Introduction to AJAX

AJAX stands for **A**synchronous **J**avascript **A**nd **X**ml. It is "Asynchronous" because it is independent of the overall page load in the browser, and happens independently of the page loading the visitor directly requests. AJAX calls can happen without the user knowing or through a deliberate action that the user takes.
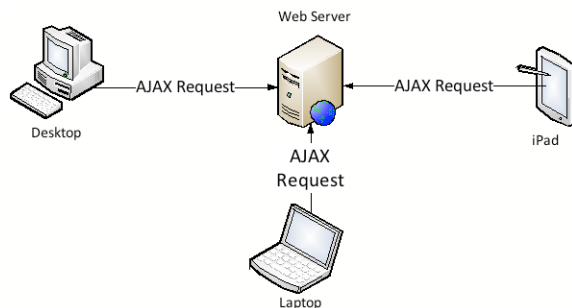
Benefits of AJAX

- Decrease page load time
- Load "as needed"
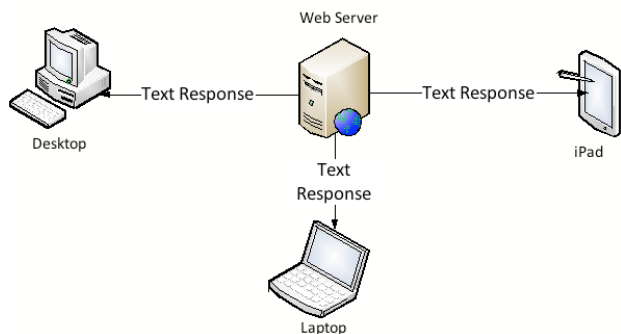- Create dynamic interactive elements

What does it look like?

AJAX requests from a page to a server looks like a POST or a GET method. In this way, we're able to write PHP scripts that access POST data from AJAX calls just as we would from any normal POST or GET request. Below is a possible example flow diagram of the process of an AJAX call.

Requests

Responses

AJAX Process

1. Script wishes to make a request to server
2. Script sends AJAX request to the server
3. Server takes the POST or GET data from the script and processes data
4. Server sends response to Script
5. Script processes response and moves data appropriately