

Intro to the Browser & the DOM

Nick Whyte | • @nickw444 | • @nickw444

About Me

- Frontend Engineer / Technical Lead @ Canva
- Graduated UNSW in 2016 (Computer Science)
- COMP2041 student in 2014
- COMP2041 tutor in 2015



Design any presentation. Publish anywhere.

Work or play, Canva is loved by beginners and experts, teams and individuals.

Get started, it's free!

I already have an account

5 Minute HTML Refresher

Simple HTML5 Document

Adding CSS

Inline Styles

```
<head>
     <meta charset="UTF-8">
        <title>Title Goes Here</title>
        <style>
        /* your CSS here */
        </style>
</head>
```

CSS File

```
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
        <title>Title Goes Here</title>
        link rel="stylesheet" href="src/index.css">
        </head>
```

Adding Scripts

Inline Scripts

```
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
        <title>Title Goes Here</title>
        <script>
        /* your code here */
        </script>
</head>
```

Script Files

```
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
        <title>Title Goes Here</title>
        <script src="src/index.js"></script>
    </head>
```

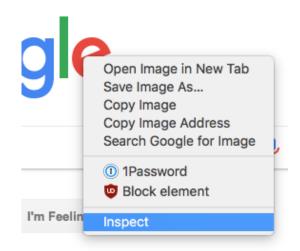
Basic HTML Elements

- div: A container element that can contain zero or more child elements. A block level element.
- p: A paragraph element
- span: generic inline container for phrasing content. Similar to div, except span is an inline element
- h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6: A heading element
- ...and many more!

Let's start building our app!

Devtools

(Google Chrome)



Elements Panel

```
Elements
                    Console Sources Network Timeline
                                                           Profiles
                                                                   Resources Security Audits
 <!DOCTYPE html>
                                                            Styles Computed Event Listeners DOM Breakpoints >>>
<html class="no-touch no-js mdl-js">
 ▶ <head>...</head>
                                                           Filter
 ▼<body class="page--" itemscope itemtype="http://
                                                           element.style {
 schema.org/WebSite"> == $0
  ▶ <div class="mdl-layout__container">...</div>
     <link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?</pre>
                                                           body {
                                                                                                       tools.css:1
     familv=Roboto+Mono:400.700|Roboto:
                                                              width: 100%;
     400,300,500,700,400italic,700italic" rel=
                                                              min-height: 100%;
     "stylesheet" type="text/css">
                                                              font-family: Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif;
     <script type="text/javascript" async src="https://</pre>
                                                              margin: ▶0:
    www.google-analytics.com/analytics.js"></script>
                                                              padding: ▶0;
     <script async src="//www.googletagmanager.com/</pre>
                                                              word-wrap: break-word;
     gtm.js?id=GTM-MB3LRF"></script>
     <script src="/ static/js/material design lite-</pre>
    bundle.js"></script>
                                                           body {
                                                                                             user agent stylesheet
   ▶ <script>...</script>
                                                              display: block:
     <!-- Google Tag Manager -->
                                                              margin: ▶ 8px;
   ▶ <noscript>...</noscript>
   ▶ <script>...</script>
                                                           Inherited from html.no-touch.no-js.mdl-js
    <!-- End Google Tag Manager -->
                                                           html {
                                                                                                       tools.css:1
  </body>
                                                              color: ■ rgba(0,0,0,.87);
</html>
                                                              font-size: 1em;
                                                              line-height: 1.4;
                                                           Pseudo ::selection element
html.no-touch.no-js.mdl-js body.page--
                                                            ::selection {
                                                                                                       tools.css:1
```

https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/inspect-styles/

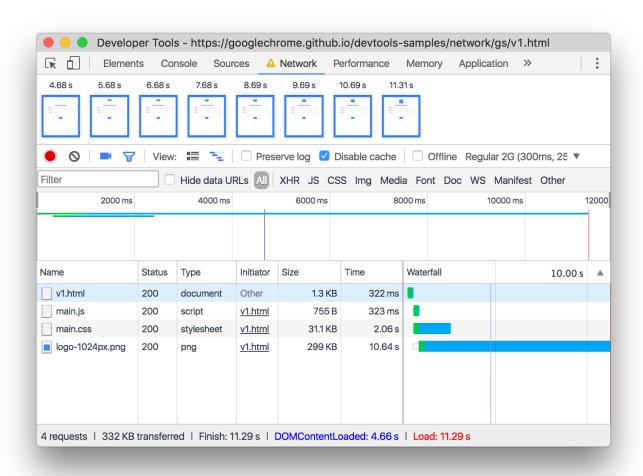
Console

```
Console
                     Elements
                                Sources
                                           Network
                                                      Performance
                                                                    Memory
                                                                               Application
                                                                                            Security
                                                                                                      Audits
                                                                                                                                                       2 hidden 🌣
                                                                 Default levels ▼ ✓ Group similar
         top
                                Filter
> window.location.href
"https://www.google.com.au/"
  window.location

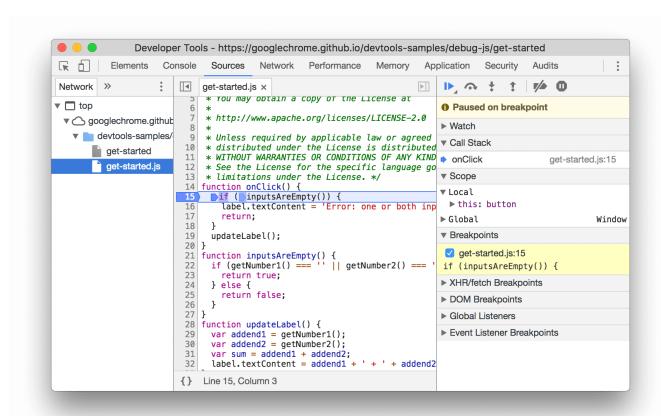
√ ▼Location {replace: f, assign: f, href: "https://www.google.com.au/", ancestorOrigins: DOMStringList, origin: "https://www.google.com.au", ...} []
    ▶ ancestorOrigins: DOMStringList {length: 0}
    ▶assign: f ()
     hash: ""
     host: "www.google.com.au"
     hostname: "www.google.com.au"
     href: "https://www.google.com.au/"
      origin: "https://www.google.com.au"
      pathname: "/"
      port: ""
     protocol: "https:"
    ▶ reload: f reload()
    ▶ replace: f ()
      search: ""
    ▶ toString: f toString()
    ▶ valueOf: f valueOf()
      Symbol(Symbol.toPrimitive): undefined
    ▶ __proto__: Location
```

https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/console/

Network Inspector



Sources Panel

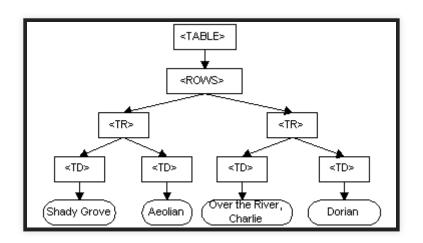




Programming For the Browser

What is the DOM

- An API for HTML (or XML) documents.
- Represents the page so that Javascript can change the structure, style and content of it.
- The DOM represents the document as nodes and objects in a tree.



document.?

- document represents the web page loaded in the window and serves as an entrypoint into the DOM tree.
- document.head: Returns the <head> element of the current document.
- document.body: Returns the <body> element of the current document.

Query the DOM

```
<button id="my-button">Hello
```

Using getElementById

```
const button = document.getElementById('my-button')
```

Using querySelector:

```
const button = document.querySelector('#my-button')
```

Both of these find the element inside the DOM tree with id="my-button" and returns it.

window.?

- similar to document, represents the window containing the DOM document
- The Window interface is home to a variety of functions, namespaces, objects, and constructors

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

window.alert

window.alert('Hello World!')

Run Code

window.location

```
{
    "href": "http://localhost:8000/01-intro-to-the-browser/?print-p
    "ancestorOrigins": {},
    "origin": "http://localhost:8000",
    "protocol": "http:",
    "host": "localhost:8000",
    "hostname": "localhost",
    "port": "8000",
    "pathname": "/01-intro-to-the-browser/",
    "search": "?print-pdf",
    "hash": ""
}
```

console.log()

console.log('Hello World!')

Run Code

n.b. You'll need to open your console to see the output of this demo!

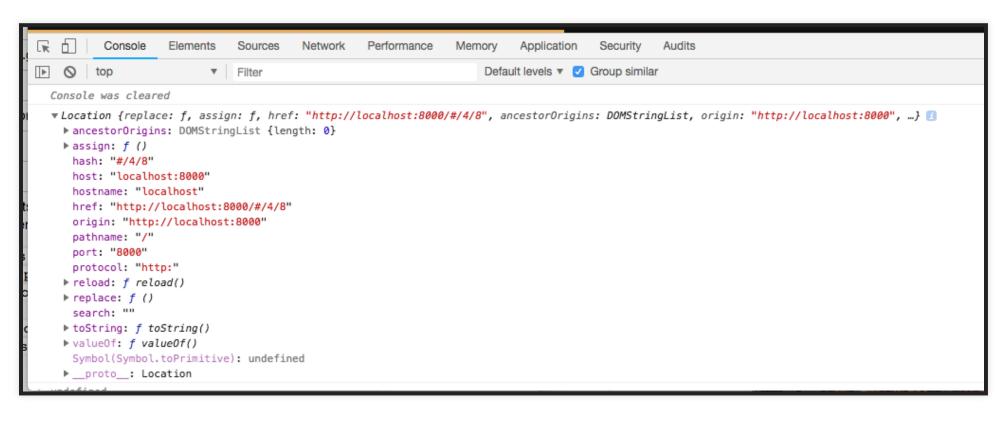
console.?

The console can do a lot more than just plain old strings:

```
console.clear()
console.log()
console.error()
console.warn()
console.table()
console.group()
```

Console Introspection

You can also log JS objects to the console and introspect them:



With this knowledge, lets add some JS to our HTML

Events & Interactions

onClick event (html)

```
<button onClick="window.alert('Hello COMP2041!')">
   Say Hello
</button>
```

Say Hello

Binding an event

```
target.addEventListener(type, listener[, options]);
```

- type: 'click', 'focus', 'blur', 'keydown', etc
- listener: The function to execute when the event occurs.

onClick event (html/js)

```
<button id="hello-button">Say Hello</button>
```

```
const helloButton = document.getElementById('hello-button');
helloButton.addEventListener('click', () => {
  window.alert('Hello COMP2041 from JS!');
});
```

Say Hello

mouseMove event

```
window.addEventListener('mousemove', ({x, y}) => {
  console.log({x, y});
});
```

```
{
  "x": 803,
  "y": 493
}
```

Let's make our app interactive

Timers **O**

setTimeout/clearTimeout

```
document.setTimeout(() => {
   window.alert('Done!')
}, 1000);
```

Run Code

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

setInterval/clearInterval

```
let timer = undefined;
let counter = document.getElementById('counter');

function tick() {
   counter.innerText = parseInt(counter.innerText) + 1;
}

function onStartClick() {
   timer = window.setInterval(tick, 1000);
}

function onStopClick() {
   window.clearInterval(timer);
}
```

Counter: 0

Start Stop

Time to make our stopwatch tick!

Accuracy of Timers

- Timers in JS are not accurate and can become skewed.
- If we made a timer with just setTimeout/setInterval we would find the timer would drift if there was other computational work to perform.
- Browsers will typically pause timers when you switch tabs to conserve resources

Clock Drift Demo

Actual Time

Interval Time

0.000

0.000

Start

Run Long / Blocking Task

https://johnresig.com/blog/how-javascript-timers-work/

https://www.sitepoint.com/creating-accurate-timers-in-javascript/

https://www.reddit.com/r/learnjavascript/comments/3aqtzf/issue_with_setinterval_function_losing_accuracy/

Solution To Clock Drift

- Store the start time and calculate the time elapsed on each render cycle
- Use setInterval/setTimeout to invoke a render cycle (or better yet; use requestAnimationFrame for easy 60FPS updates)

Lets fix the clock drift in our application



Behind the Scenes

(How JS gets executed in your browser)

Scope

- When your browser encounters a script tag it (downloads and) executes it, placing all global variables onto window.
- This can pollute the global scope and cause conflicts.
- We can solve this with an IIFE:

```
(function() {
  let foo = 'whatever'
   // More code here
})();
// foo is unreachable here
```

IIFE's

- Immediately-invoked function expression
- Produces a lexical scope using JavaScript's function scoping
- Stops global window pollution, since all variables sit within the function scope.

```
(function() {
  let foo = 'whatever'
   // More code here
})();
// foo is unreachable here
```

Execution Order

- A <script> tag is parsed & executed as it is encountered when the DOM is parsed.
- This means it may execute too soon, before all HTML elements are even available.
- If the script is large or complex it may block HTML rendering

Execution Order

This is an easy problem to solve in a few different ways;

- Move the script below the HTML elements it targets (or to the bottom of the source)
- Use an event listener in JS to listen to when the document is ready (DOMContentLoaded):

```
function init() {
  console.log('Document loaded!');
}
document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', init);
```

Run to Completion

- Each message is processed completely before any other message is processed.
- Your functions cannot be preempted by another
- Your function will run entirely before any other code runs

Example

```
const s = new Date().getSeconds();
setTimeout(function () {
   // prints out "2", meaning that the callback is not called immediately after 500
   console.log("Ran after " + (new Date().getSeconds() - s) + " seconds");
}, 500);
while (true) {
   if (new Date().getSeconds() - s >= 2) {
      console.log("Good, looped for 2 seconds");
      break;
   }
}
```

Run Code

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/EventLoop#Run-to-completion

Querying the DOM

Finding Elements

- getElementById: Finds an element by it's id attribute. Returns an Element object.
- getElementsByClassName: Finds elements with a matching class attribute. Returns an array-like object.
- getElementsByTagName: Finds elements with a matching tag name.
- querySelector: Magical jQuery-like DOM query method. Returns the first element matching the CSS selector given.

Using querySelector

```
// id="my-button"
const button = document.querySelector('#my-button')
// class="my-button"
const button = document.querySelector('.my-button')
// class="my-button" nested inside <body>
const button = document.querySelector('body > .my-button')
```

Querying Element Content

Sometimes you may want to read the content of an element

Hello World!

```
Hello World!
const text = document.getElementById('text');
console.log(text.innerText);
```

Querying Element Bounds

Hello World!

```
Hello World!
const text = document.getElementById('text');
console.log(text.getBoundingClientRect());
```

Manipulating the DOM

Adding a CSS class

This demo adds a class to a span node.

Hello World!

```
.red { color: red; }

Hello <span id="worldSpan">World!</span>
const worldSpan = document.getElementById('worldSpan');
span.classList.add('red');
```

Modifying Inline Styles

Hello World!

```
Hello <span id="worldSpan">World!</span>
const worldSpan = document.getElementById('worldSpan');
span.style.fontSize = '2em';
```

Modifying innertext

It's also easy to update the content of a HTML Element

Hello World!

```
Hello World!
const text = document.getElementById('text');
text.innerText = 'Goodbye World!';
```

Now that we know how to manipulate the DOM, lets render the stopwatch on the page.

60FPS

window.requestAnimationFrame()

- Tells the browser that you wish to perform an animation and to call the given function before the next repaint.
- Call this method whenever you're ready to update your animation onscreen.
- The number of callbacks is usually 60 times per second, but should match the display refresh rate.

requestAnimationFrame demo

```
const box = document.getElementById('box');
let offset = 0;
function renderFrame() {
 requestAnimationFrame(() => {
   offset += 10;
    box.style.transform = `translateX(${offset}px)`;
    // Enqueue a subsequent render cycle for the next frame.
   renderFrame();
 });
renderFrame();
```



Using requestAnimationFrame lets improve our application to have 60fps updates



Nick Whyte | 😯 @nickw444 | 🎔 @nickw444

p.s. we are looking for summer interns and 2019 graduates! Please email nick@canva.com if you are interested