In this essay I want to discuss Ajax in vanilla JavaScript. I will discuss what it is used for. I would like to discuss what security concerns may be associated with making an Ajax request. And I will discuss the difference between an HTTP header and an HTTP body. So, what is Ajax?

“Ajax is Asynchronous JavaScript and XML. It is not a programming language.“ (What Is AJAX, n.d.). The w3schools refer to Ajax as a developers dream in that you can “read data from a web-server – after a webpage has been loaded, update a web page without reloading the page, and send data to a web server – in the background.” (What Is AJAX, n.d.) Ajax is used for creating better, faster, and more interactive web applications with the help of XML, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. (What Is AJAX?, n.d.). There are a few security concerns to consider when making an Ajax request. For example, “Ajax function calls are sent in plain text to server and these calls may easily reveal database details, variables and other information that a programmer or user may not want leaked.” (What Are the Security Issues With AJAX?, n.d.). Another issue to consider is that a user’s browsing session can be monitored by maliciously inserting scripts. (What Are the Security Issues With AJAX?, n.d.). As well, “Ajax may encourage developers to use multiple servers side pages thereby introducing multiple entry points for attackers.” (What Are the Security Issues With AJAX?, n.d.). The difference between an HTTP header and body is that the “The HTTP Header contains information about the HTTP body and the Request/Response. (HTTP Header and HTTP Body Format With Examples., 2015). The HTTP body is the content/message body which is the actual data sought after.

In this essay we have defined Ajax and what it is used for. We have looked at a few but not all the security risks in making an Ajax request. We can see the difference now between an HTTP header and an HTTP body. As well we can see how Ajax can help us developers make dynamic and well performing web pages more easily.

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