HTTP Pull - Polling with Ajax

In this lesson, we will understand HTTP Pull, AJAX and how polling is done using AJAX.

> **We'll cover the following** ⌃
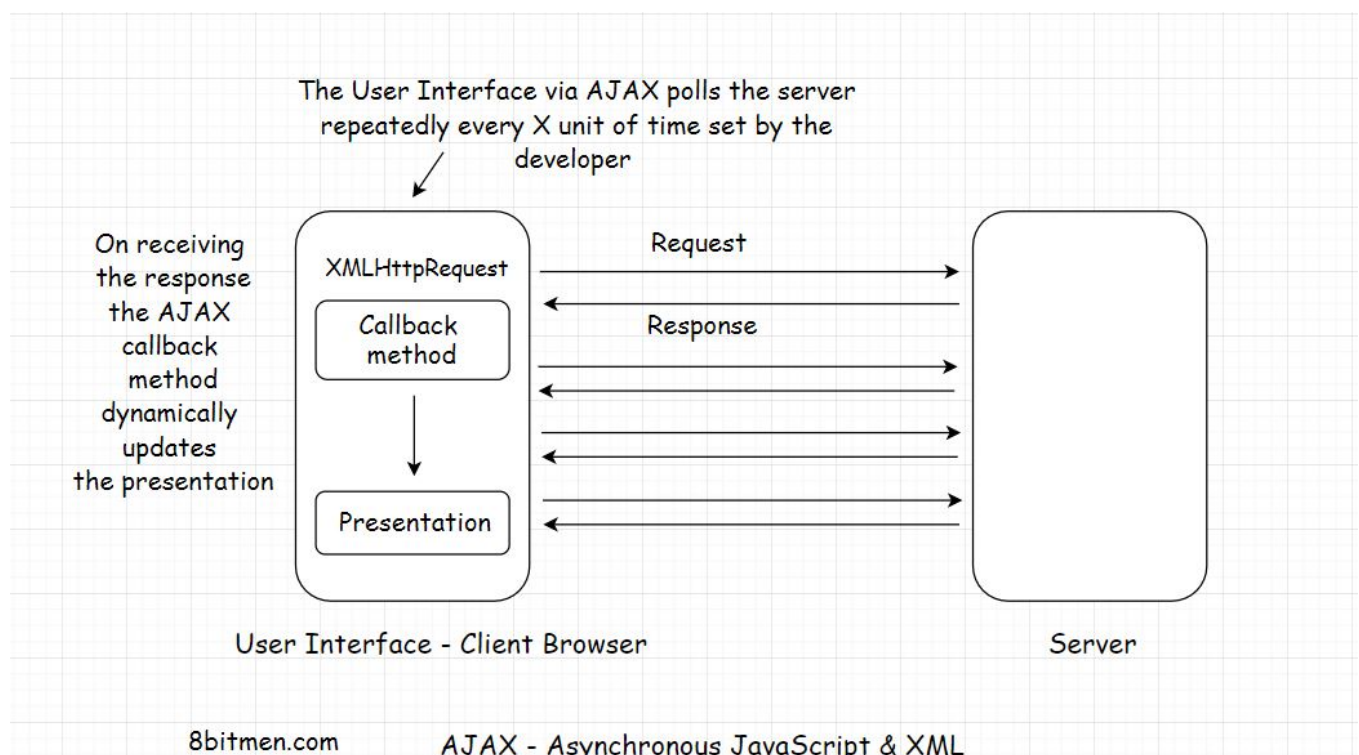>
> - AJAX – Asynchronous JavaScript & XML

There are two ways of pulling/fetching data from the server.

The first is sending an *HTTP GET* request to the server manually by triggering an event, like by clicking a button or any other element on the web page.

The other is fetching data dynamically at regular intervals by using *AJAX* without any human intervention.

AJAX – Asynchronous JavaScript & XML

> *AJAX* stands for asynchronous *JavaScript* & *XML*. The name says it all, it is used for adding asynchronous behaviour to the web page.

AJAX - Asynchronous JavaScript & XML

As we can see in the illustration above, instead of requesting the data manually every time with the click of a button. AJAX enables us to fetch the updated data from the server by automatically sending the requests over and over at stipulated intervals.

Upon receiving the updates, a particular section of the web page is updated dynamically by the *callback* method. We see this behaviour all the time on news & sports websites, where the updated event information is dynamically displayed on the page without the need to reload it.

AJAX uses an *XMLHttpRequest* object for sending the requests to the server which is built-in the browser and uses JavaScript to update the *HTML DOM*.

AJAX is commonly used with the *Jquery* framework to implement the asynchronous behaviour on the UI.

This dynamic technique of requesting information from the server after regular intervals is known as *Polling*.