XML HttpRequest

All modern browsers have a built-in XMLHttpRequest object to request data from a server.

The XMLHttpRequest Object

The XMLHttpRequest object can be used to request data from a web server.

The XMLHttpRequest object is **a developers dream**, because you can:

- Update a web page without reloading the page
- Request data from a server - after the page has loaded
- Receive data from a server - after the page has loaded
- Send data to a server - in the background

XMLHttpRequest Example

When you type a character in the input field below, an XMLHttpRequest is sent to the server, and some name suggestions are returned (from the server):

Example

Start typing a name in the input field below:

Name: [   ]   Suggestions:

Sending an XMLHttpRequest

A common JavaScript syntax for using the XMLHttpRequest object looks much like this:

Example

```
var xhttp = new XMLHttpRequest();
xhttp.onreadystatechange = function() {
    if (this.readyState == 4 && this.status == 200) {
        // Typical action to be performed when the document is ready:
        document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = xhttp.responseText;
    }
};
xhttp.open("GET", "filename", true);
xhttp.send();
```

Try it Yourself »

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Example Explained

```
var xhttp = new XMLHttpRequest();
```

The **onreadystatechange** property specifies a function to be executed every time the status of the XMLHttpRequest object changes:

```
xhttp.onreadystatechange = function()
```

When **readyState** property is 4 and the **status** property is 200, the response is ready:

```
if (this.readyState == 4 && this.status == 200)
```

The **responseText** property returns the server response as a text string.

The text string can be used to update a web page:

```
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = xhttp.responseText;
```

You will learn a lot more about the XMLHttpRequest object in the AJAX chapters of this tutorial.

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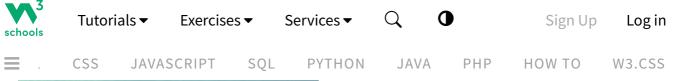
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