

Web Form Validation using JavaScript – Alternative Method

In the previous example, we created a web form that was validated using JavaScript. The application works well and achieves the outcome of alerting the user to any incomplete areas of a form. We will now look at another method of achieving the same outcome, as being a software developer there is usually more than one way of solving a problem.

For this JavaScript example we look at in this work sheet, you will use the same HTML web form as before, there is no need to make another form.

1. Create a new JavaScript file in Notepad++ and call it **reg-form-script-v2.js**, then add the following code (see next page):

```

1  /*
2      Create a JavaScript function to validate an HTML form
3      which contains two inputs - one for first name and
4      a second for surname.
5  */
6
7  function validateForm() {
8
9      // GET references to the form elements
10     var fname = document.getElementById('fname');
11     var sname = document.getElementById('sname');
12     var ferror = 0;
13     var serror = 0;
14     var fnameMessage;
15     var snameMessage;
16
17     // validate the forename
18     if (fname.value.length == 0) {
19         fnameMessage = 'Please enter your forename.';
20         ferror = 1;
21     } else {
22         fnameMessage = 'Forename entered correcetly.';
23         ferror = 0;
24     }
25
26     // validate the surname
27     if (sname.value.length == 0) {
28         snameMessage = 'Please enter your surname.';
29         serror = 1;
30     } else {
31         snameMessage = 'Surname entered correcetly.';
32         serror = 0;
33     }
34
35     if ((ferror == 1) || (serror == 1)){
36         alert('Form error: ' + '\n\t' + fnameMessage + '\n\t' + snameMessage);
37         return false;
38     }
39     else {
40         return true;
41     } // End of the error if statement
42
43 } // End of the function definition
44
45 function init() {
46
47     document.getElementById('loginForm').onsubmit = validateForm;
48
49 } // End of init function
50
51 // Assign an event listener to the window's load event.
52 window.onload = init;

```

Notice that several parts of the code are not commented – you must **fully comment** your code in order to demonstrate your understanding of it.

Activity

Compare this method of validation with the one from the first task sheet. Write a summary of the differences and discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each method. Make sure that you cover the use of `\n` and `\t` – what are they and what do they achieve? Also be sure to test your application in a variety of browsers to check if the contents of the alert box are displayed the same.