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AJAX Sending a Request to a Server (Cont.)

Asynchronous—True or False?

AJAX stands for Asynchronous JavaScript and XML, and for the `XMLHttpRequest` object to behave as AJAX, the `async` parameter of the open method has to be set to true:

```
xmlhttp.open( "GET", "ajax_test.asp", true );
```

Many of the tasks performed on the server are very time consuming. Before AJAX, this operation could cause the application to hang or stop. With AJAX, the JavaScript does not have to wait for the server response, but can instead:

- execute other scripts while waiting for server response and
- deal with the response when the response ready.

Async = true

When using async=true, specify a function to execute when the response is ready in the `onreadystatechange` event:

```
xmlhttp.open( "GET", "ajax_info.txt", true );
xmlhttp.send( );
```

Let AJAX change this text.

[async = true]

Async = false

To use async=false, set the third parameter in the open method to false:

```
xmlhttp.open( "GET", "ajax_info.txt", false );
```

Using async=false is not recommended because the JavaScript will NOT continue to execute, until the server response is ready. If the server is busy or slow, the application will hang or stop. Note that when you use async=false, do NOT write an `onreadystatechange` function—just put the code after the `send` statement:

Let AJAX change this text.

async = false

```
01  <script type="text/javascript">
02    function loadXMLDoc( ) {
03      var xmlhttp;
04      if ( window.XMLHttpRequest ) {
05        // code for IE7+, Firefox, Chrome, Opera, Safari
06        xmlhttp = new XMLHttpRequest( );
07      }
08      else {
09        // code for IE6, IE5
10        xmlhttp = new ActiveXObject( "Microsoft.XMLHTTP" );
11      }
12      xmlhttp.open( "GET", "ajax_info.txt", false );
13      xmlhttp.send( );
14      document.getElementById("myDiv").innerHTML = xmlhttp.responseText;
15    }
16  </script>
```

Slide 15.5: AJAX sending a request to a server (cont.)
Slide 15.7: AJAX server response
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