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The HTML DOM Attribute Object

HTML DOM Nodes

In the HTML DOM (Document Object Model), everything is a **node**:

- The document itself is a document node
- All HTML elements are element nodes
- All HTML attributes are attribute nodes
- Text inside HTML elements are text nodes
- Comments are comment nodes

The Attr Object

In the HTML DOM, the **Attr object** represents an HTML attribute.

An HTML attribute always belongs to an HTML element.

The NamedNodeMap Object

In the HTML DOM, the **NamedNodeMap object** represents an unordered collection of an elements attribute nodes.

Nodes in a NamedNodeMap can be accessed by name or by index (number).

Browser Support

Object					
Attr	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NamedNodeMap	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Attr Object and the NamedNodeMap Object is supported in all major browsers.

Properties and Methods

Property / Method	Description
attr.isId (prop_attr_isid.asp)	Returns true if the attribute is of type Id, otherwise it returns false
attr.name (prop_attr_name.asp)	Returns the name of an attribute
attr.value (prop_attr_value.asp)	Sets or returns the value of the attribute
attr.specified (prop_attr_specified.asp)	Returns true if the attribute has been specified, otherwise it returns false
nodemap.getNamedItem() (met_namednodemap_getnameditem.asp)	Returns a specified attribute node from a NamedNodeMap
nodemap.item() (met_namednodemap_item.asp)	Returns the attribute node at a specified index in a NamedNodeMap
nodemap.length (prop_namednodemap_length.asp)	Returns the number of attribute nodes in a NamedNodeMap
nodemap.removeNamedItem() (met_namednodemap_removenameditem.asp)	Removes a specified attribute node
nodemap.setNamedItem() (met_namednodemap_setnameditem.asp)	Sets the specified attribute node (by name)

⚠️ DOM 4 Warning !!!

In the W3C DOM Core, the Attr (attribute) object inherits all properties and methods from the Node object.

In DOM 4, the Attr object no longer inherits from Node.

For future code quality, you should avoid using node object properties and methods on attribute objects:

Property / Method	Reason for avoiding
attr.appendChild()	Attributes don't have child nodes

attr.attributes	Attributes don't have attributes
attr.baseURI	use document.baseURI instead
attr.childNodes	Attributes don't have child nodes
attr.cloneNode()	Get or set the *attr*.value instead
attr.firstChild	Attributes don't have child nodes
attr.hasAttributes()	Attributes don't have attributes
attr.hasChildNodes	Attributes don't have child nodes
attr.insertBefore()	Attributes don't have child nodes
attr.isEqualNode()	Makes no sense
attr.isSameNode()	Makes no sense
attr.isSupported()	Is always true
attr.lastChild	Attributes don't have child nodes
attr.nextSibling	Attributes don't have siblings
attr.nodeName	Use *attr*.name instead
attr.nodeType	This is always 2 (ATTRIBUTE_NODE)
attr.nodeValue	Use *attr*.value instead
attr.normalize()	Attributes cannot be normalized
attr.ownerDocument	This is always your HTML document
attr.ownerElement	This is the HTML element you used to access the attribute
attr.parentNode	This is the HTML element you used to access the attribute
attr.previousSibling	Attributes don't have siblings
attr.removeChild	Attributes don't have child nodes
attr.replaceChild	Attributes don't have child nodes

| *attr*.textContent | Use *attr*.value instead |