LAB Week 9: Working with JSON data.

Contents

Introduction

In this lab you will practice working with a json 'command' file.

Task 1. Continuation of colours exercise.

1. This exercise follows on from the colours exercises of previous weeks where we displayed a list of colours that we retrieved from a variety of different source files using AJAX. ***Ajax Message pattern***.

We want to build a web page that allows the user to choose the type of data that they want to load and display using AJAX.

To start with we'll have the same 5 options as last week but the buttons or menu items will be built dynamically and get data from a 'command' file that has an option for each of the 5 different types of data set out in a json formatted file as follows:

```
{
  "title": "Load colour data",
  "navigationLinks": [
      {
      "filetype": "text",
      "filename": "colours.txt"
      },
      {
      "filetype": "html",
      "filename": "colours.phtml"
      },
      {
      "filetype": "xml",
      "filename": "colours.xml"
      },
      {
      "filetype": "json",
```

```
                    "filename": "colours.json"
                    },
                    {
                    "filetype": "image",
                    "filename": "colours.img"
                    }
            ]
        }
```

where we have the type of data to be displayed and the name of the file that has the data to be displayed eg `"filetype": "text"` tells us that the type of data in the file to be loaded is to be interpreted as ordinary text ie red green blue etc. The `"filename": "colours.txt"` tells us the data to display is in the file colours.txt.

a) Draw a wireframe image of the layout of the screen/web page that you want to build for the web page based on the data in the command file above. This will help you to identify the HTML that you will need to build dynamically.

b) Display the 'title' description read in from your json command file.

c) Dynamically build the buttons/menu items that you need based on the info in your json command file. For now just get each button to respond to an **onclick** event by displaying an alert box with some appropriate message.

d) Once you have the buttons correctly built you can go on to modify the onclick event handlers to display the appropriate colour data eg clicking on the xml button displays the colour data from the xml file.

e) The next obvious thing we can do is have more or less 'navigationLinks' to give us flexibility in loading more or less colour data.

N.B. From here you should be able to visualise how this sort of 'command' file can be extended and modified to incorporate other data types and 'instructions' to match the data requirements for your coursework solution.

That's all folks and remember to keep practicing.