

Ajax - History

Before the introduction of AJAX, websites are developed by adding multiple loose web pages together, which are further displayed in a predefined order with the help of links embedded inside the HTML pages. So to use these web application user needs to move from one web page to another web page. So whenever the user clicks on a link to the next page he/she should wait for some seconds for a page to be loaded. Traditional web applications use HTTP requests to submit user action to the server. After receiving the request from the user the web server completes the request by returning a new web page which will further display on the web browser. Hence traditional web applications required lots of page refreshes and waiting.

Due to this, it is very hard to develop new-generation applications like google maps, real-time chatting environment, Gmail, etc. So on 18 February 2005 for the first time, Jesse James Garrett introduce AJAX to the world by writing an AJAX article named "A New Approach to Web Application". And on 5th April 2006, the W3C(world wide web consortium) release the first draft which contains the specifications for the XMLHttpRequest object. After that AJAX will be popular among web developers.

The applications developed by using AJAX are faster and more responsive as compared to traditional web applications. It improves the performance of web applications by exchanging a small amount of data to the web servers. As a result, there is no need for the servers to refresh the entire web page for every request of the user. That means using AJAX the web browser and the web server can exchange data asynchronously in the background without pausing the execution of the application and can process the returned data. To submit requests AJAX application uses a special object known as XMLHttpRequest object. It is the main object due to which AJAX can able to create asynchronous communication. And the technologies used in implementing AJAX are JavaScript, XMLHttpRequest, XML/JSON, and Document Object Model(DOM). Here Javascript handles client-side logic, XHR provides asynchronous communication with the server, XML provides a format for data interchange between the server and the client, and DOM allows manipulation and updation of the content of the web pages.

Conclusion

So this is how the introduction of AJAX creates a new revolution in the web development industry. It helps developers to create rich and interactive web applications. Now in the next article, we will learn how dynamic websites are different from static websites.