But then again, I've come to expect this with Murach's books. I can't recommend "Murach's PHP and MySQL", as well as other Murach's titles, highly enough.

The book follows the Murach style - on the left pages there is text, on the right pages there are screen shots, code snippets, and short summaries of the text on the left. For experienced

programmers it's tempting to skip the entire left pages and focus on the right pages only. The book seems to be aimed at absolute beginners, as evidenced by the quite basic 6 chapter introduction. After that you'll learn the essentials of PHP and SQL. For experienced programmers there won't be much new information, but beginners will have a field day with these chapters. The book ends with some more advanced topics: security and authentication, sending emails, file handling and image processing. The book promises that you will "master" both PHP and MySQL. To be honest, it doesn't live up to that promise. It's good for beginners but it doesn't go far enough to call yourself a "master" afterwards. Several topics are handled too briefly, especially regular expressions and database normal forms. These are quite advanced topics yet they take up only 16 and 10 pages respectively. That's simply not enough. Another major flaw is the handling of SQL injection. It's mentioned briefly only once with the suggestion to search the Internet for more information. Given the lack of parameter validation in some examples I fear for security on web sites based on this book alone. One single page pair on the subject would probably have been enough. Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for writing this review on behalf of JavaRanch.com. This review has previously been submitted to JavaRanch.com.

This is an excellent language tutorial and reference on PHP. I'm a big fan of all of Murach's books and this one is no exception. As a C# developer, I needed a book that would clear up the sometimes confusing syntax of PHP without requiring me to wade through a lot of concepts I already understood. This book does exactly that. Murach's unique style of putting explanations on each left page and corresponding examples on each right page is ingeniously simple yet amazingly effective. I frequently scan the sample page first and only read the explanation page when I need further clarification. However the explanation page is always there if you need it. The result is a very fast read. Also, the editing is superb. So far, I haven't encountered any errors in the sample source. Excellent book.

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