

So you've read parts 1 and 2 of this series ([What Is Adobe AIR](#) and [Some Great Adobe AIR Applications. Already!](#)) and now you're ready to dive head first into making an AIR application.

This quick reference isn't a tutorial, it provides you with a complete tool kit of the things you'll need. I'm not a Flash developer so I've focussed on the (X)HTML and JavaScript route to building AIR applications.

To get started with making AIR applications you're going to need:

1. the AIR SDK
2. some free tools
3. a free book
4. some advice
5. some examples
6. a list of answers to question about AIR
7. somewhere to ask questions when you get stuck
8. some blogs
9. another free book!

The AIR SDK

In theory, the only tools you need to create an AIR application is a text editor and the AIR Software Developers Kit (SDK) but that's not much fun. One thing is for sure though, you can't create AIR apps without it.

Download the SDK here labs.adobe.com/downloads/airSDK.html

Some Free Tools For Adobe AIR

If you already have the latest version of Dreamweaver (CS3) , Adobe provide an AIR extension free of charge.

Alternatively, you can use the new IDE called Aptana which is based on Eclipse. It's available in free and professional versions, the main difference between the two is that the professional version can be used for debugging IE and has built in FTP.

You can create HTML, CSS, Javascript in it and there are also plug ins for Ruby on Rails, PHP and iPhone development.

To create AIR applications you'll have to install the AIR plug in, but that's simple and can be done from the start screen when you install.

Download the Dreamweaver extension here labs.adobe.com/wiki/index.php/AIR:Dreamweaver_CS3_Extension

Aptana is available from www.aptana.com

A Free Book About AIR

Adobe AIR for Javascript developers was written by Adobe last year and published by O'Reilly.

It's a bit out of date now as it deals with the Beta 1 version of AIR, but it's still useful for getting a handle of the basic concepts of AIR.

You can download the book here www.codeapollo.com/downloads/AdobeAIR_for_javascript_developers.pdf

Some Advice About AIR

For more up-to-date advice about getting started and writing your first “Hello World” etc I’d advise the following start point livedocs.adobe.com/labs/air/1/devappshtml

And for those of you using Aptana, here are a few links about set up and configuration.

aptana.com/docs/index.php/Getting_started_with_AIR_development

aptana.com/docs/index.php/Running_an_AIR_application

And a screen cast which walks through getting started.

aptana.tv/movies/aptana_air/aptana_air.html

Some AIR Code Examples

Jonathan Snook wrote an in-depth beginners article for 24 Ways last year which is worth a read and you can download the code examples as well. 24ways.org/2007/christmas-is-in-the-air

Adobe AIR Developer Center publish regular tutorials at www.adobe.com/devnet/air/ajax

Answers To Question About AIR

Adobe are maintaining a very comprehensive FAQ about not only the technical aspects of AIR, but the release schedule and what to expect in terms of changes between the releases.

labs.adobe.com/wiki/index.php/AIR:Developer_FAQ

Somewhere To Ask Questions When You Get Stuck

Adobe have their own [AIR forum](http://adobe.com/cfusion/webforums/forum/categories.cfm?forumid=72&catid=641) with an RSS feed that you can subscribe to at adobe.com/cfusion/webforums/forum/categories.cfm?forumid=72&catid=641

Blogs About AIR

Kevin Hoyt is the Platform Evangelist at Adobe and although his blog doesn’t focus specifically on AIR, it’s one place where you’ll find out news about the latest AIR developments. blog.kevinhoyt.org

The AIR Developer Center also have a feed for their tutorials.

rss.adobe.com/developer_center_air_tutorials.rss

Finally, aboutnico.be is the blog of the creator of the AIR Google Analytics Reporting Suite.

Another Free Book!

There’s a difference between using JavaScript and knowing JavaScript. If you just amend Dreamweaver generates scripts, download other peoples scripts or use Javascript libraries, then now might be the time to go back and learn Javascript from scratch.

There’s is a really fantastic book available online which demonstrates the examples as you go along. Eloquent JavaScript by Marijn Haverbeke isn’t just a book. It has a built in JavaScript console that lets you test and play arouns with all of the code examples on each page. It works online or offline and is a really impressive piece of work.

It’s released under the creative common licence at eloquentjavascript.net