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CSD – 360 JavaScript

Module 1

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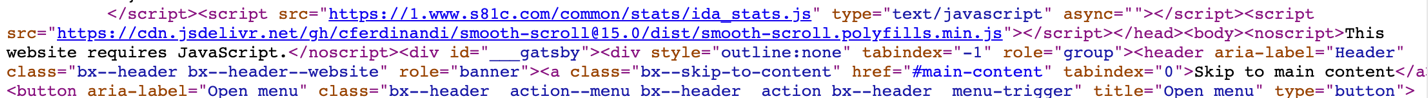
JavaScript is a dynamic programming language that is used to add interactivity to your website design. In our HTML/CSS class we learned a lot about how to create websites and design certain aspects like a form for contacting someone. JavaScript will be the next step as it is used to develop responses and to handle events such as button pressing and data entry. JavaScript helps to create a user interface for your site. (MDN Web Docs, n.d.) You can put the JavaScript code directly into your HTML document or you can create a separate JavaScript document and link to it from the HTML document, this is best with lengthy code or code that you find you will reuse often.

I looked at the source code for a really beautifully designed website about the history of the St. Louis Browns baseball team, <http://thestlbrowns.com/>. The developer placed his JavaScript within the body of the HTML document. I think that they chose to use script that is located in a specific file on the current website. I have included a screenshot snippet of the source code below.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

I also took a look into the source code of the IBM Design website at <https://www.ibm.com/design/>. It took a really long time to find it but I believe that they chose to use a full URL link to a script. They placed their link in the head of the HTML document.



You must place your JavaScript between <script> and </script> tags within you HTML document, but technically you can put these tags and content or link anywhere in the document and it will work. However, there seems to be a lot of discussion online about where it is best to put this. Some feel that it is best to put it just before the close of your header, others feel that it is best placed at the end of the body section of your HTML document. Sitepoint Community’s webpage has a discussion between developers about this concept. Some points made include not wanting to wait for the entire site to load for certain JavaScript behaviors to be employed. Also, it is noted that adding too much JavaScript at the beginning can slow the page down. (Sitepoint Community, n.d.) Many seasoned developers seem to suggest putting the link at the end of the body, even though books often encourage the link to be placed in the head. It also seems that the newer browsers can handle the link placement in the head than some of the older browsers.

Tutorialspoint.com covers some of the ways to place JavaScript into your HTML document file. They suggest that event driven Script should be placed in the head and that if you need the Script to run as the page loads then it should go in the body. (Tutorialspoint, n.d.)

I think that where and how you place your JavaScript code or links depends on what you are doing. You must consider when you need the script to run and load times as well. I think that you can even use a combination of written code and links in both the head and the body. I’m sure that this class and experience will help me to understand how, when and where to best place my JavaScript into my HTML documents.

# Works Cited

*MDN Web Docs*. (n.d.). Retrieved from mozilla.org: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Getting\_started\_with\_the\_web/JavaScript\_basics

*Sitepoint Community*. (n.d.). Retrieved from sitepoint.com: https://www.sitepoint.com/community/t/scripts-in-head-or-at-end-of-document-pros-cons/5977

*Tutorialspoint*. (n.d.). Retrieved from tutorialspoint.com: https://www.tutorialspoint.com/javascript/javascript\_placement.htm