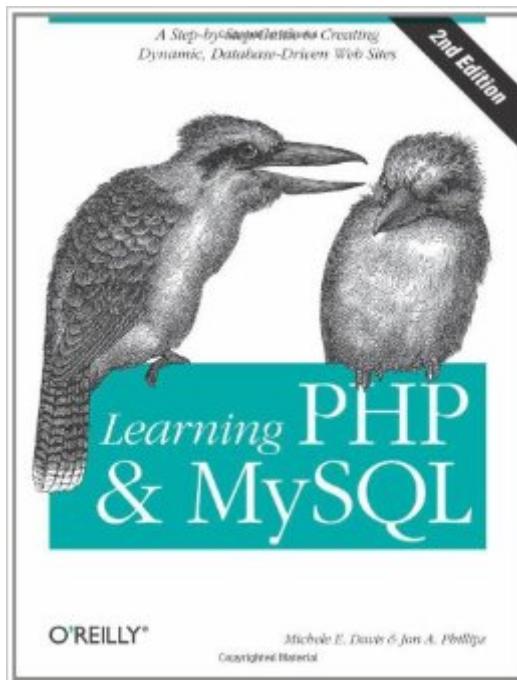


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# Learning PHP & MySQL: Step-by-Step Guide To Creating Database-Driven Web Sites



## Synopsis

PHP and MySQL are quickly becoming the de facto standard for rapid development of dynamic, database-driven web sites. This book is perfect for newcomers to programming as well as hobbyists who are intimidated by harder-to-follow books. With concepts explained in plain English, the new edition starts with the basics of the PHP language, and explains how to work with MySQL, the popular open source database. You then learn how to put the two together to generate dynamic content. If you come from a web design or graphics design background and know your way around HTML, Learning PHP & MySQL is the book you've been looking for. The content includes: PHP basics such as strings and arrays, and pattern matching. A detailed discussion of the variances in different PHP versions. MySQL data fundamentals like tables and statements. Information on SQL data access for language. A new chapter on XHTML. Error handling, security, HTTP authentication, and more. Learning PHP & MySQL explains everything from fundamental concepts to the nuts and bolts of performing specific tasks. As part of O'Reilly's bestselling Learning series, the book is an easy-to-use resource designed specifically for beginners. It's a launching pad for future learning, providing you with a solid foundation for more advanced development.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have not bought a textbook in over five years. Back then, O'Reilly was a reputable brand. So when I needed to learn PHP and MySQL, I bought this book without doing any research. I will never blindly buy an O'Reilly book again. I got to page 11 before finding my first typo. After that, I lost track

of all the typos and coding mistakes I've seen. Mind you, this is the 2nd edition of this book. Clearly, the authors did not proofread their book, nor did anyone else at O'Reilly, nor did anyone who read the 1st edition (?). I have learned to not trust anything in this book and instead use google for my php/mysql questions. Also, the mistakes are not all obvious typos -- some are mistakes in reasoning, which I can catch because I have extensive experience with computers.

It is not quite clear to me how any technical editor, let alone from a publisher specializing in technology books, could pass this text as is. It is quite obvious that the authors may know their way around developing simple database-driven web sites but completely miss basic programming topics (OOP, constructors, static variables etc. - all are explained in confusing and, at times, incorrect language). Add to that grammatical errors, and perhaps a reminder that "kraut" is a derogatory term better left out of a mainstream publication, and it's quite baffling how this book made it to print in its current form. I haven't seen other publications on the topic to compare against but this one certainly was a disappointment.

This dreadful book is so far below O'Reilly's normal high standard that it's hard to believe anyone at the company saw it before publication. It is riddled from start to finish with typos, technical errors, bad coding practices, contradictions and statements that are just plain wrong. It's quite baffling that O'Reilly would let a book this bad hit the shelves. What is particularly worrying is that this is the second edition. The first was also full of mistakes (see the reviews on the O'Reilly website) and the publisher seems to have acknowledged this by rushing out this second edition only a year after the first, but the new edition fixes few of the problems of the first while introducing a host of new ones. One of the worst books ever published by O'Reilly. Avoid at all costs.

Maybe a genius or someone who already understands PHP basics will benefit from this book. I have made great progress with a number of instructional books, but got stuck in Chapter three of this one. It seems that important terms and concepts are not explained, not explained well, or explained in pages after the terms and concepts are first used. I'm going to search for another book on PHP & MySQL.

I have read 9 php-mysql books. this is the only one that got me to working code wherein php is controlling mysql. there are three major hurdles that are not solved by any of the books: (1) the different versions of mysql require that you get the online documentation for your version because

small reserved word changes make non-working code. (2) as root you have to grant the mysql user permissions correctly before anything runs. and (3) i don't know how to make php give debugging information and as a result any error in the script causes a halt as soon as the first error is encountered. the many negative reviews herein sound like the critics expected to be spoon fed both php and mysql as beginners. this book is for those who are determined to get a core working php-mysql setup for a server and to understand and control it. it is the best and only good one of the 9 that i read and abandoned.

While this is a typical O'Reilly book (marvelously and expertly written), there weren't many examples of utilizing what you just learned such that it would sink in. It also pre-supposed a bit (not much mind you) of programming experience/knowledge of which I have none. The description is a bit mis-leading that way as it states that if you know HTML and are ready for the next step this is the book. It should say, if you know HTML, a bit of C, or PERL, and some SQL you will benefit from learning PHP & MySQL. Not disappointed, just not the book for me...

This is definitely below the bar for an O'Reilly book. I am about 1/3 way thru and already have to spend hours searching the Internet for the right steps on phpMyAdmin and Apache2 config on MacBook Pro. I am debating if I should finish the rest of the book, best to avoid this book to begin with.[update] The second half of the book is a bit better, I would recommend skipping the first few chapters and start at Practical PHP.

I really enjoyed reading this one! The authors have an easy style that lets you accelerate if you already have a good grasp of that topic but want a refresher. If the section covers something you don't know then there are clear code examples and text that explains what the code does. Don't make the assumption you'll learn lots of PHP and MySQL from one book! You'll get an introduction to both that is much lighter than covered in other O'Reilly books. Where this book shines is in the juncture of the two; it really makes clear some of the ways you can customize web pages using a database. Once you lay this one down you should spend a few hours with a favorite beverage; just toss some of the possibilities around in your head. If you have a beginning understanding of PHP and/or MySQL, this book will help you take the next step. It will also help you understand technologies like Joomla and other database-driven websites. You won't learn how to program, in a general sense, but you'll get turned on by the possibilities. If you're already a coder but new to PHP and MySQL, you'll get a taste of what can be accomplished with this powerful combination.

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