ColdFusion MX For Dummies

The fun and easy way to serve up rich Internet applications

Get hot tips on using ColdFusion with Flash, Java, and XML

A Reference for the Rest of Us!

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John Paul Ashenfelter
President and CTO, TransitionPoint

Jon N. Kocen
Senior Web Developer at a major aerospace company

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ColdFusion MX is a Web-application development platform from Macromedia and it can definitely help energize your Web application development work. Super-simple to use—“the only pre-requisite is knowing HTML”—and featuring a set of powerful Web application development tools, ColdFusion MX makes it easier and quicker than ever to develop Web applications of every level of sophistication—from a homey photo archive of family snapshots, to a swanky enterprise application for managing electronic commerce. Ready to turn up the heat with ColdFusion and take your site to the next level? Well, look no further. ColdFusion MX For Dummies offers you a fun, easy way to get up and running with everything you need to build amazing Web applications. In no time, you’ll:

Work with databases, forms, variables, and tags
Get a handle on CFML, components database connectivity, and more
Use ColdFusion with Flash, Java, and XML
Harness Flash Remoting, XML handling, Web services support
Integrate ColdFusion with other sites, applications, and Web services
Supercharge your development efforts using Fusebox and FLiP

ColdFusion MX For Dummies is an excellent all-in-one source for newcomers to ColdFusion. It also provides developers who’ve worked with earlier versions of ColdFusion with an enjoyable way to get up to speed on all of ColdFusion MX’s powerful new features. Topics covered include:

- Making database connections
- Working with forms, displaying data, and programming variable, decisions, and loops
- Building applications using the CF application framework
- Using custom tags, ColdFusion components, CFSCRIPT, and UDFs
- Building secure applications and debugging your ColdFusion application
- Using complex data types and WDDX
- Using Flash, Java, and XML with Coldfusion
- Understanding Fusebox and FLiP

ColdFusion MX is loaded with tools to help you build high-performance Web applications. But where do you begin? This friendly guide delivers all the answers. ColdFusion MX For Dummies is your passport to a bold new level of Web development.
I've been a ColdFusion programmer for about three to four years now, but if I hadn't read Ben Forta on ColdFusion 4.0, I would have really not understood this book. There were so many typos and incorrect spellings in certain sections of the book that I wondered if the author was testing us. I was really impressed by ASP.NET for Dummies which I highly recommend, but this was a real disappointment. The Flash-CF program interactive you download was very interesting, but considering the download also included only two downloaded tables persons and departments, I wondered why some of the book's code asked for a table called employees. (page 93) Also XAxisTitle (page 83) -- very bad taste, but it's right next to YAxisTitle so I guess we’re supposed to figure that out. Also I believe there is no ColdFusion internal function for Sqrt (page 92) so when you poor programmer try to program that -- you get a please define variable Sqrt. Not recommended for the faint of the heart. Ben Forta forever.

For me it was just OK. I'm a long-time developer, but just recently decided to look into web development with CF. I have read many 'For Dummies' books in the past on various subjects and many of them are pretty good, but this one left me with the feeling that whoever was supposed to edit the book was on vacation. There are numerous typos and a few grammatical errors, but really the main problem was the lack of detail. I suppose this is to be expected as I think the main focus here was a quick and dirty introduction to Cold Fusion MX. If you are a raw beginner and have never written any kind of program, not even HTML, I don't think this would help you much. If you are a seasoned programmer, don't bother, just read the documentation that comes with ColdFusion, it's much more in-depth. If you are somewhere in the middle, this might be OK for you, but I think there are better books out there.

Clear and concise writing. Too bad that CF is dying in the marketplace. If you need to get started with CF, this is an excellent choice even though it refers to an older version.

As with all the 'Dummies' books, it provides a quick and entertaining introduction to its topic. Thank
you helping someone who needs a to be a quick study from time to time.

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