

CoffeeScript

CoffeeScript takes some of the good things from Ruby and Python and applies them to JavaScript. CoffeeScript is a language that allows us to write better JavaScript faster, with fewer headaches. It does this by taking the CoffeeScript that we write and compiling it down to JavaScript, similar to how SASS writes CSS. CoffeeScript adds some pretty cool features to JavaScript such as classes and some really handy operators like the existential operator '?'. CoffeeScript doesn't actually add these features to JavaScript though, as CoffeeScript can't do anything that JavaScript can't, but it takes a lot of JavaScript code to write a class, which CoffeeScript does automatically. CoffeeScript, like SASS, takes .coffee files and compiles them into .js files thus there's no need to install anything else once the CoffeeScript is written, because it just writes JavaScript files.

CoffeeScript does away with semi-colons and most curly braces, and also avoids some of the common pitfalls of JavaScript, such as accidentally declaring global variables, or using == instead of ===. The goal of CoffeeScript is to make writing JavaScript easier, and it does a very good job of it. Since CoffeeScript just writes JavaScript for us, we can easily go back and edit the JavaScript if we need to, so there's no cost if we decide not to use CoffeeScript in the long run. CoffeeScript does, like Python enforce whitespace, which is a minor annoyance, but seems to be much less picky than Python, and allows us to get rid of the braces and semicolons of JavaScript. CoffeeScript also includes an IRB like command interpreter, so we can see what our CoffeeScript will do without a lot of overhead.

My Program

My program is a very simple IEEE citation generator, it has a citation class, which accepts some arguments, and a default argument, and then will create the citation based on that information, which can then be written to the screen. To run it, just load the HTML document called citation.html, which will run the citation.js file that was generated from the citation.coffee file.

Time Sheet

Time	Activity
1 Hr	CoffeeScript Videos
30 Min	Setting up CoffeeScript
1.5 Hr	Writing Cool CoffeeScript