



## What is HTML 5?

*Brett McLaughlin*

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## What is HTML 5? Brett McLaughlin

HTML5: Everyone's using it, nobody knows what it is. I realize that sounds more like a line out of an existential movie — maybe Waiting for Godot or a screenplay by Sartre — than a statement about HTML5. But it's really the truth: most of the people using HTML5 are treating it as HTML4+, or even worse, HTML4 (and some stuff they don't use). The result? A real delay in the paradigm shift that HTML5 is almost certain to bring. It's certainly not time to look away, because by the time you look back, you may have missed something really important: a subtle but important transition centered around HTML5.

## What is HTML 5? Details

Date : Published (first published July 13th 2011)

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Author : Brett McLaughlin

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## From Reader Review What is HTML 5? for online ebook

### Scott says

This short e-book contains a top-down view of HTML5. Often technical books, blogs, articles, and documentation focuses on features, techniques, and syntax. This book focused more on the entire web as a petri dish of technological activity. Design and architectural considerations were given less to how to develop with HTML5, and more about how and why HTML5 was developed. Some unique features were discussed, such as canvas and multimedia. Although these features were explained from a strategic vantage point, rather than as a how-to for a tactical implementation. This free book is great supplemental knowledge.

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### PF says

I really enjoyed this. It was just what I needed. I knew HTML5 was critical for web accessibility and designing programs for mobile devices, but I didn't know much more than that. This put it in the context of the evolution of HTML over time, the long term vision, and useful ways to use it, as well as suggestions for best practices and what not to do. With the addition or with and humor, it was a light easy read.

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### David says

My Review is probably not fair to the book.

It would be a great introduction if I was non-technical and looking in from the outside.

However as someone who just wanted to get a more technical introduction, I felt it was lacking. I glossed over the last parts of the book just to have it crossed off my list.

If you are looking for a super short almost blog introduction, this could be the one.

It was very cheap on amazon so it was value for money...just not value for what I wanted.

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### Ashley says

I don't think this should be advertised and "sold" on Amazon as a book. It's really just a lengthy essay introducing the reader to HTML5. It is moderately well written, interesting, and as informative as a brochure. The author, Brett McLaughlin, just touches on the features of the language and what is new to the development surrounding it. I do recommend that you have a background in web development if you want to understand the references made in this essay.

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## **Aria Radmand says**

### **Nothing useful.**

Too short for calling it a book! I did not find it useful. There is no must for free content to be useless.

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## **Lynda says**

This is not a book one reads. It's a reference book. An like all books from this publisher, it's well done.

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## **Simon Gianoutsos says**

This is a short book that is essentially a sales pitch for HTML5 and provides a good overview for somebody that is wanting a high level overview of what HTML5 is about, but not detail as to how to do anything. It focuses on the "what" not the "how".

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## **I BATES says**

### **Nothing technical**

I was looking for something with a bit more information and a bit less opinion. Will need to find another source. Perhaps a different media type.

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## **Dave Jones says**

This was a freebie Kindle book that I read via my smartphone. I really wouldn't call it a "book" so much as an essay. Anyway, this was a little over my head. After finishing this book, I'm not entirely sure I understand what HTML5 is. I have some vague concept of how it works: it focuses not so much on web pages as creating an interconnected environment that web developers -- particularly programmers -- can develop applications that can cause all these different applications to play nice. It is also some kind of an alternative to Flash.

If you're a web developer that has serious problems with the above summarization, please feel free to rip it apart in the comments! (With corrections, of course!)

McLaughlin does link to content that sort of helps in my understanding. He linked to a entertaining video to illustrate the capabilities of HTML5. However, I'm not sure what role HTML5 plays that makes a discrete difference between a good job of video editing.

Maybe I was expecting too much enlightenment. Yeah, I'm certainly not advanced enough to follow the discussion fully. But, goshdarnit, if you're going to name a book *What is HTML5?*, I would expect it to be

directed to a wider (dumber) audience.

One unexpected outcome of this read: McLaughlin referenced a couple of sci-fi novels that look promising. I've added these to my Goodreads "to read" shelves. The end result is that I loved one (*Snow Crash*) and absolutely hated the other (*Neuromancer*).

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### **Ron says**

This was a free Amazon kindle book that I would describe as a white paper. If you don't know anything about HTML5 and are looking for a quick overview, I'd recommend this. However, it doesn't go into a lot of details and you'll be looking for something else to follow it up with.

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### **Jerold Haas says**

#### **Cursory, however, informative**

For those uninitiated or less experienced with markup, this acts as a good entry point. For those following HTML5 since the formative spec years, there's not much new here. My compliments to the author, however, as the content was found to be quite agreeable to my personal bias on the future of the web.

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### **Matt Maldre says**

Free kindle ebook, so it's already a good deal. I give it three stars because the book is average. Not bad. Not great. If you want to learn the concepts behind HTML 5, this is a good book to read. It's short. To the point. I want to give it 4 stars, but that's a bit high. 3.5 would be more accurate.

This book doesn't get into the nitty gritty coding and programming, but you do need to have a knowledge of coding to understand the book.

A handful of good quotes from the book:

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The winners in an HTML5 world are those who stop fearing being stolen from, and actually start handing out their candy to every kid on the block.

HTML has always been about interconnection.

Slap a Creative Commons license not just on your video, or your images, but on your HTML, and then build interesting components and assume they'll be sucked into other things and used in ways you'd never considered. It is called the Internet, remember?

important is not that HTML5 works on phones. What's important is that HTML5 "just works."

HTML5 really removes the need to think about mobile devices separately from other devices

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**Stephen Baird says**

A concise enough review of what is in HTML, but as with all books on the subjects related to the Internet of computing it suffers with being dated almost before it's published

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**Roger says**

Very short and generic. Much more of an article in a general audience magazine than an actual book. It should be looked at as an initial primer to HTML5 rather than a learning experience. You would do better with other books if you want to learn or learn about HTML5.

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**khrome says**

This book is a short read, and free, so I don't have any complaints. But after reading the other reviews, I do realize it is targeted to a specific audience. I think the people that will get the most benefit from this book are those who are familiar with history of HTML and have little prior knowledge of HTML5. If you are familiar with the drawbacks and shortcomings of older HTML versions, especially band-aid solutions, this synopsis of what HTML5 can do is very motivating.

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