**tagName property - why all CAPS?**

You may have wondered why we had to use uppercase when referencing our tag name, like this:

Diagram

Description automatically generated

It is confusing because normally you don’t need to use caps.

If we want to target a simple div tag for example like this:

Text

Description automatically generated

Its pretty easy, we could just write simple code with lowercase letters:

Text

Description automatically generated

Cutting to the chase

The reason for the difference is HOW we are accessing our tag names.

1. In the first instance, we are accessing a DOM property called tagName. We access this tagName from the target element that fired the event. Importantly, it is a property on an element and its given to us by the DOM.
2. In the second example, we accessed the DOM getElementsByTagName() method, which does not require uppercase tag names.

**Bottom line:**tagName and getElementsByTagName() are 2 completely different properties / methods. The HTML DOM ALWAYS returns the tagName of an HTML element in uppercase form, regardless of the case in the source HTML document. The convention of uppercase tag names probably stems from legacy, when HTML was previously developed based on SGML, and element types were declared in uppercase.