



7. Extending jQuery Plugins

Client-Side Web Programming

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1.- jQuery plugins

- As we've seen jQuery provides a large set of useful methods and utility functions.
- Sometimes we have in our code repeated operations that follow common patterns we'll want to use again and again.
- We can capture these reusable fragments of code as extensions to jQuery called jQuery plugins.
- Besides, if the piece of code we need has been already developed by someone else before, we can use it as a plugin instead of building everything we need from scratch.



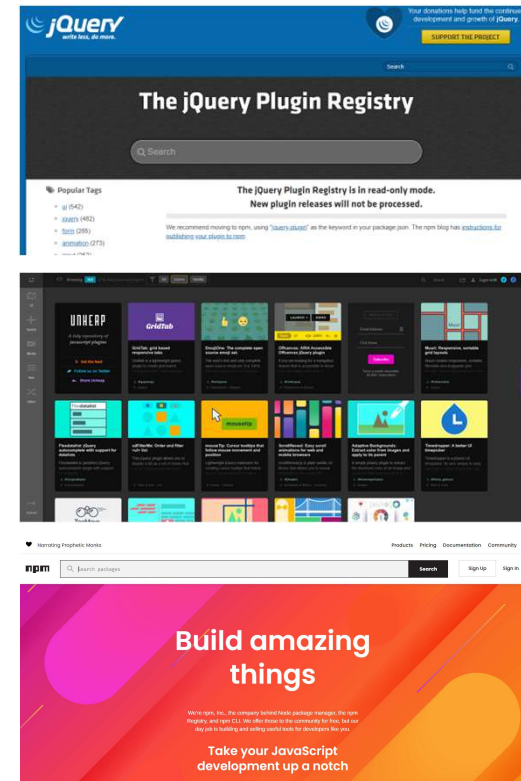
1.- jQuery plugins

- We can make our own plugins and use them privately in our code or we can release them on the Internet.
- There are thousands of jQuery plugins available online ready to download and use.
- We're going to learn...
 - where to find good plugins,
 - how to know if a plugin is well or bad-written, and
 - how to add them to our page.



2.- jQuery plugins sources

- The easiest way to find plugins is to search the *jQuery Plugins Registry* (plugins.jquery.com). Currently it's set in read-only mode, meaning that new plugin releases won't be processed.
- As a replacement, the jQuery team recommends using *npm* (www.npmjs.com).
- An alternative with a rather limited number of plugins is *Unheap* (www.unheap.com).
- Another source is jQuery Script www.jqueryscript.net.
- As a last resource... keep in mind that Google is your friend.



3.- jQuery plugins quality

- Choosing a plugin is an important decision because our whole project will be built on top of it and will have a dependency to it.
- We should check several factors before using an unknown plugin:
 - the last time the plugin was updated (measures the author's attention).
 - the rate at which the author fixes issues.
 - the version of the plugin (never use a 0.1.0 version of a plugin, but 1.0.0).
 - if the author is a person or a company, and the reputation.
 - if the plugin is well-documented.
- In conclusion, keep in mind that not all jQuery has the same quality.



4.- How to use jQuery plugins

- To learn how to add a jQuery plugin to our page we'll see the slick extension (www.github.com/kenwheeler/slick), used to create image carousels.
- First of all, we download the plugin and extract it on a folder within our site folder (*resources* in this example).
- After that we must add its JavaScript file after the jQuery library:

```
<script src="resources/jquery-3.5.1.min.js"></script>  
<script src="resources/slick.min.js"></script>
```



4.- How to use jQuery plugins

- This plugin in particular needs a CSS file too. We have to add it to the page too:

```
<head>  
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="resources/slick.css" />
```

- The HTML part of our page is simple. The carousel of images will be wrapped within a container element, such as a <div>:

```
<div class="carousel">  
      
      
      
      
</div>
```



4.- How to use jQuery plugins

- The only step left is to call the slick() method as a jQuery method:

```
<script>  
    $(' .carousel').slick();  
</script>
```



- This is the default configuration of the plugin, but we can change it to fit our need.
- If we want to know more about this plugin, we can take a look at the repository and its documentation.



5.- Activity

- Create a user manual of a jQuery plugin.
- The minimum aspects of the presentation are:
 - a. Plugin's purpose
 - b. Where to use it?
 - c. How to install it?
 - d. How to use it?
 - e. Different configurations
 - f. Live demo

