JavaScript getElementsByName() Method

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the JavaScript `getElementsByName()` method to get elements with a given name in a document.

Introduction to JavaScript getElementsByName() method

Every element on an HTML document may have a `name` attribute:

```html
<input type="radio" name="language" value="JavaScript">
```

Unlike the `id` attribute, multiple HTML elements can share the same `value` of the `name` attribute like this:

```html
<input type="radio" name="language" value="JavaScript">
<input type="radio" name="language" value="TypeScript">
```

To get all elements with a specified name, you use the `getElementsByName()` method of the `document` object:

```javascript
let elements = document.getElementsByName(name);
```

The `getElementsByName()` accepts a `name` which is the value of the `name` attribute of elements and returns a live `NodeList` of elements.

The return collection of elements is live. It means that the return elements are automatically updated when elements with the same name are inserted and/or removed from the document.

JavaScript getElementsByName() example

The following example shows a radio group that consists of radio buttons that have the same name (`rate`).

When you select a radio button and click the submit button, the page will show the selected value such as `Very Poor` , `Poor` , `OK` , `Good` , or `Very Good` :

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

<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>JavaScript getElementsByName Demo</title>
</head>

<body>
    <p>Please rate the service:</p>
    <p>
        <label for="very-poor">
            <input type="radio" name="rate" value="Very poor" id="very-poor"> Very poor
        </label>
        <label for="poor">
            <input type="radio" name="rate" value="Poor" id="poor"> Poor
        </label>
        <label for="ok">
            <input type="radio" name="rate" value="OK" id="ok"> OK
        </label>
        <label for="good">
            <input type="radio" name="rate" value="Good"> Good
        </label>
        <label for="very-good">
            <input type="radio" name="rate" value="Very Good" id="very-good"> Very Good
        </label>
    </p>
    <p>
        <button id="btnRate">Submit</button>
    </p>
    <p id="output"></p>
    <script>
        let btn = document.getElementById('btnRate');
```

```
        let output = document.getElementById('output');

        btn.addEventListener('click', () => {
            let rates = document.getElementsByName('rate');
            rates.forEach((rate) => {
                if (rate.checked) {
                    output.innerText = `You selected: ${rate.value}`;
                }
            });

        });
    </script>
</body>

</html>
```

How it works:

- First, select the submit button by its id `btnRate` using the `getElementById()` method.

- Second, listen to the click event of the submit button.

- Third, get all the radio buttons using the `getElementsByName()` and show the selected value in the output element.

Notice that you will learn about events like `click` later. For now, you need to focus on the `getElementsByName()` method.

Output

Please rate the service:

◯ Very poor ◯ Poor ◯ OK ◯ Good ◯ Very Good

[Submit]

Summary

- The `getElementsByName()` returns a live `NodeList` of elements with a specified name.

- The `NodeList` is an array-like object, not an array object.

Quiz