



FOR PEOPLE WHO
MAKE WEBSITES

So You Wanna be a DOM Star

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Familiarity > Memorization

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- ♦ Many resources on the web to get syntax
- ♦ Understand the concepts first... the syntax will follow
- ♦ Don't jump on the library bandwagon too soon

Read, read, read, and when you're done reading...

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- ♦ Read the documentation *and* the source
- ♦ Read the blogs of luminaries in the field
- ♦ Read articles on *ALA*, *DW* & *Vitamin*
- ♦ Read the source of your favorite websites

Ask questions

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- ♦ Most developers love to talk about their work, ask them about the decisions they made
- ♦ Ask for help
- ♦ Ask for a critique

Develop a methodology

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- ♦ Consider “scripting” your script before you write a single line of code
- ♦ Write an outline in code comments to help keep you on track
- ♦ Break difficult tasks into simpler steps
- ♦ Write pseudo-code and then write the real thing

Experiment

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- ♦ Try new things and see if they work
- ♦ Discover how methods interact
- ♦ Build discrete test cases
- ♦ Find someone to challenge you

Fall on your face

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- ♦ Don't be afraid of failing
- ♦ Learn from your mistakes
- ♦ Look for ways to circumvent browser deficiencies

Take notes

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- ♦ Comment
- ♦ Comment
- ♦ Comment
- ♦ Comment
- ♦ Comment
- ♦ Comment

Get to know your tools

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- ♦ Firefox is a DOM scripter's best friend
 - ♦ JavaScript Console
 - ♦ DOM Inspector
 - ♦ Web Developer Toolbar
 - ♦ Firebug
- ♦ Consider using a tracing script to watch your script in action
 - ♦ jsTrace
 - ♦ jsTracer

Think beyond *your* application

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- ♦ Keep your scripts markup agnostic whenever possible
- ♦ Look for ways to improve script flexibility

Keep your scripts *unobtrusive*

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- ♦ Drop the inline event handlers
- ♦ Work the DOM
- ♦ `class-ify` and `id-entify`
- ♦ Pay attention to your markup

Follow the Golden Rule

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“ *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.* ”

- ◆ Graceful Degradation & Progressive Enhancement
- ◆ What happens when JavaScript is turned off?
- ◆ What happens when methods you use aren't available?
- ◆ Consider the experience sans JavaScript *first*
- ◆ Constantly test your scripts
- ◆ Don't force errors on your users

Learn “appropriateness”

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- ◆ Does your page *really* need to autoscroll?
- ◆ Is your use of Ajax really a usability enhancement or simply showing off?
- ◆ Is it for you or them?

Get familiar with OOP

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- ♦ Object Notation
- ♦ Object Literals/Singletons vs. classes
- ♦ Methods & properties

Iterate your scripts

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- ♦ Refactor
- ♦ Test alternate routes to the same result
- ♦ Check times

Release your work into the wild

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- ♦ Solicit feedback
- ♦ Encourage participation
- ♦ Create an API

Share your knowledge with others

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