JavaScript for ABAP Programmers

Data Types

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ABAP

Strongly typed

Syntax similar to COBOL
Block Scope
No equivalent concept
OO using class based inheritance
Imperative programming

JavaScript

Weakly typed

Syntax derived from Java Lexical Scope Functions are 1st class citizens OO using referential inheritance Imperative or Functional programming



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Compiled languages (E.G. ABAP, Java, C) tend to use strong typing, whereas interpreted scripting languages (E.G. JavaScript, Ruby, Python) tend to use weak typing.

JavaScript Data Types: Overview

In JavaScript, there are only 6 data types.

At any one time the value of a variable belongs to one and only one of the following data types.

Data Type	This value of this variable
Null	Is explicitly defined as having no value
Undefined	Is indeterminate
Boolean	Is either true or false
String	Is an immutable collection of zero or more Unicode characters
Number	Can be used in mathematical operations
Object	Is an unordered collection of name/value pairs

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// Boolean
true;
false;
// String - contains zero or more Unicode characters
'Bazinga!'; // Can be delimited by either single quotes
""; // Or double quotes
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       // Be careful, this is stored as floating point value, not an integer!
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// floating point format still apply in JavaScript!
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result:
// Special numerical values that could be returned in the event of illegal mathematical operations
// (These values are actually stored as properties of the Global Object)
NaN;
            // 'Not a Number' E.G. 1/'cat' → NaN
Infinity; // The result of division by zero
```

In addition to the basic data type of Object, JavaScript provides several built-in objects that behave as if they were composite data types. E.G. Array, Date, Function, Math and RegEx etc.

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// Object. Zero or more unordered name: value pairs of any data type delimited by curly braces
{ pet1: 'cat',
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// Regular Expression Object. A tool for specifying and extracting patterns of text within a string
/^(?:([A-Za-z]+):)?(\/{0,3})([0-9.\-A-Za-z]+)(?::(\d+))?(?:\/([^?#]*))?(?:\?([^#]*))?(?:#(.*))?$/;
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// Regular expressions are sometimes confused with Egyptian hieroglyphics... :-)
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In weakly typed languages such as JavaScript, there is no concept of declaring that a variable should hold data of a particular type. The data type of a variable is determined simply by the value it currently holds.

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whoAmI = {
            // Now it's an object
 someProperty: 'Hello world'
whoAmI = function() { };  // Now it's a...you get the idea
```