Fundamentals of Web Development

Third Edition by Randy Connolly and Ricardo Hoar



Chapter 9

JavaScript 2:

Using JavaScript

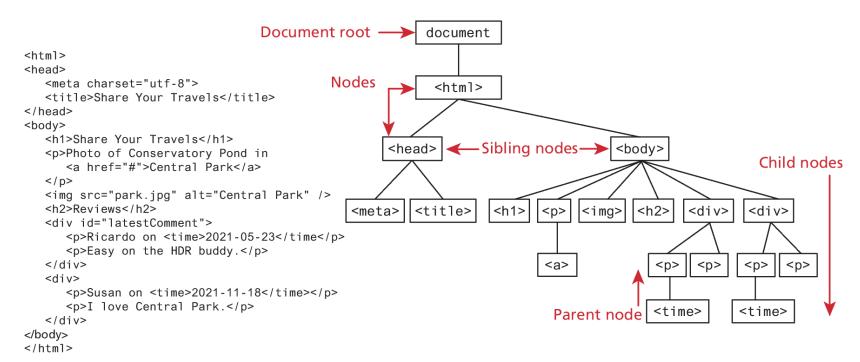


In this chapter you will learn . . .

- What is Document Object Model (DOM)
- How to use the DOM to dynamically manipulate the contents of a web page
- How to use the DOM and event handling to validate user input in a form
- What are regular expressions and how to use them in JavaScript.



The Document Object Model (DOM)



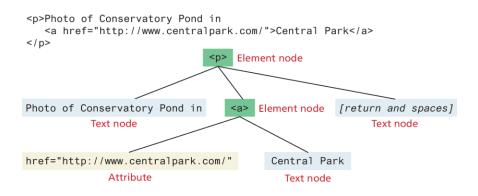


DOM Nodes and NodeLists

In the DOM, each element within the HTML document is called a **node**.

The DOM also defines a specialized object called a **NodeList** that represents a collection of nodes. It operates very similarly to an array.

Many programming tasks that we typically perform in JavaScript involve finding one or more nodes and then modifying them.





Some Essential Node Object Properties

- childNodes A NodeList of child nodes for this node
- firstChild First child node of this node
- lastChild Last child of this node
- nextSibling Next sibling node for this node
- nodeName Name of the node

- nodeType Type of the node
- nodeValue Value of the node
- parentNode Parent node for this node
- previousSibling Previous sibling node for this node
- textContent Represents the text content (stripped of any tags) of the node



Document Object

The **DOM document object** is the root JavaScript object representing the entire HTML document. It is globally accessible via the **document** object reference.

The properties of a document cover information about the page. Some are read-only, but others are modifiable. Like any JavaScript object, you can access its properties using either dot notation or square bracket notation

```
// retrieve the URL of the current page
let a = document.URL;
// retrieve the page encoding, for example ISO-8859-1
let b = document["inputEncoding"];
```



Document Methods

In addition to these properties, there are several essential methods you will use all the time (We used **document.write(**) last chapter). These methods fall into three categories

- Selection methods
- Family manipulation methods
- Event methods



Selection Methods

The most important DOM methods

They allow you to select one or more document elements. The oldest 3 are: **getElementById(**"*id*"), **getElementsByClassName(**"*name*") and **getElementsByTagName(**"*name*")



Query Selection Methods

The newer
querySelector() and
querySelectorAll()
methods allow you to
query for DOM elements
much the same way you
specify CSS styles

```
querySelectorAll("nav ul a:link")
                        <body>
                                                       querySelectorAll("#main div time"
                           <nav>
                               <a href="#">Canada</a>
                              <a href="#">Germany</a>
                              <a href="#">United States</a>
                             </nav>
                           <div id="main">
                             Comments as of
                             <time>November 15. 2012</time>
quervSelector("#main>time"
                             <div>
                                September 15, 2012</time>
                                Easy on the HDR buddy.
                             </div>
                             <div>
                                Susan on <time>October 1. 2012</time>
                                I love Central Park.
                             </div>
                          </div>
                          <footer>
                             <u1>
                                <| i><a href="#">Home</a> | 
querySelector("footer"
                                <a href="#">Browse</a> | 
                             </footer>
                        </body>
```



Element Node Object

Element Node object represents an HTML element in the hierarchy, contained between the opening <> and closing </>>.

An element can itself contain more elements

Every element node has the node properties shown in Table 9.1 (slide 5)

It also has a variety of additional properties, the most important of which are shown in Table 9.3 (next slide)



Some Essential Element Node Properties

- classList A read-only list of CSS classes assigned to this element. This list has a variety of helper methods for manipulating this list.
- className The current value for the class attribute of this HTML element.
- id The current value for the id of this element.
- innerHTML Represents all the content (text and tags) of the element.
- **style** The style attribute of an element. This returns a CSSStyleDeclaration object that contains sub-properties that correspond to the various CSS properties.
- tagName The tag name for the element.



Extra Properties for Certain Tag Types

Property	Description	Tags
href	Used in <a> tags to specify the linking URL.	а
name	Used to identify a tag. Unlike id which is available to all tags, name is limited to certain form-related tags.	a, input, textarea, form
src	Links to an external URL that should be loaded into the page (as opposed to href which is a link to follow when clicked).	img, input, iframe, script
value	Provides access to the value attribute of input tags. Typically used to access the user's input into a form field.	input, textarea, submit

TABLE 9.4 Some Specific HTML DOM Element Properties for Certain Tag Types



Accessing elements and their properties

```
hello <span>there</span>
ul>
                                                          const items = document.getElementsByTagName("li");
  France
                                                          for (let i=0; i<items.length; i++) {
  Spain
                                                             // outputs: France, then Spain, then Thailand
  Thailand
                                                             console.log(items[i].textContent);
<div id="main">
  <a href="somewhere.html">
                                                          const link = document.querySelector("#main a");
     <img src="whatever.gif" class="thumb">
  </a>
                                                          console.log(link.href); // outputs: somewhere.html
</div>
                                                          const img = document.querySelector("#main img");
                                                          console.log(img.src); // outputs: whatever.gif
<script>
const node = document.getElementById("here");
                                                          console.log(img.className); // outputs: thumb
console.log(node.innerHTML); // hello <span>there</span>
console.log(node.textContent); //"hello there"
                                                          </script>
```

LISTING 9.1 Accessing elements and their properties



Modifying the DOM

Now that you can access some of the node and element properties you might be wondering how one can make use of some of these properties. Since most of the properties listed in the previous tables are all read and write, this means that they can be programmatically changed.

- Changing an Element's Style
- Changing the content of any given element
- DOM Manipulation Methods



Changing an Element's Style

To programmatically modify the styles associated with a particular element one must change the properties of the style property for that element

For instance, to change an element's background color and add a three pixel border, we could use the following code:

```
const node = document.getElementById("someId");
node.style.backgroundColor = "#FFFF00";
node.style.borderWidth = "3px";
```



How CSS styles can be programmatically manipulated in JavaScript

While you can directly change CSS style elements via this **style** property, it is generally preferable to change the appearance of an element instead using the **className** or **classList** properties

```
var node = document.guerySelector("main div");
                                                                                       Equivalent to:
node.className = "yellowish"
                                                                                       <div class="yellowish">
                                    This replaces the existing class specification with
                                    this one. Thus the <div> no longer has the box class
node.classList.remove("yellowish");
                                                                                       <div class="">
                                            Removes the specified class specification
node.classList.add("box");
                                                                                       <div class="box">
                                           and adds the box class
                                                                                       <div class="box yellowish">
node.classList.add("yellowish")
                                        Adds a new class to the existing class
                                        specification
node.classList.toggle("hide");
                                                                                       <div class="box yellowish hide">
                                      If it isn't in the class specification, then add it
node.classList.toggle("hide");
                                                                                      <div class="box yellowish">
                                      If it is in the class specification, then remove it
```



InnerHTML vs textContent vs DOM Manipulation

Listing 9.1 (slide 13) illustrated how you can programmatically access the content of an element node through its innerHTML or textContent property. These properties can also be used to modify the content of any given element.

For instance, you could change the content of the <div> in Listing 9.1 using the following:

```
const div = document.querySelector("#main");
div.innerHTML = '<a href="#"><img src="ab.gif"></a>';
```

This replaces the existing content with the new content.



InnerHTML vs textContent vs DOM Manipulation (ii)

Using **innerHTML** is generally discouraged (even though you will likely see many examples online that use these approaches) because they are potentially vulnerable to Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks

In practice, when you need to change the inner text of an element, it is preferable to use the **textContent** property instead of **innerHTML** since any markup is stripped from it.

In addition, when you need to generate HTML elements, it is better to use the appropriate DOM manipulation methods covered in the next section



DOM family relations

Each node in the DOM has a variety of "family relations" properties and methods for navigating between elements and for adding or removing elements from the document hierarchy.

Child and sibling properties can be an unreliable mechanism for selecting nodes and thus, in general, you will instead use selector methods

```
childNodes

c
```



DOM Manipulation Methods

- appendChild Adds a new child node to the end of the current node.
- createAttribute Creates a new attribute node.
- createElement Creates an HTML element node.
- createTextNode Creates a text node.
- insertAdjacentElement Inserts a new child node at one of four positions relative to the current node.
- insertAdjacentText Inserts a new text node at one of four positions relative to the current node.
- insertBefore Inserts a new child node before a reference node in the current node.
- removeChild Removes a child from the current node.
- replaceChild Replaces a child node with a different child.



Visualizing the DOM modification

Visualizing the DOM elements

1 Create a new text node

```
"this is dynamic"
```

const text = document.createTextNode("this is dynamic");

Create a new empty element
const p = document.createElement("p");



Visualizing the DOM modification (ii)

3 Add the text node to new element
p.appendChild(text);

```
"this is dynamic"
```

4 Add the element to the <div>

```
const first = document.getElementById("first");
first.appendChild(p);
```



DOM Timing

Before finishing this section on using the DOM, it should be emphasized that the timing of any DOM code is very important.

You cannot access or modify the DOM until it has been loaded.

If the DOM programming is written *after* the markup as in Listing 9.2 that *should* ensure that the elements exist in the DOM before the code executes.

To wait until we know for sure that the DOM has been loaded requires knowledge from our next section on **event handling**.



JavaScript Event Handling





Implementing an Event Handler

An event handler is first defined, then registered to an element node object.

Registering an event handler requires passing a callback function to the addEventListener()



Listening with an anonymous function

It is much more common to make use of an *anonymous function* passed to **addEventListener**()

```
const btn = document.getElementById("btn");
  btn.addEventListener("click", function () {
    alert("used an anonymous function");
});

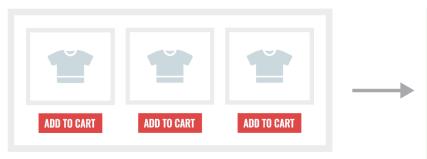
document.querySelector("#btn").addEventListener("click", function () {
    alert("a different approach but same result");
});

document.querySelector("#btn").addEventListener("click", () => {
    alert("arrow syntax but same result");
});
```

LISTING 9.3 Listening to an event with an anonymous function, three versions



Event handling with NodeList arrays



```
// select all the buttons
const btns = document.querySelectorAll("#list button");

// this won't work and will generate error
btns.addEventListener("click", function () { ... });

// instead must loop through node list ...
for (let bt of btns) {
    // ...and assign event listener to each node
    bt.addEventListener("click", function () { ... });
}
```

```
<img src="a.png" ... >
<button>Add To Cart</button>
<iing src="b.png" ... >
<button>Add To Cart</button>
<iing src="c.png" ... >
<button>Add To Cart</button>
```

Remember that a node list (i.e., array of nodes) doesn't support event listeners. Only individual node objects have the addEventListener() method defined.



Page Loading and the DOM

To ensure your DOM manipulation code *after* the page is loaded use one of the following two different page load events.

- window.load Fires when the entire page is loaded. This includes images and stylesheets, so on a slow connection or a page with a lot of images, the load event can take a long time to fire.
- document.DOMContentLoaded Fires when the HTML document has been completely downloaded and parsed. Generally, this is the event you want to use.

Using one of these, your DOM coding can now appear anywhere, including within the <head> element, which is the conventional place to add in your JavaScript code.



Wrapping DOM code within a DOMContentLoaded event handler

```
document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', function() {
 const menu = document.querySelectorAll("#menu li");
 for (let item of menu) {
   item.addEventListener("click", function () {
     item.classList.toggle('shadow');
   });
 const heading = document.querySelector("h3");
 heading.addEventListener('click', function() {
   heading.classList.toggle('shadow');
 });
```

LISTING 9.4 Wrapping DOM code within a DOMContentLoaded event handler



Event Object

- When an event is triggered, the browser will construct an **event object** that contains information about the event.
- Your event handlers can access this event object simply by including it as an argument to the callback function (by convention, this event object parameter is often named e)



Event Object Example

```
Home
                            <1i>Home</1i>
    About
                            About
    Products
                            Products
                            Contact
    Contact
                          const menu = document.guerySelectorAll("#menu li");
for (let item of menu) {
 item.addEventListener("click", menuHandler );
                            By receiving the event object as a parameter and using it to reference
function menuHandler(e) {
                            the clicked item, the menuHandler() function will work no matter
    const x = e.clientX;
                            where it is located.
    const y = e.clientY;
                                 -Click events include the on-screen pixel location of the mouse cursor.
    displayArrow(x,y);
    e.target.classList.toggle("selected");
    performMenuAction(e.target.innerHTML);
            The e.target object in this case is referencing the clicked <1 i> item.
```



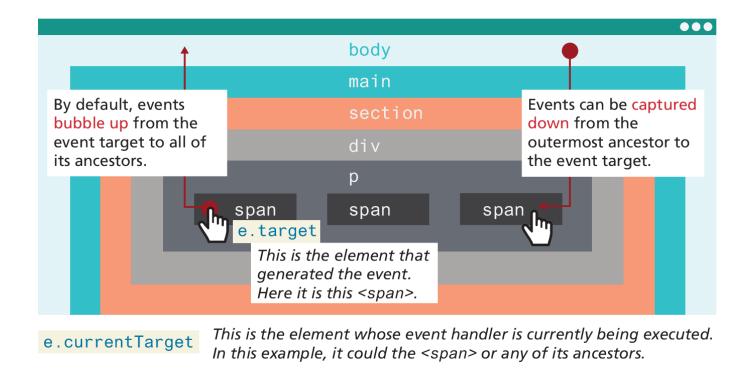
Event Propagation

When an event fires on an element that has ancestor elements, the event propagates to those ancestors. There are two distinct phases of propagation:

- In the event capturing phase, the browser checks the outermost ancestor (the <html> element) to see if that element has an event handler registered for the triggered event, and if so, it is executed. It then proceeds to the next ancestor and performs the same steps; this continues until it reaches the element that triggered the event (that is, the event target).
- In the event bubbling phase, the opposite occurs. The browser checks if the element that triggered the event has an event handler registered for that event, and if so, it is executed.



Event capture and bubbling



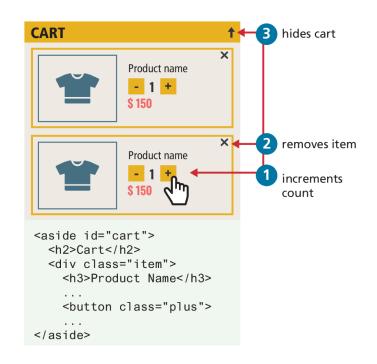


Problems with event propagation

Occasionally, the bubbling of events can cause problems. For instance consider elements nested within one another, each with its own onclick behaviors.

When the user clicks on the increment count button, the click handler for the increment
button> will trigger first. Unfortunately, it will then trigger the click event for the <div>, and the <aside> element!

Thankfully, there is a solution to such problems. The stopPropagation() method of the event argument object will stop event propagation.





Stopping event propagation

```
const btns = document.querySelectorAll(".plus");
for (let b of btns) {
                                                        const aside = document.guerySelector("aside#cart");
  b.addEventListener("click", function (e) {
                                                        aside.addEventListener("click", function () {
   e.stopPropagation();
                                                            minimizeCart();
    incrementCount(e);
 });
const items = document.querySelectorAll(".item");
for (let it of items) {
  it.addEventListener("click", function (e) {
   e.stopPropagation();
    removeItemFromCart(e);
 });
```

LISTING 9.5 Stopping event propagation



Event Delegation

To avoid creating duplicate event handlers for each element within a **NodeList**, an alternative is to use **event delegation** where we assign a single listener to the parent and make use of event bubbling

Suppose we have numerous image thumbnails within a parent element, similar to the following:

```
<body>
<header>...</header>
<main>
<section id="list">
<h2>Section Title</h2>
<img ... />
<img ... />
</section>
</main>
</body>
```



Event Delegation (ii)

Now what if you wanted to do something special when the user clicks the mouse on an

You would probably write something like the following:

Notice that this solution adds an event listener to every element.

```
const images = document.querySelectorAll("#list img");
for (let img of images) {
         img.addEventListener("click", someHandler);
}
```



Event Delegation (iii)

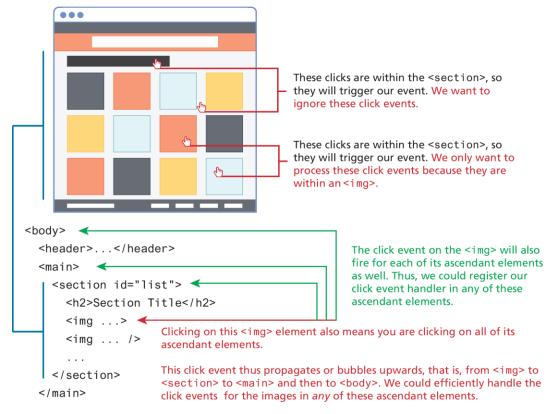
Instead, we can add a single listener to the parent element, as shown in the following code

Since the user can click on all elements within the <section> element (as can be seen in Figure 9.15), the click event handler needs to determine if the user has clicked on one of the elements within it.

```
const parent = document.querySelector("#list");
  parent.addEventListener("click", function (e) {
    // e.target is the object that generated the event.
    // to verify that e.target exists and that it is one of the
    // <img> elements. Note: NodeName always returns
    //upper case
    if (e.target && e.target.nodeName == "IMG") {
        doSomething(e.target);
    }
});
```



Event Delegation (iv)





Using the Dataset Property

- One of the more challenging aspects of writing JavaScript involves differences in timing between what variables are available to a function handler when it is being defined and what variables are available to that same function when it is being executed.
- The solution is to make use of the dataset property of the DOM element, which provides read/write access to custom data attributes (data-*) set on the element. For instance, you can make use of these via markup or via JavaScript. In markup, it can be added to any element as shown in the following:



Event Types

There are many different types of events that can be triggered in the browser. Perhaps the most obvious event is the click event, but JavaScript and the DOM support several others.

In actuality, there are several classes of event, with several types of events within each class specified by the W3C. Some of the most commonly used **event types** are:

- mouse events,
- keyboard events,
- touch events,
- form events, and
- frame events.



Mouse Events

- click The mouse was clicked on an element.
- dblclick The mouse was double clicked on an element.
- mousedown The mouse was pressed down over an element.
- mouseup The mouse was released over an element.
- mouseover The mouse was moved (not clicked) over an element.
- mouseout The mouse was moved off of an element.
- mousemove The mouse was moved while over an element.



Keyboard Events

Keyboard events are often overlooked by novice web developers, but are important tools for power users.

- keydown The user is pressing a key (this happens first).
- keyup The user releases a key that was down (this happens last).

```
document.getElementById("key").addEventListener("keydown", function (e) {
    // get the raw key code
    let keyPressed=e.key;
    // convert to string
    let character=String.fromCharCode(keyPressed);
    alert("Key" + character + " was pressed");
});
```

LISTING 9.7 Listener that hears and alerts key presses



Form Events

- **blur** Triggered when a form element has lost focus (i.e., control has moved to a different element), perhaps due to a click or Tab key press.
- **change** Some <input>, <textarea>, or <select> field had their value change. This could mean the user typed something, or selected a new choice.
- **focus** Complementing the blur event, this is triggered when an element gets focus (the user clicks in the field or tabs to it).
- **reset** HTML forms have the ability to be reset. This event is triggered when that happens.
- select When the users selects some text. This is often used to try and prevent copy/paste.
- **submit** When the form is submitted this event is triggered. We can do some prevalidation of the form in JavaScript before sending the data on to the server.



Handling the submit event

```
document.querySelector("#loginForm").addEventListener("submit",
function(e) {
    let pass = document.querySelector("#pw").value;
    if (pass=="") {
        alert ("enter a password");
        e.preventDefault();
    }
});
```

LISTING 9.8 Handling the submit event



Media Events

- ended Triggered when playback of audio or video element is completed.
- pause Triggered when playback is paused.
- play Triggered when playback is no longer paused.
- ratechange Triggered when playback speed changes.
- volumechange Triggered when audio volume has changed.

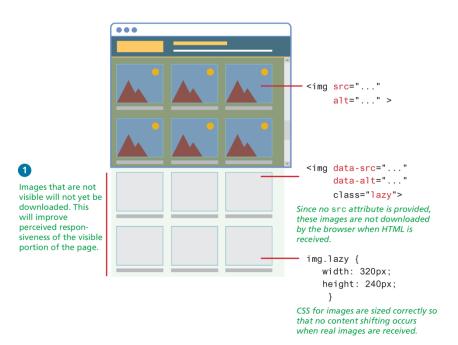


Frame Events

- abort An object was stopped from loading.
- error An object or image did not properly load.
- load When window content is fully loaded.
- DOMContentLoaded When DOM elements in document are loaded.
- orientationchange The device's orientation has changed from portrait to landscape, or viceversa.
- resize The document view was resized.
- scroll The document view was scrolled.
- unload The document has unloaded.



Lazy Loading



```
Event listeners will be needed for scroll, resize, and
orientationChanged events.
document.addEventListener("scroll", lazyload);
window.addEventListener("resize", lazyload);
window.addEventListener("orientationChange", lazyload);

For each image, check if now visible. If it is, then change its src attribute
to the correct one in data-src. This will make the browser request that
file.
function lazyLoad() {
    ...
    const images = document.querySelectorAll("img.lazy");
    for (let img of images) {
        if (img.offsetTop < (window.innerHeight + window.pageYOffset)) {
            img.src = img.dataset.src;
            img.alt = img.dataset.alt;
            img.classList.remove('lazy');
        }
}</pre>
```

Forms in JavaScript

Chapter 5 covered the HTML for data entry forms.

JavaScript within forms is more than just the client-side validation of form data; JavaScript is also used to improve the user experience of the typical browser-based form.

As a result, when working with forms in JavaScript, we are typically interested in three types of events:

- movement between elements,
- data being changed within a form element, and
- the final submission of the form.



Responding to form movement events



How form appears when no controls have the focus



 When a control has the focus, then chang its background color

```
// This function is going to get called every time the focus or blur events are
// triggered in one of our form's input elements.
function setBackground(e) {
   if (e.type == "focus") {
      e.target.style.backgroundColor = "#FFE393";
                                                           Here we use the style property instead of
                                                            the classList property because of specificity
                                                           conflicts (that is, attribute selectors override
   else if (e.type == "blur") {
                                                            class selectors).
      e.target.style.backgroundColor = "white";
// set up the event listeners only after the DOM is loaded
window.addEventListener("load", function() {
   const cssSelector = "input[type=text],input[type=password]";
                                                                     Selects the fields that will change.
   const fields = document.guerySelectorAll(cssSelector);
   for (let f of fields) {
                                                         Assigns the setBackground() function
      f.addEventListener("focus", setBackground);
                                                         to change the background color of the
      f.addEventListener("blur", setBackground);
                                                         control depending upon whether it has
                                                         the focus.
});
```



Responding to Form Changes Events

We may want to change the options available within a form based on earlier user entry. For instance, we may want the payment options to be different based on the value of the region radio button.

Figure 9.19 demonstrates how we can add event listeners to the change event of the radio buttons; when one of these buttons changes its value, then the callback function will set the available payment options based on the selected region. The listing also changes the associated payment label as well.





Validating a Submitted Form

Form validation continues to be one of the most common applications of JavaScript.

Checking user inputs to ensure that they follow expected rules must happen on the server side for security reasons (in case JavaScript was circumvented); checking those same inputs on the client side using JavaScript will reduce server load and increase the perceived speed and responsiveness of the form.

Some of the more common validation activities include email validation, number validation, and data validation.

In practice, regular expressions (covered in Section 9.6) are used to concisely implement many of these validation checks.



Empty Field Validation

```
const form = document.querySelector("#loginForm");
form.addEventListener("submit", (e) => {
  const fieldValue = document.querySelector("#username").value;
 if (fieldValue == null | | fieldValue == "") {
   // the field was empty. Stop form submission
   e.preventDefault();
   // Now tell the user something went wrong
   console.log("you must enter a username");
```

LISTING 9.10 A simple validation script to check for empty fields



Determining which items in multiselect list are selected

```
const multi = document.guerySelector("#listbox");
// using the options technique loops through each option and check if it is selected
for (let i=0; i < multi.options.length; i++) {
  if (multi.options[i].selected) {
    // this option was selected, do something with it ...
    console.log(multi.options[i].textContent);
// the selectedOptions technique is simpler ... it only loops through the selected options
for (let i=0; i < multi.selectedOptions.length; i++) {
  console.log(multi.selectedOptions[i].textContent);
```

LISTING 9.11 Determining which items in multiselect list are selected



Number Validation

Unfortunately, no simple functions exist for number validation like one might expect from a fullfledged library. Using parseInt(), isNAN(), and isFinite(), you can write your own number validation function.

Validating email, phone numbers, or social security numbers would include checking for blank fields and making use of isNumeric and regular expressions.

```
function isNumeric(n) {
    return !isNaN(parseFloat(n)) && isFinite(n);
}
```

LISTING 9.12 A function to test for a numeric value



Submitting Forms

Submitting a form using JavaScript requires having a node variable for the form element. Once the variable, say, *formExample* is acquired, one can simply call the **submit()** method:

const formExample = document.getElementById("loginForm");
formExample.submit();

This is often done in conjunction with calling preventDefault() on the submit event.

It is possible to submit a form multiple times by clicking buttons quickly. The easiest way to protect against this is to simply disable the submit button immediately in the event handler for the submit event.



Regular Expressions

A **regular expression** is a set of special characters that define a pattern.

Their history predates the world of web development, as evidenced by the formal specification defined by the IEEE POSIX standard.

PHP, JavaScript, Java, the .NET environment, and most other modern languages support regular expressions.



Regular Expression Syntax

A regular expression consists of two types of characters: literals and metacharacters.

A **literal** is just a character you wish to match in the target (i.e., the text that you are searching within).

A **metacharacter** is a special symbol that acts as a command to the regular expression parser (there are 14, listed below).

Table 9.12 lists examples of typical metacharacter usage to create patterns;



Regular Expression Syntax (ii)

In JavaScript, regular expressions are case sensitive and contained within forward slashes. For instance

let pattern = /ran/;

will find matches in all three of the following strings:

'randy connolly'

'Sue ran to the store'

'I would like a cranberry'

Listing 9.13 contains a more complex regular expression whose development is described in textbook



Key Terms

blur	Element Node	event propagation	linter
Document Object	event bubbling	event target	media events
Model	phase	event type	metacharacter
(DOM)	event capturing	focus	mouse events
document root	phase	form events	node
DOM document	event delegation	frame events	nodeList
object	event handler	iteral	regular expression
DOM tree	event object	keyboard events	selection methods
_			



Copyright



This work is protected by United States copyright laws and is provided solely for the use of instructors in teaching their courses and assessing student learning. Dissemination or sale of any part of this work (including on the World Wide Web) will destroy the integrity of the work and is not permitted. The work and materials from it should never be made available to students except by instructors using the accompanying text in their classes. All recipients of this work are expected to abide by these restrictions and to honor the intended pedagogical purposes and the needs of other instructors who rely on these materials.

