

# Book Review

*Peter Fitchett*

## **Adobe Dreamweaver CS3 with ASP, ColdFusion, and PHP:**

### **Training from the Source**

by Jeffrey Bardzell and Bob Flynn

published by Peachpit Press

484 pages and 1 DVD

The first temptation that I faced when approaching this book was to use it as a reference source. The book presents 15 clearly identified lessons accessed by 5 pages of Contents and 17 pages of Index giving ready access to particular areas of interest. It soon became apparent though that using this resource in this way is not very efficient - there is so much information here that you could miss.

Just to be clear, this book is about how to build websites with Dreamweaver using different web technologies - it does not teach you how to use the different technologies themselves.

Lesson 1 introduces us to a small 'traditional' static website that is revised and developed throughout the book as new features and technologies are introduced. Following lessons take us from static web pages to dynamic web pages, to passing data between pages, sending email from a web page, building a price calculator, using a database, filtering data, building web pages from a database, search interfaces, authenticating users, managing content with forms, updating pages, and finally, creating a basic content management system.

A DVD is included that contains a folder of the files required to start each lesson, and another folder for the files that contain the expected resulting files so you can check your work, or just review the lesson.

Even if you feel that you know the material to be covered in a lesson, there are benefits in actually working through the material step by step as the clear instructions, explanations and tips are sure to add something that you didn't expect to learn. Each step is well described and illustrated with screen images. Although the images appear to be made on a PC, the text explicitly describes any differences between Macs and PCs and gives different instruction steps where that is appropriate, so you will be comfortable with the book, no matter which computer platform you use.

An excellent book and highly recommended, .

*Thanks to Peachpit Press for providing a review copy of this book.*

