JS-MONTREAL.ORG

JavaScript, a brief history

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JavaScript, a brief history

a 5 parts trilogy
in D minor;
the saddest of keys

1995

The WWW
is still
a baby.

1995

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is still
a baby.

1995

April 1995

1995

1995

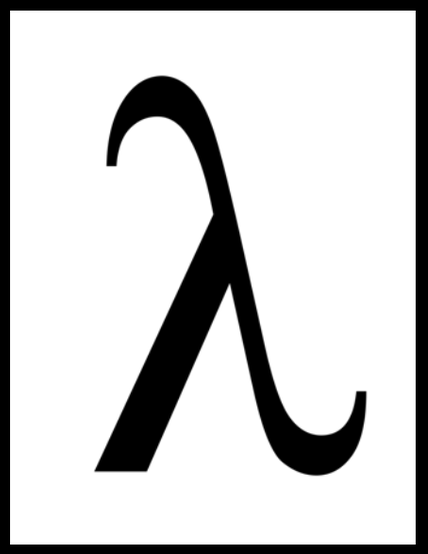
According to Brendan:

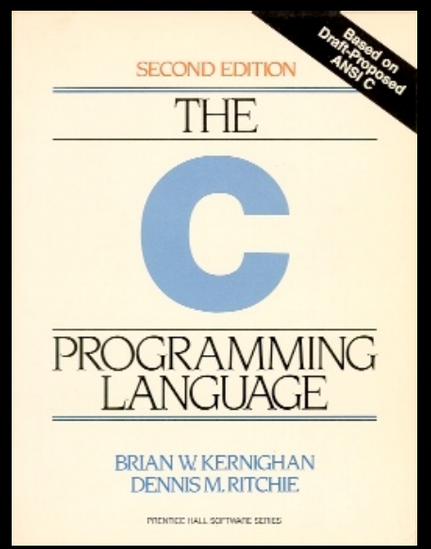
10 Days on the interpreter and built-in objects

The rest of 1995:

- Embedding the language in Netscape
- Creating the DOM (Level 0)

JavaScript was inspired by





Self

Prototypal Inheritance

Scheme

First-class functions

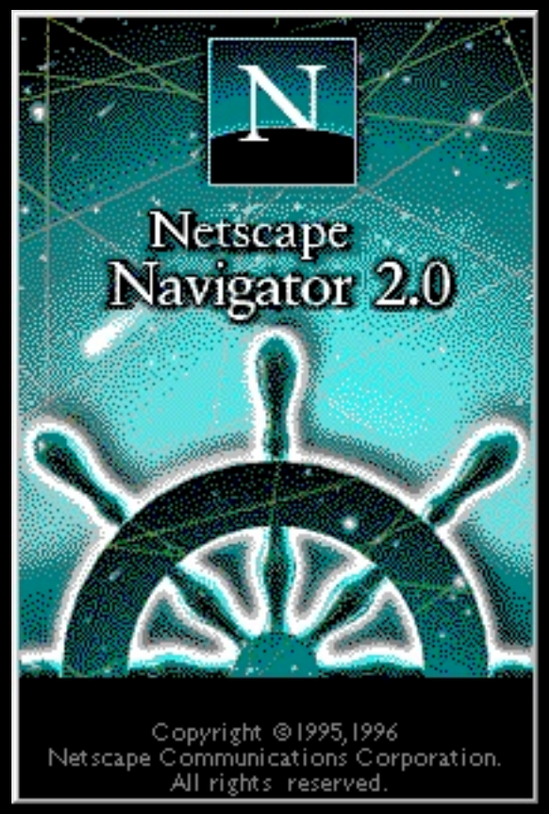
C

Syntax

1995

1996

March 1996



JavaScript first public release

“Given the process that created JavaScript and made it a de facto standard, we deserve something far worse.”

Douglas Crockford

1995

1996

August 1996

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0

- JScript
- CSS, Java Applets support

1995 1996

1997

June 1997

ECMAScript

- Used Netscape's JavaScript as a basis
  - Not much of a name either
- A standard is born, this is good

1997

October 1997

Internet Explorer 4

- Embedded inside Windows
- The “Browser Wars” begin proper
- Things start going badly for Netscape

1995 1996 1997

1998

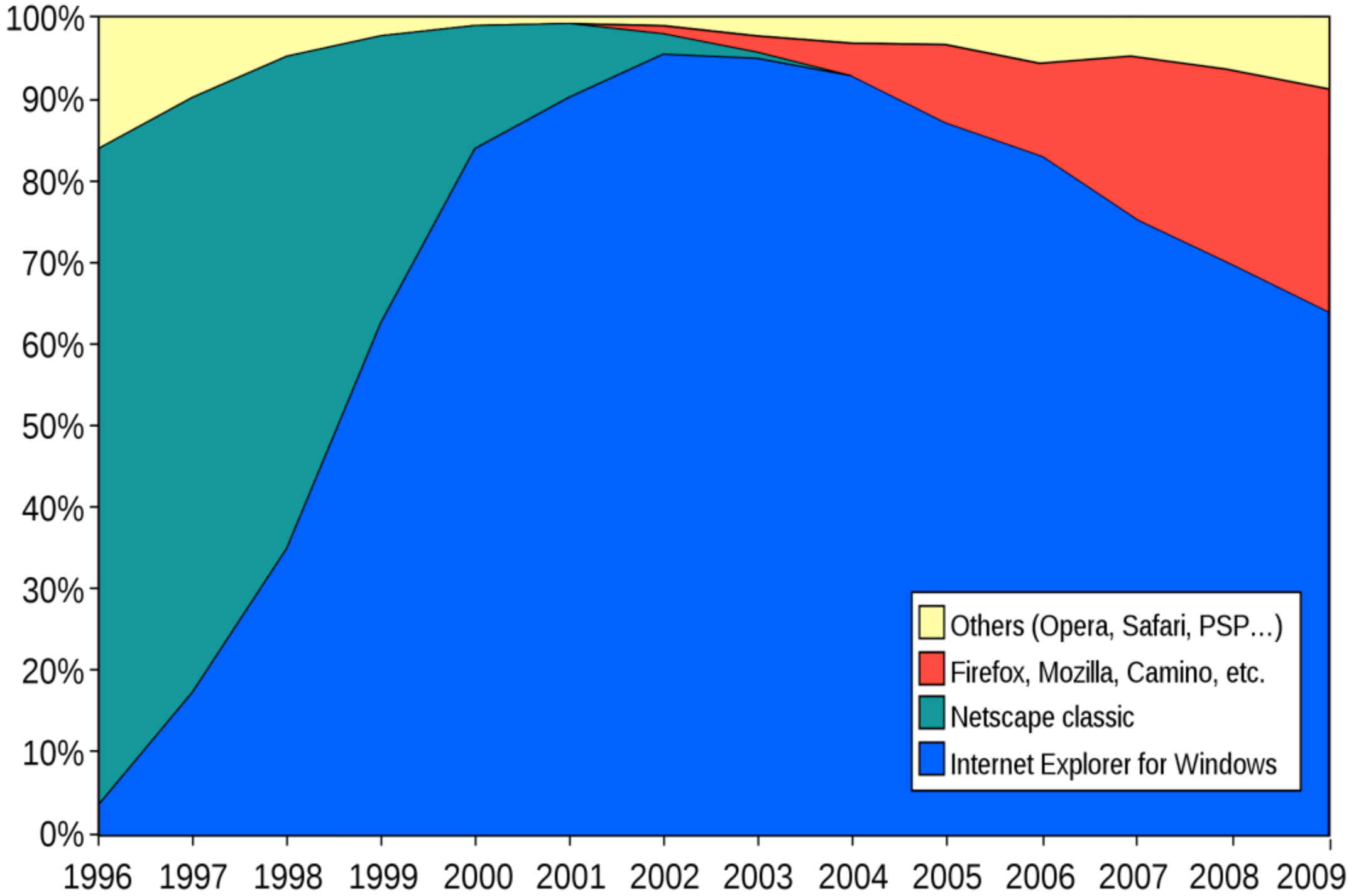
The beginning of the end for Netscape

Netscape starts with a 70% browser share

Microsoft has 20%

Then this happens:

Browser Wars



1995 1996 1997 1998

1999

December 1999

ECMAScript v3 (JavaScript 1.5)

- Added Regular Expressions
- Try / Catch, better Strings
- Other stuff

This is the JavaScript that most of us still use today

1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

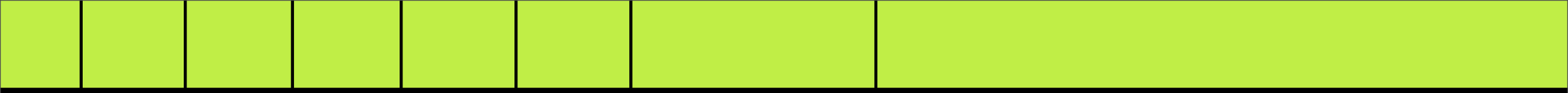
2005+

2005 and onwards

Cool stuff is implemented in Firefox with every release

JavaScript 1.6, 1.7, 1.8...

But Microsoft still pwns the browser market.



2009

December 2009

ECMAScript 4 is abandoned

ECMAScript 5 is published

The Future...

Good times ahead

- Mozilla is catching up
- Good libraries are becoming mainstream (jQuery..)
- Server-side JS, Common JS
- Node.js, Helma, etc
- Everyone loves JSON