BASIC AUTH SUMMARY

HTTP is a protocol. The good news is that it automatically provides us with a framework for authentication
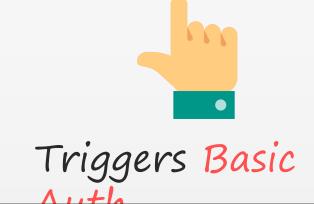
The XMLHttpRequest() object made is very easy for developers to use the Basic Auth framework

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Triggers *Basic Auth*

BASIC AUTH SUMMARY

"Basic Auth" is unique in that it requires the browser itself to request the username and password

For a long time, webpages have used Basic Authentication

Basic Auth basically means:

- the browser will send a username and password with every request

- this data is often stored or saved on the device

BASIC AUTH SUMMARY

Basic auth is enabled by default on most servers. It is simple to set up

Simplicity is good, but Basic auth has problems:

- The password is sent over the wire in base64 encoding (which can be easily converted to plain text)
- The password is sent repeatedly, for every request (this means the period of attack is longer)
- The password is cached by the web browser (not private)

BASIC AUTH SUMMARY

This course is about AJAX, and many developers don't understand why the original XHR object had the [username, password] arguments

The purpose of this entire section was to show you how you can use the original XHR object to easily use Basic Authentication

Important: you don't have to use Basic Auth with AJAX. You can set your own headers, and instead use modern authentication techniques (such as tokens)