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The `$.ajax()` method is at the heart of all asynchronous requests for the entire jQuery library. There are a couple of ways you can call the `$.ajax()` method:

```
$.ajax(<url-to-fetch>, <a-configuration-object>);  
  
// or  
  
$.ajax(<just a configuration object>);
```

The most common way to use the `$.ajax()` method is with just the configuration object, since everything can be set inside the configuration object.

What's a "configuration object"?

A configuration object is just a plain ol' JavaScript object that's used to configure something. For example:

```
var settings = {  
  frosting: 'buttercream',  
  colors: ['orange', 'blue'],  
  layers: 2,  
  isRound: true  
};
```

...the `settings` configuration object can be used in the imaginary `MakeCake` constructor function:

```
const myDeliciousCake = MakeCake( settings );
```

Alternatively, the `settings` object could be passed in directly:

```
const myDeliciousCake = MakeCake({  
  frosting: 'buttercream',  
  colors: ['orange', 'blue'],  
  layers: 2,  
  isRound: true  
});
```

Making an Ajax call

jQuery's `$.ajax()` method has to be incredibly versatile and powerful if it's what powers all of jQuery's asynchronous requests. A simple Ajax request would look like this:

```
$.ajax({  
  url: 'https://swapi.co/api/people/1/'  
});
```

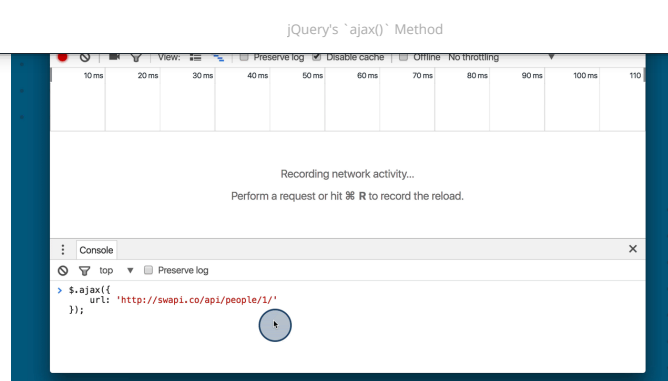
Let's test it out!

1. go to the [jQuery website](#)
2. open up your browser's developer tools
3. make sure the network traffic is being recorded
 - in Chrome, switch to the network pane
4. add the request above to the console
5. ...aaaand run it!

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Running an asynchronous request in the console. The request is for a resource on SWAPI. The request is displayed in the network pane.

So we can make a request with `.ajax()`, but we haven't handled the response yet.

NEXT

