

Why you need to learn jQuery

While ASP.NET MVC is a server-side (or back-end) web framework, as an ASP.NET MVC developer, there quite a few occasions where you need to work with various client-side (or front-end) technologies. If you only know the server-side, you're considered a *back-end developer*, but if you know both the front-end and the back-end, you're referred to as a *full-stack developer*.

Full-stack development, obviously, requires learning more stuff but that will also boost your salary, compared to a back-end or front-end only developer.

What is jQuery anyway?

jQuery is a Javascript library that allows us to work with objects in an HTML document. The HTML markup we use to build a web page, is eventually loaded into a tree of objects called **Document Object Model (or DOM)**. In front-end development, we need to look for certain elements in the DOM and show/hide them based on some condition. This is just one simple example, but there are many more complex tasks that requires traversing and modifying DOM elements.

We can use pure Javascript to work with these DOM, but this requires extra effort to deal with inconsistencies of various browsers. Each browser, exposes a client-side API to work with these DOM elements and sometimes these APIs are not consistent in their contract and implementation. This applies specifically to Internet Explorer, which has always been like a browser made in another planet!

So, jQuery was released to address this issue. jQuery is a Javascript library that provides a simple and unified API to work with with the DOM, no matter what browser the client-side app is running in.

So, jQuery is just a Javascript library and is not a programming language.

How to learn jQuery?

Ideally, you may want to take a course or read a book. But you can also get the basics from this tutorial:

<http://www.impressivewebs.com/jquery-tutorial-for-beginners/>

Now, before you get started, I just let you know that in this course, we'll have only a few lectures using jQuery. If you get stuck following the next few videos, don't get disappointed. I can guarantee that once you go through them one more time and think of the materials in these tutorials, you'll have a reasonable understanding of how everything works. So, don't get stuck, just code along with me and complete these features.

Ok, what after jQuery?

While jQuery has had a great impact on the development of client-side apps, it has been criticised for resulting in spaghetti and untestable Javascript code. So, different libraries have been developed that allows us to work with DOM while giving us a framework to write modular and testable Javascript code. Angular and React are two popular examples of such frameworks.

But before studying any of such frameworks, you need to master jQuery because this will give you better understanding of how DOM works. If you fast forward to Angular, you may be able to get a few things done, but you won't have an understanding of how things are happening behind the scene.