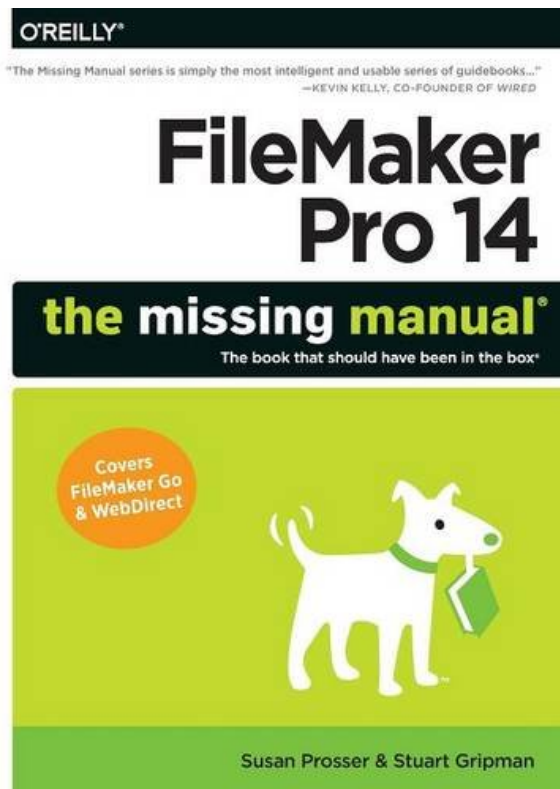


# FILEMAKER PRO 14: THE MISSING MANUAL BY SUSAN PROSSER, STUART GRIPMAN



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## About the Author

Susan Prosser is a reformed journalist who's stopped trying to bring information to the people and now helps them manage the data they already have. She is a FileMaker Certified Developer and has developed FileMaker databases for 12 years, and also trains and writes curricula for other developers.

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You don't need a technical background to build powerful databases with FileMaker Pro 14. This crystal-clear, objective guide shows you how to create a database that lets you do almost anything with your data so you can quickly achieve your goals. Whether you're creating catalogs, managing inventory and billing, or planning a wedding, you'll learn how to customize your database to run on a PC, Mac, web browser, or iOS device.

The important stuff you need to know:

- Dive into relational data. Solve problems quickly by connecting and combining data from different tables.
- Create professional documents. Publish reports, charts, invoices, catalogs, and other documents with ease.
- Access data anywhere. Use FileMaker Go on your iPad or iPhone—or share data on the Web.
- Harness processing power. Use new calculation and scripting tools to crunch numbers, search text, and automate tasks.
- Run your database on a secure server. Learn the high-level features of FileMaker Pro Advanced.
- Keep your data safe. Set privileges and allow data sharing with FileMaker's streamlined security features.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Quite a bit missing from this Missing Manual

By Crafter

I thought there was quite a bit missing from this "Missing Manual" despite the fact that it's over 900 pages. Having said that, I should also make clear that I'm coming from a different place than most readers. I've built relational databases for over 30 years in environments other than FileMaker so I stumbled in some cases trying to unlearn things. In any case, there are a few things I'd like to point out which might help those using this book:

- The authors speak of using Entity Relationship Diagrams in Filemaker (although they do make reference in a note on page 200 that the diagram you'll be creating is, in the most technical sense, a real ER diagram). For those of us who have deep knowledge of ER diagrams please DO NOT pass over that distinction. If you think of the Relationship Graph in FileMaker as an ER diagram, it will cause you all sorts of problems. FileMaker's relationship graph is, from my perspective, a visual representation of data relationships but also interface design and process logic.

- If you want to get a better grasp of Relational Databases in FileMaker, I recommend Cris Ippolite's FileMaker tutorial series found at [lynda.com](http://lynda.com). I also found that the book FileMaker Pro 10 by Ray Cologon (although 4 versions back) had a better discussion of the relationship graph.

- The Missing Manual book has a very light discussion of the Anchor Buoy approach on pages 619-620. Anchor Buoy is an approach specific to FileMaker that you won't find in any other database environment (that I know of) but it is an important one for FileMaker. The authors make a brief suggestion to search the Web for the terms anchor buoy, FileMaker data model, or FileMaker Relationships graph. Definitely DO THAT and, as the book suggests, join the FileMaker Community and look at the white papers there. Do NOT depend on this book for an understanding of Anchor Buoy.

- The FileMaker Community also has a video presentation posted from the last DevCon: Data Modeling Beyond Anchor Buoy - presented by Jason Young.. Highly recommend viewing that if you want to expand your knowledge in this area.

- The discussion of the Execute SQL script step on 535 is accurate as far as it goes but also incomplete. It gives the impression that the Execute SQL is only used with ODBC data sources but I've several highly experienced FileMaker developer friends who praise its use with native FileMaker tables as well. One of the advantages is that Execute SQL allows you to link data within FileMaker without having to create a FileMaker relationship to do so.

- I also didn't see any discussion of Virtual Lists. You can find discussion of FileMaker Virtual Lists at a number of places on the internet, but you could start here: <http://mightydata.com/virtual-list-in-3-easy-steps/>

- The book discusses FileMaker runtime solutions without making any note of FileMaker's plan to deprecate Runtime Solutions for future versions. Granted, the deprecation isn't absolutely certain (probably 95%+, though) so I can understand the book continuing to touch on runtime solutions. However, to not even mention FileMaker's intent to deprecate such solutions seems to be disingenuous at best.

I would have given this book 2 stars or less if I was just looking at the relational database aspects of it and the book's stance on FileMaker runtimes.

However, the book does have a lot of very useful guidance and I recognize my perspective is that of a deeply-experienced database developer (although still relatively new to FileMaker) looking at complex application development. For those who simply want to learn to use FileMaker and/or do fairly simple development, this book provides a good companion to the official FileMaker documentation and training.

These latter factors are the ones which have, in the end, persuaded me to give it a 3-star rating rather than a lower rating. Just be aware of some of the limitations listed above.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Useful, unless you don't make changes or add more functions to FileMaker Pro solutions

By Amazonian Consumer

The FileMaker Pro 14 in the O'Reilly The Missing Manual series is a huge book of 900+ pages. Due to the nature of the subject matter (advanced but not enterprise level relational database management system), the book spends less than a quarter (about 200 pages) of its content on the basics that a casual user may want to know, and devotes the rest on topics that a developer would be interested to learn about. If you simply use a pre-written FileMaker Pro solution and do not make any modifications or add any functionality, there is no need to buy this book.

Depending on the scope and complexity of a project, a user may begin from scratch to construct a customized solution, or start with a solution provided by Apple or third parties and then add more functionality to the DBMS software. This book is useful for both kinds of users, as it covers the FileMaker Pro 14 in extreme detail the beginner to advanced user and developers. Chapters 1 through 5 are designed for the beginner, and I suggest the book to be read in successive numerical order for a general understanding of FileMaker Pro. Chapters 6 through 22 are more developer oriented, and you can select the chapters that are of interest to you.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Bridges the gap, but does not replace the FileMaker built-in Tutorials and documentation

By Paul Christensen

Although touted as "the missing manual" series aka "the book that should have been in the box", I would not consider FileMaker Pro 14 The Missing Manual a replacement for the built-in Getting Started Tutorials or Reference documentation. Rather, it falls nicely in the middle, bridging the gap between the excellent and interactive but fairly basic Apple tutorials and the complete reference documentation. As such, this targets an intermediate (not beginner, not advanced) audience, even though there is a lot to learn even for seasoned long-time FileMaker developers like myself.

Two tips you won't regret:

- 1) Register your book at O'Reilly, and for \$4.99 you can order the PDF / eBook version. This book is 946 pages so it's not easy to carry with you.
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