Cache size limitations

INTRODUCTION

For traditional Web sites of normal size, you do not have to worry. Just create a manifest file like we've shown before (in the "make your Web site run offline" unit), and your Web site should work offline!

On today's desktop browsers (as of 2015), the cache size available is in general sufficient per domain, and you should not worry.

If a user visits your Web site and if this Web site asks to be cached, and if there is no more free space available, the browser will find some (in general by asking the user permission to increase the cache size



limit for the current domain - see screenshots-, or by clearing least recent used data). On mobile devices, the cache size limits are lower but reasonable.



With some atypical applications that need to cache big amount of data (images, videos), it may happen that there is indeed not enough room in the cache. In that case, the browser prints an error message in the console. It's also possible to use a JavaScript API to detect this situation and show the user an error or a warning message in the page "Sorry, this Web site will not be available offline as we could not cache it due to size limitations...". This advanced part will not be covered in this course.

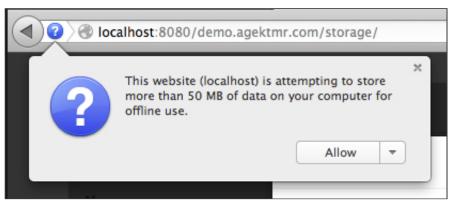
【	1
preloading of 6e0319df-0f3b-4a0b-9d4b-52a7b099a330 ends with status: cached	main.js:21
preloading of 6e8919a1-2b4d-43d4-8d80-555985376966 ends with status: cached	main.js:21
preloading of 7096513e-3c9b-4cef-8b27-c1f55aa31e	main.js:21
preloading of 71c7ec2f-46d7-4b77-bfcc-1bcb10347	main.js:21
Application Cache update failed, because size quota was exceeded.	

Anyway, for those of you who wish to find out more about size limits and what the various HTML5 persistence mean, please read the rest of this page. As such, there will be no exercises related to the optional content material below!

FOR TRADITIONAL WEB PAGES

There is a size limit, but it varies depending on many parameters!

There are size limitations, but they vary from one browser to another. And they also vary if your browser is running on a mobile device or on a desktop device. Finally they may vary depending on the size of the hard disk or



the size of the memory of the device the browser is running on!

For example, with Chrome, there is no maximum size limit for cached data (it is computed depending on the configuration and on the current amount of data already persisted). But if you use the LocalStorage persistence for storing data, (see next section of this course), then, for this special kind of data, Chrome applies a 10Mbytes per domain limit. And this is completely different on FireFox, on Safari, etc. The W3C specification recommends at least 5Mbytes per domain with support for at least 20 domains.

We recommend reading this article from HTML5 rocks (January 2014). The author wrote a Web application that tries to fill all available space and "guess how the different persistent storage spaces" are managed by different browsers. He tried

with all major browsers on mobile devices and on desktop.

On the right: a screenshot of some of the resulting measures (extract from the above article).

Read also this paper about "Managing

	Chrome	Firefox	Safari	Safari	IE	IE
	40	34	6, 7	8	9	10, 11
Application	up to quota	500мв,	Unlimited?	Unlimited?		100мв?
Cache		Unlimited				
FileSystem	up to quota					
IndexedDB	up to quota	50мв,		up to quota?		10мв, 250мв
		Unlimited				(~999мв)
WebSQL	up to quota		5мв, 10мв,	5мв, 10мв,		
			50мв, 100мв,	50мв, 100мв,		
			500мв,	500мв,		
			600мв,	600мв,		
			700мв	700мв		
LocalStorag	10мв	10мв	5мв	5мв	10мв	10мв
е						
SessionStor	10мв		Unlimited	Unlimited	10мв	10мв
age						

HTML5 offline storage", if you want to go into more details.

A quota management JavaScript API exists!

In order to make Web applications aware of the free space available for persisting their

This demo shows the used quota and the remaining free space I can get with Chrome, for persisting local data:

Used space = 19256, remaining space = 3102400001

Show me my usage and free space remaining

data, a Quota Management API is being developed. Note that this API specification is under active discussion and subject to change in the future. It's still experimental.

Try this example on JS Bin that shows the available disk space for all HTML5 persistence means (cache, localStorage, IndexedDB, etc.). Try it with Google Chrome: as of June 2015, it is the only browser that implements the Quota API.

Source code extract:

function showFreeSpace() {
//the type can be either TEMPORARY or PERSISTENT

webkitStorageInfo.queryUsageAndQuota(webkitStorageInfo.TEMPORARY,

APPLICATIONS FROM STORES OR APPLICATIONS THAT RUN ON A WEB-BASED OPERATING SYSTEM

A note about "non traditional Web applications"

Finally the amount of free storage space is managed differently if your Web application is not a "traditional HTML page" loaded in a browser, i.e. using a http://orhttps://URL. It may be a browser extension, a browser application (coming from a



store such as Chrome store, Windows store, FireFox OS store, etc), it may run on a Playstation 4 or on a Xbox One.

In these cases, HTML5 applications can get more privileges such as

reading/writing to your hard disk and benefit from a large disk space. Imagine that they are similar to applications you install on your smartphone: you accept that they use XXX megabytes, use your GPS without asking for permission, etc. This course will not cover this type of applications but only focuses on traditional Web pages and applications.

