

3 JavaScript Libraries to Keep an Eye on in 2017

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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN IN 2017?

Hey everyone, welcome to a brand new year on SitePoint JavaScript. I hope you had a great break (for those of you that took one) and are ready to start off 2017 with a bang.

2016 was a crazy year for JavaScript! We saw an ever increasing adoption of ES6 and the rise of progressive web apps. Also, Yarn emerged as a competitor to npm and JavaScript fatigue became a thing. In case you missed any of this, or you'd simply like to reminisce on the year just passed, we've got you covered. Craig Buckler looks at these events and more in his post [JavaScript: 2016 in Review](#). It's well worth a read.

Looking forward to 2017 I wonder two things. Will this year be as crazy as the last? And where should I focus my learning efforts in the coming 365 days? The answer to the first question is “almost definitely”, but the answer to the second is somewhat more complicated. Knowing what to learn depends rather a lot on your situation, for example are you looking for a new job? Do you want to become more productive in your current one? Or do you want to check out a couple of new technologies to get a feel for how they stack up against those you already know?

If you're in that last group, we've got you covered there, too. Tim Severien started 2017 by taking a look at [three libraries that are worth keeping an eye on in this coming year](#). I'd encourage you to give that post a read and let Tim know if you agree with his choices (spoiler: one of them is Vue.js).

As for me, I decided that one of my goals for 2017 would be to cut back on my use of jQuery. This isn't because I've suddenly jumped on the anti-jQuery bandwagon. I haven't. Rather because jQuery was so awesome when it first came on the scene, that today I often use it without thinking. I don't stop and consider what browsers can do natively.

And actually, this jQuery diet is working out quite well. For example, I recently needed to select an element's closest parent element, which was an anchor tag. In jQuery that'd be no problem, you'd do `$el.closest("a")` but in vanilla JS I was unsure. So I hit [youmightnotneedjquery.com](#), entered “closest” as the search term and got back zero results. Hmm ... not ideal.

I had a go at putting together my own solution and came up with this:

```
while (el.parentNode.tagName !== 'A') {  
  el = el.parentNode;  
}
```

Which worked, but was kinda ugly. I then googled a bit and found that both Firefox and Chrome implement [element.closest\(\)](#) natively. This was all I needed. Job done!

Obviously, replacing jQuery with experimental browser features isn't an option all the time. If you're worried about compatibility for older browsers, then using it is a no-brainer. And spending minutes googling what would have taken seconds in jQuery isn't exactly productive. But even today, websites download many KB of JavaScript, to do what has been part of the standard DOM for years. Incorporating this change into the way I work will force me to become more familiar with what modern browsers are capable of — a worthy goal for 2017.

But what about you? Where will you be concentrating your energies for the next 365 days? Do you intend to learn a new framework (if so which one)? Will you be giving Node a try? Or maybe your goal is to attend a meetup or contribute to open source.

Whatever it is (or isn't), [I'd love to hear about it](#).



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THIS WEEK'S TOP LINKS

[3 JavaScript Libraries to Keep an Eye on in 2017](#)

Did you suffer JavaScript overload in 2016? Tim Severien suggests two frameworks and a library that, in his opinion, you should be watching this year.

[Host, Publish and Manage Private npm Packages with Verdaccio](#)

Want to manage your own modules with npm, without making them public? Vildan Softic shows how to host private npm packages to use within your organisation.

[Angular 2 Tutorial: Create a CRUD App with Angular CLI](#)

In this Angular 2 tutorial, Todd Motto and Jurgen Van de Moere build a todo list CRUD app, using Angular CLI to generate components, services, and tests.

[Research Note:](#)

Avoid Failure by Developing a Toolchain That Enables DevOps [\[Sponsored\]](#)

[JavaScript: 2016 in Review](#)

Craig Buckler reviews the winners and losers, innovations and trends, challenges and discussion points of JavaScript in 2016.

[Build a React.js Application with User Login and Authentication](#)

Learn how to use Stormpath to build a React.js application with user authentication.

[5 jQuery Print Page Options](#)

Did you ever wonder how possible is to use jQuery to create a page button? Check out our 10 jQuery-made “print page” button/option tutorials.

[Universal React Rendering: How We Rebuilt SitePoint](#)

Brad Denver explains how [sitepoint.com](#) does universal react rendering by using a Node.js proxy to pre-render components in content coming from WordPress.

[Managing State in Angular 2 Apps with ngrx/store](#)

Pietro Grandi looks at the problems caused by shared mutable state, and how to

avoid them with a one-way data flow like Redux with the `ngrx/store` library.

[Front-end Tools: My Favorite Finds of 2016](#)

Here is a look at Louis Lazaris' favorite front-end tools of 2016!

[Setting Up an Angular SPA on Rails with Devise and Bootstrap](#)

Jesse Novotny provides a walkthrough for setting up an Angular single page app on Rails with Devise and Bootstrap.

NEW! SITEPOINT THEMES

[Download our new SitePoint Base Theme for WordPress](#)

Minimal. Clean. Simple. Lightweight. Responsive. We built the theme our developers love to use. It's 100% FREE. Open Source GPL 2.0. Check it out!

FROM AROUND THE WEB

[This Week in JavaScript \[FORUM\]](#)

A lovingly curated collection of links relating to what's new and exciting in the world of JS.

[Re-implementing ECMAScript 2015's `String.prototype.repeat\(\)` method](#)

Aurelio De Rosa discusses how to efficiently re-implement ECMAScript 2015's

`String.prototype.repeat()` by using appropriate algorithms and data structures.

[Hire With Confidence](#)

Let Toptal help you navigate your hiring process by connecting you with elite, senior-level developers. Get started today. [Sponsored]

[Clean Code, adapted for JavaScript](#)

A guide to producing readable, reusable, and refactorable software in JavaScript. Adapted from Robert C. Martin's book Clean Code.

[Angular Debugging Tips and Tricks](#)

Helpful tips and tricks to debug Angular 2 apps using Augury, TypeScript and HTML templates.

[Authoring and Publishing Javascript Modules with Flow](#)

Jack Franklin demonstrates how to integrate Flow (a static type checker for JavaScript) with a Babel workflow.

[Master the JavaScript Interview: What is Functional Programming?](#)

One of a series of posts by Eric Elliott, designed to prepare candidates for common questions they are likely to encounter when applying for a mid to senior-level JavaScript position.

[Node.js Interview Questions and Answers \(2017 Edition\)](#)

A list of Node-related questions for interviewers to ask, and that candidates should know the answer to.

[Beautiful APIs in Node](#)

Azat Mardan explains how to build a REST API in Node (using Express) that is easy for others to work with and to maintain.

[Thinking Statefully](#)

How to adjust your mental model in order to work effectively with React by developing 'stateful' or 'declarative' thinking.

[Is JavaScript Still Dead?](#)

TLDR; Yes. But its successor is still called JavaScript, except when it isn't.

[React Interview Questions](#)

Things you may or may not need to know in React but you may find helpful none the less.

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