Book Review

Node: Up and Running: Scalable Server-Side Code with JavaScript

**Good Theoretical Grounds; Falls Short On Details**

*For a Rapidly Evolving Framework*

For a swiftly evolving framework in its relative infancy (current version at the time of this review is v0.8.11) this book serves as an illustrious introduction and start-up guide. The book's version of node is v0.6.6 which causes demos to not run as smoothly as one would like. However, due to the wealth of preliminary information and its focus on getting up and running, anyone thinking of working with Node should definitely have a read of this book.

The book clearly explains Node's underlying concepts of non-blocking I/O and event loop. For instance, authors discuss the significance and possible use case for node with analogies as follows.

"... In a small restaurant where the kitchen staff and the wait staff are the same people, no improvement can be made by becoming event-driven. Because all the work is being done by the same people, event-driven architectures don't add anything. If all (or most) of the work on your server does it computation, Node might not be the ideal model..."

Being an O'Reilly publication, my expectations for high quality writing and production were met however the book falls short on details when it comes to getting Node up and running on Windows; instead it has an implied expectations for Linux knowledge.

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http://www.amazon.com/Node-Running-Scalable-Server-Side-JavaScript/product-reviews/1449398588/ref=cm_cr_dp_seen_ali_btm?ie=UTF8&showViewpoints=1&sortBy=bySubmissionDateDescending

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The book is divided into two parts and eight chapters. Starting with the basics of brief introduction to Node.js, chapter 2 delves directly into Doing Interesting Things such as Building a Chat Server and simple Twitter application. Chapter 3 deals with Building Robust Node Applications, discusses the infamous Event Loop and makes way for the next section i.e. deep dive and API reference.

Starting with chapter 4, the deep dive / API reference section, we look into the Core APIs moving into chapter 5 Helper APIs such as DNS, Crypto, Processes and Testing. Chapter 6 deals with Data Access including NoSQL and Document Stores, Relational Databases, Connection Pooling and Message queuing Protocols. Next chapter deals with external modules such as express and Socket.IO while the final chapter 8 walks us through Node's extensibility endpoints Package Manager and Add-ons.
About the Reviewer

Adnan Masood works as a web architect and technical lead for Green Dot Corporation where he develops SOA based middle-tier architectures, distributed systems, and web-applications using Microsoft technologies. He is a Microsoft Certified Trainer holding several technical certifications, including MCPD (Enterprise Developer), MCSD .NET, and SCJP-II. Adnan is attributed and published in print media and on the Web; he is technical editor for "Microsoft Windows Server AppFabric Cookbook" and also taught Windows Communication Foundation (WCF) courses at the University of California at San Diego.

Adnan regularly presents at local code camps and user groups. He is actively involved in the .NET community as cofounder and president of the of San Gabriel Valley .NET Developers group. Adnan holds a Master’s degree in Computer Science; he is currently a doctoral student working towards PhD in Machine Learning; specifically interestingness measures in outliers using Bayesian Belief Networks. He also holds systems architecture certification from MIT and SOA Smarts certification from Carnegie Mellon University.