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BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

A Presentation by Nicholas Bernhard

March 19, 2022

E-mail: njb@nantucketebooks.com

Mastodon: [@nantucketebooks.fosstodon.org](https://fosstodon.org/@nantucketebooks)

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

- Why I made Nantucket E-Books
- Why are ethical e-books important
- What's involved in making one?

This talk will focus on the e-books themselves.

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

FREE AS IN FREEDOM

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK



BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

FEATURES I WANTED

1) A browser-based e-book

No special apps or devices needed.

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

What about Project Gutenberg or PDFs?



Well...

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

- Viewport tags: meta name="viewport"
content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1"
- CSS media queries: @media screen and (orientation: landscape)
- Also: low-contrast, screen-friendly typefaces, dark mode, text resizing.

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

FEATURES I WANTED

- 1) A browser-based e-book
- 2) Mobile-responsiveness

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

BUILT-IN AUDIOBOOKS

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

FEATURES I WANTED

- 1) A browser-based e-book
- 2) Mobile-responsiveness
- 3) Built-in audiobooks

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A MARKUP LANGUAGE

```
<p class="alignRight bodyParagraph darkModeOff"> <i>Oct. 28, 1794.</i></p>
<h1 id="ADVERTISEMENT_56099" class="chapterHeading darkModeOff">ADVERTISEMEN
T</h1>
<p class="bodyParagraph darkModeOff">The first idea of this Romance was sugg
ested by the story of the <i>Santon Barsisa</i>, related in The Guardian.—The <i>
Bleeding Nun</i> is a tradition still credited in many parts of Germany; and I
have been told that the ruins of the Castle of <i>Lauenstein</i>, which She is s
upposed to haunt, may yet be seen upon the borders of <i>Thuringia.—The Water-Ki
ng</i>, from the third to the twelfth stanza, is the fragment of an original Dan
ish Ballad—And <i>Belema and Durandarte</i> is translated from some stanzas to
be found in a collection of old Spanish poetry, which contains also the popular
song of <i>Gayferos and Melesindra</i>, mentioned in Don Quixote.—I have now mad
e a full avowal of all the plagiarisms of which I am aware myself; but I doubt n
ot, many more may be found, of which I am at present totally unconscious.</p>
<h1 id="CHAPTER_I_94351" class="chapterHeading darkModeOff">CHAPTER I</h1>
<blockquote class="darkModeOff center">—Lord Angelo is precise;<br>Stands a
t a guard with envy; Scarce confesses<br>That his blood flows, or that his appet
ite<br>Is more to bread than stone.</blockquote>
<p class="blockquoteAttr darkModeOff"> Measure For Measure</p>
<p class="bodyParagraph darkModeOff">Scarcely had the Abbey Bell tolled for
five minutes, and already was the Church of the Capuchins thronged with Auditors
. Do not encourage the idea that the Crowd was assembled either from motives of
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293,5 9%
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BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

LEARN SHANTY™

A MARKUP LANGUAGE FOR WRITING E-BOOKS




Saturday Night at Sea by Thomas Dibdin, taken from Wikimedia Commons.

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**ARROWHEAD**
The Nantucket E-Books™ Editor


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[01 Editor Info](#) © 2021 Nantucket E-Books LLC

```
// This text includes as much of
the Shanty@tm@ markup language as
possible.

!!TITLE Shanty In Full
!!SUBTITLE A Complete
Demonstration of the Shanty Markup
Language
!!CREDIT Written By
!!AUTHOR Nicholas Bernhard
!!KYWD shantyinfull
!!LOCATION Lafayette, Colorado
!!DATE 2021-03-16
!!COVERART Edward Fuglo
!!COVERDESC The default cover for
a Nantucket Ebook
!!ILLUSTRATOR Edward Fuglo
!!COPYRIGHT 2021 Nantucket Ebooks
```



HELP

NANTUCKET EBOOKS™ EDITOR

Welcome to the Nantucket Ebooks™ Editor.

This program lets you preview your Nantucket Ebooks™ and try out the Shanty™ markup language.

On the left side of this page, you can write text in the Shanty™ markup language. To preview what your ebook will look like, click **RUN** in the top section of this page.

This is the help page. You can bring up this page any time by pressing **HELP** at the top of the page, or by pressing the **HOME** button in the top-left corner of this page.

DOCUMENTATION

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

FEATURES I WANTED

- 1) A browser-based e-book
- 2) Mobile-responsiveness
- 3) Built-in audiobooks
- 4) A markup language with documentation
- 5) A parsing script with a GUI

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

5) Respect the reader's freedom.

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

Requirements:

- Can be read and shared anonymously
- Can be read offline
- Uses free software

BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

THE FOUR FREEDOMS:

- The freedom to use the software for any purpose.
- The freedom to study the software and make changes to it.
- The freedom to share the software with others.
- The freedom to share changes to the software with others.

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WHY?

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The Danger of Ebooks

In an age where business dominates our governments and writes our laws, every technological advance offers business an opportunity to impose new restrictions on the public. Technologies that could have empowered us are used to chain us instead.

With printed books,

- You can buy one with cash, anonymously.
- Then you own it.
- You are not required to sign a license that restricts your use of it.
- The format is known, and no proprietary technology is needed to read the book.
- You can give, lend or sell the book to another.
- You can, physically, scan and copy the book, and it's sometimes lawful under copyright.
- Nobody has the power to destroy your book.

Contrast that with Amazon ebooks (fairly typical):

- Amazon requires users to identify themselves to get an ebook.
- In some countries, including the US, Amazon says the user cannot own the ebook.
- Amazon requires the user to accept a restrictive license on use of the ebook.
- The format is secret, and only proprietary user-restricting software can read it at all.
- An access "lifetime" is allowed for some books, for a limited time, but only by

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Books in Microsoft Store: FAQ

Microsoft Store, Windows 10

The books category is closing

Starting April 2, 2019, the books category in Microsoft Store will be closing. Unfortunately, this means that starting July 2019 your ebooks will no longer be available to read, but you'll get a full refund for all book purchases. See below for details.

While you can no longer purchase or acquire additional books from the Microsoft Store, you can continue to read your books until July 2019 when refunds will be processed.

Will I be able to buy, rent or pre-order books after April 2, 2019?

No. On April 2, 2019, you can no longer buy, rent or pre-order books. You can continue to use Microsoft Edge to read books you've acquired until early July 2019.

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Let's leave libraries out of it for a moment. When a consumer pays money in order to access an eBook, that consumer is *not* buying that eBook. That transaction is more accurately described as paying for a license to access the book. The consumer never owns the eBook and the seller ultimately retains control of it, even when the consumer downloads it to their device.

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The freedom to read requires ethical e-books.

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NEWS

GOP candidate wants libraries to out kids who check out LGBTQ books

He also wants the person who ordered the book to stand trial in front of the board.

By Bill Browning Tuesday, November 2, 2021



LATEST STORIES



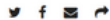
Gay high school basketball player attacked on the court by homophobic rivals

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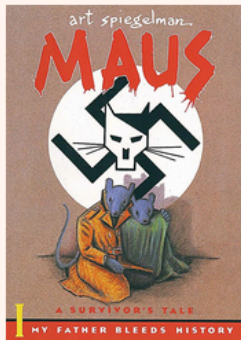
Idaho bill would hold schools, libraries liable for giving minors 'harmful materials'

BY BECCA SAVRANSKY

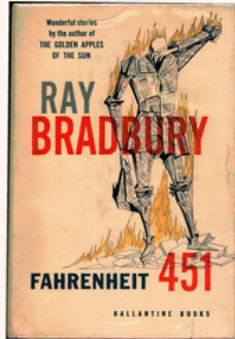
UPDATED MARCH 03, 2022 7:39 PM



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BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK



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WRITING & CREATING NANTUCKET E-BOOKS:

- Shanty markup language (Licensed under GFDL)
- "Gam" parsing script & Arrowhead GUI (Licensed under GPL v3)

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PARTS OF A NANTUCKET E-BOOK:

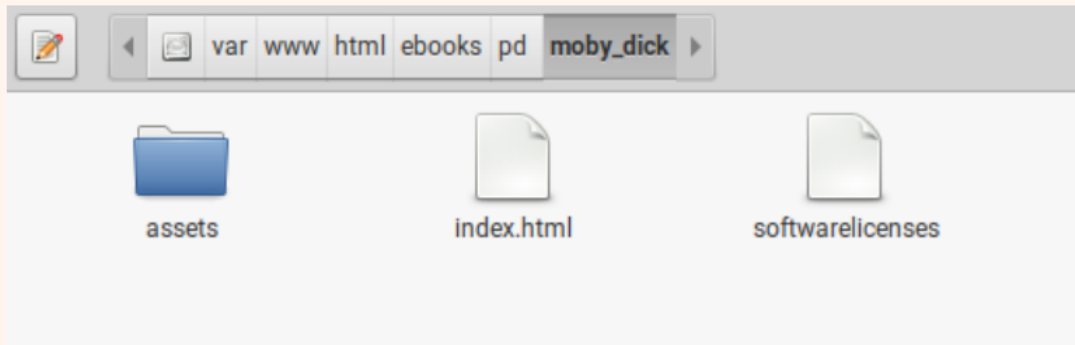
- HTML document.
- Stylesheet
- Ahab.js (script for interactive elements, uses GPL v3)

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OFFLINE READING, OLD VERSION

```
root_folder
  * AUTHOR_ACCOUNTS
    * MARCUS
      * ebook.html
    * TRINA
      * ebook.html
  * MASTER_ASSETS
    * stylesheet.css
    * script.js
```

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All self-contained

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GNU LibreJS

A browser extension for checking if client-side JS is free software.

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NANTUCKET E-BOOKS™

SOFTWARE LICENSE INFORMATION

[BACK TO E-BOOK](#)

The table below lists the software used in this e-book. The first item in the row includes a link to the minified code run by site visitors ('minified' means it has been shortened, sacrificing human readability for faster loading time and reduced bandwidth). The middle item in the row shows the license used for that script, and the last item includes a link to the full source code for that script.

[ahab_2.js](#)

[GNU-GPL-3.0-or-later](#)

[ahab_2.js](#)

- 1) Make a page on your site called 'softwarelicenses'
- 2) Create a table element with ID 'jslicense-labels1'
- 3) Three cells in each row: link to source code, link to license, and a link to the minified script.

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ONE MORE THING...

JS not even required!

- Use 'noscript' elements for readers who have turned off JS in their browser.

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