Introduction

Since the mid-1990s when Netscape introduced version 2 of its flagship Netscape Navigator browser, JavaScript has been part of the Web development landscape. Providing a mechanism to implement dynamic interactivity in the browser, without connecting to the server, JavaScript is at the core of the Dynamic HTML model, which allows today's modern browsers to host sophisticated applications and user interfaces.

This book is a recipe book that provides you with quick, digestible examples of how to perform specific tasks using JavaScript. These tasks range from simple tasks such as displaying dynamic output in the browser window to complex tasks such as creating a dynamic, interactive menu system.

This book isn't a tutorial in JavaScript. It is designed to be a useful reference when you are actively engaged in building your Web applications and need quick answers to the question "How do I do this in JavaScript?" For most tasks of low and medium complexity, you will likely find an example in this book. Completing complex tasks can often be achieved by combining more than one sample tasks from the book.

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If you don't have any experience with JavaScript, you will probably want to supplement this book with a tutorial introduction to programming in JavaScript. For instance, you might consider *JavaScript for Dummies* by Emily A. Vander Veer (John Wiley & Sons, 0-7645-0633-1).

About the Book

This book is divided into 11 parts:

Part 1: JavaScript Basics

This part provides tasks that illustrate some fundamental JavaScript techniques and skills. If you have never used JavaScript before, this part is for you. It provides examples that illustrate the basics of creating scripts and using JavaScript.

Part 2: Outputting to the Browser

This part covers some core techniques for using JavaScript to generate dynamic output to the browser window, including outputting dynamic values such as dates.