

Getting Started Guide



Companion document to:
JavaScript + jQuery Design Pattern
Framework™ 2013

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Introduction

Welcome to the *JavaScript + jQuery Design Pattern Framework 2013*, a unique package for developers who want to learn about JavaScript Patterns, jQuery Patterns, and Pattern Architectures. This package will help you join the ranks of expert JavaScript developers and architects.

This document will get you started. It covers what's included in the package, how to setup the Framework, and explains how to optimize your learning experience.

But first we ask that you review our simple license and copyright notice.

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What's included

The *JavaScript + jQuery Design Pattern Framework 2013* consists of 9 sections. They are:

1. Getting Started Guide (this document)
2. JavaScript & Pattern Essentials
3. Modern JavaScript Patterns
4. Classic JavaScript Patterns
5. Model View Patterns
6. jQuery Design Patterns
7. Architecture Patterns
8. JavaScript Patterns in Action
9. Becoming a JavaScript Rockstar

These sections are available in two different formats:

1. PDF format: a series of PDF documents.
2. HTML format: a live HTML web application

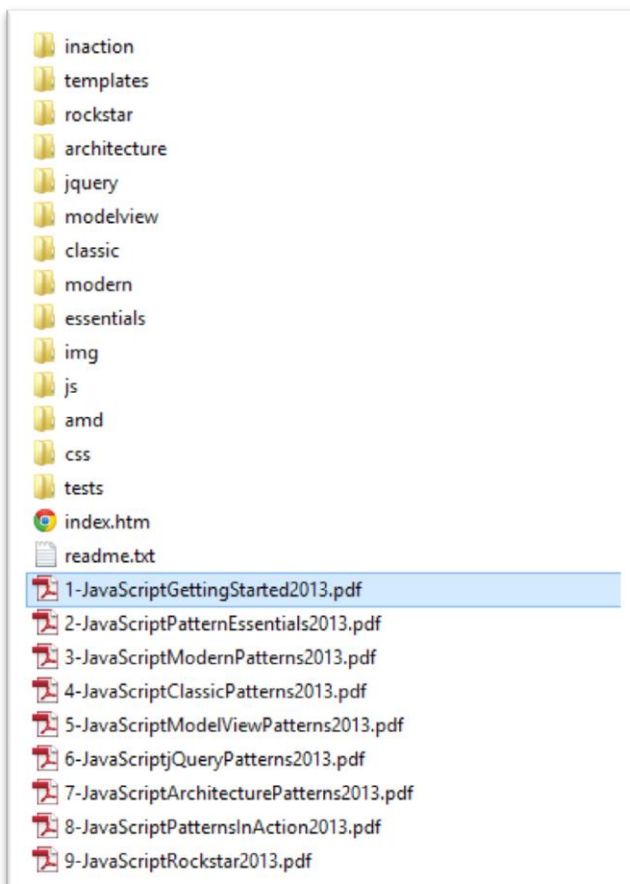
Please note that the contents of the PDF and HTML formats are the same, there are no differences.

There are 9 PDF documents, one for each section. They have all the necessary information which includes discussions + code; and they can be read in order. The advantage of PDF format is that the files are viewable offline, which is convenient when traveling by plane for example. The documents are also printable.

The HTML format is a live web application which you can install on your computer. The advantage of the HTML format is that 1) the entire system is available in a single, easy-to-navigate app, and 2) the JavaScript patterns and other code samples are live, meaning you can view and run the code.

Setup

The zip file you downloaded contains everything: PDF documents, HTML files, JavaScript sources, etc. Here is a screenshot of what's inside:



It has 9 numbered PDF files, a readme.txt file, and an index.htm file which is the home page for the live HTML app. The 14 directories all belong to the HTML app.

Unzip the zip file in a directory on your local machine (or network share if necessary). It is recommended that you keep the file and directory structure intact or else the app may break. Do not separate the PDF files from the HTML files because the app has links to these PDF documents.

Next we'll review the different ways to configure and experience the system.

PDF Files

If you choose to use the PDF files, they are readily viewable with Adobe Reader XI.

Live HTML app: run as files

To run the live HTML app you double click (or right click and select 'open') the `index.html` which will open your default browser. Alternatively you can open the browser and select `index.html` via the menu options: File->Open.

The live app consists of static HTML pages, but all require JavaScript to run. Some operating systems and/or browsers may see this as a security issue, so depending on your situation this may or may not work.

We have tested this on Windows and Mac OS with recent versions of Firefox, Chrome, IE, and Safari, and had no problems running JavaScript. However, with IE you may have to reply to this prompt when starting the app:



You can configure IE to always allow Active Content (ActiveX and scripts). Under Advanced Internet Options you can check 'Allow active content to run in files on My Computer'. Please note that 1) this requires a restart of your computer, and 2) it opens up security on your machine.

Live HTML app: run on webserver

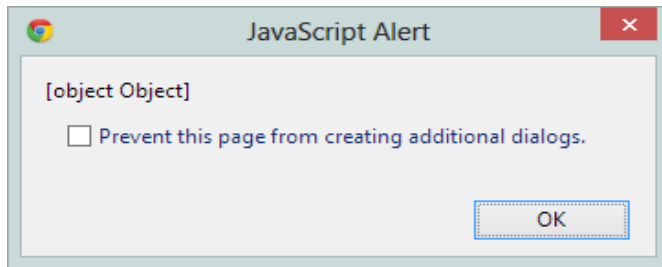
If running the HTML files poses a problem, you can always install it on a web server. In fact, this is how the HTML app was developed and will always work. Fortunately, as a web developer you most likely already have a local web server installed (i.e. localhost). Adding the live HTML application should be fairly straightforward. Once installation is complete you will be able to run the app locally.

Tips

Here are a couple of tips that will improve the experience.

Whichever format you choose, PDF or HTML, we suggest that you create a shortcut (icon or menu) to this source so that it is quickly available as a reference during your JavaScript programming sessions.

The JavaScript code in the HTML app provides feedback through several alert boxes. After a couple alert messages, some browsers will offer not to allow any further messages or dialogs, like so:



It is best to ignore the checkbox or else you won't be able to receive feedback from other JavaScript code examples on the page.

Learning about Patterns

To learn about JavaScript Design Patterns requires that you are familiar with JavaScript. In case you need a refresher, we have a JavaScript tutorial on our website: www.dofactory.com.

You are currently reading Section 1. The subsequent sections are numbered 2 to 9 and it is suggested that you go through these in order, as each section builds on the previous ones.

Section number 2 is about JavaScript & Pattern Essentials. It presents a number of topics that are essential to address before you're ready to move on to JavaScript and jQuery Design Patterns. Topics include: Intro to Design Patterns, OO Design, Prototypes, the Event loop, and JavaScript Idioms (mini patterns).

The next 5 sections numbered 3 to 7, each presents a large category of Patterns: Modern Patterns, Classic Patterns, Model View Patterns, jQuery Patterns, and Architecture Patterns. These really are the 'meat' of this Framework.

Section number 8, Patterns in Action, includes several sample apps that demonstrate all the patterns presented in a more comprehensive, real-world setting. To run these you need the live HTML app, although discussions and source code are also available in the PDF document.

Section number 9 is a bonus section with 37 tips on becoming a JavaScript 'Rockstar'.

The focus throughout this Framework is on the code. Developers learn best by reading and exploring code written by expert JavaScript developers. The package includes many code samples which are listed throughout the PDF documents and HTML pages. You're sure to find many nuggets that you can use in your own work; we encourage you to do so!

3rd Party sources

The following open-source libraries are used, and included, in this package:

- Bootstrap
- jQuery
- Underscore.js
- Backbone.js
- Knockout
- Require.js
- QUnit
- Jasmine
- Flot
- Json2.js
- Backbone.faux.server.js

We are very grateful to the authors of these libraries.

Summary

The *JavaScript + jQuery Design Pattern Framework 2013* is a unique and comprehensive package that captures and presents design patterns and pattern architectures with numerous code samples and sample applications.

We hope you will be able to use these patterns and practices in your own work and build web apps that are robust, elegant, easy-to-maintain, and of course successful.