

Introduction

Welcome to *Beginning PHP, Apache, MySQL® Web Development*, your guide to developing dynamic Web sites using these popular open source solutions. Consider us your tour guide as we travel through the various adventures that await you. Okay, so perhaps it won't be that glamorous or exciting, but we do promise an enjoyable learning experience.

The main purpose of this book is to provide you with a taste of what can be done with Web development using these three modules together. While we've given you only the tip of the iceberg, it will be enough to get you started and to get those creative juices flowing when designing and developing your own site. Each of these modules is complex in and of itself, and this book merely covers the basics of all three. This book is not meant to be an in-depth and comprehensive resource but rather an introduction.

Who's This Book For?

We assume that anyone reading this book has some experience with Web site development concepts and a basic working knowledge of HTML. Knowledge of other programming languages besides PHP is not a prerequisite for this book, but certainly any programming experience you have will help you understand and apply the concepts.

This book is geared toward the “newbie” to these three areas, and we've brought many of the concepts and code snippets to the most basic level. As your experience and comfort level grow with your knowledge and practical applications, you will find more complex and perhaps more efficient ways of doing things. When that happens, you will know that you have come over to the dark side and joined us as PHP, Apache, and MySQL enthusiasts.