

PHP and MySQL for Dynamic Web Sites: Visual QuickPro Guide

By Larry Ullman

Review by Casandra Calo

In "PHP and MySQL for Dynamic Web Sites," Larry Ullman successfully connects the dots between PHP, a server-side scripting language that works well with databases, SQL (structured query language) for relational databases and MySQL, a relational database management system (RDBMS) that runs as a server and gives multi-user access to any number of databases. The focus of the book is the integration of these technologies in the development of dynamic web sites. The structure of the book is linear, moving from PHP into MySQL and then SQL, with chapters on database design, error handling and debugging, security and JQuery (a java script library) at the end. He does a good job explaining terminology and functions and giving real world examples (with code) of tasks such as making a login page, creating a message board and creating a shopping cart for an e-commerce site. The technologies discussed are targeted specifically at creating dynamic web sites and serves that purpose well. It is impossible to cover all of these topics in depth in one book, but, for all intensive purposes, I got a lot out of the book. If you want to go into relational databases in more detail, I would reccomend "A First Course in Database Systems, Third Edition" by Jeffery D. Ullman and Jennifer Widom. Jennifer Widom also does a free online Stanford University course on databases that is very popular.