**Is order important?**

Is the order of methods important?

There can be a lot of confusion because in one of the earlier lectures I mentioned a 3 step approach to creating and dealing with an AJAX request.

Do you remember, it was a 3 step process:

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

The starting point is to understand that the JavaScript parser works by reading all your scripts from the TOP to the BOTTOM.

Therefore the first step is for us to define the xhr variable, otherwise the parser will not understand xhr.open() and xhr.send() for example. How will it access the open() and send() method on a variable that we have not yet defined?

Now, you may be wondering where do we have to place the send() vs open() methods. It is important to first call the open() method before send(). Remember, the open() method initializes the request, so until open() has been called, the request is not fully initialized and the other methods are not guaranteed to work correctly. **Therefore, always open your request before sending it.**

There are many ways to skin a cat

There are many ways to do things in programming, and often there is not only ONE rule to follow. This means there is some leeway we have in writing our code. My personal preference is to open the request as soon as possible, but there is never ONE rule to follow.

So in conclusion, the general order of writing an AJAX request as stated above is a good rule to follow. But you may want to mix and match some methods where you can get away with it.

Hope this makes sense.

And finally, what is my expression “**pa fell off the bus**”

This is a South African saying. “Pa” means “father” in Afrikaans … the expression means that something has been around for a very long time. I'm not too sure where the saying comes from. Hence in the context of the lecture, I was saying that the onreadystatechange has been around since ‘pa fell of the bus’.

Just thought I would clarify that one 😉

See you in the lectures.