

A List of Useful Web Development Blogs

by Nolan, October 2009

The Internet is a noisy place, with Twitter updates constantly streaming and blogs spewing out second-hand knowledge, making it difficult to find sources that are both credible and consistently good. Here are a few blogs that I follow that keep me informed on what's going on and what's next in Web technology.

JavaScript

[Ajaxian](#): This is *the* blog on the Web for all things JavaScript and AJAX. The blog profiles new frameworks, libraries, and techniques that you can usually bring immediately into your Web development. They have a nice mix between covering the new and shiny stuff, as well as posts that instruct readers on how to become better JavaScript programmers.

[ejohn.org](#): John Resig's blog has long been a source of JavaScript knowledge. The jQuery creator and Mozilla evangelist shares years of industry know-how and is a great programmer. He does a nice job of detailing the inner workings of JavaScript, as well detailing useful tidbits about jQuery.

PHP

[Chris Shiflett](#): PHP security, no thanks to PHP itself, is hard to get right, as security features that should be enabled are disabled by default, and vice versa. My favorite example is the `mysql_escape_string` versus `mysql_real_escape_string`. Instead of deprecating the former, you have both and you have to know which one to use.

[suspekt.org](#): In a similar vein as Chris Shiflett's blog, but another great resource. `suspekt` keeps an eye on security regressions and improvements at the PHP source level between versions and monitors Suhosin patches, which harden a stock PHP install. Stefen Esser speaks often at big PHP conferences and is fantastic about putting his slides up about the state of the art in PHP security.

Security

[ha.ckers.org](#): These guys keep up with dark side of the Web and distill that knowledge for the average web developer. My favorite part of this site is their XSS-checking tool: <http://ha.ckers.org/xss.html>.

[Google Online Security](#): Google sees a lot of sites poorly designed for security and here are their suggestions to help make the Web safer for everyone.

Software Development

[Uncle Bob's Software Craftmanship Corner](#): Robert Martin (AKA Uncle Bob) is a great resource on how to approach software design and construction from a reasoned point of view. While it is easy to write less-than-elegant code, Uncle Bob encourages you take the high road and write your code for your future self and comrades. He literally wrote the book on clean code, titled appropriately "Clean Code," which is also highly recommended.

[Google Testing](#): This blog is a fascinating look into the testing culture at Google. I'd imagine that the extent of their testing puts most software teams to shame, but it's nice to see how one of the biggest in Web software does it.

[Michael Feathers](#)

: Similar to Uncle Bob (they actually work at Object Mentor together), Feathers' blog is another great programming resource. I see Uncle Bob as more of a nuts-and-bolts writer, while Michael Feathers takes a more wide-angle glance at software development. His book "Working Effectively with Legacy Code" is a good read if you ever find yourself working with older code.

Steve Yegge (<http://steve.yegge.googlepages.com/blog-rants> and continued at <http://steve-yegge.blogspot.com/>): While famous for his verbosity, Steve Yegge always has a interesting story to tell. Every post has its own roundabout way of making you a better programmer, or at least make you think about code you write, which is a win in my book.

HTML/CSS:

zeldman.com, meyerweb.com, snook.ca: These three, Jeffrey Zeldman, Eric Meyer, and Jonathan Snook, have long been considered the vanguards of writing semantic and standards-compliant HTML, as well as being a valuable resource of how to design for the Web using CSS.

diveintomark.org: Mark Pilgrim is an extremely funny and talented writer -- his book, [Dive Into Python](http://diveintopython.com), has been considered the best way to learn Python for several years. He is involved in WHATWG, the group that shapes the future of Web technology and the drafters of HTML5. He maintains doctype (<http://code.google.com/p/doctype/wiki/Welcome>) which is a must-read for web developers.

Grab Bag

stackoverflow.com: Not a blog per se, but I couldn't leave it out. An engaging and knowledgeable community is always available to give advice on every aspect of technology, to general programming practices to very specific language/API questions.

[YDN Blog](http://ydnblog.com): The Yahoo! Developer Network Blog covers everything from performance to accessibility to their cool APIs.

[Simon Willison](http://simonwillison.net): Simon aggregates lots of great web development content, and seems to have a good eye for the future of Web technology.