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AJAX Sending a Request to a Server

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Sending an XMLHttpRequest to a Server

The [XMLHttpRequest](#) object is used to exchange data with a server. To send a request to a server, we use the open and send methods of the XMLHttpRequest object:

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

Method	Description
<code>open(method,url,async)</code>	<p>Specifies the type of request, the URL, and if the request should be handled asynchronously or not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <code>method</code>: the type of request: GET or POST• <code>url</code>: the location of the file on the server• <code>async</code>: true (asynchronous) or false (synchronous)
<code>send(string)</code>	<p>Sends the request off to the server. <code>string</code>: Only used for POST requests</p>

GET or POST?

GET is simpler and faster than POST, and can be used in most cases. However, always use POST requests when:

- A cached file is not an option (update a file or database on the server).
- Sending a large amount of data to the server (POST has no size limitations).

- Sending user input (which can contain unknown characters), POST is more robust and secure than GET.

```
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.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>
```

Slide 15.3: AJAX creating an XMLHttpRequest object

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

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