3

Source Code and Sample Website

Introduction

I've found that one of the best ways to learn something is to be able to apply it right away in a realistic context. Toward that end, I'm providing two different ways for you to learn by doing as we go along through this book.

First, I'm providing a sample website for a fictional company called "Sam's Used Cars". It starts as an HTML only website, and we'll enhance it a bit with each chapter so you can see the effect of Bootstrap on a real site.

Second, the http://www.JoyofBootstrap.com website contains dozens of examples from the book and features an innovative "See Code" editor which lets you experiment with the code and see the results immediately.

I strongly urge you to use **both** resources.

Sam's Used Cars

If you've read either of my previous books, <u>The Joy of PHP</u> or <u>The Joy of iQuery</u>, you may be familiar with Sam already.

Sam runs a used car dealership that started off small but grew over time. As his business grew, the needs of his website grew as well. When you only have 4 or 5 cars for sale at a time, manually modifying your website as one

car is sold and thus no longer available or adding a new one that you just added to the sales lot in hopes of selling is not too much work. But as your inventory grows from 5 cars to 10 cars, and then again to 20 cars or more the effort required to keep the website up to date can quickly become a full time position.

This is where The Joy of PHP comes in. We transformed Sam's HTML website where every page was hand coded into one that is created dynamically using PHP. The information about the cars is stored in a mySQL database and is always up to date. All Sam has to do now is keep his mySQL database up to date by filling out web forms describing the new cars and deleting rows for cars that have already been sold.

We're going to do the same thing with this book. We'll start of with Sam's HTML-only web site which looks terrible on mobile devices and gradually transform it into something that is fully Bootstrap enabled and awesome.

Source Code on JoyofBootstrap.com

Another important part of learning is playing. You can get all the source code that accompanies this book by visiting http://www.JoyofBootstrap.com.

The site is set up so you can see the examples in action (click the link 'See Code' that accompanies every example) and even tweak the source code online and see the results of your changes without having to download or install anything.

Every chapter has a number of examples online associated with it. Don't move to the next chapter until you have tried the examples either online or on your own computer. It's really the only way to truly get it.

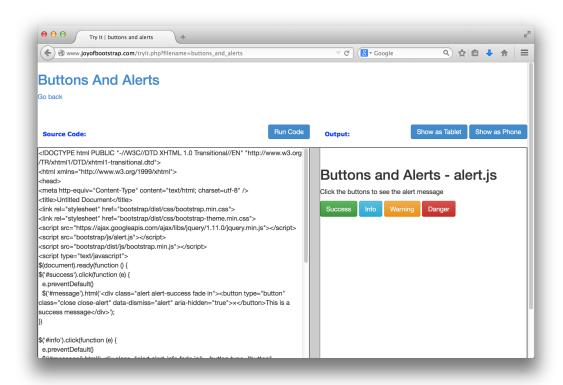


Illustration 1: www.joyofbootstrap.com web site

I also invite you to join my mailing list. I'll never spam you, and you can always opt out if you lose interest. Although I haven't done any yet, I do intent to make some youtube videos of the source code in action and I'll update everyone on the mailing list as they come out. Examples with a video will have a 'play video' button.

Contacting the Author

I invite you to contact me if you have any book feedback (such as typos or code bugs) or questions. If there's something you just don't get, maybe other people will have the same issue and it means I need to improve that particular section. I take the time to get back to everyone who emails me. I'm at AlanForbes@outlook.com

Installing for a Web Site

If you want to make the application you've built to be available to everybody via the Internet, you'll need to install your application onto a publicly accessible server. Typically that means finding a hosting provider.

If you are looking for an inexpensive hosting provider, I use AccuWeb Hosting for www.joyofbootstrap.com, and I haven't had any problems with them. If you'd like to use them too, I would appreciate if you use my affiliate link at https://manage.accuwebhosting.com/aff.php?aff=743

Using the above link won't cost you any more, and (in theory) I'll get a small commission on the sale. Thank you.