JavaScript appendChild() Method

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the JavaScript `appendChild()` method to add a node to the end of the list of child nodes of a specified parent node.

Introduction to the JavaScript appendChild() method

The `appendChild()` is a method of the `Node` interface. The `appendChild()` method allows you to add a node to the end of the list of child nodes of a specified parent node.

The following illustrates the syntax of the `appendChild()` method:

```
parentNode.appendChild(childNode);
```

In this method, the `childNode` is the node to append to the given parent node. The `appendChild()` returns the appended child.

If the `childNode` is a reference to an existing node in the document, the `appendChild()` method moves the `childNode` from its current position to the new position.

JavaScript appendChild() method examples

Let's take some examples of using the `appendChild()` method.

1) Basic appendChild() example

Suppose that you have the following HTML markup:

```html
<ul id="menu">
</ul>
```

The following example uses the `appendChild()` method to add three list items to the `<ul>` element:

```javascript
function createMenuItem(name) {
    let li = document.createElement('li');
    li.textContent = name;
    return li;
}
// get the ul#menu
const menu = document.querySelector('#menu');
// add menu item
menu.appendChild(createMenuItem('Home'));
menu.appendChild(createMenuItem('Services'));
menu.appendChild(createMenuItem('About Us'));
```

How it works:

- First, the `createMenuItem()` function creates a new list item element with a specified name by using the `createElement()` method.

- Second, select the `<ul>` element with id `menu` using the `querySelector()` method.

- Third, call the `createMenuItem()` function to create a new menu item and use the `appendChild()` method to append the menu item to the `<ul>` element

Output:

```html
<ul id="menu">
    <li>Home</li>
    <li>Services</li>
    <li>About Us</li>
</ul>
```

Put it all together:

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
```

```html
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>JavaScript appendChild() Demo</title>
</head>
<body>
    <ul id="menu">
    </ul>


    <script>
        function createMenuItem(name) {
            let li = document.createElement('li');
            li.textContent = name;
            return li;
        }
        // get the ul#menu
        const menu = document.querySelector('#menu');
        // add menu item
        menu.appendChild(createMenuItem('Home'));
        menu.appendChild(createMenuItem('Services'));
        menu.appendChild(createMenuItem('About Us'));
    </script>
</body>
</html>
```

2) Moving a node within the document example

Assuming that you have two lists of items:

```html
<ul id="first-list">
    <li>Everest</li>
    <li>Fuji</li>
    <li>Kilimanjaro</li>
</ul>

<ul id="second-list">
    <li>Karakoram Range</li>
    <li>Denali</li>
    <li>Mont Blanc</li>
</ul>
```
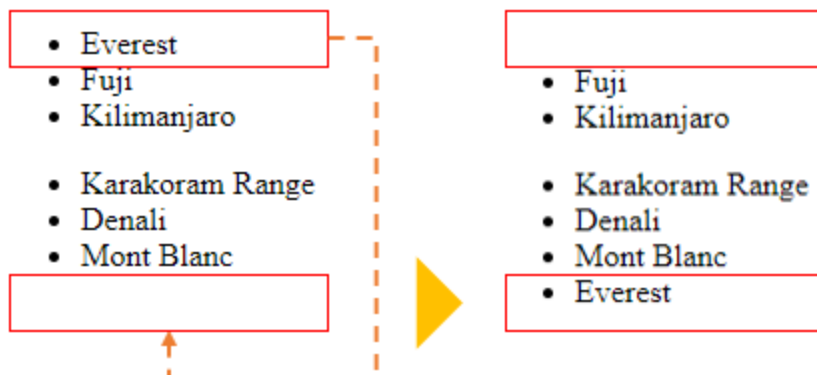
The following example uses the `appendChild()` to move the first child element from the first list to the second list:

```javascript
// get the first list
const firstList = document.querySelector('#first-list');
// take the first child element
const everest = firstList.firstElementChild;
// get the second list
const secondList = document.querySelector('#second-list');
// append the everest to the second list
secondList.appendChild(everest)
```

How it works:

- First, select the first element by its id (`first-list`) using the `querySelector()` method.

- Second, select the first child element from the first list.

- Third, select the second element by its id (`second-list`) using the `querySelector()` method.

- Finally, append the first child element from the first list to the second list using the `appendChild()` method.

Here is the list before and after moving:

Summary

- Use `appendChild()` method to add a node to the end of the list of child nodes of a specified parent node.

- The `appendChild()` can be used to move an existing child node to a new position within the document.

Quiz