

Sort an Array of Objects by Property Using sort(fn)

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By David Walsh on February 27, 2012

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Believe it or not, there's more to JavaScript than the helper methods and classes they provide your JavaScript library. No, like seriously bro; these JavaScript-given methods do exist. One of those methods, `sort`, is provided to every `Array` instance via its prototype. I've used this method once or twice in the history of ever, bro, since I make every effort to ensure proper sort on the server side, but sometimes you may receive a JSON dump and need to sort on the client side.

{Track:js}



Most people would assume that `sort` would take no method and simply sort the basic items within the array:

```
[1, 3, 9, 2].sort();  
// Returns: [1, 2, 3, 9]  
  
[1, "a", function(){}, {}, 12, "c"].sort();  
// Returns: [1, 12, Object, "a", "c", function (){}]
```

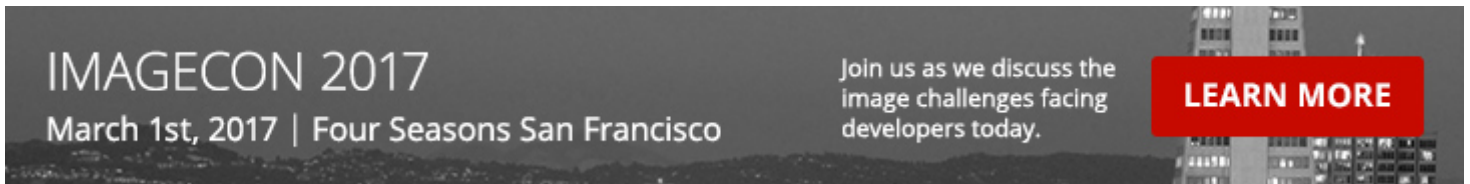
But nay, broseph! If you provide a function expression to the `sort` method, you can sort objects within the array using simple logic. Let's say you have an array of objects representing persons and you want to sort them by age. Oh yes, it can be done, and quite easily:

```
[  
  { name: "Robin Van Persie", age: 28 },  
  { name: "Theo Walcott", age: 22 },  
  { name: "Bacary Sagna", age: 26 }  
]
```

```
].sort(function(obj1, obj2) {  
    // Ascending: first age less than the previous  
    return obj1.age - obj2.age;  
});  
// Returns:  
// [  
//   { name: "Theo Walcott", age: 22 },  
//   { name: "Bacary Sagna", age: 26 },  
//   { name: "Robin Van Persie", age: 28 }  
// ]
```

The anonymous function returns whether or not the first object's age is less than the second's, thus sorting the entire array in ascending order by age. Reverse the first and second arguments to sort in descending order.

So brochacho, now you know how to sort an array of objects using JavaScript. Get to it!



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Discussion

Boger



Nice read, never thought to sort objects this way. but man broseph and brochacho got me laugh to death :D

champi



Great ! how could I do this in PHP ?

Jonathan Petitcolas



A little bit late, but it still may be useful... ;)

In PHP, it is almost the same. Here is the equivalent code:

```
$people = array(
    array('name' => 'Robin Van Persie', 'age' => 28),
    array('name' => 'Theo Walcott', 'age' => 22),
    array('name' => 'Bacary Sagna', 'age' => 26)
);

usort($people, function($a, $b) {
    return $a['age'] - $b['age'];
});

var_dump($people);
```

More informations: <http://php.net/manual/fr/function.usort.php>

Anil Gautam



Hey I am tring your code but its not working.

mauro



hi, i have tryed to bud a sort function by attributes a lot really, and finally i find this blog, your code work for me if the attribute is a number not if it is a string, why? i have to do something in that case? really thank you

Do Jo



What if I wanted to sort by “name”?

hlper



<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/10198257/comparing-2-strings-alphabetically-for-sorting-purposes>

Fahad Rafiq



Array sorting is very important when we deal with many array elements. We have variety of array functions which can sort arrays with respect to value as well as with respect to key. Explore the most important array sorting functions in PHP here:
<http://www.cloudways.com/blog/php-arrays-sorting-functions/>.

George



Why do you do

```
return obj1.age - obj2.age;
```

and not

```
return obj1.age > obj2.age;
```

.. and most importantly why do these two things give the same result?:)

Lumberjack



Sorry but it seems the parser screwed up my message. Let me try again:

```
return a.age - b.age;
```

The above will return -1 if a is less than b.

If a is equal to b, then it will return 0.

If a is greater than b, then it will return 1.

```
return a.age > b.age;
```

This however will return a binary.

If a is greater than b, then it will return true.

In all other cases where a is equal to b OR a is less than b, it will return false.

This will give an incorrect result for the case where a is less than b.

Hopefully that makes sense.

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