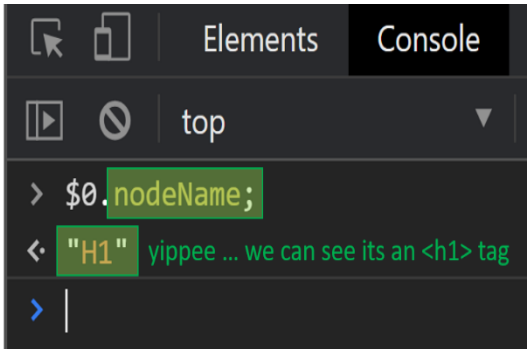
nodeName vs tagName

First things first, what is `nodeName`?

With `nodeName`, you can view the name of an element or tag you're dealing with. You can just console log the `nodeName`.
Like this for example:

Lets use nodeName to find the name of the element

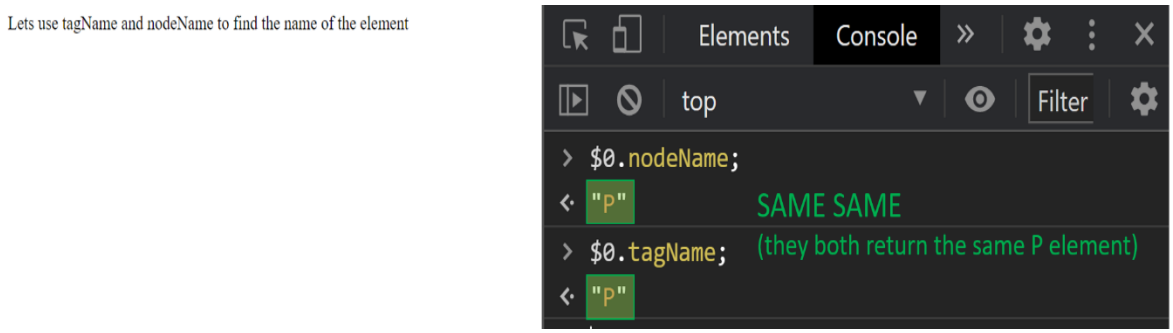


Although there are only a distinct number of node **TYPES** (remember, we covered this in a previous lecture. There are text nodes, comment nodes, element nodes, etc), the node **NAMES** will tell you what element or tag node you're dealing with. This means that for a `<p>` element, the `nodeName` property will return "P". And for a `<div>` element, the returned `nodeName` properly will be "DIV" and so on.
The `nodeName` is a read-only property of DOM nodes. The returned value is always a CAPITAL string that represents the element type.
As a side note, the `nodeName` value gives you absolutely no other information (for example you can't find out any attributes), so its limited in use I guess.

Hold onto your horses, isn't this the same thing as the `tagName` property?

Kind of.

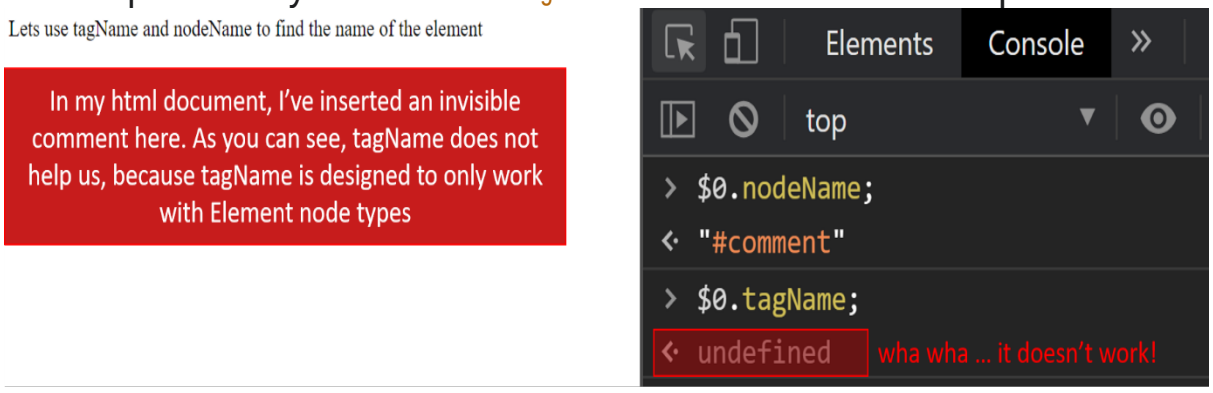
Another property you can access which will give you the same answer is `tagName`. And similarly to `nodeName` , `tagName` will return the result in CAPITAL letters.
So they look the same, as follows:



So Clyde, does this mean `nodeName` and `tagName` are the same thing?

No. They are different.

The `tagName` property is meant specifically for *element nodes* (remember a few lectures ago, these are TYPE 1 nodes) to get the type of *element*. But as you already know, there are numerous other TYPES of nodes (such as comment nodes, text nodes, etc). To get the name of those nodes you can't use `tagName`.
Here is proof that you can't use `tagName` on a comment for example:



So then, when dealing with Elements, which should you use - `nodeName` or `tagName`?
Good question my dear student 😉

It doesn't really matter I guess. As we've just seen, when using `nodeName` against an *element node*, you'll get its tag name, so either could be used.
However, if a gun were pointed at my head and I had to choose one over the other, I would probably go with `nodeName` . This will likely give us better consistency across browsers.
Lets march on. I hope you found this useful.