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Serverless Single Page Apps: Fast, Scalable, And Available



Synopsis

Don't waste your time building an application server. See how to build low-cost, low-maintenance, highly available, serverless single page web applications that scale into the millions of users at the click of a button. Quickly build reliable, well-tested single page apps that stay up and running 24/7 using Web Services. Avoid messing around with middle-tier infrastructure and get right to the web app your customers want. You don't need to manage your own servers to build powerful web applications. This book will show you how to create a single page app that runs entirely on web services, scales to millions of users, and costs less per day than a cup of coffee. Using a web browser, a prepared workspace, and your favorite editor, you'll build a complete single page web application, step by step. Learn the fundamental technologies behind modern single page apps, and use web standards to create lean web applications that can take advantage of the newest technologies. Deploy your application quickly using S3. Use Cognito to connect with providers like Google and Facebook to manage user identities. Read and write user data directly from the browser using DynamoDB, and build your own scalable custom microservices with Lambda. Whether you've never built a web application before or you're a seasoned web developer who's just looking for an alternative to complex server-side web frameworks, this book describes a simple approach to building serverless web applications that you can easily apply or adapt for your own projects.

What You Need: To follow the tutorial in this book, you'll need a computer with a web browser. You'll also need a text editor and a git client. Building this web application will require some sort of development web server. You can use your own, or you can also use the one included with the tutorial's prepared workspace. The included web server requires Ruby 2.0, although we also suggest few alternatives. To get started quickly, you need a basic understanding of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. If you're new to these topics, you can get up to speed using links we'll provide in the Introduction.

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Customer Reviews

Q&A with author Ben Rady What Does 'Serverless' Mean? Serverless means you, as an application developer, don't need to worry about managing servers. Your applications can be built on top of web services, instead of running on servers that you have to configure and maintain. So the Only Benefit to a Serverless App is That I Don't Have to Be a Part-Time Sysadmin? Scalability, reliability, and cost are other enormous benefits to serverless apps. When building on top of Web Services, you can build apps that will scale into the millions of users, but cost just a few pennies per day to run. As your application grows, you can simply allocate more resources via AWS, without having to re architect for scale. And if your app only ever has a handful of users, you'll only pay for what you need. In many cases, the cost of running these kinds of apps is literally nothing. How Do Serverless Apps Compare to Traditional Web Apps? Traditional web applications, built using MVC frameworks and an application server, put most of the application logic in the server. The web app is often just an interface on top of this server, which is responsible for all the essential functions of the app: storing and processing data, issuing security credentials, and hosting the core application logic. With a serverless single page app, you can move the majority of this logic into the browser. This not only unifies the application, but makes it easier to integrate with the highly scalable and reliable services provided by vendors such as Web Services. Instead of trying to horizontally scale load-balanced application servers, you can rely on the engineers at AWS to scale most of your application for you.

View larger What about Logic That Can't Run in the Browser? Many applications will have some logic that can't run in a browser, whether for security reasons, performance reasons, or to protect intellectual property. In those cases, you can use services like Lambda to build services that can be accessed directly from the browser. Whether you choose to structure your application using isolated microservices, or build a more integrated service layer, Lambda is a great way to host application logic that can't be run on the client.

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