Introduction to AJAX

Objectives:

- Learn what AJAX allows us to do
- Understand its significance to the modern web

Manipulating the DOM is cool, but up to this point, we've only done it with basically static content. What if we wanted to dynamically generate content based on information in our database or other backend logic? Enter AJAX.

Now that you're more comfortable with the traditional request-response cycle, it's time to learn about AJAX, a technique that allows us to make requests and receive responses that we can use to update, rather than completely re-render, the webpage. What does that mean? The video below is a demo of one way that AJAX can significantly improve the user experience.

Can you think of any other examples you have encountered on the web that might be using AJAX? Perhaps doing a Google search and being provided with similar search items? Or scrolling to the bottom of a page and having the page respond by revealing more content?

It was the introduction of AJAX that began a new era of web application which we call Web 2.0. It's crucial for you to know and understand AJAX to be a true modern web developer.