**Introduction to JavaScript**

Today, virtually every major website uses JavaScript, also called ECMAScript, to enhance the functionality of HTML pages. Image-switching buttons, e-commerce shopping carts, forms processing functions, even the new Flash and Shockwave movies, require the use of JavaScript programs. To one degree or another, every web designer today MUST be able to use JavaScript, even if it is only to copy and modify someone else's code to use in a new webpage.

Because almost every site today uses JavaScript, it is important that YOU possess at least a rudimentary knowledge of JavaScript and the fundamentals of computer programming as they apply to JavaScript.

Many of the JavaScript scripts used in today's websites are fairly simple; this is not likely to remain true for long, however, as many cutting-edge technologies (Dynamic HTML, Flash, and others) rely on JavaScript programming to unlock their full potential. Unfortunately, not everyone can really learn to program successfully; if everyone could do it, companies wouldn't pay programmers such huge sums of money. Still, you must learn at least a little JavaScript in order to survive in today's competitive Internet marketplace.

In this module, I will endeavor to explain the concepts behind JavaScript and programming in general. This module is not intended to substitute for a full-length programming class; instead, they should introduce you to JavaScript programming concepts enough to get you prepared for more in-depth course work. A full examination of JavaScript is the next course, CNIT 133.

For this class, you are NOT required to write any JavaScript elements from scratch. Much of what you do in Homework 9 is to copy and modify already existing scripts from my Homework 9 Sample Web Pages or from the textbook.

We are now entering a more complex, more technical, environment which I will do my best to de-mystify and explain. I will be giving you as much detail as I can without obscuring the meaning of my explanations. This module is intended both as an introduction to programming, and as an explanatory reference for certain key aspects of JavaScript.