

Most efficient javascript/AJAX toolkit?

Asked 15 years, 11 months ago Modified 8 years, 9 months ago

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What is the most efficient Javascript/AJAX toolkit?

9

javascript

ajax



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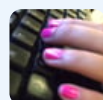
edited Jan 7, 2009 at 16:59



Ali

267k ● 267 ● 588 ● 782

asked Jan 7, 2009 at 12:08



mars-o

1,715 ● 4 ● 24 ● 38

For use with which language? e.g. asp.net, php etc. – [John](#)
Jan 7, 2009 at 12:09

How are you defining "efficient" here? – [nshaw](#) Jan 7, 2009
at 22:03

16 Answers

Sorted by:

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jQuery seems pretty popular at the moment, and is lightweight.

19



- <http://jquery.com/>



Their API is well constructed and designed, and the resulting code tends to be very concise.



Some may find it TOO concise - matter of taste. On larger projects I sometimes end up using YUI - it's a lot more heavyweight, but for a large codebase I find it easier to read something a little more explicit.

- <http://developer.yahoo.com/yui/>

Really, it's a bit of a subjective question; most efficient will depend on what makes the most sense to your coding style, what you're trying to do, and what you're interacting with.

Best of luck!

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edited Jan 7, 2009 at 12:16

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 12:10



Chris Burgess

3,621 ● 3 ● 32 ● 43

+1, but only 'cause I use jQuery and enjoy its simplicity and power. – [paxdiablo](#) Jan 7, 2009 at 12:11

The documentation for jQuery definitely makes it easy to learn and get coding quickly – [bcasp](#) Jan 7, 2009 at 13:14

- 1 -1. Sorry, but this answer really has nothing to do with efficiency. – [Kenan Banks](#) Jan 7, 2009 at 16:32
-

The answer may not talk about efficiency, but jQuery is definitely one of the fastest and most efficient JS libraries out there. – [Ryan Doherty](#) Jan 7, 2009 at 16:51

We had to choose between Prototype/Scriptaculous and jQuery and we found that using our own product as a benchmark, jQuery performed more efficiently. – [Bryan A](#) Jan 7, 2009 at 22:02



7

According to [this comparison](#), jQuery does reasonably well. Certainly better than Prototype. Personally I like the fluent interface model and brevity of jQuery as well.



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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 12:13

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[cletus](#)

625k ● 169 ● 917 ● 945



5

Choose the library that makes the most sense to you idiomatically.



The differences in efficiency are going to become less and less important as two things happen.



1. [Browsers are getting much better at interpreting Javascript.](#)



2. [Most major Javascript libraries are planning to adopt a single selector engine, Sizzle](#)



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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 16:44

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[Kenan Banks](#)

212k ● 36 ● 159 ● 175



It really depends on what environment, framework and what goal you are trying to achieve...

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Actually the best answer is: learn more than one... there is no silver bullet.



At the time I chose one, MooTools was the most performant, now a days performance differences are very limited.



I use the following rule for myself (I code a lot in ASP.NET) if there is a control out of the box in ASP.NET ajax use that one. If I need to write custom stuff I use Mootools. (you can also do this in asp.net ajax, but I personally perceived that I write better and faster code in Mootools)

One other thing to consider: jquery plays nice with asp.net ajax (=you can use both on the same page) while Mootools can not (it's a design decision which makes mootools a bit more performant). In my opinion if you need to use more than one framework on the same page, you are creating a lot of unnecessary overhead.

I know that I only considered Mootools and jquery while there are a lot of other frameworks out there (Yui which is heavily namespaced = more verbose = why I don't like it :)), but most of the others (Dojo kit, ...) try to abstract away the javascript nature of javascript... which I try not to.

Some usefull links:

[Clientside has a nice write up why he chose Mootools](#)
(while working at CNET)

[and a followup where he reevaluates it..](#)

[Another comparison page.](#)

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edited Jan 7, 2009 at 22:00

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 12:53



Cohen

2,720 ● 26 ● 24



2

I love [jQuery](#). Love it. Want to mate with it. And I hate *everything*. Don't get me started about *anything*. I hate it. But I love jQuery.



The power and functionality are spectacular.



It's well-designed and easy to use.



The [docs](#) are complete, accurate, detailed, clearly-written, and current. Every function is explained with code samples and a working example.

There is a good collection of [plugins](#).

There is also the [jQuery UI](#) library which provides a whole other layer of functionality -- drag-and-drop, modal dialogs, various controls, etc.

I've been using jQuery for years and it has never let me down. I truly can't say that about any other library/language/tool/computer thing that I've used a lot. jQuery is amazing.

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 23:23



Ethan

60k ● 65 ● 189 ● 241



1

"Most efficient" is hard to judge, but I have used Prototype and MooTools, both of which were simple to pick up.



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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 12:11

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[Simon Hartcher](#)

3,510 ● 3 ● 31 ● 34



[Dojo Toolkit](#) isn't too bad either, customizable, themeable etc.

1

EDIT: and in the link to the [comparison Cletus posted](#), it works on every platform tested and is also the fastest.



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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 12:14

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[Tuminoid](#)

9,705 ● 7 ● 38 ● 51



We use Mootools here at work, it's very nice and lightweight. As for efficiency, who can tell?

1

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[Kieran Senior](#)

18.2k ● 27 ● 96 ● 139



Depending on what you have to do using AJAX, you may look at jQuery or [ExtJs](http://www.extjs.com) (<http://www.extjs.com>)

1

As already said in the previous answers, jQuery is very efficient and lightweight and should do the trick for almost



everything you need.



If you need very rich UIs ExtJs has very nice features and a very complete API, but is quite heavier from what I could experience.

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 12:32

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WiseTechi

3,598 ● 1 ● 23 ● 15



For general javascript development I use [Jquery](#), for AJAX I use [Xajax](#) with PHP which is fantastic.

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 16:58

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Ali

267k ● 267 ● 588 ● 782



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It really comes down to a matter of preference and, to a lesser degree, what platform your on. Looking at just the client side implementation, I'm a huge fan of jQuery since I like the concise syntax it offers. I work with Prototype, YUI, and Mootools as well on different projects but still prefer jQuery.



Depending on your platform, there are other possibilities. For example, if you are using .Net, AJAXPro and the Microsoft AJAX offers some very quick and easy ways to add a full AJAX infrastructure to your solution. I'm not a

fan of MS AJAX but I can't argue some of the quick and dirty tricks that can be done with it.

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 13:04

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[James Eggers](#)

12.9k ● 14 ● 64 ● 89



[Prototype](#) has some great Ajax support, and plenty of clear [examples](#) to help you along.

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answered Jan 7, 2009 at 13:24

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[seanhodes](#)

17.5k ● 17 ● 74 ● 95



I find that even with all the different AJAX toolkits out there, it's still easier for me to write the AJAX by hand.

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Writing AJAX calls is fairly straight-forward and you don't have to deal with fighting things going on in the background due to some abstraction code.



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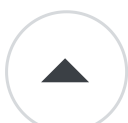
answered Jan 7, 2009 at 22:08

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[Ryan Smith](#)

8,324 ● 22 ● 78 ● 103



You could also try scriptaculous which uses the prototype library

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<http://script.aculo.us/>



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answered Jan 14, 2009 at 3:54

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Jobo

916 ● 6 ● 11



There is a (pretty) TaskSpeed benchmark that you can take for each browser at

0

<http://dante.dojotoolkit.org/taskspeed/>



The results are collated to

<http://dante.dojotoolkit.org/taskspeed/report/charts.html>



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answered Apr 15, 2009 at 10:12

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Pool

12.3k ● 14 ● 71 ● 79



Thanks for your answers... I could now say that jQuery, EXT are advantageous. I'm still checking YUI and Ajax. thanks! :)

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I agree. Dojo is difficult. I tried it, and had a hard time with the results.



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edited Mar 24, 2016 at 20:43

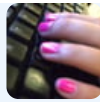
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Laurel

6,163 ● 14 ● 33 ● 59

answered Jan 14, 2009 at 3:51



mars-o

1,715 ● 4 ● 24 ● 38
