

# JS In The Browser

Handling web document structure

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Some slides adapted from Giovanni Malnati



## Goal

- Loading JavaScript in the browser
- Browser object model
- Document object model
- DOM Manipulation
- DOM Styling
- Event Handling
- Forms



JS in the browser

## LOADING JS IN THE BROWSER

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### Loading JavaScript In The Browser

- JS must be loaded from an HTML document
- <script> tag
  - Inline

```
...  
<script>  
  alert('Hello');  
</script>  
...
```



- External

```
...  
<script src="file.js"></script>  
...
```



<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/script>

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# Where To Insert The <script> Tag?

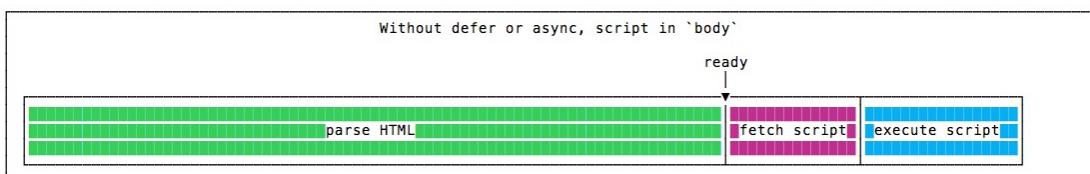
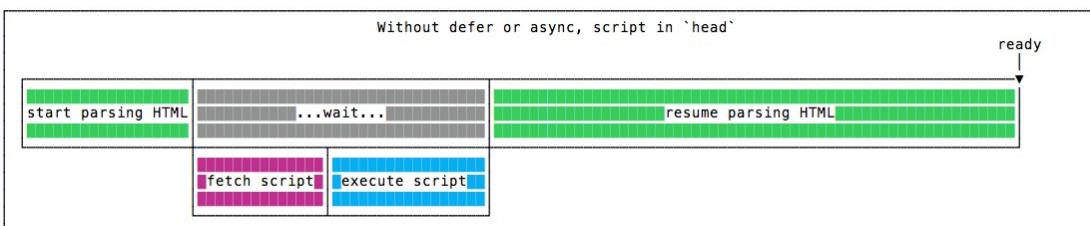
- In the `<head>` section
  - “clean” / “textbook” solution
  - Very **inefficient**: HTML processing is stopped until the script is loaded and executed
  - Quite **inconvenient**: the script executes when the document’s DOM does not exist yet
  - *But*: see after!
- Just before the end of the document
  - More efficient than the “textbook” solution
  - Standard solution in the last years

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Loading a script</title>
    <script src="script.js"></script>
  </head>
  <body>
    ...
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Loading a script</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    ...
    <script src="script.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

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## Performance Comparison In Loading JS



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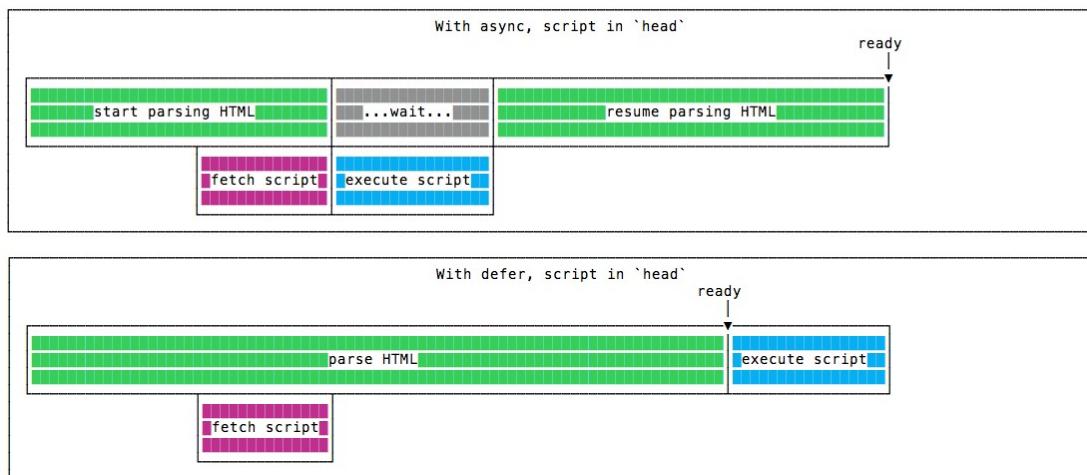
# New Loading Attributes

- `<script async src="script.js"></script>`
  - Script will be **fetched in parallel** to parsing and evaluated **as soon as it is available**
  - Not immediately executed, not blocking
- `<script defer src="script.js"></script>` (**preferred**)
  - Indicate to a browser that the script is meant to be
    - Fetched in parallel to parsing
    - Executed **after** the document has been parsed, but before firing DOMContentLoaded (that will wait until the script is finished)
  - Guaranteed to execute in the **order** they are loaded
- Both should be placed in the `<head>` of the document

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## defer vs. async



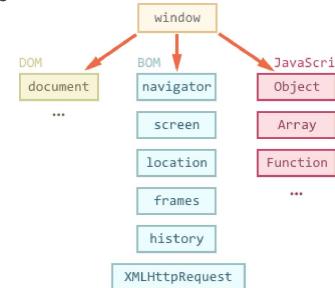
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<https://flaviocopes.com/javascript-async-defer/>

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# Where Does The Code Run?

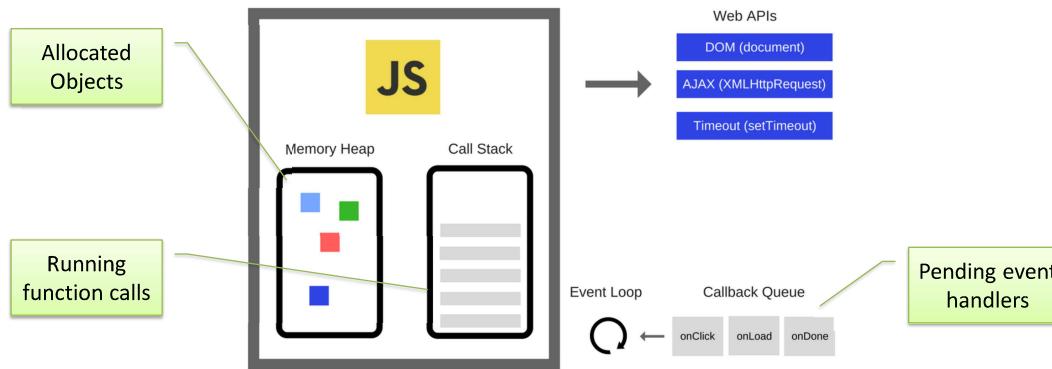
- Loaded and run in the browser *sandbox*
- Attached to a *global context*: the `window` object
- May access only a limited set of APIs
  - JS Standard Library
  - Browser objects (**BOM**)
  - Document objects (**DOM**)
- Multiple `<script>`s are independent
  - They all access the same global scope
  - To have structured collaboration, *modules* are needed



## Events and Event Loop

- Most phases of processing and interaction with a web document will generate **Asynchronous Events** (100's of different types)
- Generated events may be handled by:
  - Pre-defined behaviors (by the browser)
  - User-defined *event handlers* (in your JS)
  - Or just *ignored*, if no event handler is defined
- But JavaScript is **single-threaded**
  - Event handling is *synchronous* and is based on an *event loop*
  - Event handlers are queued on a *Message Queue*
  - The Message Queue is polled when the main thread is idle

# Execution Environment



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## Event Loop

- During code execution you may
  - Call **functions** → the function call is pushed to the **call stack**
  - Schedule **events** → the call to the event handler is put in the **Message Queue**
    - Events may be scheduled also by external events (user actions, I/O, network, timers, ...)
- At any step, the JS interpreter:
  - If the **call stack** is not empty, pop the top of the **call stack** and executes it
  - If the call stack is **empty**, pick the head of the **Message Queue** and executes it
- A function call / event handler is **never** interrupted
  - Avoid blocking code!

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/EventLoop>

<https://nodejs.org/en/docs/guides/event-loop-timers-and-nexttick/#what-is-the-event-loop>

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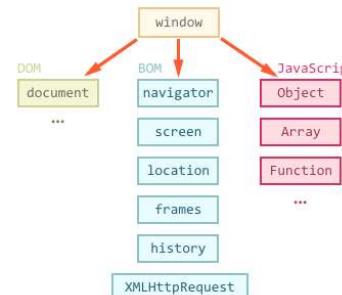
## BROWSER OBJECT MODEL

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### Browser Main Objects

- **window** represents the window that contains the DOM document
  - allows to interact with the browser via the BOM: browser object model (not standardized)
  - global object, contains all JS global variables
    - can be omitted when writing JS code in the page
- **document**
  - represents the DOM tree loaded in a window
  - accessible via a **window** property: `window.document`



<https://medium.com/@fknussej/dom-bom-revisited-cf6124e2a816>

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# Browser Object Model

- **window** properties
  - **console**: browser debug console (visible via developer tools)
  - **document**: the document object
  - **history**: allows access to History API (history of URLs)
  - **location**: allows access to Location API (current URL, protocol, etc.). Read/write property, i.e., can be set to load a new page
  - **localStorage** and **sessionStorage**: allows access to the two objects via the Web Storage API, to store (small) info locally in the browser

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Window>

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## DOCUMENT OBJECT MODEL

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# Suggested Reading

The screenshot shows a list of articles under the heading 'Understanding the DOM — Document Object Model'. The articles include:

- Understanding the DOM — Document Object Model (13 posts)
- How To Access Elements in the DOM (10 posts)
- How To Traverse the DOM (4 posts)
- How To Make Changes to the DOM (2 posts)
- How To Modify Attributes, Classes, and Styles in the DOM (1 post)
- Understanding Events in JavaScript (1 post)
- Understanding the DOM — Document Object Model eBook (1 post)

Each article has a brief description and a timestamp.

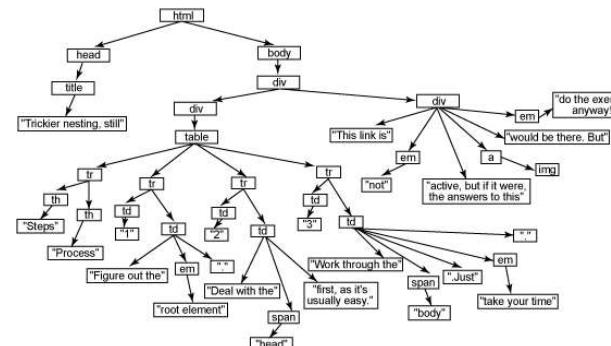
- [https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorial\\_series/understanding-the-dom-document-object-model](https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorial_series/understanding-the-dom-document-object-model)
- Complete and detailed tutorial
- Here, we will *focus* on the **core** concepts and techniques

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## DOM

- Browser's internal representation of a web page
  - Obtained through parsing HTML
- Browsers expose an API that you can use to interact with the DOM
  - Access the page metadata and headers
  - Inspect the page structure
  - Edit any node in the page
  - Change any node attribute
  - Create/delete nodes in the page
  - Edit the CSS styling and classes
  - Attach or remove *event listeners*



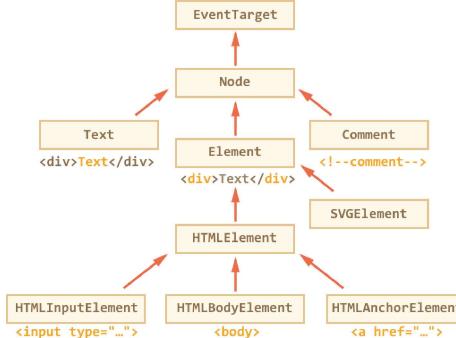
<https://flaviocopes.com/dom/>

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# Types Of Nodes (classes)

- **Document**: the document Node, the root of the tree
- **Element**: an HTML tag
- **Attr**: an attribute of a tag
- **Text**: the text content of an Element or Attr Node
- **Comment**: an HTML comment
- **DocumentType**: the Doctype declaration



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## Node Lists

- The DOM API may manipulate sets/**lists of nodes**
- The **NodeList** type is an array-like sequence of Nodes
- May be accessed as a JS Array
  - `.length` property
  - `.item(i)`, equivalent to `list[i]`
  - `.entries()`, `.keys()`, `.values()` iterators
  - `.forEach()` functional iteration
  - `for...of` classical iteration

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## DOM MANIPULATION

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### Finding DOM elements

- `document.getElementById(value)`
  - Returns the Node with the attribute id=value
- `document.getElementsByTagName(value)`
  - Returns the NodeList of all elements with the specified tag name (e.g., 'div')
- `document.getElementsByClassName(value)`
  - Returns the NodeList of all elements with attribute class=value (e.g., 'col-8')
- `document.querySelector(css)`
  - Returns the first Node element that matches the CSS selector syntax
- `document.querySelectorAll(css)`
  - Returns the NodeList of all elements that match the CSS selector syntax

<https://flaviocopes.com/dom/>

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## Note

- Node-finding methods also work on any Element node
- In that case, they only search through *descendant* elements
  - May be used to refine the search
- Example:

```
let main = document.getElementById('main');
let articletext = main.getElementsByTagName('p');
```

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## Accessing DOM Elements

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head></head>
<body>
<div id="foo"></div>
<div class="bold"></div>
<div class="bold color"></div>
<script>
document.getElementById('foo');
document.querySelector('#foo');
document.querySelectorAll('.bold');
document.querySelectorAll('.color');
document.querySelectorAll('.bold, .color');
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

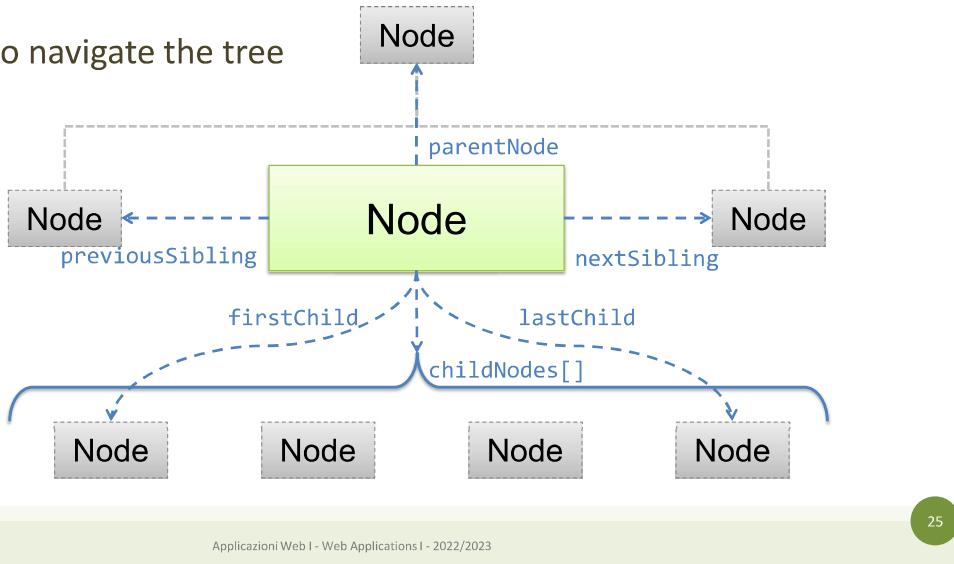
```
<div id="foo"></div>
<div id="foo"></div>
▶ NodeList(2) [div.bold, div.bold.color]
▶ NodeList [div.bold.color]
▶ NodeList(2) [div.bold, div.bold.color]
>
```

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# Navigating The Tree

- Properties to navigate the tree



## Tag Attributes Exposed As Properties

- Attributes* of the HTML elements become *object properties* of the DOM objects
- Example
  - `<body id="page">`
  - DOM object: `document.body.id="page"`
  - Also: `document["body"]["id"]`
  - `<input id="input" type="checkbox" checked />`
  - DOM object: `input.checked // boolean`

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# Handling Tag Attributes

- `elem.hasAttribute(name)`
  - check the existence of the attribute
- `elem.getAttribute(name)`
  - check the value, like `elem[name]`
- `elem.setAttribute(name, value)`
  - set the value of the attribute
- `elem.removeAttribute(name)`
  - delete the attribute
- `elem.attributes`
  - collection of all attributes
- `elem.matches(css)`
  - Check whether the element matches the CSS selector

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# Creating Elements

- Use document methods:
  - `document.createElement(tag)` to create an element with a chosen tag
  - `document.createTextNode(text)` to create a text node with the given text
- Example: div with class and content

```
let div = document.createElement('div');
div.className = "alert alert-success";
div.innerText = "Hi there! You've read an important message.";

<div class="alert alert-success">
Hi there! You've read an important message.
</div>
```

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# Inserting Elements In The DOM Tree

- If not inserted, they will not appear  
`document.body.appendChild(div)`

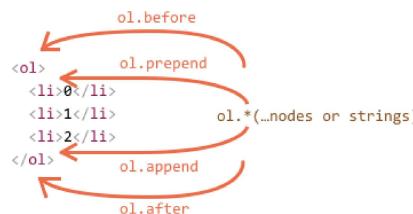
```
...
<body>
  <div class="alert alert-success">
    <strong>Hi there!</strong> You've read an important message.
  </div>
</body>
```

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## Inserting Children

- `parentElem.appendChild(node)`
- `parentElem.insertBefore(node, nextSibling)`
- `parentElem.replaceChild(node, oldChild)`
- `node.append(...nodes or strings)`
- `node.prepend(...nodes or strings)`
- `node.before(...nodes or strings)`
- `node.after(...nodes or strings)`
- `node.replaceWith(...nodes or strings)`



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## Handling Tag Content

- `.innerHTML` to get/set element content in textual form
- The browser will parse the content and convert it into DOM Nodes and Attrs

```
<div class="alert alert-success">
  <strong>Hi there!</strong> You've read an important message.
</div>
```

```
div.innerHTML // "<strong>Hi there!</strong> You've read an important message."
```

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## Inserting New Content

- `elem.innerHTML = "html fragment"`
- `elem.insertAdjacentHTML(where, HTML)`
  - where = "beforebegin" | "afterbegin" | "beforeend" | "afterend"
  - HTML = HTML fragment with the nodes to insert
- `elem.insertAdjacentText(where, text)`
- `elem.insertAdjacentElement(where, elem)`



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# Cloning Nodes

- `elem.cloneNode(true)`
  - Recursive (deep) copy of the element, including its attributes, sub-elements, ...
- `elem.cloneNode(false)`
  - Shallow copy (will not contain the children)
- Useful to “replicate” some part of the document

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# DOM Styling Elements

- Via values of **class** attribute defined in CSS
- Change class using the property **className**
  - Replaces the whole string of classes
  - *Note:* className, not class (JS reserved word)
- To add/remove a single class use **classList**
  - `elem.classList.add("col-3")` add a class
  - `elem.classList.remove("col-3")` remove a class
  - `elem.classList.toggle("col-3")` if the class exists, it removes it, otherwise it adds it
  - `elem.classList.contains("col-3")` returns true/false checking if the element contains the class

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# DOM Styling Elements

- `elem.style` contains all CSS properties
  - Example: hide element  
`elem.style.display="none"`  
(equivalent to CSS declaration `display:none`)
- `getComputedStyle(element[,pseudo])`
  - `element`: selects the element of which we want to read the value
  - `pseudo`: a pseudo element, if necessary
- For properties that use more words the `camelCase` is used  
(`backgroundColor`, `zIndex...` instead of `background-color` ...)

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Mozilla Developer Network: Event Reference  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Events>

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## EVENT HANDLING

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# Event Listeners

- JavaScript in the browser uses an *event-driven* programming model
  - Everything is triggered by the firing of an event
- **Events** are determined by
  - The **Element** generating the event (event **source target**)
  - The **type** of generated event

<https://flaviocopes.com/javascript-events/>

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## addEventListener()

- Can add as many listeners as desired, even to the same node
- Callback receives as first parameter an Event object

```
window.addEventListener('load', (event) => {
  //window loaded
})
```

```
const link = document.getElementById('my-link')
link.addEventListener('mousedown', event => {
  // mouse button pressed
  console.log(event.button) //0=left, 2=right
})
```

<https://flaviocopes.com/javascript-events/>

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# Event Object

- Main properties:
  - **target**, the DOM element that originated the event
  - **type**, the type of event

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Event/type>

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## Event Categories

- User Interface events (load, resize, scroll, etc.)
- Focus/blur events
- Mouse events (click, dblclick, mouseover, drag, ...)
- Keyboard events (keyup, etc.)
- Form events (submit, change, input)
- Mutation events (DOMContentLoaded, etc.)
- HTML5 events (invalid, loadeddata, etc.)
- CSS events (animations etc.)

Category	Type	Attributes	Description	Bubbles	Cancelable	
Mouse	click	button	Fires when the pointing device button is clicked over an element. A click is defined as a single tap or a double tap on the same acknowledgement. The button attribute specifies which mouse button was used.	Yes	Yes	
	dblclick		Fires when the pointing device double-clicks over an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mousedown		Fires when the pointing device is pressed down over an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mousemove		Fires when the pointing device is moved over an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mouseout		Fires when the pointing device is moved out of an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mouseover		Fires when the pointing device is moved onto an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mousemoveQt		Fires when the pointing device is moved over an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mouseoutQt		Fires when the pointing device is moved away from an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mouseoverQt		Fires when the pointing device is moved onto an element.	Yes	Yes	
	mousemoveQt		Fires when the pointing device is moved away from an element.	Yes	Yes	
Keyboard	keydown	keyCode, char, key	Fires on an element when a key is pressed.	Yes	Yes	
	keypress		Fires on an element when a key is pressed.	Yes	Yes	
	keyup		Fires on an element when a key is released.	Yes	Yes	
	dragstart		Fires on an element when a drag is started.	Yes	Yes	
	drag	dragging	cancelBubble, dragging, draggingDistance, draggingEvent, draggingOverElement, draggingX, draggingY	The drag event is fired on the element where the drag occurs at the end of the drag operation.	Yes	Yes
	dragend		Fires when the drag ends.	Yes	Yes	
	dragenter		Fires when the drag enters an element while a drag is occurring.	Yes	Yes	
	dragleave		Fires when the drag leaves an element while a drag is occurring.	Yes	Yes	
	dragover		Fires when the drag moves over an element while a drag is occurring.	Yes	Yes	
	drag	dragging	cancelBubble, dragging, draggingDistance, draggingEvent, draggingOverElement, draggingX, draggingY	The drag event is fired on the element where the drag occurs at the end of the drag operation.	Yes	Yes
HTML, Element	select		Fires when the user selects one or more items in a select element.	No	No	
	invalid		Fires when the user invalidates all content in a <code>form</code> to inform the target element and all of its content that it has been invalidated.	No	No	
	selected		Fires for elements. It fires when the target element of any of its content is selected.	No	No	
	invalidated		Fires when the user invalidates the respective invalidation category (e.g. <code>list-item</code> , <code>list-item-label</code> , <code>list-item-value</code> ) in a <code>list-group</code> .	Yes	No	
	error	invalid	Fires when the <code>list-item</code> or <code>list-item-label</code> cannot be loaded properly.	Yes	No	
	revert	invalid	Fires when a document view is reverted.	Yes	No	
	scroll	invalid	Fires when a scroll event is triggered.	Yes	No	
	scroll	invalid	Fires when an element or document view is scrolled.	Yes	No	
	select	invalid	Fires when a user selects some text in a text field, including input and textarea.	Yes	No	
	change	invalid	Fires when a user types into a text field and the value has been modified.	Yes	No	
User Interaction	submit	invalid	Fires when a user submits a <code>form</code> element.	Yes	Yes	
	reset	invalid	Fires when a user resets a <code>form</code> element.	Yes	Yes	
	focus	invalid	Fires when an element receives focus via the pointing device or by tabbing.	Yes	No	
	blur	invalid	Fires when an element loses focus either via the pointing device or by tabbing.	Yes	No	
	focusin	invalid	Fires on an HTML focus event, but can be applied to any focusable element.	Yes	No	
	focusout	invalid	Fires when an element loses focus via the pointing device or by tabbing.	Yes	No	
	invalid	invalid	Fires when an element receives focus via the pointing device or by tabbing.	Yes	No	
	invalidated	invalid	Fires when the user invalidates all content in a <code>form</code> .	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationAdded	invalid	Fires when a new node is added to a child of another node.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationModified	invalid	Fires when a node has been added as a child of another node.	Yes	No	
Mutation	DOMMutationRemoved	invalid	Fires when a node has been removed from a child of another node.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataModified	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been modified.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataAccumulated	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been modified.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataRemoved	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been removed.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataAccumulated	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been modified.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataModified	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been modified.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataRemoved	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been removed.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataAccumulated	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been modified.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataModified	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been modified.	Yes	No	
	DOMMutationCharacterDataRemoved	invalid	Fires when a node's character data has been removed.	Yes	No	
Progress	loadstart	progress	Progress has begun.	No	No	
	progress	progress	Progress has completed or has been interrupted.	No	No	
	error	progress	Progress failed.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadstart has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadend has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadend has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadend has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadend has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadend has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	
	load	progress	Loadend has been triggered if progress has been deposited.	No	No	

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DOM\\_events](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DOM_events)

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# Preventing Default Behavior

- Many events cause a default behavior
  - Click on link: go to URL
  - Click on submit button: form is sent
- Can be prevented by `event.preventDefault()`

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## HTML Page Lifecycle: Events

- **DOMContentLoaded** (defined on `document`)
  - The browser loaded all HTML, and `the DOM tree is ready`
  - External resources are not loaded, yet
- **load** (defined on `window`)
  - The browser finished loading all external resources
- **beforeunload/unload**
  - The user is about to leave the page / has just left the page
  - Not recommended (not totally reliable)

```
document.addEventListener("DOMContentLoaded", ready);
```

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Handling user input

## FORM CONTROLS

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### Form Declaration

- <form> tag
- Specifies URL to be used for submission (attribute **action**)
- Specifies HTTP method (attribute **method**, default GET)

```
...
<form action="/new-task" method="POST" id="userdata">
    ...normal HTML content...
    and
    ...FORM Controls...
</form>
...
```

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# Form Controls

- A set of HTML elements allowing different types of user input/interaction. Each element should be uniquely identified by the value of the name attribute
- Several control categories
  - Input
  - Selection
  - Button
- Support elements
  - Label
  - Datalist

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element#Forms>

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## Input Control

- <input> tag
- Text input example
- The value attribute will hold user-provided text

```
...
<input type="text" name="firstname" placeholder="Your username"></input>
...
```

Your firstname

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# Locating a Form In The DOM

- `document.forms` is a collection of all forms in the page  
`const myForm = document.forms['form ID']`
- Each `form` node has an `elements` properties, that collects all data-containing inner elements

```
const myElement = myForm.elements['element ID']
```

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/HTMLFormElement>

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## Input Control (1)

- `type` attribute
  - button
  - checkbox
  - color
  - date
  - email
  - file
  - hidden
  - month
  - number
  - password

Type	Description	Basic Examples	Spec
button	A push button with no default behavior displaying the value of the <code>value</code> attribute, empty by default.	<input type="button"/>	
checkbox	A check box allowing single values to be selected/deselected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
color	A control for specifying a color; opening a color picker when active in supporting browsers.	<input type="color"/>	<a href="#">HTML5</a>
date	A control for entering a date (year, month, and day, with no time). Opens a date picker or numeric wheels for year, month, day when active in supporting browsers.	<input type="date"/>	<a href="#">HTML5</a>
datetime-local	A control for entering a date and time, with no time zone. Opens a date picker or numeric wheels for date- and time-components when active in supporting browsers.	<input type="datetime-local"/>	<a href="#">HTML5</a>
email	A field for editing an email address. Looks like a <code>text</code> input, but has validation parameters and relevant keyboard in supporting browsers and devices with dynamic keyboards.	<input type="email"/>	<a href="#">HTML5</a>
file	A control that lets the user select a file. Use the <code>accept</code> attribute to define the types of files that the control can select.	<input type="file"/> Choose file   No file chosen	
hidden	A control that is not displayed but whose value is submitted to the server. There is an example in the next column, but it's hidden!		
image	A graphical <code>submit</code> button. Displays an image defined by the <code>src</code> attribute. The <code>alt</code> attribute displays if the image <code>src</code> is missing.	<input type="image"/>	
month	A control for entering a month and year, with no time zone.	<input type="month"/>	<a href="#">HTML5</a>
number	A control for entering a number. Displays a spinner and adds default validation when supported. Displays a numeric keypad in some devices with dynamic keypads.	<input type="number"/>	<a href="#">HTML5</a>
password	A single-line text field whose value is obscured. Will alert user if site is not secure.	<input type="password"/>	



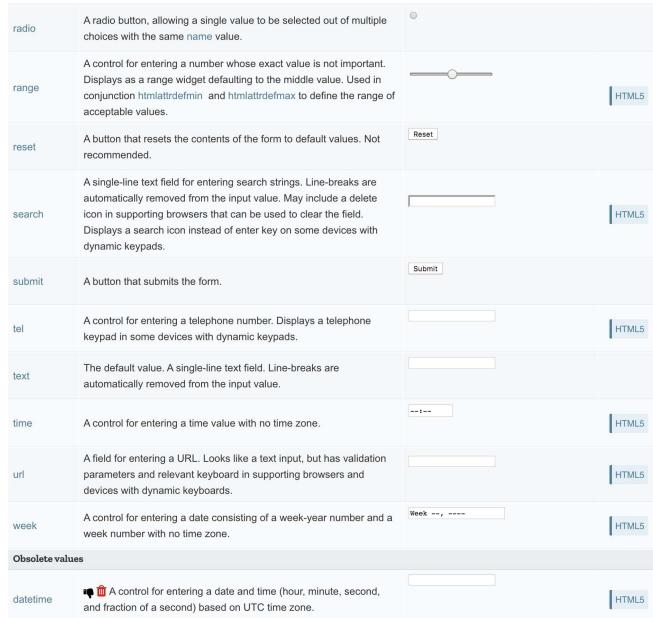
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input>

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# Input Control (2)

- **type attribute**
  - radio (button)
  - range
  - submit/reset (button)
  - search
  - tel
  - text
  - url
  - week



<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input>

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## Input Control: Commonly Used Attributes

Attribute	Meaning
checked	radio/checkbox is selected
disabled	control is disabled
readonly	value cannot be edited
required	need a valid input to allow form submission
size	the size of the control (pixels or characters)
value	the value inserted by the user
autocomplete	hint for form autofill feature of the browser

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input#Attributes>

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# Input Control: Other Attributes

- Depends on the control

```
<input type="number" name="age" placeholder="Your age" min="18" max="110" />  
<input type="text" name="username" pattern="[a-zA-Z]{8}" />  
<input type="file" name="docs" accept=".jpg, .jpeg, .png" />
```

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input#Attributes>

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## Label Tag

- The HTML `<label>` element represents a caption for an item in a user interface. Associated with `for` attribute and `id` on input
- Important for accessibility purposes (e.g. screenreader etc.), clicking the label activates the control (larger activation area e.g. in touch screens)

```
<div class="preference">  
    <label for="cheese">Do you like cheese?</label>  
    <input type="checkbox" name="cheese" id="cheese">  
</div>  
<div class="preference">  
    <label for="peas">Do you like peas?</label>  
    <input type="checkbox" name="peas" id="peas">  
</div>
```

Do you like cheese?   
Do you like peas?   
Click!

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/label>

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# Other Form Controls

<textarea>:  
a multi-line text field

| Default        | Focus          | Disabled       |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |
| I have a value | I have a value | I have a value |

[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Other\\_form\\_controls](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Other_form_controls)

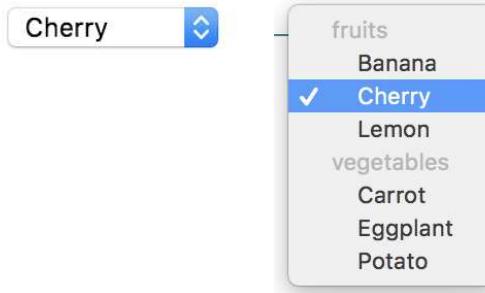
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# Other Form Controls

## Drop-down controls

```
<select id="groups" name="groups">
  <optgroup label="fruits">
    <option>Banana</option>
    <option selected>Cherry</option>
    <option>Lemon</option>
  </optgroup>
  <optgroup label="vegetables">
    <option>Carrot</option>
    <option>Eggplant</option>
    <option>Potato</option>
  </optgroup>
</select>
```



[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Other\\_form\\_controls](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Other_form_controls)

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# Button Control

- <button> tag
- Three types of buttons
  - `submit`: submits the form to the server
  - `reset`: reset the content of the form to the initial value
  - `button`: just a button, whose behavior needs to be specified by JavaScript

```
...  
<button type="submit" value="Send data" />  
...
```

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## Button vs. input type=button

More flexible, can have content (markup, images, etc.)

```
...  
<button class="favorite styled"  
       type="button">  
    Add to favorites  
</button>  
...  
<button name="favorite">  
    <svg aria-hidden="true" viewBox="0 0 10 10"><path  
d="M7 9L5 8 3 9V6L1 4h3l1-3 1 3h3L7 6z"/></svg>  
    Add to favorites  
</button>  
...
```

Add to favorites



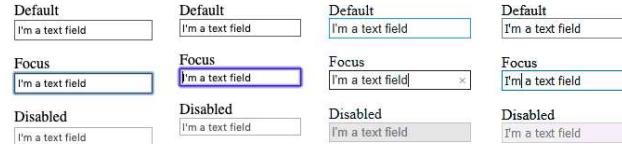
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/button>

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# Default Appearance May Vary

- Solve with CSS, but
- Some problems still remain
  - See: "Styling web forms" in MDN
  - Examples of controls difficult to manage:
    - Bad: Checkboxes, ...
    - Ugly: Color, Range, File: cannot be styled via CSS



[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Styling\\_web\\_forms](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Styling_web_forms)

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## The Road to Nicer Forms

- Useful libraries (frameworks) and polyfills
  - Especially for controls difficult to handle via CSS
  - Rely on JavaScript
- Suggestions
  - Bootstrap
  - Using libraries may improve accessibility

[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Advanced\\_form\\_styling](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Advanced_form_styling)

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Handling user input

## FORM EVENTS

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### Events On Input Elements

| Event          | Meaning   |
|----------------|---|
| input          | the value of the element is changed (even a single character)   |
| change         | when something changed in the element (for text elements, it is fired only once when the element loses focus) |
| cut copy paste | when the user does the corresponding action   |
| focus          | when the element gains focus  |
| blur           | when the element loses focus  |
| invalid        | when the form is submitted, fires for each element which is invalid, and for the form itself                  |

[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Form\\_validation](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Form_validation)

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## Example

```
...  
<form action="/add" method="POST">  
  <input type="text">  
  <input type="submit">  
</form>  
...
```

```
const inputField = document.querySelector('input[type="text"]')  
  
inputField.addEventListener('input', event => {  
  console.log(`The current entered value is: ${inputField.value}`);  
})  
  
inputField.addEventListener('change', event => {  
  console.log(`The value has changed since last time: ${inputField.value}`);  
})
```

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## Form Submission

- Can be intercepted with the `submit` event
- If required, default action can be prevented in `eventListener` with the `preventDefault()` method
  - A new page is NOT loaded, everything is handled in the JavaScript: single page application

```
document.querySelector('form').addEventListener('submit', event => {  
  event.preventDefault();  
  console.log('submit');  
})
```

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# References

- Web forms — Collecting data from users
  - <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms>
- Basic native form controls
  - [https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Basic\\_native\\_form\\_controls](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/Basic_native_form_controls)
- The HTML5 input types
  - [https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/HTML5\\_input\\_types](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Forms/HTML5_input_types)

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# References

- Web Engineering SS20 - TU Wien, prof. Jürgen Cito, <https://web-engineering-tuwien.github.io/>
- Async and defer
  - Efficiently load JavaScript with defer and async, Flavio Copes, <https://flaviocopes.com/javascript-async-defer/>
  - <https://hacks.mozilla.org/2017/09/building-the-dom-faster-speculative-parsing-async-defer-and-preload/>

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