



Scripting languages II (LS2)

Class 09

AJAX requests

load()

A little like PHP `file_get_contents()`, `load()` is a method allowing you to retrieve the content of a specified external file. It also allows you to retrieve specific content from a given file. This usually requires for the file to be hosted so you might want to use a virtual server such as MAMP to try this function.

Syntax

```
$(selector).load(URL, data, callback);
```

Retrieving the entire content of a file

Used only with specifying the file from which to retrieve content from, `load()` retrieves the entire content of the file. Content can be retrieved from different types of files such as HTML or TXT including markup tags.

```
<h1> </h1>

<script>
$( "h1" ).load( "mytext.txt" );
</script>
```

Explanations :

In the example above, the entire content of the file *mytext.txt* would be displayed between the `<h1> </h1>` tags.

Retrieving specific element from a file's content using ID

Specifying an ID after the file name will result in the content of an element marked with the ID to be displayed. If many elements are marked with the same ID or HTML tag, the multiple contents will be displayed one after another.

```
<h1> </h1>

<script>
$( "h1" ).load( "mytext.html #first" );
</script>
```

Explanations :

In the example above, the content of all elements marked with *id="first"* will be displayed between the `<h1> </h1>` tags.

Using status messages

It is possible to use the other parameters of the `load()` function to specify actions to be taken upon successful or unsuccessful result of loading an external file's content.

```
<h1> </h1>
<button>Test</button>

<script>
$("button").click(function(){

    $("h1").load("mytext.txt", function(response, status, http){
        if(status == "success")
            alert("This worked successfully!");

        if(status == "error")
            alert("Error: " + http.status + ": " + http.statusText);

    });
});
</script>
```

Explanations :

In the example above, if the content from the file *mytext.txt* loads successfully, a confirmation alert is triggered and the content shows after the alert window is closed. Although, if the content of the file isn't loaded for any reasons, an error message will be displayed.

Using load() on inline events

It is also possible to use `load()` inline with an event. Note that HTML tags within *mytext.txt* wouldn't work, simply use a HTML document in such a situation.

```
<button onclick=$("#container").load("myfile.txt");>Test</button>

<div id="container"> </div>
```

Explanations :

In the example above, the content of the file *myfile.txt* would be displayed into the DIV upon clicking the button.