

books

Building Better Web Pages

One of the most coveted IT job titles around today has to be web master (or mistress). Who wouldn't want that blazoned across their business card? *Building Better Web Pages* is aimed at those intermediate web designers who already know what they're doing but just need a little help to create a site that has "the sparkle of the top one percent of all web sites". It also helps them to do this without having to learn DGI, JavaScript, Perl, "or anything that requires a pocket protector!"

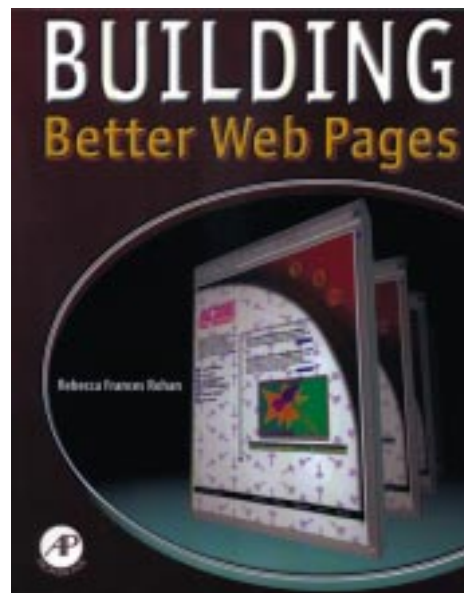
The book is written in a clear, personable style and has a thorough contents section. It provides a brief background of HTML standards, and

demonstrates the best way to navigate the browser wars and make your site accessible to as many people as possible. It also has a handy "not-to-do list" which details common design

bugbears such as violently coloured backgrounds, unnecessary effects and rampant hotlinks. The book is very strong on showing how to make everything on your site go together, such as the colour, shape and overall feel of the site. Importantly, it also shows where you can go to pick up free web bullets, icons, backgrounds and so on. The book doesn't devote a huge amount of time to Java, mainly because a lot of internet users are not yet able to use it.

This book will help you to do exactly what it says on the cover

Rohan thinks it can be a good thing when used in moderation, however, and she shows you where to go to download some fun little applets. She also has a large section on how to find the right image and image format for the job, showing how to crop and downsize to reduce download times. There's also a great section that shows how to publicise your site in a professional manner.



If I have one complaint, it is that the web page examples are not exactly cutting-edge design. Then again, you can probably find your way around them without psychic powers, too. It may not be fancy, but this book will help you to do exactly what it says on the cover.

SUSAN PEDERSON

PCW DETAILS

★★★★

BUILDING BETTER WEB PAGES

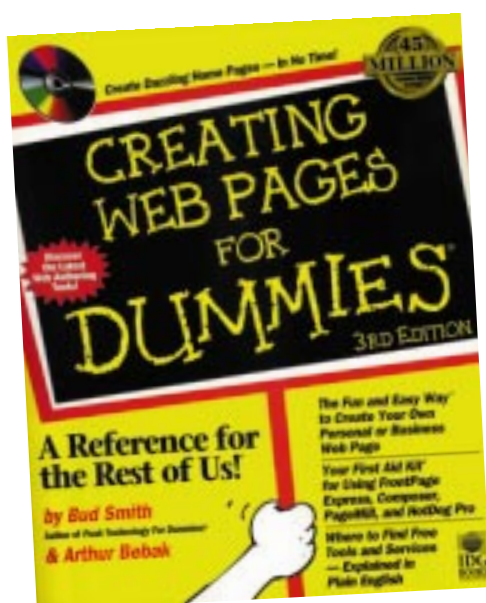
Author Rebecca Frances Rohan

Publisher AP Professional

ISBN 0-12-593185-9

Price £21.95

Creating Web Pages for Dummies — 3rd Edition



I shouldn't really have liked this book, aimed squarely as it is at the home user who wants to publish their own web pages, probably full of utterly meaningless pictures of themselves and their girlfriends on graduation day or something. The ability to publish one's personal web page should not be confused with the obligation to publish. Anyway, this is categorically not the book for you if you want to become a certified, heavy-duty, 24-carat web master.

If, though, you want a brief introduction to HTML (hypertext mark-up language) but are keener on using web-authoring

Aimed squarely at the home user who wants to publish their own web pages

software to get your own web site up and running over a weekend, then this is the book for you.

Creating Web Pages for Dummies skips the hardcore programming code but gives you enough of a taste for hyper text mark-up language so that you realise how ineffectually dull it is to program with. While HTML is undoubtedly the best option for small-scale personal pages on the web, the book also gives the publishing

PCW DETAILS

★★★★

CREATING WEB PAGES FOR DUMMIES

Author Bud Smith and Arthur Bebak

Publisher IDG Books

ISBN 0-7645-0357-X

Price £23.99

newcomer a guide to the best web-authoring tools. One of the best features of this sort of book is that a CD-ROM is included, with sawn-off versions of all the software you need to get your own site online. Along with 359 pages of wittily instructive prose you get the PageMill HTML page editor as well as full versions of the HotDog HTML editor and the HTML page creation utility,

HotDog Express, as well as some handy art software. Authors Bud Smith and Arthur Bebak hold the reader's hand through an introduction to the concept of the net, while walking them promptly and assuredly through the basics until they are able to display their lives on the web. We can't wait to read all about you... honest.

PAUL TRUEMAN

Fugitive from the Cubicle Police — a Dilbert Book

Bored with your job? Sick of working in a coffin-sized cubicle? Scott Adams felt just like this when he worked for Pacific Bell, before quitting to mock corporate life with his Dilbert comic strip. But then, he's a cartoonist genius and you're not. Never mind, you can still laugh at his cartoons even if you will never be able to write anything this funny yourself. Do what all Dilbert fans do and edge towards rebellion by sticking your favourite cartoon strips around your

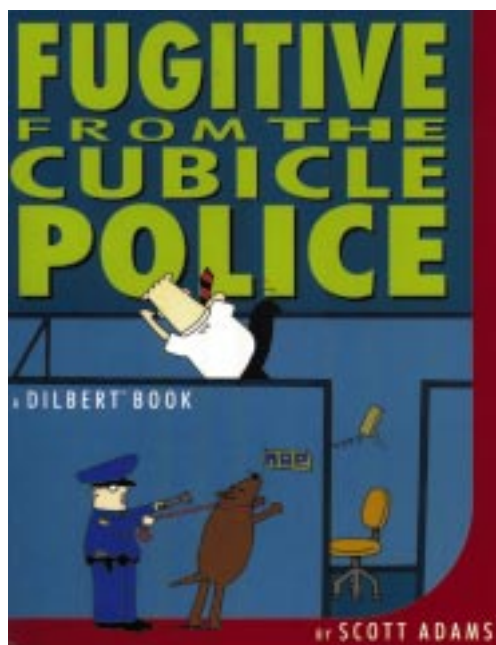
...how Charlie Brown would have grown up had he gone to work for Microsoft

desk. Don't actually quit your job, though, as that might lead to a better one and then you'd no longer have something in common with Dilbert.

For those unacquainted with Adams' office world, Dilbert is a software engineer who is constantly up against his pointy-haired boss, or his Snoopy-like pet, Dogbert. The strip bears more than a passing resemblance to Peanuts, with Dilbert a fair estimation of how Charlie Brown would have grown up had he gone to work for Microsoft. Thwarted by women, Dilbert had a girlfriend, Liz, for a while but neither Adams nor his readers felt it was right and now female contact is restricted to Tina the tech writer, a fearsomely unpredictable hack, all too brittle to criticism. Here, all

Adams' favourite characters feature in strips taken from the past few years, rather too randomly for my liking; there is no explanation for Liz appearing and disappearing, for example. Still, minor quibbles from a fan aside, if you have never read Dilbert, go out and buy this book now.

PAUL TRUEMAN



PCW DETAILS



FUGITIVE FROM THE CUBICLE POLICE

Author Scott Adams

Publisher Bostree Publishing

ISBN 0-7522-2431-X

Price £8.99

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