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## What does "enable DOM storage API" mean?

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I came across this Android WebView function `WebSettings.setDomStorageEnabled(true)` and from the name alone I can infer that it simply "enables DOM storage".

The Android documentation, however, suggests something slightly different:

Set whether the DOM storage API is enabled.

IOW, it enables the **API** rather than the storage itself.

My problem is... I didn't know about the existence of such an API until I encountered this function.

My Google search suggests that this API is closely associated with [HTML5](#).

1. Does that mean that this function is irrelevant to web sites/pages that do not use HTML5? IOW, does it affect existing non-HTML5 page loading & rendering at all?
2. ~~Where can I learn more about the DOM storage API?~~
3. In particular, are there any gotchas or caveats that I need to watch for when calling `WebSettings.setDomStorageEnabled(true)` in an Android app?
4. Why is it disabled by default?

**Update:** I now can at least answer question #2: It turns out that the common name for "DOM Storage" is "Web Storage" and there is an entire Wikipedia article about this: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_Storage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_Storage)

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edited May 2 '11 at 18:13

asked May 2 '11 at 15:01



[uTubeFan](#)

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### 1 Answer

I believe this functionality is irrelevant for websites that do not use the HTML 5 specifications, since it is part of that spec. I would imagine the main thing to look out for when enabling this API is that it would then allow ANY website that takes advantage of DOM storage to use said storage options on the device. I would imagine it is disabled by default for space savings and security.

answered May 2 '11 at 20:50



[Justin Pearce](#)

1,918 1 6 17

Thanks + 1 + accepting (unless a more authoritative answer comes later). – [uTubeFan](#) May 2 '11 at 21:02

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