Module 06 Activity – Research Push Notifications API

Patrick A Brunner

Rasmussen College

For the module 6 activity, we will be reviewing the Notifications API in some detail. While looking at the Notifications API here we will be covering requesting permissions, creating notifications, closing notifications and notification events as well as browser compatibility.

To begin the review, we must first define what a push notification is. According to the article The Notification API Guide located at <https://flaviocopes.com/notifications-api/>, “The Notifications API is the interface that browsers expose to the developer to allow showing messages to the user, with their permission, even if the web site / web app is not open in the browser.” (The Notification, 2018). To show these notifications to the user there is need to have permission to do so. This leads us into our key components for this paper. They are as follows:

* Requesting permissions – As previously stated, to use the Notification there must first be user permission. To request this permission, the “Notification.requestPermission()” method is used. Using this method will show a permission granting panel unless permission was previously granted. To allow user interaction with a permission request you would attach a processing function to the permission that can allow the user to either grant or deny the permission.
* Creating Notifications – “The Notification object exposed by the windows object in the browser allows you to create a notification and customize its appearance.” Once you have created a basic notification you have choice that include adding a body and adding an image
* Closing Notifications and notification events – Once a notification is open it will probably be closed. Th complete this, you first create a reference to the created notification, for example “const n = new Notification (‘Hello World’)” and then close it later using “n.close ()” or with a time out like “setTimeout (n.close (), 1 \* 1000)”.
* Browser Compatibility – Many sites already make use of notifications, however it is always a good idea to check and see if a browser accepts notifications. According to Rajan Tiwari in the article Why and How to Implement Web Notification API found at <https://hackernoon.com/why-and-how-to-implement-web-notification-api-4eb795c5b05d>, we are able to test browsers using

“if (‘Notification’ in window) {  
 alert(“Congrats you are using a modern browser and it supports Notification”);  
}”

A mentioned earlier several sites like Facebook, Twitter, Flowdock and Stack are making use of notifications for their site and can be very useful.

References

The Notification. (2018).The Notification API Guide. Retrieved from https://flaviocopes.com/notifications-api/.

Tiwari, R. (2017). Why and How to Implement Web Notification API. Retrieved from https://hackernoon.com/why-and-how-to-implement-web-notification-api-4eb795c5b05d.