JavaScript History

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to access the browser's session history by using the JavaScript `history` object.

Introduction to the JavaScript history object.

When you launch the web browser and open a new webpage, the web browser creates a new entry in its history stack.

If you navigate to another webpage, the web browser also creates a new entry in the history stack.

The history stack stores the current page and previous pages that you visited.

To manipulate the history stack, you use the `history` object which is a property of the `window` object:

```
window.history
```

For the security reason, it's not possible to query the pages that a user have visited. However, you can use the `history` object to navigate back and forth without knowing the exact URL.

Using JavaScript history for navigation

The history object provides three methods for navigating between pages in the history stack:

- `back()`
- `forward()`
- `go()`

Move backward

To move backward through history, you use the `back()` method:

```
window.history.back();
```

Or

```
history.back();
```

This behaves like you click the **Back** button in the toolbar of the web browser.

Move forward

Similarly, you can move forward by using the `forward()` method:

```
history.forward();
```

It works like when you click the **Forward** button.

Move to a specific URL in the history

To move to a specific URL in the history stack, you use the `go()` method. The `go()` method accepts an integer that is the relative position to the current page. The current page's position is 0.

For example, to move backward you use:

```
history.go(-1);
```

It is like the `back()` method.

To move forward a page, you just call:

```
history.go(1)
```

To refresh the current page, you either pass 0 or no argument to the `go()` method:

```
history.go(0);
history.go();
```

To determine the number of URLs in the history stack, you use the `length` property:

```
history.length
```

Summary

- The `window.history` object allows you to access the history stack of the browser.

- To navigate to a URL in the history, you use the `back()`, `forward()`, and `go()` methods.

- The `history.length` returns the number of URLs in the history stack.