

Web Front-End Development

Week 6: Browser APIs

Application programming interfaces(APIs) provides a defined way to communication with an application for use by other programs.

There are many types of APIs:

- Programming languages have an API so you can write programs in the language
- Mobile devices have APIs so you can access device data such as location, orientation, or other sensor data
- Operating systems have APIs so other programs can access files, memory, and interact with the screen

In web development we can use JavaScript with two different types of APIs

- Client-side APIs are built into the browser to expose data and functionality from the browser and surrounding computer environment and do useful complex things with it.
 - We've been using the DOM API to interact with the web document
 - Many others <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API>
 - Today we're going to look at the Canvas API https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API
 - Just like with libraries, it's only through documentation and examples provided that you can figure out how to interact with an API and what you can do with it
- Server-side APIs are provided by companies as a way to interact with their web site/application. We'll be looking at those next week.

Canvas API

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API

The canvas API was introduced in HTML5 to provide a canvas for 2D drawing

Using JavaScript you can use the Canvas API to dynamically generate and manipulate graphics in the canvas element

<canvas>

- Supported in all the latest browsers
 - IE9 supports canvas natively
 - IE 7 and 8 require a third party library that I won't be covering
- Default canvas size is 300px wide 150px height
- You can use CSS to position the canvas grid in your page
- A canvas element has no content or border so you can't see it
- Can have more than one canvas element on a page
- Must have an id so you can use document.getElementById() to access it
- Access its drawing context using getContext("2d")
 - There is no 3d drawing context yet, but is a possibility in the future
- The context holds all the information about your canvas and lets you draw on it
- The drawing context is where all the drawing methods and properties are defined.

Drawing Shapes https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API/Tutorial/Drawing_shapes
Grid

- A canvas is a grid where each square represents a single pixel on the screen
- When you draw on the canvas you need to specify the (x,y) coordinates where you want to draw
- (0,0) is the top left corner of the canvas
- Every time you draw on a canvas you create a new layer

<https://repl.it/@aileenjp/Canvas-basics>

Rectangles

fillRect(x, y, width, height) Draws a filled rectangle

strokeRect(x, y, width, height) Draws a rectangular outline

You can also use **clearRect(x, y, width, height)** to clear the specified rectangular area

- x and y are the coordinates to start the rectangle
- Width and height indicates the size of the rectangle

Fill refers to the filled in area of a shape

Stroke refers to the outline

```
function rectangle() {
  var thecanvas;
  var context;
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");
  context = thecanvas.getContext("2d");
  context.strokeRect(5, 5, 50, 25);
  context.fillRect(100, 100, 25, 50);
}
window.addEventListener("load", rectangle)
```

The load event is fired when the whole page has loaded, including all dependent resources such as stylesheets images.

Styles and Colors https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API/Tutorial/Applying_styles_and_colors

The **fillStyle** property determines the fill color, pattern, or gradient

- Default is black

The **strokeStyle** property determines the stroke color, pattern, or gradient

- Default is black

The **globalAlpha** property determines the alpha or transparency

- Values are 0 to 1

Now let's add some color.

```
context.strokeStyle="#FF7F00";
context.strokeRect(5, 5, 50, 25);
context.fillStyle="#0000FF";
```

```
context.fillRect(100, 100, 25, 50);
```

Gradients

You can create a linear or radial gradient

- **createLinearGradient(x0, y0, x1, y1)** paints along a line from (x0, y0) to (x1, y1)
 - Linear gradient goes between two points
- **createRadialGradient(x0, y0, r0, x1, y1, r1)** paints along a cone between two circles (0 is the start circle, 1 is the end circle)
 - Radial Gradient paints along a cone between two circles

We can then assign this object to the `fillStyle` or `strokeStyle` properties to use for a rectangle or line.

Color stops add color to your gradient

- **grad.addColorStop(position, color)** adds color to your gradient
- position should be a value between 0 and 1

```
function gradient() {
  var thecanvas;
  var context;
  var grad;
  var grad2;
  var grad3;
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");
  context = thecanvas.getContext("2d");
  //Because the y values are both 0, this gradient will shade evenly from
  left to right
  grad = context.createLinearGradient(0, 0, 150, 0);
  grad.addColorStop(0, "purple");
  grad.addColorStop(1, "white");
  context.fillStyle = grad;
  context.fillRect(0, 0, 150, 125);
  //Because the x values are both 0, this gradient will shade evenly from
  top to bottom
  grad2 = context.createLinearGradient(0, 150, 0, 275);
  grad2.addColorStop(0, "blue");
  grad2.addColorStop(1, "white");
  context.fillStyle = grad2;
  context.fillRect(0, 150, 150, 275);
  grad3 = context.createRadialGradient(75, 400, 0, 75, 400, 75);
  grad3.addColorStop(0, "orange");
  grad3.addColorStop(1, "white");
  context.fillStyle = grad3;
  context.fillRect(0, 300, 150, 425);
}
```

```
}
```

(change the event listener to call gradient)

Paths

A path is a list of points, connected by segments of lines that can be of different shapes, width, and color. You can make shapes using paths.

- First you define your path, like planning it in pencil
- **beginPath()** creates a new path
- Drawing commands are directed into the path and used to build the path up
- **moveTo(x, y)** moves the pencil to the specified starting point.
- **lineTo(x, y)** draws a line to the specified ending point.
- Use these to build your path, but you won't see anything yet
- **closePath()** closes the path
 - When you call **fill()**, any open shapes are closed automatically, so you don't have to call **closePath()**. This is **not** the case when you call **stroke()**.
- **stroke()** draws the shape you built in your path by stroking its outline
- **fill()** draws a solid shape by filling the path's content area.

```
function line() {  
  var thecanvas;  
  var context;  
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");  
  context = thecanvas.getContext("2d");
```

```
  // Filled triangle  
  context.beginPath();  
  context.moveTo(25, 25);  
  context.lineTo(105, 25);  
  context.lineTo(25, 105);  
  context.closePath();  
  context.fillStyle = "#0000FF";  
  context.fill();
```

```
  // Stroked triangle  
  context.beginPath();  
  context.moveTo(125, 125);  
  context.lineTo(125, 45);  
  context.lineTo(45, 125);  
  context.closePath();  
  context.strokeStyle = "#FF7F00";  
  context.stroke();
```

```
}
```

When the current path is empty, such as immediately after calling `beginPath()`, or on a newly created canvas, the first path construction command is always treated as a `moveTo()`, regardless of what it actually is. For that reason, you will almost always want to specifically set your starting position after resetting a path.

Images

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API/Tutorial/Using_images

Using images in a canvas is basically a two step process:

1. Get a reference to the image source (can be a URL)
 2. Draw the image on the canvas
- **`drawImage(image, dx, dy)`** takes an image and draws it on the canvas
 - **`drawImage(image, dx, dy, dw, dh)`** takes an image, scales it and draws it
 - **`drawImage(image, sx, sy, sw, sh, dx, dy, dw, dh)`** takes an image, clips it, scales it, and draws it
 - The coordinates (dx, dy) will be the upper-left corner of the image
 - scales it to dimensions (dw, dh)
 - clips it to the rectangle (sx, sy, sw, sh)
 - If you try to call `drawImage()` or `createPattern()` before the image has finished loading, it won't do anything. You need to be sure to use the load event so you don't try this before the image has loaded

```
var tam = new Image();
tam.src = "images/tam.jpg";

function image() {
  var thecanvas;
  var context;
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");
  context = thecanvas.getContext("2d");
  context.drawImage(tam, 0, 0);
}
```

You can create a pattern by setting the style to repeat an image **`createPattern(image, "repeat")`**

```
function image2() {
  var thecanvas;
  var context;
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");
  context = thecanvas.getContext("2d");
  context.fillStyle = context.createPattern(tam, "repeat");
  context.fillRect(0, 0, 550, 550);
}
```

```
}
```

Arcs

You can draw arcs, circles, and more complex shapes using **arc(x, y, radius, startAngle, endAngle, anticlockwise)**

- x and y are the coordinates of the center of the circle on which the arc should be drawn
- radius is the radius of the arc
- startAngle and endAngle define the start and end points of the arc in radians (not degrees)
- anticlockwise is a Boolean value
 - true draws the arc anticlockwise
 - false draws the arc clockwise
- Like moveTo() and lineTo, the arc() method is a “pencil” method. To actually draw the circle, we need to set the strokeStyle and call stroke() to trace it in “ink.”

```
function smile() {  
  var thecanvas;  
  var context;  
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");  
  context = thecanvas.getContext("2d");  
  
  context.beginPath();  
  context.arc(75, 75, 50, 0, Math.PI * 2, true); // Outer circle  
  context.moveTo(110, 75);  
  context.arc(75, 75, 35, 0, Math.PI, false); // Mouth (clockwise)  
  context.moveTo(65, 65);  
  context.closePath();  
  context.lineWidth = 2;  
  context.strokeStyle = "red";  
  context.stroke();  
  context.beginPath();  
  context.arc(60, 65, 5, 0, Math.PI * 2, true); // Left eye  
  context.moveTo(95, 65);  
  context.arc(90, 65, 5, 0, Math.PI * 2, true); // Right eye  
  context.closePath();  
  context.fillStyle = "red";  
  context.fill();  
}
```

- pi is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. $C=PI*d=2PI*r$)
- You can use the Math module that’s built into JavaScript to calculate radians.
 - $180 \text{ degrees} = \text{Math.PI}$
 - $\text{radians} = (\text{Math.PI}/180) * \text{degrees}$

Text

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API/Tutorial/Drawing_text

You can also draw text on your canvas using the **fillText(text, x, y)** or **strokeText(text, x, y)** methods to draw the text

- font can be anything you would put in a CSS font rule
 - font style, font variant, font weight, font size, line height, and font family.
 - You can use % and em for font
- textAlign controls text alignment
 - textAlign is similar (but not identical) to a CSS text-align rule.
 - Possible values are start, end, left, right, and center.
- textBaseline controls where the text is drawn relative to the starting point
 - possible values are top, hanging, middle, alphabetic, ideographic, or bottom.

```
context.font="bold 1em sans-serif";
context.fillText("Smile!", 50, 150);
```

Animations

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Canvas_API/Tutorial/Basic_animations

Simple animation is done with the following steps:

1. clear the current canvas
2. move and draw the shape

The **setInterval(function, milliseconds)** function calls a function at a set interval of time (in milliseconds)

The **clearInterval()** function clears the timer

Let's create a bouncing ball by drawing a circle and then continuously move it using a timer.

```
var thecanvas; //canvas
var context; //context
var x = 100; //x position
var y = 200; //y position
var dx = 5; //x position change
var dy = 5; //y position change

function ball() {
  thecanvas = document.getElementById("myCanvas");
  context = thecanvas.getContext('2d');
  setInterval(draw, 10); // call draw every 10 milliseconds
}

function draw() {
  context.beginPath();
  context.fillStyle = "#0000ff";
```

```

    // Creates a circle of radius 20 at the coordinates 100,100 on the
    canvas
    context.arc(x, y, 20, 0, Math.PI * 2, true);
    context.closePath();
    context.fill();
    x = dx + x;
    y = dy + y;
}

```

Note that the variables are outside of the function and therefore global.

What do you think the problem is?

We need to clear the canvas before drawing a new circle.

Add at the beginning of draw()

```
context.clearRect(0,0, 600,600); //clears previous circles
```

What do we need to do to create a bouncing action?

Check if x and y are outside of the dimensions and reverse them.

Add before incrementing x and y.

```

if (x < 20 || x > 580) {
    dx = -dx;
}
if (y < 20 || y > 580) {
    dy = -dy;
}

```

More Canvas

You can do a lot of other things in canvas

- Transformation methods include rotation, scaling, transformation and translation.
- Image capture from images, videos, other canvas elements.
- Access individual pixels and manipulate them.
- Save your canvas to a file.