

[Slide 15.2: An AJAX example](#)[Slide 15.4: AJAX sending a request to a server](#)[Home](#)

# AJAX Creating an XMLHttpRequest Object

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## The XMLHttpRequest Object

The keystone of AJAX is the [XMLHttpRequest](#) object. All modern browsers support the XMLHttpRequest object (IE5 and IE6 uses an ActiveXObject). The [XMLHttpRequest](#) object is used to exchange data with a server behind the scenes. This means that it is possible to update parts of a web page, without reloading the whole page.

## Creating an XMLHttpRequest Object

All modern browsers (IE7+, Firefox, Chrome, and Opera) have a built-in XMLHttpRequest object. Syntax for creating an XMLHttpRequest object is

```
variable = new XMLHttpRequest( );
```

Old versions of Internet Explorer (IE5 and IE6) uses an ActiveXObject:

```
variable = new ActiveXObject( "Microsoft.XMLHTTP" );
```

To handle all modern browsers, including IE5 and IE6, check if the browser supports the XMLHttpRequest object. If it does, create an XMLHttpRequest object, if not, create an ActiveXObject:

```
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 XMLHttpRequest( "Microsoft.XMLHTTP" );
11 }
12 xmlhttp.onreadystatechange = function( ) {
13     if ( ( xmlhttp.readyState == 4 ) &&
14         ( xmlhttp.status      == 200 ) ) {
15         document.getElementById("myDiv").innerHTML =
16             xmlhttp.responseText;
17     }
18 }
19 xmlhttp.open( "GET", "ajax_info.txt", true );
20 xmlhttp.send( );
21 }
22 </script>
```

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Slide 15.4: AJAX sending a request to a server

Home

