Demos

Menu Search

**Note: this page has not been updated after 1.3**

## Question:

# Why aren't my scripts and styles loading?

## Answer:

jQuery Mobile's Ajax navigation system only loads in the contents of the page wrapper, the scripts and styles in the head are discarded so you need to plan how to load and organize these assets.

When the user clicks a link in a jQuery Mobile-driven site, the default behavior of the navigation system is to use that link's href to formulate an Ajax request (instead of allowing the browser's default link behavior of requesting that href with full page load). When that Ajax request goes out, the framework will receive its entire text content, but it will only inject the *contents of the response's body element (or more specifically the data-role="page" element, if it's provided)*, meaning nothing in the head of the page will be used (with the exception of the page title, which is fetched specifically). Please note that scripts loaded dynamically in this fashion do not guarantee a load order in the same way they would if the page was loaded via a normal http request.

This means that any scripts and styles referenced in the head of a page won't have any effect *when a page is loaded via Ajax*, but they **will execute if the page is requested normally via HTTP**. When scripting jQuery Mobile sites, both scenarios need to be considered. The reason that the head of a page is ignored when requested via Ajax is that the potential of re-executing the same JavaScript is very high (it's common to reference the same scripts in every page of a site). Due to the complexity of attempting to work around that issue, we leave the task of executing page-specific scripts to the developer, and assume head scripts are only expected to execute once per browsing session.

The simplest approach when building a jQuery Mobile site is to reference the same set of stylesheets and scripts in the head of every page. If you need to load in specific scripts or styles for a particular page, we recommend binding logic to the pagecreate event (details below) to run necessary code when a specific page is created (which can be determined by its id attribute, or a number of other ways). Following this approach will ensure that the code executes if the page is loaded directly or is pulled in and shown via Ajax.

Another approach for page-specific scripting would be to include scripts at the end of the body element when no data-role=page element is defined, or inside the first data-role=page element. If you include your custom scripting this way, be aware that these scripts will execute when that page is loaded via Ajax or regular HTTP, so if these scripts are the same on every page, you'll likely run into problems. If you're including scripts this way, we'd recommend enclosing your page content in a data-role="page" element, and placing scripts that are referenced on every page outside of that element. Scripts that are unique to that page can be placed in that element, to ensure that they execute when the page is fetched via Ajax.

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