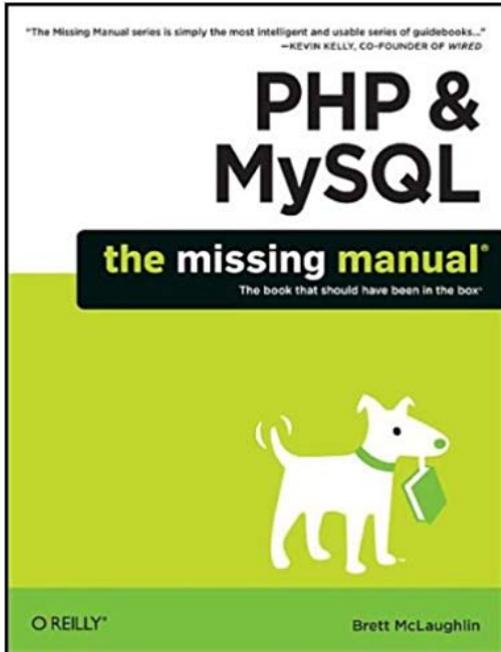


# PHP & MySQL: The Missing Manual *by* Brett McLaughlin



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**Author:** Brett McLaughlin

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If you can build websites with CSS and javascript, this book takes you to the next level—creating dynamic, database-driven websites with PHP and MySQL. Learn how to build a database, manage your content, and interact with users through queries and web forms. With step-by-step tutorials, real-world examples, and jargon-free explanations, you'll soon discover the power of server-side programming.

The important stuff you need to know:

**Get a running start.** Write PHP scripts and create a web form right away. **Learn the language.** Get up to speed on PHP and SQL syntax quickly. **Build a database.** Use MySQL to store user information and other data. **Make it dynamic.** Create pages that change with each new viewing. **Be ready for mistakes.** Plan error messages to help direct users. **Manage your content.** Use the file system to access user data, including images and other binary files. **Control operations.** Create an administrative interface to oversee your site.



# Reviews of the **PHP & MySQL: The Missing Manual** by Brett McLaughlin

## *FEISKO*

This book is terrible. It does not teach you php or mySQL at all. If you are a novice looking to learn this book is not for you. It doesnt break down PHP syntax at all, it doesnt talk about variables, functions, etc. It just teaches you how to get the programs and then the author goes into building one of his dummy websites and expects you to follow along. half the time you wont even understand why your even using certain syntax or what its even doing. Before you know it the dummy website will be built and you wont know/understand how you even did it. If you plan own building your own website based on what you learn from this book... forget about it. I recommend this book for people who are already very comfortable with php & mySQL but if you are that advanced i doubt you would need this book thus making this book USELESS!

## *Hulore*

I have bought Missing Manuals books before, and I was very satisfied because they are well explain and illustrated books. But this one is very distant from the others. Just to start, the first code example has an error, and since they're not explaining almost anything about the basics of PHP, you have no idea what is going on or what to do. I mean, I could just open a browser window and figure out, but my whole idea of buying a book is to have all the information I need in my hand, which absolutely this is not the case. I haven't read the rest because I can't figure out whats wrong with the first example and I can't continue. Very bad book.

Unless you want to spend 16 dollars in a bunch of useless paper, buy this book.

## *Felolv*

This book is a total piece of trash. Usually their manuals are well-written and have working code. This book is mainly errors, poor explanations, and non-working code sets. Even in the digital version the code doesn't work.

This book was clearly rushed out. A month after it's been released you can't even get the example code.

## *Anicasalar*

Yes, very basic, very good stuff for beginners.

But, as this book promises to be of value for advanced programmers that just want to get acquainted with php and mysql, I'm sorry to be rather disappointed.

## *sergant*

PHP & MySQL: The Missing Manual, 2nd Edition left me wondering about some of the practices I observed in the book. I found myself at ods with the organization of the book. Chapter 2 suggests getting code onto the Internet right away. Security is discussed in Chapters 12 through 14. It's simply a bad idea to put unsecured code on the Internet. Your site will get hacked. Your web host will likely ask you to pay for damages your site causes to the server. That is pretty standard boilerplate text appearing in the terms of service for most hosting accounts.

In chapter 2 I tried a few of the early code examples and found that path changes were needed to get things working. This was mentioned by the author. While I did not attempt to work all the code examples, I found syntax errors with several examples. These are sure to trip up coders trying to learn a new language.

Reading the book proved tedious from the standpoint that an example is put forth, then changed and often changed again in the final version. While this might be good for learning, if the code contains syntax errors, it will certainly produce frustrations. This appears to be borne out in published

reviews. The book has primary focus on PHP code with very little database manipulation. There was little mention of joins, and no mentions of unions or intersections. I found no discussion of database design beyond the mention primary keys and a cursory mention of a foreign key.

I do not feel comfortable recommending this book to new users. The syntax errors in the code will make for a frustrating user experience. Advanced PHP coders will find little to get excited about except for possibly chapter nine's discussion of adding image files to a database.

Disclosure: I received a free ebook copy for review purposes.

*Nilasida*

This book has two major downfalls - it constantly creates code that is then undone and replaced, this is a fine exercise for learning, but I'd like to know the destination code first and then work my way towards it. That is more of a learning style than anything, not a big deal.

The second is the deal breaker, following along is difficult because the code is full of bugs, and you can only make sense of some of them through the unconfirmed errata on the book's website. Nothing like trying to learn something, and not having it work, because the example code is absolutely flawed.

For instance, the book goes into great detail to explain the great benefits of error checking and error reporting, but when first displaying the user created PHP function call it provides code that doesn't name the function, and you can't get your error reporting mechanism to work. Oh, the irony of an error checking chapter that didn't check for its own errors. Another example is the last chapter that goes into sessions and authorizations, but the final code makes several `session_start` calls that create errors on several pages. Some of these are easily remedied problems, but not for someone that is unfamiliar with PHP that is trying to follow along.

*Ndav*

This book content-wise is a jewel. The author clearly knows his stuff and presents it in a fashion that is easy to comprehend.

The downfall of this book is a lack of editing. A good second pair of eyes reading over this text would've really helped before it hit store shelves.

I simply don't understand how a book with this many errors make it to publication. Typos, grammar, and code syntax are scattered all across its pages. Don't believe me, check out the errata section for the first edition of this book.

I have read many books in the Missing Manual series, and yes, there are a few mistakes, but this one takes the prize for the most.

Fortunately, this book is now in its third edition. I wanted to write this review to warn others like me who stumbled upon the first edition.

Shame on O'Reilly for unleashing this one out on the public.

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