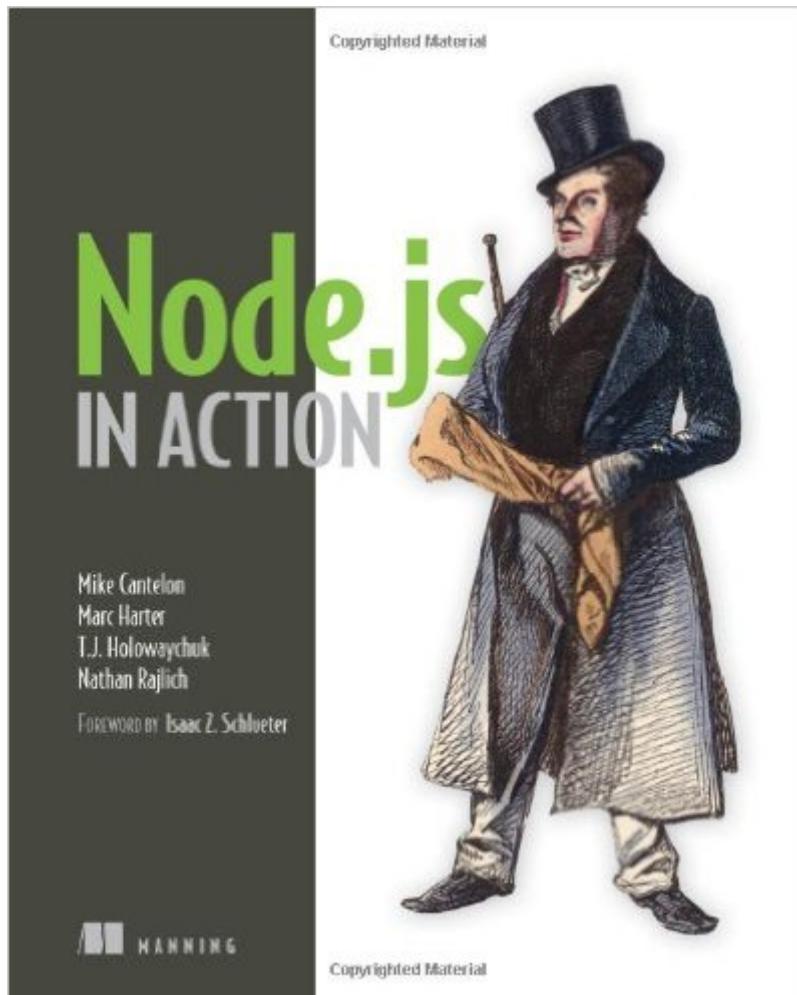


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# Node.js In Action



## Synopsis

Summary Node.js in Action is an example-driven tutorial that starts at square one and guides you through all the features, techniques, and concepts you'll need to build production-quality Node applications. You'll start by learning how to set up your Node development environment, including loading the community-created extensions. Next, you'll run several simple demonstration programs where you'll learn the basics of a few common types of Node applications. Then you'll dive into asynchronous programming, a model Node leverages to lessen application bottlenecks. About this Book JavaScript on the server? You bet. Node.js is a JavaScript server capable of supporting scalable, high-performance web applications. Using asynchronous I/O, the server can do more than one thing at a time, a key requirement for real-time apps like chat, games, and live statistics. And since it's JavaScript, you use the same language end to end. Node.js in Action shows you how to build production-quality applications. Clear introductions of key concepts and example-by-example coverage take you from setup to deployment. You'll dive into asynchronous programming, data storage, and output templating, and interact with the filesystem to create non-HTTP applications like TCP/IP servers and command-line tools. Perfect for a web developer transitioning from Rails, Django, or PHP. Requires basic knowledge of JavaScript. No prior experience with Node.js needed. Purchase of the print book includes a free eBook in PDF, Kindle, and ePub formats from Manning Publications. What's Inside Set up Node and extensions Grok asynchronous programming and the event loop Examples including microblogging, IM, games, and more About the Authors As skilled practitioners, expert teachers and trainers, and contributors to the core framework, authors Mike Cantelon, Marc Harter, T.J. Holowaychuk, and Nathan Rajlich represent the best of the Node.js development community.

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## Customer Reviews

I am a dinosaur from the days of batch processing with Cobol programs on IBM mainframes. I wanted to build a new modern website for the small manufacturing company I now work for. HTML5 and client-side Javascript were fairly easy to pick up, but I had little experience with the server side of things, especially when it comes to interactive versus batch. I was relieved to discover Node.js, which allows server-side programming in Javascript. (I wasn't sure I could handle learning ANOTHER language (like PHP) at this point.) The online documentation for Node.js and its extensions is not (at the time, at least) geared to beginners, so thank goodness for "Node.js in Action." The book is clear and each chapter builds upon the previous one, gradually introducing new abstractions and program sophistication. This book is pretty much a "must have" for programmers new to Node.js, but make sure you have a good grounding in Javascript before you pick it up.

I've just started learning nodejs and this is not the first book I read about the topic. I found out this is the best book I've read so far on the topic. It starts from the very beginning and guide you through the whole development process. It doesn't delve deep into low level details but I think this is due to target audience for this book. It explains you the basics and there are a lot of good examples to get you started. Nodejs is very extensible and there are a lot of useful packages. The book tries to cover the most useful in the daily usage. The only bit I didn't like a lot is the development of the first application, it comes to early in the book and doesn't really help in understanding the language. The rest of the book is well done. I'd advice this book to all nodejs novice who want to get ready to use it quickly.

There are so many things happening around Node.js nowadays that it is really hard to tell \*where\* to start from if you plan to jump on to node train. So I got myself this book and good news - it does

exactly that! Nicely, slowly, from the scratch! Welcome to the journey of Node.js! This book will guide you through the series of various use cases and walk you line-by-line through the code examples and patiently explain how Node works. Most of them get from very simple hello worlds to more complex problems (like full-blown app with photo uploading and pagination functionalities). On the other hand, some examples actually felt terrible - like the problem being solved was too artificial and uninteresting. In general I'd say that my feelings from the examples are a bit mixed. Node.js has its own and unique ecosystem and you'll get through variety of very node friendly technologies. You'll see how to integrate Node.js with modern persistence solutions like MongoDB and Redis and more traditional SQL databases as well. You'll see how to use Node.js as your primary server-side framework and how to integrate it with popular web frameworks like Express or popular templating technologies like Mustache, Hogan.js, Jade etc. There is also chapter on 'Node ecosystem' and for some unknown reason it's the last chapter in the book. I suggest you read this chapter early to get the idea how does node.js taste out there in the wild. One of the greatest advantages is that authors didn't forget about things like deployment, troubleshooting and clustering. There is a whole chapter on those things and it's definitely well worth of reading! Nothing's perfect though. Mistakes were made in this book as well. I have to say that most of the source code in the book is of rather poor quality. It's something I definitely wouldn't call 'representative'. And certainly not production ready, as most of the examples **\*COMPLETELY\*** omit tests. That's something I ain't forgivin'! You might wanna ask yourself why do I miss those tests so much? Well if you want to follow the examples in the book and you want to add function by function, you're probably going to make some typo and so the only reasonable thing to do is either **\*not to\*** write examples yourself (run those that are included), or write tests yourself. Another sad thing (which is not exactly authors' fault) is that Node.js evolves so rapidly, that some chapters have become quite obsolete. For example, most of the things in chapters 6 and 7 are not even runnable with latest node.js distributions. And yet another thing that I have mixed feelings about is that I think that those 400 pages could've been used a bit better. There is a whole chapter on a horrible thing called EJS that everybody hates. Also you'd probably expect from the super-hipster-modern Node.js book that REST would be first class citizen. Well, there is a chapter on REST, but most of the samples in other chapters are not RESTful in nature. There are certainly some very good introductory chapters in this book, but I am afraid that poor code quality, lack of tests and plenty of obsolete information make this book less and less relevant with every new day.

Not too good...(1) Scattered, unfocused, and disorganized.(2) The code given in the examples in

does not run. The code given by the authors on their website fails to run correctly. Yes, I followed the directions in the book. The first example of a big application is given without any context so what happens when you make even a minor mistake in the code? It won't run, naturally. Will you know enough about the code to fix it? I'm a pretty good programmer and I couldn't. The only reason I have the example running is because I found someone's fixed code on GitHub.<sup>(3)</sup> There are very few practical things in this that make sense in the context of developing something that actually runs. If you can get something running this book will not give you the tools to extend the code or do anything useful.<sup>(4)</sup> You really can't use this book as a reference. Where would you look stuff up?<sup>(5)</sup> The worst thing is that they use PHP code to reference Node (JavaScript) code. What the hell? I don't know PHP. I don't need to know PHP. Bleh. Big disappointment. Pretty much useless.

Node in Action was a much anticipated book since 2013. I saw a lot of buzz around it, but turned out to be huge disappointment for me. It's featured on expressjs.com and other websites, but the book uses obsolete libraries. All express examples are wrong because they are written for v3.x and don't support the current version 4. The creator of express and one of the co-authors is no longer working with node. By the way, there are 4 authors in this book! It doesn't have the flow or the same style. The book feels like a patchwork. The chapters are totally unrelated to each other. They jump from one topic to another. There are bits and pieces here and there, but overall they are confusing and mostly useless. Some parts contradict each other or duplicate what's already been covered. I also purchased practical node and happy with it so far, because all express examples work and versions are stated everywhere in the book.

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