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AJAX XML

AJAX can be used for interactive communication with an XML file. The example below shows how a web page can fetch information from an XML file using AJAX technology.

Select a course: ▼   Course information will be listed here.

This example consists of four files:

1. a client-side simple HTML form,
2. a client-side JavaScript file showCourse.js,
3. a server-side XML file courseList.xml, and
4. a server-side PHP file getCourse.php.

The HTML Form

It contains a simple HTML form and a link to a JavaScript file:

```
01  <html>
02    <head><script src="showCourse.js"></script></head>
03    <body>
04      <form>
05        <select name="courses" onChange="showCourse( this.value )">
06          <option value="">Select a course:</option>
07          <option value="260">CSci260</option>
08          <option value="370">CSci370</option>
09          ...
10        </select>
11      </form>
12      <span id="txtHint">Course information will be listed here.</span>
13    </body>
14  </html>
```

It is just a simple HTML form with a simple drop down box called courses. A span called txtHint is used as a placeholder for information retrieved from the web server. When the user selects data, a function called

showCourse is executed. The execution of the function is triggered by the onChange event. In other words: Each time the user changes the value in the drop down box, the function showCourse is called.

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