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PWA1 - JS Research Project

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JavaScript: JQuery & Server-side JavaScript

In my short time as a student in the Web Design And Development degree program here at Full Sail University, I’ve been given the opportunity to test the waters with a few different programming languages, styles of coding, tools of the trade, and avenues that I’d like to take with my career. I enjoy working with code in general, but when I got to JavaScript, it really got my creative juices flowing. I enjoy it so much that I’ve decided that I would really enjoy focusing on that the most.

With JavaScript, there are many different things that you can do with it, use it for, and implement into it. It’s a very easy and simple language but so unbelievably powerful, especially because it can be used in conjunction with a lot of other things. A big pair-up that is used in web programming these days is the combination of JavaScript and JQuery. According to an article written by Plus Media Solutions, Libscore, a search engine that tallies the usage of different sorts of JavaScript libraries around the web and on the most popular websites. Over the span of a month, information was compiled on the most popular libraries and jQuery won the race at 634,872 home pages around the web (“jQuery reigns as top JavaScript library”, 01/06/15 - Plus Media Solutions). JQuery, in and of itself, lends a hand in its own wide-spread use and popularity. By definition, it is an open-source JavaScript library that is used in conjunction with JS to change web page documents quickly and efficiently without having to build a whole new page or do any crazy CSS magic. JQuery helps programmers access the DOM in ways they otherwise wouldn’t be able to, and it allows the scope of one’s project to seem less intimidating as a result (“Chapter 1: Getting Started With JQuery”, pages 1 - 9, Head First: jQuery).

Something that we are taught to do when we are learning JavaScript and actually putting it into practice with web pages, is that we don’t want to make life harder for ourselves by writing redundant code. The use of objects, methods, loops, functions, and arrays lets us have code that can be reused over and over in any way we see fit by just feeding them parameters or calling from them rather than having to write everything out and/or change a bit of code every time we want to use it. This same practice is put into play when programmers use jQuery along with their JavaScript code because it allows them to access the DOM to manipulate any part of a web page that they need to. Feeding in and taking out parameters with jQuery means that you don’t have to create tons of pages and variants of things in order to cover a scope of behaviors that your site may or may not need to implement or do at some point. This is not only useful, it’s a life-saver for web developers everywhere. That’s why I plan on using it as much as I can in my time as a JavaScript programmer.

Adding JavaScript to your repertoire as a web developer/graphic designer ups your chances of being hired, astronomically. If you couple this with knowing other tools of the trade that integrate with JavaScript, the likelihood of an employer noticing you skyrockets. Working with jQuery in order to manipulate web pages easily and change the behavior of JavaScript is one thing, but there’s also a whole other world of JavaScript to be explored. Server-side JavaScript is on the other end of the spectrum, where programmers work with the code and web pages via a server rather than on their computer (which would be client-side JavaScript). Server-side JavaScript is something really handy to have in your back pocket because a lot of the big-wig companies need JavaScript programmers to work with their servers to affect the behavior of all their multimillion dollar projects. Something like node.js, for instance, is being used widely around the net to work with Chrome and a lot of Google’s products. Creating web servers and networking tools opens up whole new worlds for JavaScript programmers, which makes me feel extremely excited to have it under my belt at some point. Server-side programming with JavaScript has been made anew with things like node.js as well as client-side tools like AJAX (asynchronous JavaScript and XML) that help JavaScript communicate back and forth with the server in the background so everything works seamlessly (“AJAX breathes new life into Web apps” InfoWorld, Peter Wayner, 05/23/05).

I am so eager to learn all of these things that I could hop out of my own skin just to get a stab at it all, but I know that I have to start somewhere, and that somewhere is the beginning. By the end of my time in Full Sail, I will be a proud owner of all these skill sets, and I couldn’t be happier about that future.

<http://www.lexisnexis.com.oclc.fullsail.edu:81/lnacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?lni=5F11-D211-DXCW-D0RS&csi=270944,270077,11059,8411&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true>

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1449393217/ref=olp_product_details?ie=UTF8&me=>

<https://nodejs.org/>

<http://www.lexisnexis.com.oclc.fullsail.edu:81/lnacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?lni=4G7C-V2F0-001K-W53B&csi=270944,270077,11059,8411&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true>

<http://skillcrush.com/2012/07/30/client-side-vs-server-side/>