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[Steve Reynolds](#)

Being Generalist.

[5.Javascript Chart Alternatives](#)

March7

Last week I did a review of [6 jQuery plugins](#) that were great for implementing charts. Since then, I've had the opportunity to work with a couple more alternatives that are outside of the jQuery realm, and arguably look like they could be real contenders for removing Flash's dominance in this area, so let's check them out:

38

Tweet

1) Emprise Javascript Charts

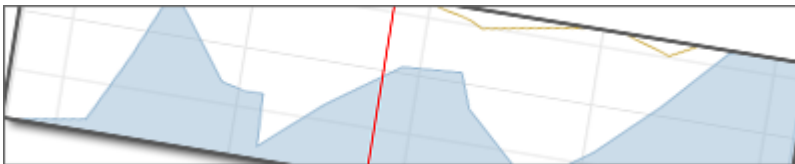


Chart Types: Line, Bar, Pie, Function, Area, Scatter, Trend, Analogue Gauge, Candlestick, Floating Bars, Stacked Bars.

[Emprise](#) is a really great pure javascript solution to charting. Features include zoom, interactive charts, stackable, as well as having ajax capabilities built right in. Out of all the charting jQuery and Javascript alternatives to Flash that I have seen this is by far the most advanced. But alas, with quality comes a price. Emprise is free for personal use (with restrictions) and scales up to a \$1000 license for unlimited use.

2) Bluff Graphs



Chart Types: Accumulator, Area, Bar, Line, Mini Bar, Mini Pie, Mini Sidebar, Pie, Net, Sidebar, Spider, Stacked

Back when [Bluff](#) was released I was extremely impressed by the ease of implementation and great built in options to make charts on any site a quick reality. Bluff also comes with a number of pre-defined themes for your charts that you can use "out of the box" and they look pretty darn good. I've used Bluff on many occasions to drive stats engines, and it's never failed me.

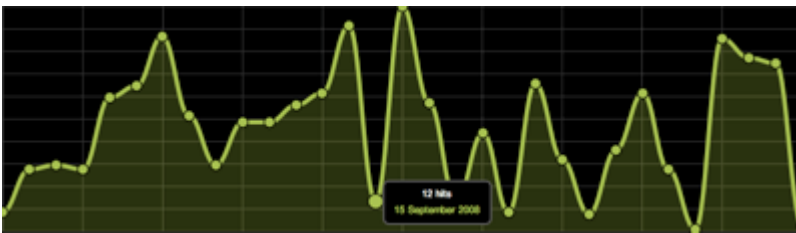
Implementation wise [you have two choices](#), feed the data into javascript variables, or tell the class to read from an HTML table of data. Both work extremely well.

3) Raphaël's Javascript Library



Chart Types: Your imagination.

I was equally impressed by [Raphaël's Javascript Library](#) when I was introduced to it last week. The library used SVG and VML to create stunning animated charts and pretty much anything else you can think of.



There are some stunning demonstrations on display as to the power of this library, interactive charts working just like Google Analytics Flash alternatives for example. The library isn't built predominantly for charting applications, so you need to put some work in to create your charts so be warned. This out of any shows the most promise with where javascript and vector graphics are going in the near future.

4) JSChart



Chart Types: Bar, Line or Pie

[JSChart](#) is another pretty decent javascript alternative to flat charting. The results are actually very nice to look at, and the developers promise a very simple implementation. Data sources can either come from javascript arrays or a valid XML file. The only other things you need to do are tell the script which chart type to draw, and tell it where to draw it. Pretty good stuff for a quick win.

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5) Graph-It

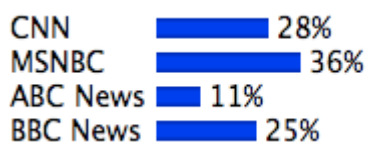


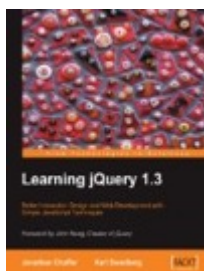
Chart Types: Mini-Bar

I only mention [Graph-It](#) for one reason, its ability to create mini bar graphs in a similar vein to the sparklines plugin I discussed last week. It doesn't look that great admittedly, but you can fix that yourself.

Conclusion

One of the great things I've learned with this exercise is that there are some great viable javascript alternatives out there and that progress is happening all around us. I am really starting to question how long Flash's dominance in this area will last, based on the kind of demos we are seeing from Raphaël it looks like their days are numbered. Some awesome work here, and look forward to seeing more!

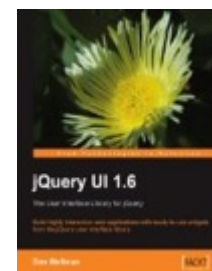
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“5 Javascript Chart Alternatives”


1.  [March 7th, 2009 at 4:12 pm 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives | Steve Reynolds Blog](#)


Says:


[...] Read more from the original source: 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives | Steve Reynolds Blog [...]

2.  [March 8th, 2009 at 1:26 am My Bad Attitude » 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives](#) Says:

[...] Reynolds continues his search for JavaScript chart libraries. This time he presents five that are not jQuery [...]


3.  [March 8th, 2009 at 12:55 pm sky](#) Says:
wow..this is great script.. thank u..

4.  [March 8th, 2009 at 9:55 pm Boris](#) Says:
dont forget about google ones: <http://code.google.com/apis/visualization/documentation/index.html>

5.  [March 9th, 2009 at 2:12 am John Dowdell](#) Says:

Hi, have you pulled together information about which browsers each of these JavaScript libraries will support?


jd/adobe

6.  [March 9th, 2009 at 3:42 pm Wayne State Web Communications Blog » Blog Archive » \[Friday Links\] The Catching Up Edition](#) Says:








[...] 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives | Steve Reynolds Blog [...]

7.  [March 15th, 2009 at 2:23 am 網站製作學習誌 » \[Web\] 連結分享](#) Says:

[...] 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives [...]

8.  [April 5th, 2009 at 6:42 am Futures Charts. | 7Wins.eu](#) Says:


[...] 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives | Steve Reynolds Blog » 10 ways to keep your chart reading fresh | Global Growth Investor – The Home of Growth Investing The Future of Media » Blog Archive » StumbleUpon charts new course Visifire » Creating Visifire Charts With Managed CodeHow to Read a Natal Wheel Chart – Natal AstrologySimple Charts in GWT with gchart | /home/nicke L S U A ~ A KM Blog Thinking Outside The Inbox by Luis Suarez » Future of Social Networks by Charlene LiLearning the importance of paper trading futures | Commodity Trading For Beginners | Commodity Futures Trading Course | Futures Training Videos | KZSC Santa Cruz » Blog Archive » KZSC Charts for the week of 3/17/09Faculty and Staff News » Blog Archive » Event helped grad students chart future course [...]

9.  [April 28th, 2009 at 9:35 am](#) [Joachim Haagen Skeie](#) Says:
- Flotr is not mentioned in the list above, which is a great JavaScript charting library. Also, JSFlot – A JavaServer Faces implementation of Flotr – is available at Google Code:
<http://code.google.com/p/jsflot&/>
10.  [April 28th, 2009 at 9:37 am](#) [Joachim Haagen Skeie](#) Says:
- Im sorry, that should be <http://code.google.com/p/jsflot/> .
11.  [May 13th, 2009 at 7:13 pm](#) [Scott Jehl](#) Says:
- Hey Steve, here's another for your list:
http://www.filamentgroup.com/lab/creating_accessible_charts_using_canvas_and_jquery/
12.  [November 12th, 2009 at 12:47 pm](#) [30 web designs / WebDesignExpert.Me](#) Says:
- [...] 5 Javascript chart alternatives – Link. [...]
13.  [December 1st, 2009 at 2:12 pm](#) [Highcharts](#) Says:
- Here's a new one: <http://www.highcharts.com>.
- Highcharts is a charting library written in pure JavaScript, offering an easy way of adding interactive charts to your web site or web application. Highcharts currently supports line, spline, area, areaspline, column, bar, pie and scatter chart types.
14.  [January 24th, 2010 at 4:56 am](#) [Frank Hardisty](#) Says:
- Protovis is another one that should be added to your list, it can do some quite sophisticated visualization. <http://vis.stanford.edu/protovis/>
15.  [February 26th, 2010 at 7:02 pm](#) [estetika » Blog Archive » links for 2010-02-26 / portfolio of interaction, art and stuff](#) Says:

[...] 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives (tags: visualization design javascript web graphics) [...]

16.  [March 8th, 2010 at 11:33 am](#) *Csabi* Says:

And still you didn't mentioned one of the best out there: <http://www.jqplot.com/>

17.  [May 18th, 2010 at 4:19 pm](#) *8bitmore* Says:

DO have a look at <http://g.raphaeljs.com/> which is the official charting extension to the Raphaël library, is blowing the rest out of the water.. very VERY neat 😊

18.  [August 11th, 2010 at 5:22 pm](#) *MERA-Soft* Says:

Take a look at <http://www.running-charts.com>
Ajax charts without any plugins at IE 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, Firefox, Safari, Opera and Chrome.
Only JavaScript and CSS are needed.

19.  [December 10th, 2010 at 11:50 am](#) *Paul* Says:

Another addition to your list is JavaScript interactive charts from DHTMLX:
<http://www.dhtmlx.com/docs/products/dhtmlxChart/index.shtml>

Supported chart types: line, spline, area, bar, pie, and 3D pie. Charts can load the data from different datasources: XML, JSON, JS array, or CSV. GPL-licensed.

20.  [December 13th, 2010 at 7:11 am](#) *Javascript Plotting Libraries | Savetime On* Says:

[...] 5 Javascript Chart Alternatives [...]

21.  [March 9th, 2011 at 11:08 pm](#) *phazei* Says:

jQChart from the people who bring jQGrid is spectacular. Unfortunately it's not free, but it less than emprise and totally blows it away!

<http://www.trirand.net/demochartphp.aspx>

Most spectacular charts I've seen.

Name:

Email: Email will not be published

Website Address: Website example

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[8:47 pm , September 3 , 2011](#)
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[3:14 pm , August 7 , 2011](#)
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[8:33 am , May 16 , 2011](#)
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[4:00 pm , November 5 , 2010](#)
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