

## Introduction

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# 7 — Lab 7: jQuery

## 7.1 Introduction

In this lab you will explore jQuery, a JavaScript library commonly used in web development. According to jQuery's website (<http://jquery.com>):

jQuery is a fast, small, and feature-rich JavaScript library. It makes things like HTML document traversal and manipulation, event handling, animation, and Ajax much simpler with an easy-to-use API that works across a multitude of browsers. With a combination of versatility and extensibility, jQuery has changed the way that millions of people write JavaScript.

Surprisingly, the advertising hype is mostly true. jQuery does make the life of a JavaScript programmer much easier. In addition to helping make sense of the DOM (see Lab 5: CSS), jQuery behaves with relative stability across browsers. Cross-browser compatibility can be one of the most challenging (and annoying) aspects of website design.

As with last week's lab, you are encouraged to play with the live examples provided on the w3schools website, and try out ideas that interest you on your website.

### 7.1.1 Basic jQuery

#### Getting Started

If you haven't used jQuery before, start with the introductory tutorials at w3schools at <http://www.w3schools.com/jquery/>. Start with the HOME, and Intro chapters.

#### CDN - Content Delivery Networks

When you get to the Install chapter, pay attention to the code for the Google Content Delivery Network (Google CDN). Instead of installing jQuery on your student site, it is suggested that you use Google's CDN as the jQuery host. It is important to consider some of the downsides to the (big) upside of having code hosted on another network. First, your web page is now at the mercy of the speed and availability of the other network, and if the network hosting your script goes down then your site goes down. Second, you and your page viewers' privacy is most likely being compromised since the hosting company is almost certainly collecting access information to the jQuery script.

### Taste Matters

Continue on through the Syntax, Selectors, and Events chapters, and then through all sections of the jQuery Effects section. When using effects, it is important to be tasteful and reserved; too much of a good thing quickly cloy<sup>1</sup>. For examples of overuse see:

- ios7 causing motion sickness:  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/26/ios-7-design-motion-sickness\\_n\\_3995898.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/26/ios-7-design-motion-sickness_n_3995898.html)
- The constellation7 website via  
<http://www.webpagesthatsuck.com/worst-websites-of-2012-beyond-the-pale.html>.  
(Warning! This website is described as coming from "the Manson family of web site design.")

Continue with the jQuery HTML and jQuery Traversing sections on the w3schools site. You may choose to work through the advanced jQuery material, or go on to the in-class work.

## 7.1.2 Advanced jQuery

If you're comfortable with the information in the w3school sections from above, then browse through <http://plugins.jquery.com/> to see what plugins are available for jQuery. Pay particular attention to those that you may be able to use in a project, namely ones which have been recently maintained and have a license that allows you to use it without too many restrictions or too much cost.

## 7.2 Classwork

### 7.2.1 Basic jQuery

From the work you did above, choose at least one of the effects that you like, and implement it on your home page.

### 7.2.2 Advanced jQuery

Choose a plugin, and use it on your home page.

## 7.3 References

Basic jQuery:

In addition to w3schools, codecademy.com has some interesting, practice-oriented tutorials.

See <http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/jquery>.

jQuery Plugins:

<http://plugins.jquery.com/>

JavaScript Object Notation (JSON):

<http://www.json.org/>

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.thefreedictionary.com/cloy>s