

Introduction to JavaScript

Have you seen it?

Our Goals

- Identify JavaScript and the things that it can do
- Talk about the history of JavaScript
- Talk about what ECMAScript is
- Talk about the current state of affairs

Well, what is it?

- The largest programming language [in the world](#)
- A very flexible language
 - In browsers
 - On the back end - Node.js
 - Lots of other places
- A "weird, poorly designed" language...
- ...That is everywhere

What do I do with it?

- Validating information
- Live updating pages
- Adding interactivity
- Adding animations
- "Can use hardware"
- Visualise data
- Communicate between other devices
- Can be used for [art](#)
- Lots of other things...

Examples

- [Cube Slam](#)
- [Hello Run](#)
- [Data Arts](#)
- [Christmas Experiments](#)
- [Bad City](#)
- [Hello, I'm V](#)
- [Robby Leonardi's Portfolio](#)

Literally anything that is popular

Early History

- Built in 10 days by Brendan Eich in May 1995
 - Twitter
 - Github
- Originally named Mocha, then LiveScript, then JavaScript
- This was a marketing move!

What do I do with it?

- In 1996 - 1997, JS was taken to the [ECMA Board](#) to create a standard
- [ECMAScript](#) is now the thing that guides JS, and is run by the [TC39](#) committee
- JavaScript is a superset of ECMAScript! It adds lots of things (HTML interaction etc.)
- 2009: Javascript V8 engine extracted from browser code during satanic ritual, creating standalone Javascript runtime **Node.js**

What versions?

- **1997** - ES1
- **1998** - ES2
- **1999** - ES3
- **2007** - ES3.1
- **2009** - ES3.1 renamed to ES5
- **2015** - ES2015 or ES6 or ES Harmony released
- **2016...** Work started on ES2016

You probably don't need to think of this

But we will be using it a lot