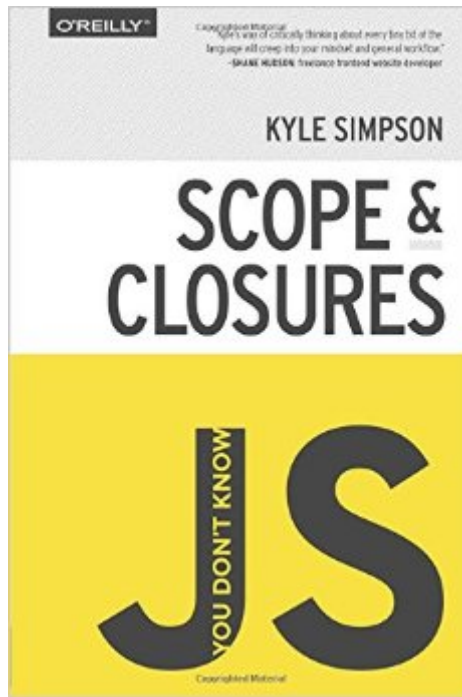# You Don't Know JS: Scope & Closures

Synopsis

No matter how much experience you have with JavaScript, odds are you donâ ™t fully understand the language. This concise yet in-depth guide takes you inside scope and closures, two core concepts you need to know to become a more efficient and effective JavaScript programmer. Youâ ™ll learn how and why they work, and how an understanding of closures can be a powerful part of your development skillset.Like other books in the "You Donâ ™t Know JS" series, Scope and Closures dives into trickier parts of the language that many JavaScript programmers simply avoid. Armed with this knowledge, you can achieve true JavaScript mastery.Learn about scope, a set of rules to help JavaScript engines locate variables in your codeGo deeper into nested scope, a series of containers for variables and functionsExplore function- and block-based scope, â œhoistingâ •, and the patterns and benefits of scope-based hidingDiscover how to use closures for synchronous and asynchronous tasks, including the creation of JavaScript libraries

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Customer Reviews

View larger   Look for more titles in the series   JavaScript is awesome. It's easy to learn partially, and much harder to learn completely (or even sufficiently). When developers encounter confusion, they usually blame the language instead of their lack of understanding. These books aim to fix that, inspiring a strong appreciation for the language you can now, and should, deeply know. If at every point that you encounter a surprise or frustration in JavaScript, your response is to add it to the blacklist, as some are accustomed to doing, you soon will be relegated to a hollow shell of the

richness of JavaScript. This "You Don't Know JavaScript" book series offers a contrary challenge: learn and deeply understand "all" of JavaScript, even and especially "The Tough Parts".

Not only does the author know what he's talking about, he knows how to communicate it. As a long time Java programmer, many of the aspects of JavaScript were mysterious and obtuse, or at least the way they were explained made them seem that way. Scope and Closure are two of those aspects and now they seem simple obvious artifacts of the functional nature of the JavaScript language. Now all the patterns that the other books demonstrate but don't bother to explain seem much more clear. I can look at the language with new eyes and new understanding. Highly recommended for anyone that needs an under-the-hood understanding of JavaScript and anyone that wants to side-swipe smug job interviewers that want to trip you up with manufactured mis-understandable code.

Note: I have the eBook version.This book is like a UNIX command: it does one thing, and it does it well. The shortness of this book is one of its redeeming qualities, as it can be read rather quickly. Some people might like having a handy tome, but most of those tomes seem to be optimized for reference rather than straight reading. And if you have a physical book, those kind of tomes are heavy.The book covers scope and closures, topics that are not always understood by JavaScript developers with working experience or developers coming from other languages. It's good that the book starts at an intermediate level and assumes you have basic JavaScript knowledge, so it does not have to cover syntax, loops, conditionals, objects, etc. If you are a beginner, stay away.I didn't think the coverage of left-hand side and right-hand side in chapter 1 was relevant for the book, but that seems to be the only "extraneous" part of the book. The author created four appendix chapters to cover "extra" material.The coverage of closures was particularly fascinating, because as the author pointed out, we've all seen closures, but we didn't know they were there in the code. The book has the BEST explanation of closures I have read yet. I think Kyle's explanation of closures even trumps John Resig's explanation of closures from his book, "Secrets of the Javascript Ninja."Overall, I found the book easy to read, and it helped better my understanding of these two topics of JavaScript.

While this book attempts to demystify javascript scope and closures for javascript developers, it makes the topic mildly less mysterious. After reading this book, I think the explanation of both topics feels unfinished. I may go and re-read this book again. Its like The Good Parts without the

immediately good even if controversial ideas in it.The author rather than try to fit in a full discussion on scope and closures elects to put additional information into an appendix which takes the reader away from very relevant and related questions that would likely further the readers understanding of the subject matter without having to skip all over the place. Usually, I tend to think of an appendix as off topic, related and useful information rather than a way to artificially keep the chapters short.LHS/RHS scope explanation feels out of place being located in the first few chapters of this book. (Note: On some level I understand the logic of it being here.) Somehow I feel like its a complex theoretical topic being thrown at you right away before you have a solid context. The author probably could be more successful with explaining LHS/RHS scope by starting with day to day scoping problems developers have with their code now. Instead it comes off as too theoretical too fast and if you are not already well versed on compiler theory you can get lost right at the beginning of the book.The question becomes are we trying to explain scope to developers who do not understand scope or are we trying to sound smart to developers who probably already understand scope.The other thing I think is lacking with this book's explanation of scope is this and passing scope around and executing functions in a scope outside of their own. Giving a full and in depth explanation if this is immediately useful in solving problems developers have everyday.Lastly, the information on closures really only lasts for a chapter and then its really just a definition and showing off some common javascript patterns that closures rather than a full explanation of closures.Ive read other reviews claiming the length is a plus but I feel like I would have liked those 20 pages they shaved off this book back. My review comes off as negative despite my 3.75 star review because I strongly feel like it could have been a 5 star book. There is great explanations in this book minus other great explanations that were left out of this book.

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